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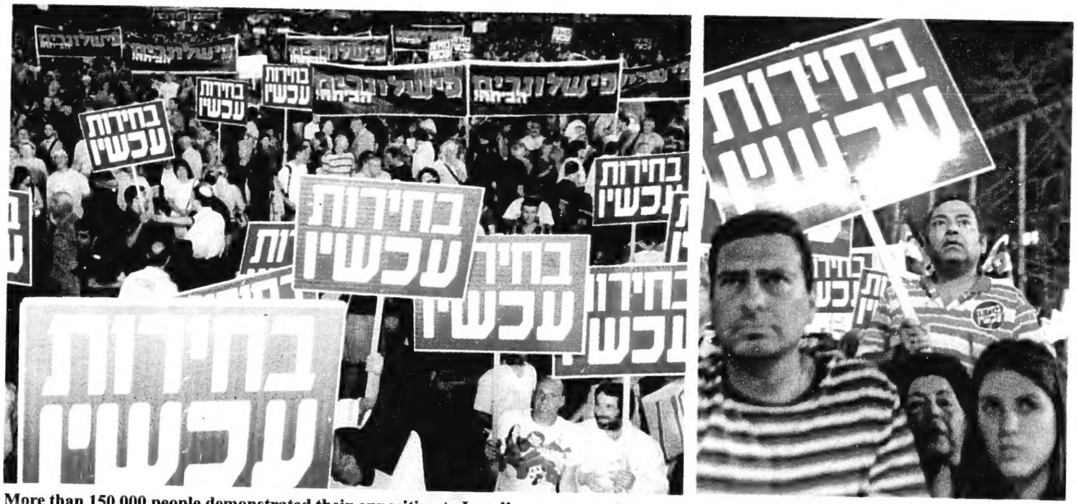

More than 150,000 people demonstrated their opposition to Israel's government last week at a rally in Tel Aviv. They were responding to the findings of the interim Winograd report, which were harshly critical of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. The protesters called for elections to be called immediately. *Please see related stories on pages 4, 10, 11, 13, 24 and 39.*

[Israel Sun photos]

Ontario gives UJA Federation $15 million grant for new JCCs

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has received $15 million from the Ontario government to help cover the capital costs on the three campuses that are part of the federation's Tomorrow campaign.

The grant, which may be precedent-setting in size, comprises by far the largest chunk of the $20,395,000 being given this year by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration to 31 recipients "to promote Ontario's diversity and heritage, community involvement, volunteer participation and celebrating Ontario's cultural mosaic" – the reason for the allocation given on a government website.

If the amount does set a precedent, it's because Toronto's federation has undertaken an unprecedented project, said federation spokesperson Howard English. "It's the first development of three separate campuses across a vast area for a huge metropolis."

The grant comes from a controversial pool of money in the March 31 budget that opposition parties allege is a "slush fund" that benefited groups with Liberal ties. The grant is being earmarked primarily for the Jewish community centres on the three campuses, English said. They are the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre in downtown Toronto, a new JCC that will replace the current Bathurst Jewish Community Centre on Bathurst Street north of Sheppard Avenue, and another to be built on the new Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan.

The cost of renovations to the Nadal JCC was almost $18 million, with $14 million raised to date; the cost of the new mid-town JCC

Continued on page 25

Please see related story on page 6

This Week

National

Last restitution office closes. ***Page 3***

Cotler calls Darfur crisis 'genocide by attrition.' ***Page 5***

Landmark Judaica shop closes its doors after 40 years. ***Page 22***

Tribute to Israel

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Celebrating 40 years of Jerusalem's reunification. ***Section B***

Arts & Travel

TJFF film looks at phenomenon of mixed race Jews in Nazi army. ***Page 45***

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Sarkozy expected to be more favourable to Israel — see page 40

The News in Brief

CANADA

Murder Trial Begins

NEWMARKET, Ont. — After the Crown rejected his guilty plea to the lesser charge of manslaughter, the man accused in the 2005 killing of his next-door neighbour Alicia Ross went on trial last week for second-degree murder. Daniel Sylvester, now 33, turned himself in to police five weeks after Ross, 25, disappeared from her Thornhill, Ont., home in August 2005. Police were then led to her remains in two locations some 40 and 50 kilometres north of Toronto. Jury selection began April 30. The trial is expected to last eight weeks.

Candidate Resigns

OTTAWA — A Liberal candidate for the next federal election who once accused Israel of terrorism resigned last week. Farhan Chak, who was nominated in an Edmonton riding, came under fire for his political views and after it was revealed he claimed to have a PhD that he hadn't earned. In a 2002 letter to the *Edmonton Journal*, he accused Israel of "terrorism, massacres and savagery" in the West Bank and Gaza, and of the "pillage, the rape and enslavement of an entire populace." In other letters to the paper, he said India has committed "gross human rights violations" in the disputed province of Kashmir, Canadian Press reported.

Killer's Appeal Denied

TORONTO — An appeal by one of the men convicted in the 1999 killing of teen Matti Baranovski was denied last week by the Ontario Court of Appeal. A three-judge panel of the province's highest court rejected arguments by Meir Mariani's lawyers challenging the trial judge's instructions to the jury and the fact a Crown witness was cross-examined for prior inconsistent statements, Canadian Press reported. Baranovski died after being punched and kicked in the head in a Toronto park over a pack of cigarettes.

Leader Apologizes

OTTAWA — After receiving a letter from Canadian Jewish Congress, Green Party leader Elizabeth May apologized last week for citing a British author who compared Ottawa's new environmental policies to British prime minister Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of the Nazis in the 1930s. May made the reference in an April 29 address in London, Ont. CEO Bernie Farber said May called Congress to retract and apologize for her comments, Canadian Press reported.

Koufax Selected in Israeli League Draft

NEW YORK — Power-hitting outfielder Aaron Levin, 22, was the first player selected in the Israel Baseball League's inaugural draft April 26 in New York City. Levin, of California's Contra Costa Community College, was selected by the Modi'in Miracles.

Sandy Koufax

With the final pick of the draft, the Miracles chose Sandy Koufax, the former Los Angeles Dodger lefthander and Hall of Famer, who famously refused to pitch in a World Series game on Yom Kippur. He retired in 1966 at age 30 because of arthritis.

It's unclear if Koufax, 71, will actually suit up for the team. "His selection is a tribute to the esteem with which he is held by everyone associated with this league," the Miracles manager, former big leaguer Art Shamsky, said. "It's been 41 years between starts for him. If he's rested and ready to take the mound again, we want him on our team."

The IBL will play a 42-game schedule starting June 24. Players from around the world were drafted, but roughly half the league will be made up of Jews, its founders said.

WORLD

Attack Investigated

MARSEILLE — A French prosecutor confirmed that an attack on a Jewish woman was anti-Semitic in nature. Audrey Brachelle, 22, was attacked April 26 by two youths at a Marseille metro station. The prosecutor said an investigation began April 30 into "thefts and violence with weapon and with racist acts." Brachelle, an economics student, was heading to work when two youths demanded her cellphone and bag. When they saw her Star of David necklace, they yelled that it was a sign of the devil, then took out a knife, tore her shirt, painted a swastika on her stomach and cut off some of her hair. Brachelle said she also was hit several times and thrown to the floor.

Record Camp Gift

NEW YORK — An anonymous Chicago businessman gave $15 million to the Foundation for Jewish Camping (FJC). The gift, believed to be a record for Jewish camping, will help boost participation in U.S. overnight Jewish camps, the FJC said. The FJC and the Jewish Funders Network want to raise $50 million by 2012 to double the number of campers at Jewish overnight camps. Some 62,000 U.S. kids attend 130 not-for-profit Jewish overnight camps annually.

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Last Shoah restitution office in Canada closes

Federation hires former employee to help survivors

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Canadian Holocaust survivors have expressed concern that the closing of the United Restitution Organization office in Toronto last month – the last one in Canada – will have harmful consequences, but Jewish community spokespeople are assuring them that they have nothing to fear.

Founded in the late 1940s as a legal aid society to help survivors claim restitution and compensation from Germany, the URO established a presence in Canada in 1953 under the aegis of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Offices were opened in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver to assist the estimated 13,000 survivors who settled in Canada after World War II.

As some of the survivors passed on, URO branches in Winnipeg and Vancouver were closed in the 1970s.

In 2002, the Montreal branch was also closed, leaving the Toronto office as the sole remaining one in the country.

The Toronto office, with its two employees, was officially closed on April 1, but UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has tried to ease the pain by hiring a Toronto URO employee, Dora Elzbet, to continue helping survivors.

"We consider this a crucial service for survivors, who deserve all the assistance that we can provide," said federation spokesperson Howard English.

"All I can say is that survivors are of great concern to us, and we will do everything in our power to see that they are well taken care of," said Lorraine Sandler, the chair of UJA's Holocaust Centre. "I will be very, very watchful and concerned about their well-being."

She added, "I can't throw up my hands and shout *gevalt*, but there is something in place to deal with the situation."

Survivors were not as sanguine.

"It's a bad thing," said Michael Rosenberg, the former president of the Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada. "Survivors need an office where they can pour out their hearts and receive assistance. There are a lot of impoverished survivors, and they are not being looked after."

He praised Elzbet as a dedicated case worker, but he said she will no longer be able to provide sufficient and timely services, since her assistant was let go.

"The workload can't be handled by one person," said Rosenberg, an 81-year old survivor who immigrated to Canada from Poland in 1948 and made a career as a printer.

Eli Pfefferkorn, a 78-year-old survivor born in Germany, was blunter.

"Suppose Toronto closed all the emergency rooms in hospitals due to a lack of funds? This is tantamount to the closing of Toronto's URO office."

Elzbet, a child of survivors, voiced confidence that she will have no problem delivering services to survivors on the same level as before.

"I basically carried the whole load myself," said Elzbet, who began working for URO in 1982. "I saw thousands of survivors every year."

English said the decision to close the Toronto office was taken by URO International, based in Israel.

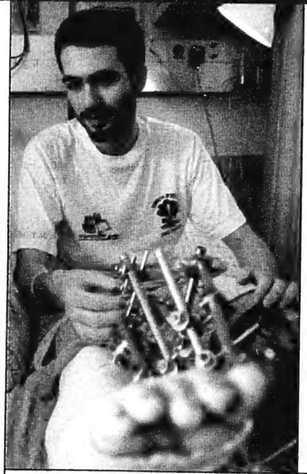
Efforts to reach URO International in Israel failed, but Nathan Leipciger – a 79-year-old, Toronto-based member of its board and a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp – said that the dwindling number of claims filed by local survivors made it economically imperative to close the Toronto office.

Leipciger said that all of URO's worldwide offices, with the exception of the one in New York City, have been closed, including those in Israel.

He added that survivors in Toronto should not worry, since the federation office staffed by Elzbet will tend to their needs.

Bernie Farber, chief executive officer of Canadian Jewish Congress, echoed Leipciger's comments.

Continued on page 25



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More than a 'report'

From the editor's desk

Those who focus on the substantive recommendations alone of the Winograd Commission's interim report will have missed a key aspect of the commission's investigative, advisory process.

To be sure, the conclusions regarding the decision-making by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defence Minister Amir Peretz and former Israel Defence Forces chief of staff Dan Halutz before and during the Second Lebanon War are compelling reading. Moreover, they are important conclusions. The commissioners pulled no punches in describing what, in their minds, were unacceptable performance of duties.

But the commission's approach to its work and the conclusions it reached are indicative of the vein of purpose and values through which courses the regenerative strength and resilience of Israeli society.

The commissioners did not confine their mandate or their investigations to the vital, though narrower, questions that dealt with the "mechanics" and "conduct" of the war.

Rather, they saw their work as part of a much larger task: steering, directing, building and protecting Israeli society at large.

The members of the commission are: the chair, retired justice Eliyahu Winograd; professor of law Ruth Gavison; Prof. Yehezkel Dror; and retired military officers Menachem Einan and Chaim Nadel.

All of the commission members are at a stage in life where they no longer need to establish "credentials." Their achievements are well chronicled, their knowledge, experience and wisdom widely respected.

Space does not allow us to reprint the interim report in the pages of the paper. Thus, we can only reprint the following mini-excerpts.

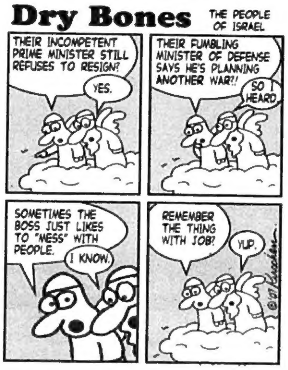
They speak to a farther horizon and higher purpose toward which the commissioners are aiming Israeli society.

That these aspirations appear at all in an investigation and report ostensibly of a military "failure," is remarkable.

Throughout the report, the commissioners always direct their observations back to the larger picture, a picture in which the performances of the high military and the political echelons are but a reflection back of the deep sinew and fibre that holds all of society together.

When it is released, the final report will undoubtedly be required reading for anyone interested in trying to understand how to cobble together the vast requirements for building the very best society possible.

"We accepted this difficult task as both a duty and a privilege. It is our belief that the larger the event and the deeper the feeling of crisis, the greater the opportunity to change and improve matters which are essential for the security and the flourishing of the state and society in Israel. We believe Israeli society has a robust sense of the justice of its being and of its achievements. These, too, were expressed during the war in Lebanon and after it. At the same time, we must not underrate deep failures among us.


Dry Bones
THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL
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THEIR FUMBLING MINISTER OF DEFENSE SAYS HE'S PLANNING ANOTHER WAR?!
SO I HEARD.
SOMETIMES THE BOSS JUST LIKES TO "MESS" WITH PEOPLE.
I KNOW.
REMEMBER THE THING WITH JOB?
YUP.
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"This emphasis on learning lessons does not only follow from our conception of the role of a public commission. It also follows from our belief that one of Israeli society's greatest sources of strength is its being free, open and creative. Together with great achievements, the challenges facing it are existential. To cope with them, Israel must be a learning society – a society which examines its achievements and, in particular, its failures, in order to improve its ability to face the future.

"We would like to reiterate and emphasize that we hope that this partial report, which concentrates on the functioning of the highest political and military echelons in their decision to move into the war will not divert attention from the overall troubling complete picture revealed by the war as a whole.

"As a result of our investigation, we make a number of *structural and institutional* recommendations (*my emphasis*) that require urgent attention:

"We believe that – beyond the important need to examine the failures of conducting the war and the preparation for it, beyond the need to identify the weaknesses (and strengths) in the decisions made in the war… *there are questions that go far beyond the mandate of this or that commission of inquiry; they are the questions that stand at the centre of our existence here as a Jewish and democratic state.* (*My emphasis.*)

"It would be a grave mistake to concentrate only on the flaws revealed in the war and not to address these basic issues.

"We hope that our findings and conclusions in the interim report and in the final report will not only impel taking care of the serious governmental flaws and failures we examine and expose, but will also lead toward a renewed process in which Israeli society, and its political and spiritual leaders, will take up and explore Israel's long-term aspirations and the ways to advance them." –***MBD***

SeeJN

CELEBRATING IN JERUSALEM

Canadian students pose for pictures in Jerusalem on Yom Ha'atzmaut. They were part of the 600-strong contingent of Canadians – students and adults – who took part in this year's March of the Living to Poland and Israel.

[Igal Hecht and Elad Winkler photos]

Darfur a ‘genocide by attrition,’ Cotler says

By **PAUL LUNGEN**
Staff Reporter

Former justice minister sets out 10-point action plan

There wasn't a lot of good news at a recent event to mobilize a public campaign to support an end to the violence in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Some important steps were noted – the agreement by the government of Sudan to allow for an expanded African Union/United Nations protection force; a Sudanese official and janjaweed militiaman have been charged in connection with atrocities – but Darfuris continue to be murdered, raped and dispossessed.

Two speakers, MP and former justice minister Irwin Cotler and Georgette Gagnon, deputy director of the Africa division of Human Rights Watch (HRW), urged approximately 100 people in attendance to call on the government of Canada to step up its efforts to help the people of Darfur. They were addressing an event at the downtown Spoke Club sponsored by HRW's Toronto network.

Both agreed, however, that the international community has done too little to prevent the mass slaughter of civilians by a militia closely aligned with the government in Khartoum.

Speaking shortly before Global Day for Darfur, a day of international protests that coincided with the fourth anniversary of the start of the conflict, Cotler called the Darfur situation a “genocide by attrition, a go-slow genocide.”

A longtime human rights advocate, Cotler noted that during the most recent federal election campaign, none of the party leaders mentioned the crisis in Darfur and the media failed to pose a single question on the topic.

“It just wasn't on the radar screen,” he said.

What is needed now, he continued, was “immediate, concerted international action to save the people of Darfur.”

He urged the Harper government to take the initiative at the upcoming G8 meetings “to make sure Darfur is on the agenda or [is] the agenda.”

Cotler, who acknowledged that the Liberal government in which he served should have done more for Darfur, said events in the western region of Sudan are “a repudiation of the responsibility to protect doctrine” – which allows outside states the right to intervene in the internal affairs of countries that are not protecting their own people – as well as a “betrayal of the people of Darfur.”

Like the genocide in Rwanda, “we knew and we did not act.”

Gagnon noted that the ruling elite in Khartoum supported the janjaweed militia in their “brutal war against the people of Darfur.” That included “scorched earth ethnic cleansing,” mass murder, rapes and brutalization.

She discounted Sudanese denials of complicity in the crimes, saying the government has not stopped the attacks, which she said have claimed 200,000 lives and left more than two million homeless and dependent on international relief. (Cotler suggested the number of dead has climbed to 400,000.)

Gagnon called for more international pressure on Sudan to accept an expanded protection force, as well as effectively enforced sanctions against the regime.

She urged the Canadian government to call on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute Sudanese officials and for an increase in financial and technical support to African Union (AU) forces that are already in Darfur until the enhanced force can take over.

Cotler set out a 10-point action plan, at the centre of which was Canadian government resolve to show international leadership on the Darfur file.

Among his points:

- put a hybrid AU/UN protection force on the ground to stop the killing. Don't allow “the genocidaires” in Khartoum to determine how and when that force is deployed.
- Enhance the existing AU force with more troops and support until the new force can be put in place. Canada should take the lead in that effort.
- Urge the UN Security Council to impose tough sanctions on Sudan as well as impose a no-fly zone to end the indiscriminate bombing of Darfur refugees by government forces.
- Bring senior Sudanese officials before the ICC.
- Pressure China, a UN Security Council member. China is Sudan's “paymaster” thanks to its interests in Sudanese oil fields. Shame the Chinese by referring to the upcoming Olympics as the “Genocide Olympics.”
- Press the International Monetary Fund make debt relief conditional on action to stop the genocide in Darfur.
- Begin a divestment campaign from companies that do business in Sudan.

Canada should use its influence in international forums to take action against Sudan, Cotler stated. If we don't, “by our inaction we are being complicit.”

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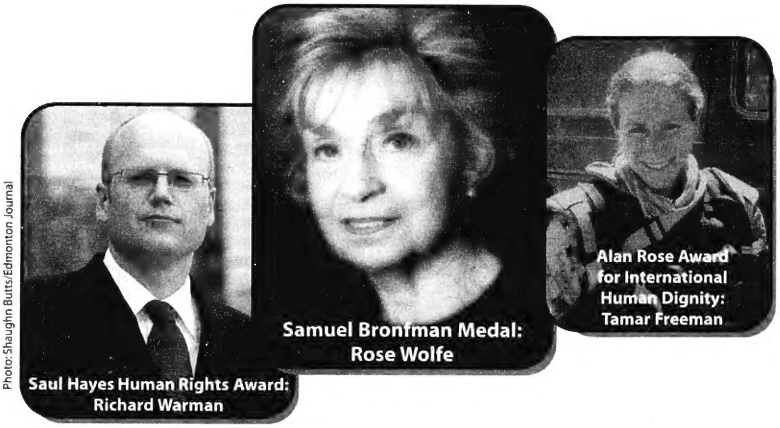

Saul Hayes Human Rights Award: Richard Warman

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Photo: Shaughn Butts/Edmonton Journal

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Conflict of interest cited in grant to federation

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

A grassroots debate in Toronto's Jewish community is percolating over the handling of the $15-million grant received by UJA Federation from the provincial Liberals in the March 31 budget.

Jewish advocates for equal school funding say they want organizations such as Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto to use some of the money on more aggressive, public campaigns to pressure the Liberals into softening their position on private school funding, particularly during the run-up to the Oct. 10 provincial election.

Some say they're also concerned that the $15 million may hamstring advocacy efforts by federation and CJC on funding non-Catholic, faith-based schools, saying the money puts the Jewish groups in a conflict of interest.

Federation denies this and says the grant is earmarked for ongoing work on the Jewish community campuses in Vaughan, mid-town and downtown that are part of its Jewish Toronto Tomorrow project, as well as other future initiatives.

Ira Walfish, chair of the Multi-Faith Coalition for Equal Funding for Faith-Based Schools, expressed doubts about how effective federation's advocacy for faith-based funding will now be.

"The biggest problem, by far [in the Jewish community] is the high cost of tuition fees. I think that is where the money should be going to first and foremost," he told *The CJN* last week.

"I'm worried that there will be a perception among many people, real or imaginary, that there is a conflict of interest in one organization taking money from a government that they claim to be advocating [against]. Maybe what they should be doing is have an independent organization take the lead."

Walfish added that he doesn't object to the federation securing funds for important projects.

"On the contrary, that's their job… it's what they should be doing for the community. But not [spearheading] advocacy for school funding," he said.

The website of the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, which handled the grants, describes them as intended to "promote Ontario's diversity and heritage, community involvement, volunteer participation and celebrating Ontario's cultural mosaic."

In a May 2 *Toronto Star* column by Ian Urquhart, federation spokesperson Howard English is quoted as saying that the provincial grant "won't prevent us from advocating for fair funding for faith-based schools."

The same column quotes Thornhill Liberal MPP Mario Racco as saying, in an e-mail to a Jewish constituent about Racco's position on a defeated motion against faith-based funding tabled by a fellow Liberal MPP, "I hope you are happy with the $15 million we donated for the Jewish centre in Vaughan."

The *Star* column continued: "The buzz at Queen's Park – vehemently denied by the government – is that this money is meant to compensate for the government's decision not to fund Jewish and other religious schools. One Liberal MPP describes the thinking behind it this way: 'Here's $15 million, so don't beat us up on the funding of faith-based schools.'"

Calls to Racco were not returned by *The CJN*'s deadline.

Federation and CJC recently launched a website, www.fundingfairness.ca, which touts their "Ontario Day School Fair Funding Initiative" and provides the community with information about their "advocacy efforts to secure fair public funding for faith-based school programs across the province."

Jonathan Schwartz, CJC's education policy advisor, in an archived article on the website, calls public funding of private schools necessary so that all children can start off on a level playing field, "regardless of what faith their school promotes."

Joseph Adler, a Toronto lawyer and parent with three children in private Jewish school, doesn't think the website or federation's stated plans go far enough or do anything to remove the optics of a conflict of interest and ensure proper advocacy.

"I spend tens of thousands of dollars on my kids' tuition. When I heard about [the grant], I was dumbstruck by the conflict of interest that it would create with UJA Federation," Adler told *The CJN* last week.

"They talk the talk, but they don't really push the cause. Why would they if they continue to receive funding from the government?"

Adler, who's been fighting for faith-based school funding for a decade, said he's challenged Schwartz and federation president Ted Sokolsky to answer this concern.

In an e-mail to *The CJN*, English stressed that "the grant and our quest for fair funding of faith-based schools are not connected. Together with our CJC partners we will continue to forcefully pursue fair funding by the provincial government of faith-based schools in the interests of financially burdened day school parents, our excellent schools and the province."

Adler is not convinced.

"They claim there's no conflict of interest but anybody can see there is," Adler said. "If I were them, I'd say [to the Liberal government] 'Thank you but no thank you. We're not interested in the funds, we want education discrimination addressed now.'"

Steven Shulman, CJC Ontario's regional director, said the suggestion of conflict of interest is "absolutely baseless."

He added: "Anybody working with our organizations across the province will know that the issue of education funding is right at the top [priority].

"We will continue to be relentless in terms of pursuing a fair solution for our kids and the right solution for education in this province."

Shulman said CJC's historical role as an advocacy organization is undiminished.

"We have absolutely established credibility as representatives of the Jewish community in terms of [advocacy]. Nothing is different here."

CJC isn't looking for public funding for private schools, rather it wants to bring private schools into the public sphere of education, he said.

"Bringing Catholic [high] schools into the public sphere [in 1984] grew the public sphere," Shulman told *The CJN* earlier this year. "If we want to grow public education again, a very important way to do it would be to bring the remaining variety of faith-based schools that are willing to meet appropriate accountability standards, into the public sphere."

With files from Frances Kraft

CELEBRATING ISRAEL: Herzl oversees grade 5 students at United Synagogue Day School's Bayview campus as they delight parents and grandparents with songs and stories about Israel. Seen here are students, from left, Brent Marks, Daniel Sinukoff, Ethan Sharer and David Aharon.

Treasures in Jewish Literature

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Holocaust survivors attend first senior prom

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

As teenagers in Poland in the late 1930s, Leah Frimerman, Anna Newman and Dina Shyllit were not able to finish high school and knew nothing about a senior prom.

Last week, however, along with about 140 other Holocaust survivors, they attended a belated prom at Baycrest – complete with music, dancing, brightly coloured tablecloths, prom pictures, prom cake, centrepieces and gift bags.

"As teenagers, our main concern was surviving. We didn't even think about things like proms. Now I see what we missed all those years ago," said Newman, who was 17 when the war broke out.

From left Dina Shyllit, Leah Frimerman and Anna Newman [Carolyn Blackman photo]

Lila Halpern, who was also born in Poland, said she looked forward to this prom as she would have when she was a teenager. "It's my first prom, and it is like I imagined. I'm with my friends, and it is a beautiful party."

Edmund and Adela Korngut, who met in a labour camp in Siberia, came to the prom together. "We couldn't even dream up something like this," Edmund said.

The prom was conceived by gerontology graduate Elise Kayfetz, 22, Hillel director for southwestern Ontario, with help from Marni Wolfe, 22 and Andrea Rowan, 20.

Kayfetz had previously organized a prom at Sholom Village in Hamilton, she said, and approached Paula David, who oversees the Holocaust resource programs at Baycrest.

"She thought it was a great idea, so I called the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students and asked for volunteers. Their enthusiasm was amazing. We have about 40 students and recent graduates at the prom, eating dinner, dancing and chatting with the survivors."

It was important for students to get involved, she said, because Holocaust survivors need to see that young people understand what they lived through.

David said she knew the prom was a great idea, but she had no idea how big it would get.

Leah Frimerman dances with Hillel member Josh Lakiem [Baycrest Public Affairs photo]

"It just grew and grew, and people were begging to volunteer. We actually had more volunteers than we could use, and survivors came from all across the GTA," she said.

"It is a phenomenal intergenerational event – a fantastic feel-good evening."

Baycrest works with many Holocaust survivors, she added, "and I know we can't give them back what they lost, but we look for every opportunity to give them good times and new memories.

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Youth give back with Tikkun Toronto

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Whether through baking, biking or playing basketball, the Tikkun Toronto event on April 29 helped teach 145 Jewish youths that giving back to the community is both rewarding and fun.

"I learned that it feels really good to volunteer, knowing that you made a bunch of people happy, including yourself," said Josh Harendorf, a 15-year-old Westmount Collegiate Institute student who participated in the day.

> ***'I learned that it feels really good to volunteer'***

The afternoon event that gave students in grades 5 to 12 the opportunity to volunteer in one of 12 community service activities across the Greater Toronto Area.

This was the third annual Tikkun Toronto event. It was co-ordinated by Missy Korn, program director of Toronto's B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO), along with organizers from Young Judaea, Bnei Akiva and United Synagogue Youth. Funding was provided by the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education

"These kids are required to have community service hours," said Korn, referring to the Ontario Ministry of Education's requirement that high school students accumulate 40 hours of volunteer time in order to graduate. "This provides them with the perfect opportunity to fulfil those and instil in them values for when they get older, values of giving back to the community."

Korn said one of the most interesting events was a basketball tournament led by Daniel Moshe Johnson, who heads the International Charity Association Network's sports and mentoring program.

In the past three months, he has set up five basketball teams for youths living in some of the city's highest crime areas. The team that played with the Jewish students was made up of teens from an underprivileged Toronto Somalian community.

"We mentor the youth on the rules of the game and how it has to be carried over into everyday life," said Johnson. "We empower young people within each basketball setting."

Johnson, a black Jew who is originally from New Orleans, got in touch with BBYO after being impressed with the work it did there after Hurricane Katrina.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity for the youth from two religious backgrounds to meet together on the same court and be able to play in peace," Johnson said.

The teens played two games, one against each other and one where the teams were mixed. No scores were kept.

"It was all about getting to know each other and having fun," said Harendorf, who played in the tournament.

"It went really well to see two different cultural and religious groups coming together as one," he said.

"I think we should be more aware of different cultural groups and religious beliefs, because we are all one, living in one community together."

Another volunteer opportunity was an aerobic workout for disabled teens from Yachad, a support group that's part of the Orthodox Union's National Jewish Council for the Disabled.

Jaime Glassman, a Grade 10 student at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, planned and led the workout, which was designed for about 15 disabled teens and 15 volunteers.

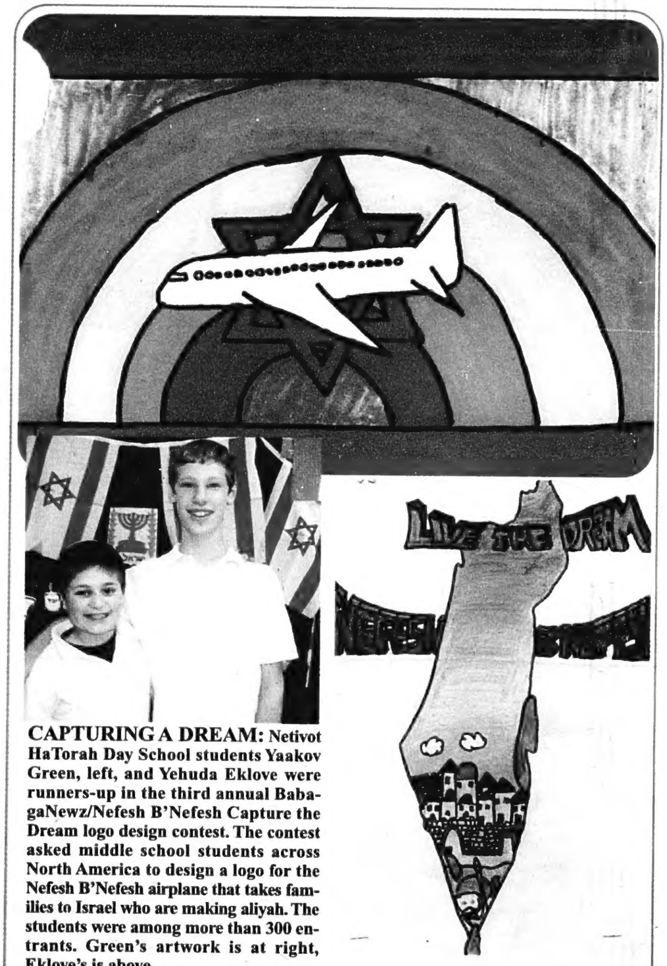
"It was a great opportunity because it allowed me to meet people of all different types," Glassman said. Her favourite part of the afternoon was not the workout, but the time spent with the Yachad teens at a park afterward.

"We hung out there and it was totally a bonding experience," she said.

This year was the first time children in grades 5 to 7 were part of Tikkun Toronto, and they participated in a bake-a-thon and painting a mural for the North York Women's Shelter.

Other activities included an environmental bike ride, in which teens collected more than 500 aluminum cans; replanting the organic garden at the Toronto Heschel School; and participating in the "Global Day for Darfur" downtown.

"I am thrilled with the turnout," Korn said. "It's important to give back, and I hope that this event instilled the value of tikkun olam within participants."



CAPTURING A DREAM: Netivot HaTorah Day School students Yaakov Green, left, and Yehuda Eklove were runners-up in the third annual BabagaNewz/Nefesh B'Nefesh Capture the Dream logo design contest. The contest asked middle school students across North America to design a logo for the Nefesh B'Nefesh airplane that takes families to Israel who are making aliyah. The students were among more than 300 entrants. Green's artwork is at right, Eklove's is above.

[Mashie Feintuch photo]

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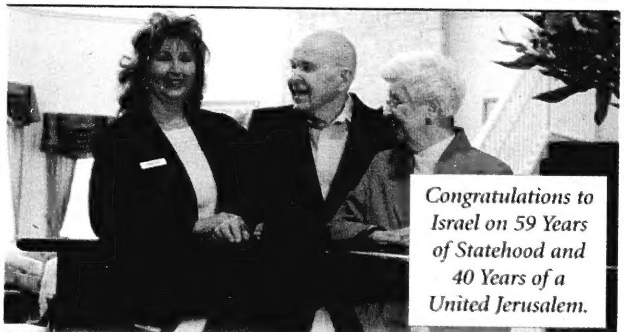

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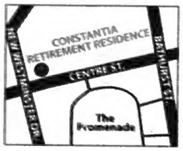

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Winograd

By any definition of civil governance and deference to the rule of law, the events last week in Israel were remarkable. Justice Eliyahu Winograd delivered the interim report of the five-person commission he headed to the government that appointed him. The committee's assignment was to examine the decisions of the political and military leadership in prosecuting the war against Hezbollah last summer. They were also asked to consider if and how the unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon in 2000 may have influenced events last summer.

Winograd and his colleagues offered their interim conclusions in the manner that is an Israeli hallmark: with high definition clarity and unvarnished honesty. They unsparingly criticized the war's three key decision-makers, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defence Minister Amir Peretz and then-chief of staff Dan Halutz. All were found lacking in the execution of their duties.

The prime minister's leadership was a "severe failure," they wrote. The defence minister was scolded for not having sufficient "knowledge or experience in military, political or governmental matters." And the chief of staff was upbraided for the army's general lack of preparedness for war.

The restructuring and "repair" of the army began some weeks ago long before the release of the interim report with Halutz's resignation and the appointment of Gabi Ashkenazi in his place.

The political fallout of the delivery of the interim report, however, is just now rippling through the political establishment like a strong wind through a ripe corn field. Stalks are falling in its path, but we don't yet know how the field will look at the end of the disturbance.

Olmert has refused to resign, although his foreign minister and the head of the Kadima party have called for him to do so. Peretz said he will resign his post, but only when his party votes in a leadership primary on May 28.

Large sectors of the Israeli public, in the manner that is another Israeli hallmark – forcefully and without reticence – are expressing their displeasure with the prime minister. Some 150,000 people rallied last Thursday in Tel Aviv calling on Olmert and Peretz to step down immediately.

Disappointed in Olmert's refusal to resign, dozens of students from across the political spectrum have set up a protest camp near the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem and have vowed to live there until he does leave office.

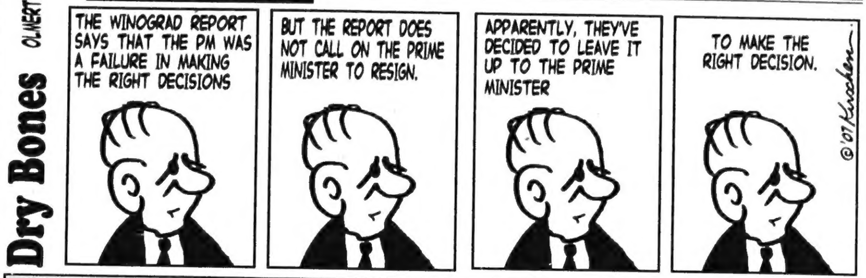
One of the organizers of the protest explained the group's motives. "We aim to instill a sense of responsibility in the common citizens. We want to make them believe in their own power. If we succeed, then we will also succeed in making it clear to future leaders that they cannot go on demonstrating disregard for their constituents."

As many commentators and observers have written, including elsewhere in this paper, the very appointment of the commission – as well as the unbowed, straightforward way in which it has conducted and continues to conduct itself, its forthright conclusions and the demanding, churning response of the Israeli people – is a heartening testament to the state's rock-solid democracy and to its reverence for the sanctity of each and every human life, which is democracy's ultimate underpinning.

This testament to democratic principles is indeed remarkable both in its own right and especially so in contrast to the principles of despotism, thuggery and rule by violence that are the norm in the region.

25 years ago in The CJN

Under pressure from Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin, El Al Airlines announced that it would no longer operate on Shabbat or religious holidays. The decision was one of the concessions the Aguda Israel Party had demanded in return for joining Begin's coalition government.


Dry Bones
OLMERT
THE WINOGRAD REPORT SAYS THAT THE PM WAS A FAILURE IN MAKING THE RIGHT DECISIONS
BUT THE REPORT DOES NOT CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER TO RESIGN.
APPARENTLY, THEY'VE DECIDED TO LEAVE IT UP TO THE PRIME MINISTER
TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION.
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War criminals in Canada

How pleased I was to read the headline "Remembering is not enough, Harper says" (*CJN*, April 19), as he urged the world to learn from history, because the Holocaust "stands alone in the annals of human evil."

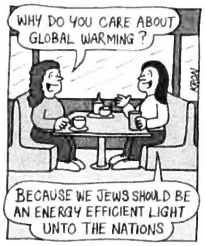
And then to my utter amazement, anger and despair (to put it mildly) to read in the same issue the headline "Canada gets an 'F' on Nazi file."

Efraim Zuroff, head of the Jerusalem office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, is quoted as saying, "Nazi collaborators continue to evade justice in Canada thanks to systemic problems and lack of political will… Canada has not been able to deport eight Nazi collaborators who have been stripped of their citizenship." Zuroff also points out that Canada's Conservative government "inherited a bad situation and to date has not done anything to change it."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper you are right! Remembering is not enough. But neither is a photo of you placing a wreath, and words without deeds!

How much longer must Canada be put to shame and disgraced by being an "abysmal failure" and an inexcusable hypocrite by not prosecuting known World War II Nazi war criminals?

Monty Mazin
Toronto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Survivors in Israel are struggling

As this year's Yom Hashoah has passed, I would like to remind us all that the struggle for Holocaust survivors continues. Here in Israel, out of close to 80,000 survivors, nearly one-third live below the Israeli poverty line. These survivors can barely afford the medications they need (while Germany provides free medications for its Holocaust survivors) and can barely live on their own without any help. Worst, the Claims Conference continues to withhold millions in payments, and several Israeli banks have not paid out the dormant accounts of Holocaust victims. It's a shame to think several European countries have done more than Israel for the care of its Holocaust survivors.

Jonny Konig
Jerusalem

* * *

Holocaust slander

The Reform Jewish movement and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert are not the only ones to be grossly offended by a former Israeli chief rabbi's recent comments, in which he blamed the Holocaust on the Reform movement emanating from prewar Germany (Former chief rabbi accused of Holocaust slander, *CJN*, April 26). Several Orthodox scholars and laypeople alike were equally disturbed by Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu's outrageous pronouncements. Rabbi Eliyahu further parenthetically stated that the lesson to be learned by the Shoah is that one should not "make even the slightest change" to Jewish practice, a comment that is itself not grounded in traditional thought and practice and is, ironically, revolutionary.

Rabbi's Eliyahu's comments regarding the Shoah suggest that he is aware of the innermost machinations of God. According to Rabbi Eliyahu, therefore, 1.5 million Jewish children, the majority of them Orthodox, for example, were murdered on account of some misguided Jews in Germany. While we are obliged to be introspective when bad things happen to us (i.e., to consider what "we" and not what "they" have done wrong), Rabbi Eliyahu's statements far exceed the realm of reasonableness and should be condemned by all. We deserve much better from our leaders.

Joseph Y. Adler
Toronto

* * *

Discrimination in day school funding

The articles "Magen David flies at Queen's Park" and "School funding motion defeated" (*CJN*, May 3) presented two strikingly different perspectives on the Liberal government and its current relationship with the Jewish community that are difficult to reconcile.

In the article about the inaugural Israeli flag-raising ceremony at Queen's Park in honour of the Jewish state's 59th Independence Day, it is stated that Premier Dalton McGuinty said that "whenever [the Jewish] community is attacked, it's time for all of us to stand up, join ranks and say, 'Not in my house.'"

The second article detailed how, only a few days later, the Liberals unsuccessfully tried to introduce a motion that opposed any public money for private schools.

Ontario continues to be the only province in Canada that provides full education funding for one religion (Catholics) to the exclusion of all others. The well-being and continuity of the Jewish community is threatened when our decision to send our children to Jewish day schools is not supported – both in words and in policy – by our government. It's time for McGuinty to stand up, join ranks with all of our elected representatives and say, "Discrimination in funding of faith-based schools? Not in my Ontario."

Sharon Dagan
Toronto

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Eldad Regev, Gilad Shalit

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Winograd Committee's recommendations

Not just personal

By ZE'EV SEGAL

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Had the Winograd Committee refrained from saying harsh things about the personal responsibility of the prime minister, defence minister and former chief of staff, its partial report would have been pushed to the margins of the headlines.

The profound and well-known flaws in Israel's decision-making processes have never interested either the public or the decision makers themselves. In fact, previous commissions of inquiry have been far more successful with respect to implementation of their personal recommendations than with respect to implementation of their systemic-institutional recommendations, of which most traces have disappeared.

The main thrust of the Winograd report is the necessity of formulating suitable ways of making decisions, at least on issues of existential importance, so that what happened last summer will not happen again – namely, so that the State of Israel will not go to war again without, as the report said, a contingency plan or even an orderly discussion that included examining existing plans and considering their advantages and disadvantages.

The Winograd report devoted considerable space to the government, which decided to go to war after a discussion that lasted for about an hour and a half – during which cabinet ministers were presented with brief and concise surveys devoid of details that might have indicated the complexity of the picture. The government, said the report, made its decision unanimously, with no abstentions, acting as a political body expressing support for the prime minister. It "did not explore and seek adequate response for various reservations that were raised" by ministers who had considerable diplomatic and security experience.

The "very serious failings" that the commission identified cry out if we recall the fact, which is perhaps not known to the ministers, that under the Basic Law on the Army, the government of Israel is the supreme commander of the Israel Defence Forces. By law, the army is subordinate to the entire government, even though the minister who is supposed to be in charge of the army on the government's behalf is the minister of defence. Thus, for example, the chief of staff is subordinate to the entire government. It is the defence minister who nominates the candidate whom he considers worthy of serving in this position, but the government is not required to accept his recommendation.

The commission's observations about the government and its responsibilities are an important element of the report, which deals at considerable length with the key and disturbing question of decision-making processes. Commission member Yehezkel Dror, an Israel Prize laureate who has devoted much of his public and professional life to this issue, made a considerable contribution to the profound analysis of this matter. For many years, Dror has elucidated the grave failures in this area to all of Israel's decision makers, but without moving them to make any significant change in their conduct.

However, it is no longer possible to ignore the commission's demand for urgent action to create the conditions that would enable meaningful discussions in the cabinet and other governmental bodies, at least on issues of war and peace without a serious response. The responsibility for promptly initiating changes in the way that decisions are made and enlisting support for their implementation rests with the prime minister.

The committee recommended establishing a procedure for presenting the government and other official bodies with background material and recommendations that would include situation assessments, aims and alternatives. It proposed "improving the knowledge base of all members of the government on core issues of Israel's challenges" by means of workshops, symposia and indepth discussions.

The cabinet will meet this week and will almost certainly resolve to adopt the report's conclusions, but it is doubtful that it will give serious thought to these recommendations. The committee itself was aware of this, noting that even recommendations that are accepted by everyone and approved by the government are usually not carried out. Therefore, it underscored the need to establish clear lines of responsibility and a clear timetable, as well as a procedure to monitor implementation in order "to change and improve matters that are essential for the security and the flourishing of state and society in Israel."

Such a decision needs to be made now, as a lesson from the past for the sake of the future – both immediate and distant.

Judge Eliyahu Winograd delivers his commission's report to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. [Isranet photo]

Issues not addressed

By ZE'EV SCHIFF

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While the Winograd Committee report is only partial, some important issues are not addressed and others are not dealt with sufficiently. The committee did a thorough job, and poked into hidden corners, but one still gets the feeling that the phrasing of the report was done under pressure. It is good the committee insisted on publishing an interim report first, and left the testimony of the prime minister, defence minister and chief of staff for the next stage. That was the logically correct order, and it is a pity the High Court was dragged into a petty dispute over this.

One issue that is conspicuously absent is the way the conflict on the Palestinian front affected the Second Lebanon War – a subject the committee did not address at all. The confrontation with the Palestinians has been going on for years, and generations of Israel Defence Forces soldiers focused on it, as if it were Israel's major struggle and all future battles would be modelled on it. This kind of thinking negatively affected the army's performance in Lebanon.

The tactical behaviour of the combat units was affected by the way battles were fought with terrorists and small guerrilla units. Everything would freeze if a spearhead encountered a terrorist. If anyone was hit, everyone waited for evacuation and new orders. It was clear, after such clashes, and certainly if the IDF suffered casualties, that the whole unit would pull back. The assumption was that the troops would return some other time. This was how several units responded in Lebanon. The IDF once excelled as a regular army. The territories ruined it.

But that is not all. From the report, it emerges that the Palestinian front imposed constraints on the IDF in its battle with Hezbollah. In view of the situation in the territories, the IDF transferred some of its finest infantry units from the north. Little by little, Israel lost its power of deterrence against Hezbollah. Even worse, Hezbollah ended up deterring Israel. A kind of mutual deterrence was created. Israel's warnings to Hezbollah remained empty threats. A laissez faire policy reigned on the northern border. Even today, there are some who say Israel should not have responded when eight soldiers were killed and two kidnapped on July 12, 2006, although it seems obvious that this abduction would have led to others, as well as deeper incursions.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah sized up the situation correctly. He saw the two fronts against Israel – Palestinian and Lebanese – as a single unit. Evidence of this is that the first abduction at Har Dov in October 2000 took place just after the outbreak of the second intifadah. The ambush and kidnapping in July 2006 came three weeks after the kidnapping of Gilad Shalit. This important issue of how the territories and the conflict with the Palestinians affected the war should have appeared in the interim report.

The report deals superficially with Israel's power of deterrence against Hezbollah. This is a critical issue that needs to be addressed in the committee's concluding report. After all, the committee undertook to explore the processes that caused the war to develop as it did, and deterrence is one of the chief components of Israeli strategy. We are not talking about ordinary deterrence, of the kind employed vis-a-vis Arab countries or standard armies. We are talking about deterrence of a different kind, against a terrorist and guerrilla organization that has no country. True, Hezbollah built infrastructure in Lebanon, but it is ultimately at odds with the Lebanese government, and represents the interests of another country – Iran.

Therefore, the definition of victory over such an organization differs from the ordinary kind of military victory. What should be considered a victory in a military confrontation with a semi-military organization like Hezbollah? This is an issue that deserves attention in the committee's final report.

With respect to the hasty decision to go to war, the committee says the government did not conduct the kind of thorough deliberation that should have taken place beforehand. According to the report, Israel then found itself in a war that it had no intention of being in. What is not included in the report is a discussion of alternative actions that could have been taken. For example, if the military command knew that most of the field divisions were not properly trained or prepared for battle, and that emergency supplies were low, Israel could have chosen to do what it did before the Six Day War – issue an ultimatum for the return of the abducted soldiers; embark on a waiting period during which the reserves could be called up, the infantry units trained and the emergency stocks replenished; and then deliver a resounding blow.

Opinions

Standing in big shoes

The aphorism "Do not judge someone until you stand in their shoes" holds many lessons. It cautions us about judgments and prejudices, but I believe it should be extended to notions of understanding and appreciation. Can we truly appreciate our parents until we are parents?

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

Many people love their parents, respect them and have wonderful relationships without necessarily becoming parents themselves. Nonetheless, I think becoming one adds perspective and awareness that can lead to a different – though not necessarily better– sense of appreciation.

Try to explain to a couple or individual how their life will change when they have a child. They will understand elements of the challenge. They will grasp the idea of a major life change and can plan for certain elements such as financial security. They might be eager to join the world of families or fear the change in lifestyle, hesitating to begin. But will they understand? How can they know the radical physical and emotional changes in store for them?

Giving birth expands your sense of self, of family and of continuity. It challenges your time-management skills, as well as your psychological balance and emotional composition. Having children adds an inconceivable new dimension to love. I don't think people can even imagine the shifts that will affect their entire existence. It's a wonderful and awesome world to enter, and it can lead us to a renewed sense of our parents – of who they were and how much we owe them.

I know now that I did not fully appreciate my parents until I gave birth. These lessons rebounded over the years. Each phase added new perspectives and memories.

Often, carrying my children would remind me of my father carrying me home from shul or up to the roof on a hot summer's night. Making nightly dinners for a family of four made me cognizant of my mother's world. She worked from 9 to 5 and still prepared dinner with a protein, two vegetables and one starch. Every night, without any help.

These are perhaps trivial examples, but it's exactly in the daily and petty tasks that we need to "stand in their shoes." Those repetitive acts built our lives. Combining them with the larger frame of my parents' lives – their immigration, poverty, insufficiency of schooling, depression, war and general challenge of modernity – can only serve to illuminate, educate and expand our horizons.

So I have become aware and more appreciative as the years pass, adding awe to the love and respect. I now begin to grasp the challenges of Mom's life and the goodness she bestowed upon me. I adore Mom and cannot begin to fully show my appreciation. One day a year hardly seems sufficient.

Get issue cries out for a solution

One of the most rewarding facets of my connection to *The CJN* is reading the columns by Norma Joseph, a women whose erudition and sensitive approach to Orthodox Judaism I admire deeply. As readers will know, I am not Orthodox, but I consider myself bound by Halachah. Indeed I rejoice in it. I believe that a person can be shomer mitzvot as a Conservative Jew.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

I was once asked, "Are you religious or do you belong to Beth Israel [a large egalitarian Conservative congregation in Vancouver]?" That hurt!

It also hurts that the struggle for Orthodox women to be free, un-anchored women when their husbands refuse to give a *get* is far from over.

Joseph has been one of the most outspoken advocates for a halachic rule that will allow these agunot, women chained to hateful and vindictive husbands, to receive a *get* that's recognized by Orthodox rabbis. The agony of agunot is the agony of all Jewish women, whatever their denomination, and it cannot go on forever.

So it was with distress that I read this newspaper's report on the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance meeting in Jerusalem, where the issue of agunot still remained unresolved and on the agenda after 10 years of fruitless debate and protest. Other recent reports from Israel announced that new appointments to the rabbinical courts responsible for giving *gets* have been given to ultra-Orthodox rabbis whose resistance to women's rights is well known.

Years ago, the outstanding talmudist, Rabbi Saul Lieberman of the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary, proposed a solution to this problem, a solution that initially, it seemed, would engage Orthodox rabbis as well. Sadly, this rapprochement in regard to freeing women from recalcitrant husbands was never explored jointly by the two movements.

This is an online translation of that clause: "And the groom (name) and the bride (name) agreed that if one of them were to contemplate or seek the termination of their marriage or if one of them were to terminate it in civil court, then either may summon the other to appear before the Beit Din of the Rabbinical Assembly and of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America or its designate or successor, and that both of them will abide by the decisions of the Beit Din in order that both may be able to live according to the rule of Torah."

This clause created a way out. If the couple obtains a civil divorce, the husband by this agreement would have to give his wife a *get* so that she could remarry according to Jewish law.

Alas, it might have worked for Orthodox women were it not for the schism between Orthodox and Conservative. Alas, since even if this particular clause was not perfect, it may have provided a basis for a joint Orthodox-Conservative solution.

A proposal to have couples sign a prenuptial agreement that stipulates a *get* will be given has been suggested – but again, the agreement of the husband is a necessity. Only annulment of the marriage seems to be a way out.

I can only guess at the pain that women feel when they, or their friends, face the possibility that their lives will be altered, that they will be forbidden new relationships, new lives, perhaps even new families, when their husbands refuse to give them a *get*. Where are the great scholars of that movement who cling so tightly to the appellation "Torah-true Judaism" yet allow women to suffer?

("Torah-true," I fear, has become a way for Orthodox Jews to imply that any other type of Jew is inauthentic. This is an invidious distinction and insults all of us who consider ourselves observant. But I digress.)

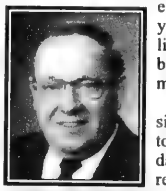
In actuality, we are living according to rabbinic Judaism. Since rabbinic Judaism has shown itself to be sensitive to real-life situations in the past, it should be able to come up with a solution to this most vital issue.

I marvel at the patience with which Orthodox women have advocated, pleaded and demanded that a solution be found, and yet no solution has been found.

To allow women to suffer in limbo, to choose between their religious convictions and a life lived outside the law (should they marry without a *get* and have children who will be considered mamzerim), blemishes us all. Someone must find a solution!

Anniversaries are a time to reflect

Each year there are many milestones commemorating significant events in our personal, national and international histories. On April 17, Canada marked the 25th anniversary of the coming into force of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Next year we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And next year, world Jewry celebrates the 60th anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel.



Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

Why is it important to highlight these important anniversaries? Although these special dates are significant, they may be regarded as simply celebratory occasions denoting the passage of time. However, they are, in reality, more than that. They are also opportunities to reflect on the significance of the original events.

The Charter of Rights introduced a new era in the Canadian experience, when basic and essential rights were elevated to a constitutionally protected status. After the horrific experience of the Holocaust, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was an attempt to set standards and values for all persons throughout the world.

The anniversary of the creation of Israel reminds us of the importance of an historically recognized homeland and statehood for a people, oppressed throughout history. With valour and determination, these pioneers found a means to flourish in a process of self-realization. We recall and appreciate this long and difficult process, now etched in our memories as we celebrate each Yom Ha'atzmaut.

Not all anniversaries are happy occasions. We mark the occasion of a loved one's death each year with the lighting of a yahrzeit candle. We reflect on the life and times of those we remember, celebrating their lives and mourning their loss.

Above all, these special occasions allow us and even compel us to depart from our ordinary, everyday lives. They provide us with a reason and an opportunity to take stock of our own lives as well as the lives of those who have toiled or have sacrificed in order to provide us with a better world. These events are times to measure today against the past and to assess whether we and our predecessors have been successful in creating a peaceful, more humane world for us and for our future generations.

Consider, for example, the 60th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. When it was enacted as a resolution of the UN General Assembly in 1948, following the Holocaust, the world vowed to ensure that man's mistreatment of his fellow man cease and that the world take a new, enlightened and progressive step forward in an era of peace and human dignity. The object was to ensure that the world would be free from the oppressive nature of those malevolents who pushed Europe to the depths of human experience in the preceding years.

Since then, however, the world has experienced regional and civil wars too many to recount. These conflicts have included examples of systemic genocide in the Balkans, in Africa and several other places throughout the planet. The past 60 years have taught us that, like any instrument, the UN Declaration is just a document, a document that may not have permeated the minds and consciousness of world leaders and policy makers. It also evident that the United Nations is a far different organization today than that which existed in 1948. It is certainly no panacea for world peace and harmony. Although we have inherited a world full of strife and disharmony, we should also speculate as to what the world would be like without a universal declaration of human rights.

Anniversaries do not simply remind us of past achievements and tragedies, but also represent a time for renewal, a time to review our progress since the last particular milestone. This reflection may spur us on to take steps to strive for the betterment of our lives, our communities and our world.

On an individual level, isn't this what birthdays and wedding anniversaries are about – renewal and betterment? So as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Charter or the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration or the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel or any anniversary for that matter, let us recall the lessons of the past and pledge a commitment to seek a better future. Then these special dates will have greater significance and promise for all.

The Kirshner File

Winograd Commission exposed deep failures

Sheldon Kirshner
In Toronto

Long before the Winograd Commission released its scathing interim report on April 30 on Israel's conduct of the 34-day war in Lebanon last summer, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was in deep trouble.

Although most Israelis supported his momentous decision to attack Hezbollah in response to a brazen ambush that resulted in the deaths of three Israeli soldiers and the kidnapping of two others, they soon grew disillusioned with his handling of the war and its inconclusive outcome.

Last September, fending off pressure to appoint an official committee of inquiry, Olmert appointed a government commission, led by retired Supreme Court judge Eliyahu Winograd, to investigate the war. Within days, Olmert admitted that there had been failures in the management of the war, but claimed that Hezbollah no longer posed a military threat.

Shortly afterward, a retired Israeli general, Doron Almog, released a report blaming all levels of the army's command for failures in waging the war and for not learning lessons from Hezbollah's abduction of three Israeli soldiers on the Lebanese border in October 2000, nearly five months after Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon.

Israeli soldiers patrol southern Lebanon during 2006 war.

Last January, hot on the heels of the resignation of Gen. Dan Halutz – the chief of staff who orchestrated the air and land campaign in Lebanon – a wide range of Israeli politicians declared that Olmert and Defence Minister Amir Peretz had lost the confidence of the people and should step aside.

Less than a month later, Olmert, appearing before the Winograd Commission, defended his role, saying that Israel had, in fact, won the war. Listing Israel's achievements, Olmert said that Hezbollah had been driven from positions on the northern border, that its long-range missiles had been destroyed, that the Lebanese army had finally been deployed in southern Lebanon, and that the existing United Nations peacekeeping force, UNIFIL, had been bulked up.

He also disclosed that the war was basically planned in March 2006, when he, on Halutz's advice, decided that Israel would respond forcefully to further kidnappings of Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah. Halutz apparently told Olmert that Israel could not afford to maintain its policy of restraint, lest its deterrent capability be eroded.

During his testimony, Olmert said that he accepted Halutz's reasoning, and that Israel's overarching goal in a war would be the implementation of a United Nations Security Council resolution that called for the stationing of the Lebanese army along the border and the disarmament of Hezbollah.

Olmert's rationale for waging the war was persuasive, given Hezbollah's aggression since Israel's unilateral pullout from Lebanon. As a pretext for shelling Israeli army posts and civilian settlements, Hezbollah insisted that the Shebaa Farms enclave, occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six Day War, was Lebanese rather than Syrian territory, a claim that flew in the face of a UN ruling.

But once the war erupted, exposing Israel's inability to incapacitate Hezbollah or stop the daily barrage of missiles and mortars into the Galilee, the Israeli public gradually withdrew its support. No less a person than Shimon Peres, the deputy prime minister, told the Winograd Commission that, if it had been up to him, he would not have gone to war. Ehud Barak, the Israeli premier who ordered the unilateral withdrawal after the breakdown of peace talks with Syria, was more blunt, pronouncing the war as an outright failure.

Eliyahu Winograd

The Winograd Commission, whose first of two reports covers the period from July 12 to 17, leans toward Barak's interpretation. Its conclusions are pretty devastating. Military operations were not based on "a detailed, comprehensive and authorized" plan. The government did not consider "the whole range of options," including the containment of Hezbollah. It exhibited "weakness in strategic thinking." Cabinet ministers neither understood the implications of a war nor had an exit strategy. The declared objectives of the war were not clear, nor could they be achieved. The Israel Defence Forces did not show "creativity" in proposing alternatives.

These abject failures were foreshadowed by Israeli newspaper accounts in the months leading up to the release of the interim report. In a nutshell, they suggested that the general staff was stifled by Halutz's certitude. Halutz, until the very end, strongly opposed a broad ground operation and forbade his deputies to express views not in accord with his own. In addition, top generals knew in advance that a war could not free the two kidnapped reservists, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev.

Given its damning verdict, the Winograd Commission had no choice but to condemn Olmert, saying that he acted in haste and did not systematically engage in consultations, thereby failing to exercise judgment, responsibility and prudence.

Yet Olmert was not the only figure to be chastized. Peretz came in for hard knocks, too. He was accused of a lack of knowledge and experience in "military, political or governmental matters" and of a failure to examine "the preparedness and fitness of the IDF" and to develop "an independent assessment" of the complexity of a war in Lebanon. In short, the commissioners noted, Peretz "impaired Israel's ability to respond well to its challenges."

As for Halutz, he reacted "impulsively" to the abductions and did not inform "the political echelon" that the IDF was not ready to undertake an extensive ground offensive.

Not surprisingly, the Winograd Commission was critical as well of the "military commanders and political leaders" who were responsible for Israel's security after its unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon. By inference, then, Barak, Ariel Sharon (the former prime minister) and Shaul Mofaz (the ex-minister of defence and chief of staff and the current transportation minister), among others, came in in for a bashing.

The withering critique of Olmert's performance has emboldened some important figures to stage what amounts to a mutiny.

In a press conference, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, who covets his job, called for his immediate resignation. Avigdor Yitzhaki, the head of the Kadima faction, and Marina Solodkin, a Kadima member of Knesset, also pressed for his removal. Eitan Cabel, the secretary general of the Labor party and a minister in Olmert's coalition government, declared that Israelis have lost faith in his leadership, and that he should go.

Olmert, a slippery, tough-as-nails political operator, has pushed back, saying he will not resign and will appoint a team to study the report and carry out its recommendations.

His decision to tough it out, at least until the Winograd Commission's next report in the summer, is probably based on three calculations. He assumes that some of the tension will be defused when Peretz, as widely reported, resigns and his position is filled by Barak after the Labor party primary on May 28. He is counting on the perception that his possible successor, Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu, is simply too unpalatable to many Israelis. He hopes that a breakthrough in talks with the Palestinians may produce a dividend in terms of his popularity, which has sunk to a new nadir of two to three per cent.

But Olmert may be deluding himself.

At best, Olmert's future hangs in the balance.

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Paul Penna to honour noted genetics researcher

By **FRANCES KRAFT**
Staff Reporter

Last week on April 30 – one day before his 87th birthday – genetics researcher Lou Siminovitch set off for a week in London and Berlin with two of his five grandchildren, who are university students.

In an interview in his office at Mount Sinai Hospital's Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute prior to the trip, he was looking forward to their theatre, concert and art gallery outings as well as his plans to "see a couple of scientists… Nobel prize winners I want them to meet."

The trip exemplifies his deep connection to arts, science and family, as well as the reason he will be honoured at a May 14 gala by the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School.

Siminovitch reflects many of the values of the school, said gala co-chair Aviva Rajsky, referring to the importance of family, community, the "marriage of science and the arts," and a passion for excellence and critical thinking.

The event will take place at the Miles Nadal JCC's Al Green Theatre and will be hosted by television personality Ralph Benmergui. It will feature actor and singer Colm Wilkinson, musicians David Buchbinder and Hilario Duran, actor Dan Chameroy of the Stratford Festival's *Oklahoma!*, jazz vocalist Sophie Milman, the Tokai String Quartet, actor/comedian Rick Miller, Pro Arte Danza's Roberto Campanella and Robert Glumbek, and actor/Yiddish singer Theresa Tova.

Siminovitch, who was born in Montreal to immigrant parents, has been the recipient of a slew of science honours. He is also a companion of the Order of Canada, and his name is attached to the Elinore & Lou Siminovitch Prize in Theatre, established to honour him and his late wife, a playwright.

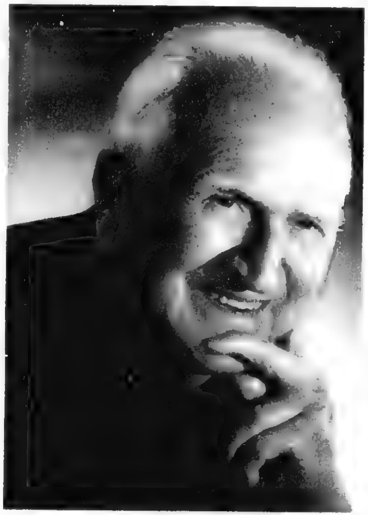
He received his PhD in chemistry from McGill University in 1944 and spent six years in Paris working as a genetics research fellow at the Institut Pasteur.

The founding chair of the University of Toronto's department of medical genetics, Siminovitch also served as geneticist-in-chief at the Hospital for Sick Children. He was co-founder and editor of several professional journals and has been in Toronto for more than 50 years.

Siminovitch says it never crossed his mind to retire, although he noted that he's "30 years older than anybody else" at scientific meetings he attends. "I love what I do," he said, adding that both his science career and serving as a mentor to students and younger researchers have given him a great deal of satisfaction.

Now "semi-retired," he puts in a five-day week that runs from 9:30 to 4 o'clock, sharing office space with his daughter Dr. Katherine Siminovitch, a senior scientist at the Lunenfeld institute.

Much of his work time is spent in an advisory capacity. In addition, Siminovitch has been involved with Baycrest and the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science, now known as Weizmann Science Canada. He served on the board of both organizations and interviews high school students who apply for Weizmann's Dr. Bessie F. Lawrence International Summer Science Institute.


Lou Siminovitch

At the height of his career, Siminovitch worked 80-hour weeks, but said he had to be home for dinner with his wife and three daughters every night. Although it took a few years, he came to realize it was "the greatest thing that happened to me."

Conversation revolved around books and literature, because, he said, "at our dinner table, we were not allowed to talk science."

A grandfather of two children at the Penna school, Siminovitch is not a proponent of Jewish education per se, but he said he likes "what they're doing in the school," which was founded in 1998 and runs from senior kindergarten to Grade 8. What appeals to him is "the nature of the school" and the fact that it is downtown, he said.

He said that he and his wife were atheists, but he understands "the importance of being Jewish."

The money raised at the annual event, now in its fourth year, goes to the school's subsidy program and allows it "never to turn away a family," said Rajsky's co-chair Jodi Tanenbaum. The gala raises most of the $150,000 that the school uses for annual subsidies, she added.

Tickets for the gala are $250 and can be purchased by contacting the school at 416-928-3537 or info@djds.ca.

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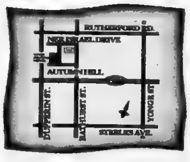

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She'arim prepares to leave BJCC

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School is looking for a new home – and for funding to facilitate the move.

The school, which serves students from Grade 1 through Grade 8 with learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and mild forms of autism, will have to leave its current 8,000-square-foot rented premises at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre by summer 2008, said Faigie Davids, She'arim's executive director.

The BJCC will be torn down and replaced by a new facility as part of the "Tomorrow" project launched by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto in 2000.

She'arim, which moved to the BJCC in 2001 from Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, currently has 92 students in 11 classes. There is a maximum of nine students per class.

"We'd like to see ourselves grow a little bit, but in a school such as ours, one doesn't want to see it growing too large, because we want to maintain that personal, individual support for each child," said principal Kathy Manoim.

Davids and Manoim said a central location along the Bathurst corridor would be preferred, because that would afford older students easy access by public transit, and also because students live in a geographic area that extends north to Richmond Hill and south of Eglinton Avenue. Parking and outdoor play space are also considerations, they added.

Students Jordan Silverman, left, Shaya Kutnowski, centre, and Tziporah Ross pose in front of their science fair exhibit at Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School.

"We need more office space," Davids said. Support staff, including a speech pathologist and music therapist, do not have enough designated space, she explained. "And there is no space if a child is withdrawn to get remedial [help] or enrichment," she said. "A lot of this happens in the hallways, which is not ideal."

"We really work with the child as a whole," said Manoim. "Academic skills are one area of importance, but [just] as significant are organizational, behavioural and social skills, and emotional well-being."

Students generally stay at the school for a minimum of two years, and most of the graduates continue their education at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Manoim said.

Many have pursued post-secondary education, and some have gone on to post-graduate education, she added. "I think our focus is really on producing young adults who are able to advocate for themselves and able to find their niche in life at whatever level of capacity they can achieve."

The school's annual fundraising efforts will be ramped up in the coming year to cover not just operating costs but the cost of the move. Although the school hasn't ruled out renting new premises, Davids estimates it will have to raise at least $2 million to $3 million if it decides to buy a new building. Ongoing fundraising includes a retail gift card program and an annual golf tournament.

Phase 1 of the fundraising will be a June 6 dinner at Adath Israel Congregation honouring Jewish war veterans, including veterans of Israeli wars, "and linking them with those we consider our current heroes, our children, who [have] a huge burden to overcome," Davids said.

The dinner will feature keynote speaker retired Canadian Maj.-Gen. Lewis Mackenzie, as well as former federal cabinet minister Barney Danson and Dr. Charles Solnik, who was a field surgeon in Israel.

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Jewish Life

Learning from the shmittah year

By RABBI YOSSI MICHALOWICZ

Rabbinic Reflections

Imagine if a very rich and influential friend approached you with the following offer: "Friend, I know you have been working very hard for the last six years. Tell you what – take a sabbatical next year and just relax!"

You would respond, "That's a great idea, but how will I live for a whole year without making any money? In addition, what guarantee will I have that I will get my job back after the year is over?"

To this, the wealthy friend responds, "I have already spoken to your boss and he has signed a legal document guaranteeing your job a year from now, and here is a cheque from me – a full year's salary – that you can cash today!"

Would you take your friend up on the offer? One would think that most people certainly would.

Well, this offer is not unique. We see in this week's Torah portion of Behar that God made this very offer to the Jewish people with the mitzvah of shmittah.

The Torah requires all Jewish residents in the Land of Israel to let their farms lay fallow for an entire year every seventh year. No plowing, planting, harvesting, etc. – in short, a full year of rest for you and the land. And about those concerns of yours, God promises the following: No problem! "I will ordain my blessing for you in the sixth year, and it will yield a crop for the three years." The people would get a triple crop in the sixth year.

We would expect the Jews to be jumping at such an offer. After all, you can't find a better guarantor than the Almighty himself! So what happened?

The answer is revealed in the second parshah, Bechukotai, when Moshe tells the Jewish people about the future calamities that will befall them for not following in the ways of the Torah. During this description, we are told, "Then the land will appease its shmittah years during all the years of its desolation, while you are in the land of your foes; then the land will rest and it will make its shmittah years appeasing. All the days of its being desolate it will rest, whatever it did not rest during your shmittah years when you dwelled upon her."

The commentaries explain that the Jews suffered 70 years of exile after the destruction of the First Temple. This was a measure-for-measure punishment for the 70 shmittah cycles that they did not keep while they lived in the Land of Israel.

We see from this that, by and large, many Jews did not want to take God up on His generous offer to have a full year paid leave of absence even with a promise of a triple crop in advance. How do we explain this?

Every person has a basic need for self-actualization. We all need to feel that we accomplish things in life. One of the deepest needs a person has is to feel that he exists from what he produces, either in terms of income or other means to sustain himself. People have a deep need to feel that what they create enables them to survive. This can be experienced by being a successful businessman, professional or farmer.

This need is a healthy one, as long as it helps us develop and maintain our relationship with the Master of the Universe. God wants us to feel good about ourselves, but we must never forget that this blessed state of providing for oneself is also one of the gifts from God. The mitzvah of shmittah reminds us of this when every seven years we stop working and let God provide for us exclusively. Ideally, we retain this lesson the other six years, and thus always appreciate His gifts. This cycle of seven thus has strong parallels to the weekly work cycle, which is broken by the observance of Shabbat, the day of rest.

Indeed, this is a great challenge for man: realize that all your success is only a gift from God for us to appreciate. Mankind struggles with this, and from this week's portions, we see that many Jews would rather work during the seventh year and delude themselves into thinking that they are the source of their own existence. A painful exile from the land, followed by a providential return, was needed to teach man the valuable lesson he could have otherwise learned through the joyous performance of this mitzvah.

Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz is spiritual leader of the Westmount Shul in Thornhill, Ont.

Enduring lessons from a radical sabbatical

IDEAS ON IDENTITY

By Rabbi Elyse Goldstein

This month marks three years since we returned from our "radical" sabbatical: travelling together as a family for six months through eight countries – Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, China, Thailand, Israel, Greece and Italy. We still talk about this bonding and learning experience as if it happened yesterday. People still ask us what we learned. Here's what we remember most.

- Let go: Buses were late, plane schedules were changed, museums were closed. "Deal with it" became our mantra. We learned how petty our lives get when we concentrate on the petty.
- Don't cling to things. When you're travelling through eight countries with three kids. you can't shlepp a lot of luggage. We learned how little we really need, as opposed to how much we really want. We noted this especially where the urge to buy everything because it was cheap was overwhelming. We learned that the more we own, the more it owns us.
- Children can rise to any occasion when their families have faith in them. My generation of parents tend to coddle children, do for them, and shelter them. Our kids were faced with long train rides with no Game Boys. They used their imaginations, looked out the window, read books. Once, they explained Judaism for seven hours – from Abraham to Theodor Herzl – to our Buddhist guide. Of course, they fought with each other and got bored, tired and cranky, but they knew that we believed if they could handle new foods, new experiences and new challenges, then they would.
- The only thing we really have is time. For the first time in our lives, all we had was time. In the beginning, it was extraordinarily hard to stop the wheels from turning, both in my head and physically, and nearly impossible to rest and relax. I felt a tremendous need to plan and organize. What would we do if we weren't doing something? But some of our finest moments came unplanned.
- Let your Judaism expand your horizons. We didn't expect synagogue to be the same as at home. On Maui, we davened with an Orthodox rabbi who chooses the denominational liturgy of the week's service based on a majority vote from the mostly tourist congregation. In Australia, the Reform rabbi asks anyone who is from out of town to stand up and introduce themselves, then they introduce this week's "host" family, who gladly take in guests for Shabbat dinner. In China, we davened with a Reconstructionist chavurah in Beijing one week and Chabad in Shanghai the next. In Athens, we encountered Greek tunes and a Greek prayerbook that has its own order unlike anything we were familiar with – and we got to throw up our hands and say, "It's Greek to me!" In Kaifeng, China, Moshe, "official Chinese Jew" for the tourists, greeted us in a kippah with "Shalom aleichem." I half expected him to say, "Funny, you don't look Jewish."
- Know how blessed you are in "the real world." As we saw the tremendous homelessness all over the world, in every city, we appreciated once more the blessings we have. Our travel bug never abated, and our love for home doubled. But we will never be happy with Disneyland now that we've seen the real world, and we highly recommend it.

Ethical pitfalls in corporate structures

Money Matters

By Rabbi Jay Kelman CA

For years, the mark of success for a business was when it reached the point of "going public." Today, we're seeing a reverse trend, with a spate of firms being bought for the express purpose of taking public firms private. The latest and biggest case in Canadian history – potentially valued at more than $30 billion – is the ongoing negotiations to privatize BCE Inc.

While the choice of whether to remain public or become a private firm is ethically neutral, the corporate structure contains many potential ethical pitfalls. Corporations are no more than legal fictions, impersonal and devoid of feeling. As such, we often feel no compunction in taking liberties with a corporation that we wouldn't take when dealing with individuals.

This thinking reflects itself in the often obscene (there are few other words for it) salaries that executives often make – after all, it's just corporate money. It can also be seen in the attitude toward expenses, perks and risk-taking. There aren't too many private firms that would engage in the type of risk-taking that had the Bank of Montreal announce trading losses of up to $450 million in the second quarter. Even when big gambles are taken, there is usually much more oversight and risk awareness. But since such losses affect some impersonal, unknown shareholder, we often let our ethical guard down.

This same thinking is often displayed toward the largest and most impersonal corporation of them all – the government. I write these words on April 30 as millions of Canadians are getting around to filing their income tax returns. Everyone acknowledges that cheating on taxes is widespread. If everyone paid what they should, it's likely that billions of dollars would become available for spending initiatives, with billions left over for tax reductions and debt repayment.

A government spokesperson was quoted as saying that the problem is so large it can't even be quantified. Yet, close to 100 per cent of people who cheat on their taxes would not even think of stealing something as small as a chocolate bar from a candy store.

When we attach a face to a victim, we feel a sense of compassion and remorse, enabling us to act honestly. But Jewish law sees such sins as cheating on taxes as much greater wrongs. One can always repay an individual and show sincere remorse to their victim. Neither is possible with theft from the public purse, and ironically, rare is the perpetrator who thinks of "repenting" after such a terrible sin. While being held up at gunpoint is much more frightening, from an ethical perspective, white collar crime is no less a sin. In fact, the white collar criminal must pay back twice what was stolen, whereas the blue collar criminal is obligated to pay back the amount stolen and no more.

A further, related problem is the pass-the-buck syndrome that is all too common in corporations. Ultimately, impersonal shareholders own these businesses and hence should be held accountable for their corporate policies, or lack thereof. However, the day-to-day running of public corporations is done by hired mangers who generally act independently, and often with little direct shareholder involvement. Not only can each blame the other for the lack of ethical clarity – as they are wont to do, especially in court – their interests often conflict. Such can be the case with a buyout, when a CEO may be in line for a huge payout, one that may come at the expense of shareholders.

Comments: rabbijay@torahinmotion.org

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Six Day War, Part 1

The Jewish
Highway

It's very hard, four decades later, to imagine the fear and then, the euphoria that spread through Israel and the Jewish world as the Middle East was plunged into war in 1967. It's hard… but with the help of the Internet, you can get a taste of the war whose effects are still being felt after 40 years. As we approach Yom Yerushalayim and the 40th anniversary of the Six Day War, you can relive coverage of that war.

Although the war was covered in depth by world media, most of the sources in this column refer to *Time* magazine and to a lesser extent, the BBC. That's because *Time* is one of the few major publications that has made its entire archive accessible online – free of charge. I assume that coverage in the weekly newsmagazine was fairly typical of how much of the western media covered the war.

At the heart of its coverage, *Time*'s June 9, 1967, issue features Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol on its cover **[http://tinyurl.com/2xvwkn]** and looks at Israel: The Struggle to Survive. "Last week, 19 years after the Diaspora dream of return to Zion became a reality in the first Jewish state in almost 2,000 years, Levi Eshkol and his people found themselves besieged and threatened as few nations have ever been in their history…" **[http://tinyurl.com/239j65]**

The following week, the magazine devoted another 5,000 words to How Israel Won the War. There's much written about the "new Defence Minister Moshe Dayan, the dashing, one-eyed 'Hero of Sinai,'" (also featured on that week's cover **[http://tinyurl.com/2h3g6x]**). Other personalities featured prominently in the coverage include Egypt President Gamal Abdel Nasser and Jordan's King Hussein. **[http://tinyurl.com/25wvx6]**

That same issue contains a much shorter but in some ways, a much more telling article. Given the pain and loss of life suffered over the years since then, it's eye-opening to read an article that retold "chutzpah-laced jokes about the Middle East conflict." Titled "Blintzkrieg," it epitomizes the headiness felt by Israelis and supporters around the world right after the war. A selection:

- Reports from the second day of fighting indicated that the Egyptians had destroyed four Jeeps, a kosher mobile kitchen and 14 air-conditioned Cadillacs. The Israelis claimed 400 MIGs and 24 flying carpets.
- "It's unfair," said a UAR [Egyptian] spokesperson. "They have 2,300,000 Jews on their side. And we have none."
- At one point in the campaign, an Arab division spotted a lone Israeli sniper on a sand dune. The commander dispatched three men to get him. When they did not return, he sent a dozen. None of them came back. So he finally sent an entire company. Two hours later, one blood-splattered Egyptian soldier crawled back. "It was an ambush," he explained. "There were two of them." **[http://tinyurl.com/28cboj]**

If you want a break from all the articles, go to the BBC site and watch a few reports from the war. On June 6, correspondent John Bierman was stationed with Israeli troops at Khan Younis on the Gaza Strip. "It would appear from a military briefing that we've just been given that the Israeli plan in this part of the front at any rate is to cut off the Gaza Strip from the rest of Egypt. The Gaza Strip… has been described by Israeli strategists as a pistol pointing straight at the heart of Tel Aviv." **[http://tinyurl. com/yrn93d]** Don't miss the timeline at the centre of the page that links to more BBC audio and video clips from this and other Mideast wars. Over at YouTube, a vintage newsreel complete with dramatic narration and over-the-top background music. **[http://tinyurl.com/2bf9mh]**

As you listen to the report and pore over the articles, it's hard to believe some of them were written 40 years ago. Two weeks after the war. *Time* wrote, "In a rational world, Israel's terms would not seem overly harsh. What it asks in exchange for the land it has conquered is not a return to its dangerous existence before the war but a guarantee that it can live in peace. 'Our watchword is not backward to belligerency, but forward to peace,' explained its ever-eloquent Foreign Minister Abba Eban." **[http://tinyurl.com/ywy5ar]**

Next time, the war and its legacy.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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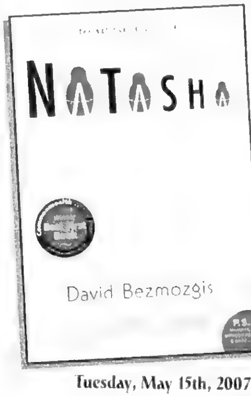

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Hatzolah marks 10 years with first fundraiser

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Hatzoloh, a non-profit volunteer organization that offers onsite emergency medical care before the arrival of professional medical intervention by ambulance, is holding its first major fundraising event.

On Monday, May 14, Hatzoloh Toronto, which is part of an international organization, will hold An Evening of Appreciation, honouring its 30 trained Hatzoloh responders and 15 dispatchers, at the Paramount, 222 Rowntree Dairy Rd., in Vaughn.

The guest speaker will be Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day.

Chief Bruce Farr of Toronto EMS will be honoured in recognition of the help and cooperation Toronto EMS has provided to Hatzoloh.

The evening will be dedicated to the memory of Shmulik Reichmann, an active Hatzoloh responder and founding member who died two years ago.

Hatzoloh (Hebrew for rescue) was formed in the Orthodox community 10 years ago with 10 volunteers to respond rapidly to emergency medical needs of anyone in the Jewish community.

"When I joined the board six years ago, we were getting one or two calls a week," says Hatzoloh president Moshe Sigler. "We now get two or three emergency calls a day."

Sigler said that Hatzoloh volunteers, who are on call 24/7, are located throughout the community.

Hatzoloh Toronto president Moshe Sigler, left, and Dovid Stein, a Hatzoloh volunteer responder

"They provide quick, high quality, non-transport care within minutes of being dispatched. Hatzoloh also ensures that 911 is called," he said.

"Volunteers wait with patients until an ambulance arrives and patients are safely transferred into the care of the ambulance personnel."

He said the community owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the devoted Hatzoloh volunteers.

"They give tirelessly, both in the forefront and behind the scenes, giving so generously of their time, effort and family life in their lifesaving roles."

Under the auspices of Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Centre's division of pre-hospital care, responders receive the designation of emergency medical responder, with an EMR/D certification, after completing 250 hours of intensive training.

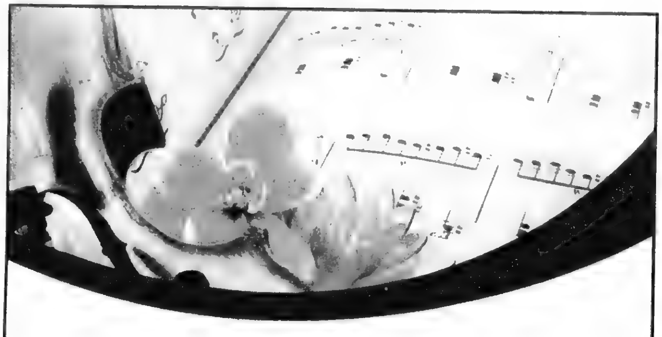
As well, responders are trained to cater to the unique religious needs of the Jewish community regarding emergency medical care.

"The responders have gone beyond their mandate," Sigler said. "As an example, a child had a serious burn. The parents had to accompany the child to the hospital in an ambulance. Our Hatzoloh volunteer remained with the other children at their home until other family members arrived."

Dr. Debra Kiez, Hatzoloh's medical director, is an emergency room physician at York Central Hospital and in private family practice.

Ten years ago, Hatzoloh's area of service was from Eglinton to Sheppard avenues., and from Allen Road to Avenue Road. Today, the boundaries have expanded up to Highway 7 following the Bathurst Street corridor.

For more information on Hatzoloh or to make reservations for the fundraising dinner, call 416-398-2300, or visit hatzolohtoronto.org.



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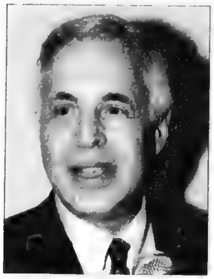
Focus on shared values, rabbi tells interfaith dinner

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

A retired U.S. Navy chaplain says his experience as a rabbi in the armed forces taught him that focusing on common social issues is the best way to improve relations between Christians and Jews.



Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff

"The secret of the chaplain corps was not talking about theology first, not talking about the hardest issues first. Instead, we rolled up our sleeves and talked about shared concerns [first] – [soldiers] in pain, those in fear, those suffering from doubt or loneliness," Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff told the the 21st annual Neighbourhood Interfaith Dinner, held recently at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

"Only after we had built relationships [with each other] did we talk about faith issues. Otherwise, we agreed to disagree on theology and agreed to agree on the needs of humanity."

Rabbi Resnicoff, now a Washington, D.C., consultant on interreligious affairs and a former special assistant on values and vision to the secretary and chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, was the keynote speaker at the dinner, which was attended by some 300 clergy and congregants from seven churches and three synagogues in mid-town Toronto.

Participating congregations included Beth Tzedec Congregation, Beth Sholom Synagogue, Temple Sinai, Christ Church Deer Park, the Church of St. Clement, Grace Church on-the-Hill, Holy Rosary Church, St. Ansgar Lutheran Church and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church.

Rabbi Resnicoff said it's possible to be moved by the faith and teachings of others, noting that he was inspired to become a rabbi by a Christian chaplain who served with him in the Vietnam War.

He also recalled that during times of personal turmoil, when he was stationed overseas, he turned to the Christian chaplains for spiritual and emotional support.

"When I had hard times in my life following the death of my brother and the death of my father, I was the only rabbi around. The priests and ministers with whom I worked became my rabbis."

Rabbi Resnicoff said that Christianity and Judaism have distinctly different theologies, and many miscommunications occur because people think they understand the other faith when in fact they may not.

"It is better to assume we do not [understand the other faith] and to treat Judaism or Christianity as a new, unknown religion and listen to believers in those faiths explain their faith to us."

Learning about others' faith through dialogue is a way to prevent conflict and avoid misunderstandings, he said. "We need to talk, to share with each other what words hurt ."

He said Jews and Christians have "conflicting visions of the end of days," and so he stressed the importance of working together on issues in the here and now, such as poverty and homelessness.

"The more we focus on getting through today – making this a better day – the more we can agree. Therefore, focus on poverty, crime, injustice and discrimination. Work on projects like Habitat for Humanity, which help the homeless."

Rabbi Resnicoff outlined three pitfalls to avoid in interfaith dialogue, which he calls the "rules of engagement."

Firstly, he said comparisons between religious groups can't be a comparison between "our best and their worst." Secondly, one can never compare "our teachings to their actions." Thirdly, in a comparison of teachings, don't compare "our beliefs to their words" because beliefs are learned in context while words can be taken out of context from others' holy books.

Archives runs workshop on keeping records, photos

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

The care and preservation of old photographs, documents and other sensitive heirlooms is the theme of a two-hour workshop offered by the Ontario Jewish Archives on Sunday, May 20, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Lipa Green Building.

"A lot of people have come in and asked how to deal with sensitive and damaged records and photos that are dear to them but they don't know how to preserve them," said archivist Ellen Scheinberg, one of two authorities who will be on hand at the workshop. "Rather than going into Blacks or Grand & Toy, they want an archival solution to preserve their family treasures."

The other authority at the Preserving Your Family Treasures Workshop will be Lincoln Ross, a photo conservator who has done a lot of work for the City of Toronto Archives.

"I'll be talking about photographs and the best way to preserve them," he said.

Old items in need of conservation may include a grandmother's letters from World War II, great-grandmother's diary from Europe, a graduation certificate or photographs that may have faded or crumbled over time.

Many people store family photographs in albums that could damage them in the long run, Scheinberg said.

"My pet peeve is those awful photo albums from the '70s and '80s with the adhesive pages. Over time, the glue starts sticking to the photos and the clear plastic, and it becomes hard to remove the photos without ripping them."

The first part of the workshop will feature a presentation. In the second part, Scheinberg and Ross will advise participants about conserving particular photos or documents.

Anyone with old photographs or documents can learn some useful preservation techniques at the workshop, Scheinberg said.

The fee is $25 and pre-registration is required. For details, please call 416-635-2883, ext. 170.

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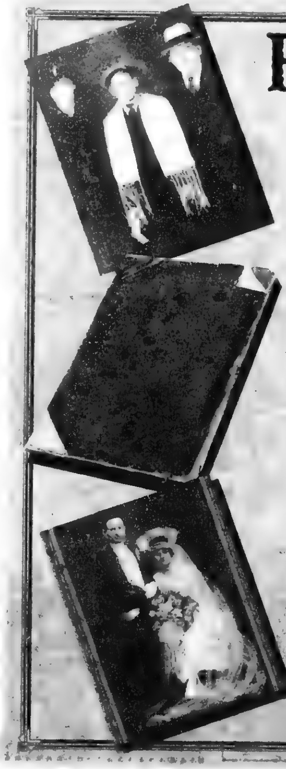
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A step forward for Lebovic Campus

New road in Vaughan memorializes Israeli hero

By SHOSHANA POZNANSKY
UJA FEDERATION

Another milestone in the development of the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus took place on Sunday with the official naming of Ilan Ramon Boulevard, adjacent to the campus. The Lebovic Campus, on Bathurst north of Rutherford in the City of Vaughan, is one of three campuses for Jewish life in the Greater Toronto Area, under the umbrella of UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign. The street naming was followed by a Lag B'omer street festival featuring activities for the whole family.

Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut on a U.S. space mission, who perished aboard the space shuttle Columbia with six other astronauts on February 1, 2003, was celebrated as a modern-day hero at the event.

Vaughan Mayor Linda Jackson who is enthusiastic about the Lebovic Community Campus

"Occasionally, individuals will accomplish something special and become role models in their communities," said Vaughan mayor Linda Jackson. "Ilan Ramon was such a person in Israel, but his accomplishments transcended international boundaries. All of us in Vaughan are proud to honour his memory."

Mayor Jackson also praised the Lebovic Campus as a service complex for all York Region residents.

"This project is truly a monumental achievement," said Jackson. "What makes it special is that it is not exclusively for the use of the 60,000 people of the Jewish faith living north of Steeles Avenue. This project is for the entire community and we all benefit."

The Lebovic Campus is a 50-acre site – the first in Vaughan of this magnitude – built by an ethno-cultural community. When completed, the campus will house the northern branch of Tanenbaum CHAT (Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto), other Jewish schools, a Mount Sinai Hospital Wellness Clinic, the Schwartz /Reisman Centre and several community agencies. Tanenbaum CHAT, the first facility to be built, will open this September.

"The Lebovic Campus and the Tomorrow Campaign represent a shared vision for the Jewish community and the GTA that we are proud to implement," said Ted Sokolsky, President and CEO, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. "It's our contribution to enhancing a remarkable city and the future of Jewish life in the GTA."

The Tomorrow Campaign includes the downtown campus, consisting of the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre and the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life; Central Square at Bathurst and Sheppard; and the Lebovic Campus.

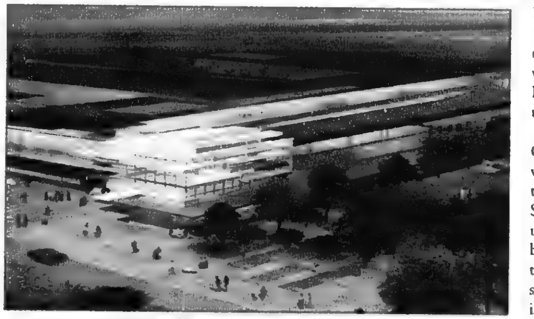
Architects transform Tomorrow Campaign campuses

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA FEDERATION

At the centre of any urban transformation is exciting architecture, and UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign is no exception.

Spanning the Greater Toronto Area from Bloor and Spadina in the south to Bathurst and Ilan Ramon Boulevard in the north, the ambitious development of three campuses for Jewish life in Toronto is defining the future of the community through its spaces.

The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, which makes up the downtown campus along with the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, was designed with the objective of "serving as a landmark and a source of Jewish pride on the University of Toronto campus," explains Susan Friedrich, who served as architect for the building.



An artist's rendering of the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus

Infused with Jewish imagery, the facility includes a wall constructed from Jerusalem stone, a series of sandblasted windows depicting the story of the Jewish people, and a wooden pergola plus a canopy that suggest the wooden roofs of traditional synagogues. In addition, an olive tree and maple tree that sit on the southeast corner of the site represent the union of Jewish and Canadian life.

Central Square, located on Bathurst Street north of Sheppard, will be a "campus of interconnected buildings," says Mansoor Kazerouni, who is designing the project with Page+Steele Architects president Sol Wassermuhl. It will include the new Prosserman Jewish Community Centre where the BJCC currently sits, a new Koffler Centre of the Arts, the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage and a renovated Lipa Green Building for Jewish Community Services.

"There will be one main entrance, the atrium, which everyone enters through, and that gives you a real sense of awareness of what's going on, not just on the campus but in the community," Kazerouni continues. "This design encourages a lot of interaction between various age groups."

Farther north, the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus is taking shape as a city within a city, where York Region's 60,000 Jews will be able to come together to experience Jewish life. According to project architect Guela Solow-Ruda, "urbanity means complexity, diversity. Diversity of use – the range of uses on campus are as complex as any city block (residential, recreational, educational, healthcare); diversity of population – all ages, all ethnic groups and all creeds are supported by the amenities and services; diversity of ideas – this is essentially urban, a city."

Nature plays an integral role in this city, Solow-Ruda continues. "It is the centre of the urban design composition; all the built fabric is located around courtyards and gardens, buildings frame public squares, and outdoor amenities create views towards nature."

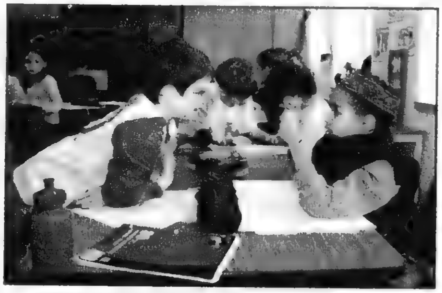
Ultimately, however, "the architecture celebrates Jewish identity through the use of text, the written word, ideas," says Solow-Ruda. "Its Jewishness exists in the wide myriad of activities which it supports."

UJA Federation welcomes provincial government grant

The Government of Ontario's $15 million grant for UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign will be used to help cover the cost of new facilities on three campuses for Jewish life – downtown, in the Bathurst-Sheppard district and the Lebovic Jewish Community Campus on Bathurst, north of Rutherford in the City of Vaughan. The government's $15 million contribution represents less than 5% of over $300 million in anticipated Tomorrow Campaign costs. Provincial funds will be designated primarily for campus community centres.

"We thank the government for its generous participation in our pioneering Tomorrow Campaign initiative, in order for us to enhance services for seniors, children, newcomers and vulnerable members of our community," said UJA Federation Board chair David Engel. "We are exceptionally proud of our Tomorrow Campaign projects, which are attracting worldwide attention and we are particularly proud of the enhanced services that our Tomorrow Campaign campuses will provide with provincial financial assistance."

UJA Federation and Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region began discussions with the provincial government about investing in the Tomorrow Campaign more than three years ago. Provincial Finance Minister Greg Sorbara was a guest speaker at the campaign's official inauguration in May 2004.



The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre is serving downtown residents of all ages

"Since then, with our CJC partners, we met ten times with senior government officials to discuss a provincial partnership in this exceptional project," said Engel. "In addition, our request for funding was backed by extensive documentation highlighting community needs and the way in which our new campuses will be responding to those needs."

"The Tomorrow Campaign represents a shared vision for the Jewish community and the Greater Toronto Area that we are proud to implement," noted Ted Sokolsky, President and CEO, UJA Federation. "It's our contribution to enhancing a remarkable city and the future of Jewish life in the GTA."

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The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre is dedicated to serving the community, cultural, educational and recreational needs of downtown Toronto. Its programs and services are guided by Jewish values and are open to all members, regardless of race, origin or religious affiliation.

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Greater Toronto Area

Miriam's Judaica store closes after more than four decades

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

After more than 40 years of operating Miriam's Fine Judaica at 3007 Bathurst St., north of Lawrence Avenue, Miriam and William Rosenthal will be retiring and closing their family-run business.

The Rosenthals and their daughter Lillian have considered their Judaica store far more than a business. Over the years, it became a welcoming open-door location where locals as well as visitors to Toronto would drop by to reminisce, ask for some advice, or just shmooze.

"During our selling-out sale, it has been a very emotional time for all of us, because we made so many friends through the store," Miriam said. "People come to the store with flowers and some crying. They ask why we are leaving."

She explained that her husband, who is a rabbi, is 96 and she is 84. They recently celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. "It's time for us to retire. It would be too difficult for Lillian to run the store by herself and we are getting on."

William said: "We will miss the store very much. Our customers became family members. We went to their children's bar mitzvahs and other simchahs. People came to our store when they visited from as far away as Sweden and Alaska."

Miriam added, "We were delighted to have helped so many people. One man, as an example, came into the store and had to say *Kaddish* for his father. He admitted that he didn't know how. My husband taught him how to lay tfillin and how to recite *Kaddish*."

William said that even non-Jews came to the store.

"A student came with his mother asking if we could help him with an essay on the Holocaust. We were delighted to help and he did very well on his essay. For many years, his mother sent us a Rosh Hashanah card every year."

Miriam (Schwarcz) was born into a wealthy Orthodox family in Komarno, Czechoslovakia, in 1922. Until March 1944, life in Komarno was relatively calm.

Miriam had just become engaged to William who lived in Miskolc, Hungary. They had planned a large elegant wedding and everything was ordered and ready. Then the Final Solution was put into motion.

Jews were not allowed to travel. On April 5, 1944, disguised, with false papers and wearing a cross, Miriam slipped into Miskolc. The rabbi told them, "You came and you are engaged. We have to make a wedding. It will be tonight." The next day, the bombing began and the Germans came to Miskolc.

William was taken to a forced labour camp. Miriam was sent to Auschwitz, where she discovered that she was pregnant and had to keep her pregnancy a secret. She was sent to Augsburg, Germany, to work in a Messerschmitt factory. One day, the SS came to look for pregnant women to send them to the gas chambers. She was the only one they found.

The SS took her to Kaufering camp, where there were six other pregnant Hungarian women. The seven women gave birth. The Germans knew the war was ending and they wanted to show the world that they didn't kill infants. But then the entire camp was evacuated and they were all sent to Dachau. They were liberated by the Americans.

Shoeless and emaciated, Miriam found her way back to Komarno and sent a message to Miskolc that she was alive. When she and William were reunited, William could not believe that Miriam was alive and they had a son, Leslie.

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Miriam and William Rosenthal in front of Miriam's Fine Judaica

The three Rosenthals came to Canada in 1947, leaving behind remnants of their families. William worked stuffing mattresses in Toronto. Two years later, someone heard William daven at shul and asked if he would come to Timmins to serve as rabbi and religious teacher there. Their daughter Lillian was born in the northern Ontario town.

The following year, they moved to Sudbury, where William also served as rabbi and where their third child, Murray, was born. In 1956, they moved back to Toronto to give their children a Jewish environment and education. They opened Miriam's Fine Judaica shortly after their return to the city.

The couple now have seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Miriam said it is painful for the couple to have a selling-out sale, because "it brings back so many memories."

She added: "We want to thank the many people who supported us. I didn't realize that Miriam's Judaica was much more than just a business. It was our outreach."

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Push for Wallenberg stamp may be too late

By **PAUL LUNGEN**
Staff Reporter

Raoul Wallenberg

A Czech immigrant who was instrumental in getting a Mississauga street named after Holocaust hero Raoul Wallenberg has not given up hope that Canada will issue a commemorative stamp to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Swedish diplomat's death.

Mike Janecek has been pushing the most recent request for the stamp since early this year, but he has been told that his efforts weren't in time to mark the July 12 anniversary of Wallenberg's death.

"It is unfortunately too late to consider a stamp for this year, as the 2007 stamp program was announced in May 2006," Jim Phillips, Canada Post's director of stamp services, wrote to Janecek on Feb. 13.

"However, I will be pleased to ensure that this suggestion is brought to the attention of [Canada Post's] Stamp Advisory Committee for consideration in future stamp programs and the 100th anniversary of his birth in 2012."

Janecek, spokesperson for the Mississauga Wallenberg Committee, rejects that proposal. "I wrote [to Phillips] that it would be more fitting on the 60th anniversary of his tragic death in 1947." Israel and the United States have both issued stamps honouring the Swedish envoy.

Janecek said he has run up against various "stumbling blocks" over the years. In 1987, the committee proposed to then-Liberal senator Lorna Marsden, who was chair of the Stamp Advisory Committee at the time, that a postage stamp to honour Wallenberg be struck.

Two years later, when the request was renewed, "the Canada Post officer at that time stuck to the rule and the sentence I'll never forget – that no living person shall be honoured except the sovereign," Janecek said.

It is widely believed Wallenberg died in the notorious Lubyanka KBG prison in Moscow in 1947. A monument commemorating the Swedish diplomat was unveiled in London by Queen Elizabeth in 1987 indicating that he lived from 1912 to 1947.

Janecek, longtime publisher of the Czech-language newspaper *Kanadske Listy* (*Canadian Pages*), has called on federal politicians for help, but so far, he's had no luck. The Mississauga Wallenberg Committee has circulated a petition promoting creation of the stamp and Janecek believes that with enough public pressure, the Post Office might yet issue it.

Rabbi Lawrence Englander, a member of the Mississauga Wallenberg Committee, believes such a stamp would have a beneficial educational value.

"I'm thrilled about Mike Janecek's efforts to obtain a stamp commemorating Raoul Wallenberg," he said. "Among other things, it will make Wallenberg more of a household name and more and more Canadians will get to know his story, which is one that is certainly worthy of being told."

Nicole Lemire, a spokesperson for Canada Post, said that in addition to the request coming too late, the Crown corporation focuses on the positive when issuing commemorative stamps. Stamps generally commemorate the birth of great Canadians, not their deaths.

"It's definitely on our books for the 100th anniversary of his birth in 2012," she said.

Janecek's admiration for Wallenberg dates back to the immediate postwar years.

As a young man in Prague, he was studying agriculture when the democratic government was brought down by Communists. Like thousands of others, he fled the country, finding refuge briefly in West Germany before immigrating to Sweden. There he heard about how Wallenberg, a diplomat posted in Budapest, issued fake documents and used his influence to protect 100,000 Hungarian Jews from certain death at the hands of the Nazis.

After the war, Wallenberg was arrested by the Soviets and was never heard from again.

Janecek met Wallenberg's family and watched as the Swedish government of the day made ineffective requests to the Soviets to reveal the former diplomat's fate.

Janecek moved to Canada in 1951 but continued to follow the case. Though he's not Jewish, he said that as "a democrat," he felt Wallenberg's actions should be remembered.

In 1984 he helped convince the City of Mississauga to name a street after the diplomat (Wallenberg Crescent, near City Hall, has 104 homes), and a year later, he was part of an effort to have the Canadian government confer honorary citizenship on him.

Janecek believes that "what [Wallenberg] did should not be forgotten. When you ask young people especially if they ever heard of him, they say they did not… A postage stamp would make people realize what this man did and [why] he should not be forgotten."

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Most Winograd coverage misses the point

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

It was no surprise that last week's release of the interim Winograd report on the political and military shortcomings of Israel's war last summer with Hezbollah elicited a huge reaction within its borders.

But possibly because of other important domestic and international stories, with very few exceptions, the Canadian media treated the report proportionately, covering it fairly and accurately.

Most major newspapers ran editorials. In "Lessons from Lebanon" (May 1), the *National Post* focused initially on the Winograd Commission's "devastatingly critical [report] of both Israeli politicians and senior military commanders" for Israel's "failed" war.

But the paper then turns its attention to the lesson of Winograd: the need for Israel to quickly and effectively adopt the recommendations concerning military preparedness for what the *Post* calls "the coming conflict" with Hamas.

In the *Post*'s view, Hamas is biding its time to build up its arms in an effort to imitate Hezbollah and plan for a war with Israel.

The *Globe and Mail*'s May 1 editorial, "Calling Olmert to account," similarly begins by noting how Winograd lays the blame for last summer "squarely at the feet of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, which is where it belongs." It then compars Olmert's "disastrous conduct of the war "to George Bush's "ineptitude" in Iraq.

However, in writing that "Mr. Olmert's failings have cost him the public support he needs to negotiate effectively with the Palestinians," the paper assumes that there is a possibility of negotiating with a Hamas-dominated PA that remains adamantly opposed to recognizing Israel.

Most Israeli analysts reject such a prospect. Even if Olmert had succeeded last summer and found himself popular with the Israeli public, there would still be no chance for negotiations with the Palestinians.

Indeed, in their May 2 *Globe and Mail* opinion piece, "Olmert has little room to manoeuver," Israel analysts Cameron Brown and Jonathan Spyer argue that while Winograd has been damning of Israel's political leadership, Palestinian "intransigence and growing Islamist radicalism" have created an impasse for any Israeli leader who might conceivably replace Olmert (and Defence Minister Amir Peretz).

Brown and Spyer also break with the conventional wisdom that last summer's war was a failure. They argue that Israel inflicted substantial punishment on Hezbollah and forced an "enhanced," if flawed, UN presence in southern Lebanon that "restricts Hezbollah's freedom of action."

Brown and Spyer note that the Winograd report does not condemn Israel for having gone to war against Hezbollah, but rather faults Israel's major strategic blunders – both political and military – that prevented a much more successful operation.

Reports are now surfacing that, with Iranian and Syrian assistance, whatever setbacks Hezbollah may have incurred, it is rearming for another possible confrontation with Israel.

Brown and Spyer believe that Winograd actually has a positive implication – to serve as a wake-up call for change in the face of looming dangers: Iran's nuclear threats, a possible Syrian strike on the Golan, renewed aggression by Hezbollah across the Lebanon-Israel border, and increased terrorism from Hamas.

"The question is whether the national calling-to-account currently taking place in Israel will produce a leadership and institutions sufficiently reinvigorated to respond."

Most Israeli experts would agree. The alternative is unthinkable – a lack of preparedness and effective command that would leave Israel vulnerable to defeat.

There is one major factor generally missing in the media coverage: the observation that only a nation strong and self-confident in its democratic institutions and capable of self-correction could have publicly released such a critical report, to the delectation of its sworn enemies. Yet the report is also a warning to them: Israel will be far better prepared in the future.

As the influential *Frankfurter Allgmeine Zeitung* said: "Israel once again makes it clear that, despite certain 'adaptations' to the ways of the region, it has the democratic powers of criticism and self-criticism which one looks for in vain elsewhere in this part of the world."

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Last URO office closes

Continued from page 3

"As time marches on, the number of claimants become fewer and fewer, and the URO found it economically unviable to keep open an office. We'll do whatever we can to assist survivors."

According to English, the URO in Toronto assisted about 2,000 survivors a year and was instrumental in helping them acquire more than $5 million in reparation payments.

The first URO offices sprung up in what was then known as West Germany. In the intervening years, offices were opened in Israel, the United States, Canada, Europe and South America.

During the first few years, operations in Canada were financed by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and administered by the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Claims Conference spokesperson Hillary Kessler-Godin, in an interview from New York City, said, "In the mid-1950s, we provided a loan to the URO to help it establish a global network of offices to assist survivors in filing claims under the German Federal Indemnification Law, which the Claims Conference negotiated. The URO repaid the entire loan."

Montreal service helps survivors

By **DAVID LAZARUS**
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — When the United Restitution Organization (URO) office in Montreal closed its doors at the end of 2002, its records went into Canadian Jewish Congress national archives, but the move had little effect on survivors.

That's because in February of that year, the local Jewish community had already established an all-in-one claims resource service called the Survivor Assistance Office, housed at the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors (CJCS).

The office was initially set up as a pilot project modelled after similar assistance offices established in three U.S. cities. The idea was to have one central place that could handle the complex array of restitution, pension, insurance, compensation, slave labour and other claims related to the Holocaust.

As with the U.S. cities, initial funding came from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, but funding has since become part of the core budget of CJCS, said Myra Giberovitch, CJCS' supervisor of services for survivors and their families.

"It was determined that we needed a sort of 'one stop shopping' office where survivors would not get the runaround and get a broad range of services," she said.

Igor Epshtein, who has run the assistance office since 2003, said there has not been a need to refer cases to the now-closed URO office in Toronto, because his office handles all types of cases, which number in the hundreds each year.

Montreal's survivor community numbers about 6,000.

The assistance office is even authorized to certify "life certificates" for survivors receiving pensions from Germany who must prove each year that they are still alive and, therefore, eligible to keep getting a pension.

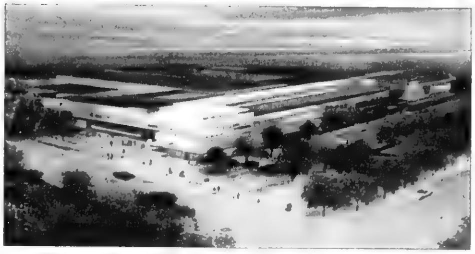
Epshtein also noted that unlike the URO, which claimed up to 10 per cent of compensation money as payment for its services, Survivor Assistance Office services are free of charge.

"I have even received calls from Israel and California," he said.

Other survivor services at CJCS include a drop-in centre, an assistance office information line, and emergency assistance programs.

'We welcome and thank the government's participation'

Continued from page 1



An artist's rendering of the new Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan

(excluding a "family pavilion" that will house day care/early childhood education programs and seniors programming) is roughly $30 million; and the "recreational or traditional community centre component" of the Vaughan JCC is roughly $30 million, English said. The latter project is expected to be completed in 2009.

English said the federation has yet to determine how the money will be divided among the three campuses. "Lay committees are monitoring and overseeing the development of all three campuses," he added.

Although the Nadal JCC has undergone extensive renovations, there is still "a little work to be done on the downtown campus."

Announcement of the grant followed a series of meetings between government representatives and officials of the federation and Canadian Jewish Congress, English said. The amount of the grant was the same amount the Jewish community delegates had in mind, he added.

The representatives have also made a case for federal funding of the same magnitude, but have not yet received an answer, he said.

English stressed that the $15 million represents only 5 per cent of the expected total cost of the Tomorrow campaign project, which is now about $300 million.

"We always expected that the vast majority of the cost of the project would be borne by private donors," he added, noting that to date, $210 million has been raised for the campaign.

The campuses are intended to serve non-Jewish residents as well as Jewish ones, English said. "We see that downtown particularly, where Jewish Family & Child Service has always served a large number of non-Jewish clients.

"All of the campuses will have facilities and agencies that will be of interest and will provide services to non-Jews. For example, at Central Square [on the site of the current BJCC]… I want to make special note of the rejuvenated and expanded [future] Koffler Centre of the Arts with cultural programs and interests that would really excite all of the residents of the area between Eglinton [Avenue] and Steeles [Avenue.]"

The Vaughan campus, in addition to housing the northern campus of the Anne & Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (scheduled to open this September), as well as other Jewish schools, will be home to a Mount Sinai Hospital wellness clinic and a number of agencies that will serve all the residents of York Region, English said.

"We welcome the government's participation and we thank them for the grant and their trust in our ability to implement a tremendous vision for the entire community," he said.

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Muslim author advocates multi-faith dialogue

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Raheel Raza, a prominent member of the Canadian Muslim community, addressed supporters of the Canadian Friends of Haifa University (CFHU) at its annual general meeting to promote tolerance, understanding and peace.

The author of *Their Jihad... Not My Jihad*, Raza is on the board of the Muslim Canadian Congress. She is a freelance journalist for the *Toronto Star*, and the recipient of numerous awards for her interfaith work.

She addressed CFHU board members at Beth Tzedec Synagogue in Toronto on April 26, just one day after returning from Los Angeles where she was invited by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center to speak at the Museum of Tolerance.

The outspoken advocate for gender equality and multi-faith dialogue promoted the message that we must respect each other's differences and understand our commonalities.

"We live in a world where hatred seems to be the favoured way of living with each other. I also realize that in our community there are two kinds of people. There are those who would spend a lifetime talking about differences and distances… because for them, to divide and rule is a very easy way to grab people's attention. And then there are those who would shorten the distance by building bridges of trust and understanding, focusing more on similarities than differences. I wish to be one of those people," Raza said.

She said that even though she grew up in Pakistan, she had an idea of the hostilities that Jewish communities faced and even knew a little about Jewish history, after having read *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and seen films with Jewish themes.

But when she moved to Canada, she, too, faced hostility from the Muslim community for sympathizing with Jews.

"What my fellow Muslims don't understand is that in my journey to discover [other religious communities], all I am doing is trying to follow the word of God," she said.

"The more I interact with others, the more I become rooted in my faith. Those who think I am going outside of my faith by befriending people who are not Muslims, they don't understand that this is what roots me in my faith, when I learn more about you."

She quoted a line from the Qur'an that she discovered is very similar to a line in the Talmud that says "humanity is one community."

She said that after having read passages from the Talmud (in English), she realized how many similarities there are between the Muslim and Jewish faiths.

"As I was reading, I thought to myself, every single Muslim I know needs to come to a synagogue and hear what is being said to understand that the message is the same, that we are reaching out to the same God. But through the centuries, you know and I know that this message and others like it have been sidelined and Islam has been subjected to anti-pluralistic, exclusivist interpretation in order to advance both political and religious subversive agendas."

Raheel Raza
[Ira Goldmintz photo]

Raza said she also identifies with Israel's struggle to defend itself against communities that call for the destruction of the Jewish state.

"Pakistan is the only other country in the world that was created on the basis of religion, and if someone, like neighbouring India, or anyone else said that they don't recognize them, I'm sure the world opinion would be very much against it," she said.

"My firm belief is that Israel needs to be recognized and it has a right to exist just as much as my own native land of Pakistan does," she said, adding that most Pakistanis and Muslims would disagree with her.

There can be no solution to the "Palestinian crisis" until Israel has a partner that recognizes its sovereignty, she said.

Raza also doesn't shy away from challenging people who hold the view that Jews heavily influence foreign policy.

Muslims around the world need to abandon a popular, ignorant belief that whatever is happening in the world is a Jewish conspiracy, she said.

Just two days earlier in Los Angeles, Raza told the gathering that she hopped in an Iranian man's cab to go shopping. She began to make conversation with her driver and asked him how he liked living in the United States.

"He said, 'Well, you know, there's [President] George Bush and those Jews.' Maybe two years ago I would have changed the subject and talked about something else… [but] I asked him, 'When you say "those Jews" what do you mean?' And he said, 'You know, those people run the country.'"

She said she lectured the cab driver for 20 minutes. He was so taken aback, and he asked her if she was a Muslim.

"I am a practising Muslim," she told him. "This is what my faith and your faith, if you happen to be Muslim, tells you, that you do not judge people. I don't know if it made a difference to him, but it made a difference to me."

She said that it is important for people of all faiths to understand that unity does not mean uniformity.

"If we want peace and if we want to live together in harmony, we have to move beyond our differences. We have to have dialogue, we have to build these bridges, we have to have communication."

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On Campus

Hillel at U of T receives $50,000 grant

Hopes to reach out to more students

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The staff at Hillel of Greater Toronto hope that a $50,000 grant will help them reach their goal of doubling the number of students involved in Jewish campus life.

The Campus Entrepreneurs Initiative is being funded by U.S.-based Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life. The Toronto project aims to give students who are not involved with Hillel the opportunities and resources to "do Jewish" on campus.

Daniel Abramson, the program director at Hillel of Greater Toronto, said this program will give students who wouldn't normally be involved with Hillel the chance to work within their own social networks and create positive Jewish experiences.

"In Toronto, people have so many opportunities because the Jewish community is very dynamic and vibrant. Students on campus have many opportunities that are outside of Hillel… They're getting their Jewish life experiences through synagogues and the community off-campus. This is very positive, but we want to make sure that they have a peer group on campus too," Abramson said.

According to the application sent by Hillel associate executive director Stephanie Krasman and director of Tzedek Hillel Devora Schwartz Waxman, there has been a shift in the Jewish identity of University of Toronto students.

They suggested that Jewish students don't gravitate towards Hillel programming as much as they used to and don't see Jewish involvement on campus as a way to gain leadership skills and experience.

"This grant is meant specifically to allow communities and organizations to reach students who aren't the [day school] graduates who… will automatically be on our mailing list… This gives us the ability to reach students who are not on our radar screen," Abramson said.

"We want students to do things that we haven't thought of before, and we want them to be talking to students who we missed or who missed us."

The grant will allow Hillel to hire 12 students who aren't necessarily interested in Hillel but have had positive Jewish experiences they want to share with other Jewish students.

Those 12 students, who will make up the Campus Entrepreneur team, will get a stipend and a programming budget, Abramson said, adding that the exact figures have yet to be determined.

Applicants must either have participated in a Taglit-birthright israel trip or be eligible to attend next winter's birthright trip. They also have to be available for a summer training session in mid-August, be available for the entire 2007-2008 academic year and have a minimum GPA of 3.0.

"We're looking for people who are outgoing, friendly, have positive Jewish experiences and want to share that with other people," Abramson said.

He said Hillel international is hoping for an increased availability of opportunities for students on campus. Each of the 12 students will be expected to reach 60 more students who are also Jewishly involved on some level, but have little interest in Hillel programming.

"There are some really cool students who are working on this radical Jewish culture club and they deal with klezmer music and obscure films, and they haven't been interested in traditional Hillel programming… This gives them a way to build a program for themselves in an environment where they're being supported by other team members and are given the resources to be able to do it," Abramson said.

"For all those who have been hesitant about getting involved with Hillel for whatever reason… we want people to know that if you're Jewish and on campus, you're important to us."

To apply, visit campusinitiative.org and for more information, contact Daniel Abramson at daniel@hilletoronto.org.

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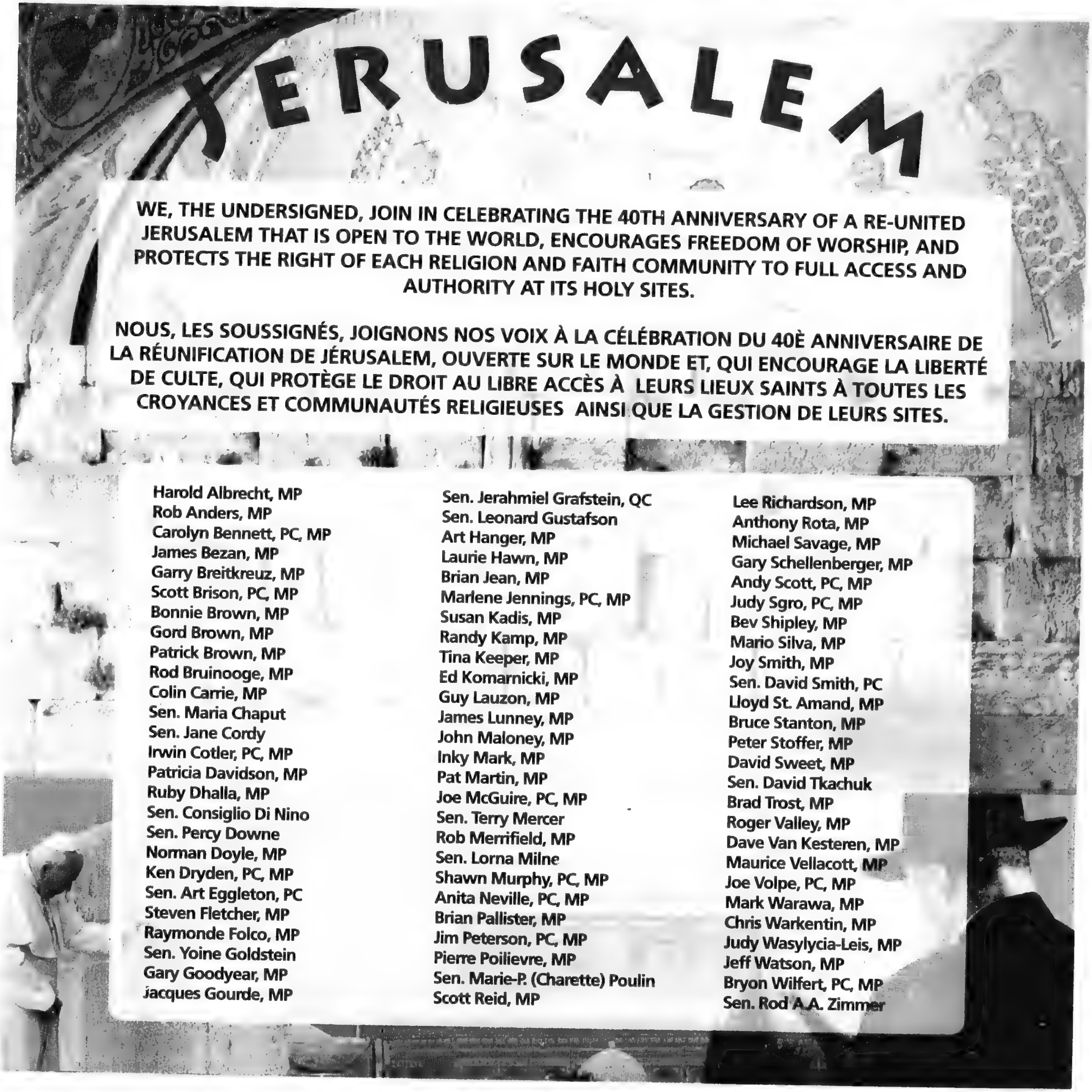

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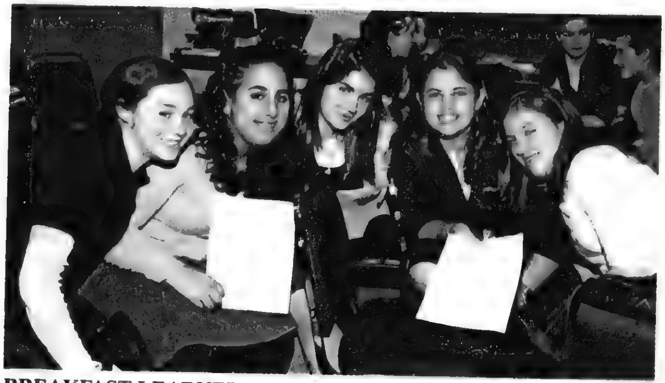

BREAKFAST LEARNERS: Grade 9 students and staff from Ulpanat Orot girls high school recently visited Netivot HaTorah Day School for Netivot's annual Breakfast & Learn program. From left are Arielle (Grade 8), Sarah (Grade 9), Lidan (Grade 9), Samara (Grade 8) and Orit (Grade 8) discussing the day's topics. Both Sarah and Lidan are Netivot graduates. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

a schvitz, & SCHMOOZI

BLOOR STREET BOOGIE: Middle school students at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School, including Tiferet Nashman, foreground left, and Ella Gladstone, right, dance with Morris dancers at Bloor Street and Spadina Road on May 1. Since the 15th century in England, Morris dancers have gathered with sticks, ribbons, bells, hankies and baldrics to celebrate May Day on May 1.

SCHOOL PEACEMAKERS: Shana Harris, director of education at Bialik Hebrew Day School, congratulates Grade 5 students after handing out certificates acknowledging their contribution to schoolyard safety. After receiving special training in conflict resolution, Grade 5 each class spends part of the year as "peacemakers," helping children in grades 1 to 5 solve problems at recess.

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

NAYMAN/SEROTA

Sloane is delighted to announce the birth of her little sister,

Tanys Jade Harper Nayman, a.k.a. Sweetie Weetie

on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Her Hebrew name is **Talia Yafit Hadas**, in loving memory of Alana's maternal great-great Aunty Thelma Mandel and David's grandfather Joseph Nayman. Parents Alana and David are over the moon. Overjoyed grandparents are Evette and Ken Serota and Marion and Shlomo Nayman. Four time grandparents are Rena and Max Fronenberg and Belle and Alex Serota. Aunty Mere and Uncle Alex have reached new heights of spoiling. Aunty Phoebe will reserve judgement until she finds out how generous Tanys is with her food.

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What's New Deadlines: NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES. Thursday, May 10, is the deadline for the May 24 issue and Monday, May 14, is the deadline for the May 31 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, May 10

THE DA VINCI CODE

Beth Emeth Continuing Education presents "The Da Vinci Code: A Jewish View" with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**. 8 p.m. Call 416-633-3838 to reserve.

Saturday, May 12

PARSHAH PORTION

Morley Goldberg speaks about the weekly portions, Behar/Bechukotai, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

Sunday, May 13

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

Beth Emeth Brotherhood invites the community to a Mother's Day breakfast with musical performance by **Peter Marino** following 8:30 a.m. services. $18, children 10 and under $10. Reserve, 416-633-3838.

THE ARMY & YESHIVOT

Prof. Gidon Sapir, visiting professor at University of Toronto Law School and faculty member of Bar Ilan Law School, speaks on "Building Consensus Between Religious and Secular in Israel: Army Service and Yeshivot" at the **Shuki Hecht** Memorial Lecture. 8 p.m. at Yeshivat Or Chaim. 416-636-0500

Monday, May 14

TORAH & CANONIZATION

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents "Another Look at Canonization" with **Rabbi Roy D. Tanenbaum**. 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3511

WOMEN'S RELATIONSHIPS

Beth Emeth Sisterhood presents "Relationships with Husbands, Sons and Daughters," a Mother's Day tribute with **Anne Balaban**. 8 p.m. free. Call 416-633-3838 to reserve.

CHUG HATANACH

Rabbi Wayne Allen leads the study group in a discussion of Song of Songs, Chapter 5. 8 p.m. at Beth David Congregation.

PENNA SCHOOL GALA

Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School hosts a gala tribute to **Dr. Lou Siminovitch** with performances by **Colm Wilkinson**, **Dan Chameroy, Theresa Tova** and other performers. 8 p.m. at the Al Green Theatre. $250. Tickets, 416-928-3537 or e-mail info@djds.ca.

Tuesday, May 15

LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

Holy Blossom Library Book Club will discuss *The Sacrifice* by **Adele Wiseman**. Info, 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Beth Tikvah Lunch and Learn series hosts **Heather Kassel** reviewing the film *Syrian Bride*. Screening at 12:30 p.m. $12, non-members $15. Pre-registration required, 416-221-3433, ext. 352.

BOOK REVIEW CLUB

Dr. Andrea Most reviews *Yekl: and Other Stories of the New York Ghetto* by **Abraham Cahan**, 1 p.m. at the Toronto Jewish Library. $15. Register, 416-635-2883, ext. 111, or jewishpubliclibrary@ujafed.org.

ANIMATION FACTORY

Beth Tzedec Kadima, grades 6-8, "Lounge Nights" hosts a professional artist who will help participants create animation cells. 6-8 p.m. $10. RSVP, 416-781-3514, ext. 30.

SPRING ROLL: USDS GALA

Join United Synagogue Day School's gala "Spring Roll" for a light dinner, live and silent auction, dancing to Bais Groove and fun at the gaming tables. 7 p.m. at Oakville Golf and Country Club. Dietary laws observed. Tickets $136, call 416-224-8737, ext. 1802.

Continued on page 31

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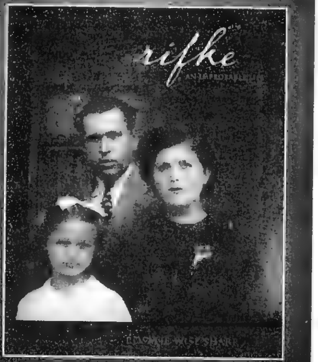

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Continued from page 30

YIDDISH THEATRE

Holy Blossom Temple presents a lecture by **Ralph Wintrob** on "**Gordin** and **Adler**: Giants of Yiddish Theatre." 7:30 p.m. Info, 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

JEWISH ROOTS TOUR

Free info night for Kolel's Eastern Europe Jewish Roots Tour to Vienna, Budapest, Prague, Krackow and Warsaw, Nov. 1-12. Led by **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**. 7:30 p.m. at BJCC. 416-636-1880, ext 472

BOOK AND FILM SERIES

Adath Israel Sisterhood Book and Film Review series with **Heather Cassel** discusses the book *March* by **Geraldine Brooks**. 8 p.m. 416-635-5340

COLE LECTURE

David Bezmozgis, documentary filmmaker and author of *Natasha and Other Stories,* gives the **Sharon Cole** Memorial Lecture. 8 p.m. at Temple Sinai. 416-636-5425

Wednesday, May 16

BAYCREST ROCKS

Join Baycrest Foundation for Baycrest Rocks, with four Toronto bands. Proceeds go to Baycrest's Mood and Related Disorders Clinic. 6:45 p.m. at Phoenix Concert Theatre. First band 7:30 p.m. $50. Visit www.baycrestrocks.com or call 416-785-2500, ext. 2020.

BEREAVEMENT SEMINAR

Temple Har Zion offers "Caring for Yourself When You Are Caring for Someone Who is Ill" a bereavement seminar with **Marcia Schnoor**. 7:30 p.m. 905-889-2252

SUPPORT GROUP

Are you the parent, relative or friend of a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered person? Come and chat about the new challenges in your life. Beth David Synagogue, 7:30 p.m. For info, 416-633-5500.

Other News

HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute begins a new session of Hebrew-language classes for adult, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 13 sessions. Classes are taught in the morning and evenings on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of May 16. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. To register, call **Joseph Klinger**, 416-787-0197.

WINCHEVSKY INFO

The Winchevsky Centre holds an information night about their secular, inter-cultural and non-traditional programs including a Sunday morning school for children aged kindergarten-bar/bat mitzvah; Camp Naivelt, a summer cottage community; the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir; and cultural and educational programmings. Thursday, May 17, 7-9 p.m. Info, 416-789-5502, or www.winchevskycentre.org.

YOM YERUSHALAYIM

Join Beit Rayim Synagogue and School for "Jerusalem: Past, Present and Future" including a lecture by **Ya'acov (Cobie) Brosh**, consul general of Israel, and performance by the Beit Rayim choir. Thursday, May 17, 7:30 p.m. at Reena Battle Centre, 927 Clark Ave. W. Free. 905-770-7639, ext. 31, or admin@beitrayim.org

PATH OF MUSSAR

Toronto Jewish Library presents **Alan Morinis**, author of *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar*. Thursday, May 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Bathurst JCC, Room 120. 416-635-2883, ext. 111, or latnercentre@ujafed.org.

JEWISH GENETIC DISEASES

Canadian Magen David Adom presents **Dr. Annette Feigenbaum**, of SickKids, on "The Power of Prevention: Jewish Genetic Diseases and Screening." Thursday, May 17, 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $18. 416-780-0034 or cmda@interlog.com

MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Join Shaar Shalom Synagogue and cantor **Ben Silverberg** for Shabbat services followed by a festive kiddush. Sat. May 19, 8:45 a.m. 905-889-4975

SPA RELAXATION BAGS

ATID chapter of Toronto Hadassah-WIZO is selling gift bags filled with Israeli spa, bath and beauty items and other goodies to pamper any woman. Makes a great gift for moms and teachers. $36 (retail value $65+). Limited quantity available. Proceeds benefit Israeli youth at risk and those with special needs. To order, contact **Shayla**, 905-881-6259 or shaylagee@rogers.com.

TODDLER DROP-IN

The Village Shul invites children ages 9 months to 2 years old and their caregivers to a Tuesday and Thursday program, 9:30-11 a.m. throughout the school year. Program includes sensory and dramatic play, arts and crafts, circle time, music, finger play and snack. $8/session. No reservation necessary. 416-785-1107

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 33

SUMMER TOTS PROGRAM

Adath Israel Congregation offers Special Time For Yeladim, a tots program for the summer. Program includes music, sports and creative programs. For info, visit www.adathisrael.com and click on "tots" or call **Nilly**, 416-635-5340.

VENDORS WANTED

Clubs Beersheba and Aviva of Na'amat Canada are looking for vendors for their craft and gift show, Sunday, June 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden Centre. Call 416-636-5425 (days) and 905-881-8161 (evenings).

JOY FIELDING

Club Tamar Na'amat hosts "Breakfast with **Joy Fielding**," Sunday, May 27, 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre. $36. Reserve, 416-636-5425.

SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

Are you a survivor of abuse who is willing and able to speak about your experiences? Jewish Women International of Canada (JWIC) offers speakers in the community to educate men and women about the issue of abuse and its effects. JWIC are looking for women to speak to groups in the community. Training provided. 416-630-9313

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tzedec Congregation Haverim Program and **Holy Blossom Lunch and Learn** present An Afternoon of Music, with mezzo-soprano **Rene Bardo** at Beth Tzedec, Monday, May 14, 1:30 p.m. $2. RSVP, 416-789-3291, ext. 233.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

The Association of Jewish Seniors hosts **Dr. Nicole Anderson**, of Baycrest Centre, speaking about "Memory Aging: What's Normal and What's Not." Thursday, May 17, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Guests $2. On Tuesday, June 3, AJS and ACSCO host Good Health Day at Earl Bales Park Community Centre, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Register by May 22. For info, call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Club House In The Park. Sunday dance, May 20, 50+ singles and non-members welcome. Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 13. Fallsview Casino Niagara, Thursday, May 31. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Friday movies, May 11, 1-3 p.m. Call 2297 for info.

Torah Study Group, Sundays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Classroom C.

"Psychology of Humour" with **Anne Balaban**, Wednesday, May 16, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Call ext. 2275.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Etrog Club presents Jerusalem Day party, Tuesday, May 15, 7 p.m.

Computer Rama, Wednesday, May16, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Free.

Health Lecture: "Understanding the Power of Attorney Role" with **Pauline Rosenbaum**, Thursday, May 17, 1:30 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Learning Experience: "The Psychology of Clutter," with **Anne Balaban**, Tuesday, May 15, 1 p.m.

Registration now for September 2007 Morning School including Tic Tac Two, nursery and junior kindergarten. Call ext. 248.

Day trip tickets on sale for Orillia, *Tribute to Ethel Merman*, June 19; Stratford, *My One and Only*, June 26; Shaw Festival, *Mack and Mable*, July 17, and *Tristan*, Aug. 21. Call ext 235.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER EVENT: The chairs of the Chesed Committee are congratulated by their mothers at the recent Ulpanat Orot High School Mother-Daughter Night, at which more than $3,000 was raised for Yad Sarah. From left are Etty and Laya Rosenberg, Miriam and Robin Gofine, and Naomi and Greta Reiss. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

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BRIDAL REGISTRY

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Harrison, Alexander Averil	Apr. 21/07	7601 Bathurst St
Scutaru, Ionel	Apr. 21/07	48 Crown Heights Cr
Holtzman, Zelda	Apr. 22/07	205 Hilda Ave
Alexander, Marie Ablah	Apr. 22/07	Private
Zilber, Benny	Apr. 21/07	Private
Zober, Andy	Apr. 24/07	360 Ridelle Ave
Mirochnick, Irwin	Apr. 23/07	7601 Bathurst St
Rubin, Lillian	Apr. 25/07	900 Wilson Rd N
Kates, Joseph J.	Apr. 2/07	265 Ridley Blvd
Saidakovsky, Froim	Apr. 25/07	Private

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MANIA SPELLMAN ז"ל

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will take place
Sunday, May 20th at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Farbund Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

ROSE ADA GLICK ז"ל

will take place
Monday, May 21st at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst South of Steeles
Chenstochover Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The family of the late

REBECCA ROSKER ז"ל

Would like to express heartfelt gratitude for all the expressions of sympathy during their recent bereavement, and for the many donations given in Rebecca's memory. Your support has been a great source of comfort at this time.

Arthur Tannenbaum

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

MORRIS (MAISHE) KORMAN ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, MAY 13th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

A Mother's Day Tribute for HANNAH BRESLIN (1912-2001)

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The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

MOLLIE MILNE ז"ל

a much beloved mother, bubie and great-bubie
will take place
Sunday, May 13, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Labour Zionist (Farband) Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The family of the late

TOBY KALCHMAN ז"ל

wishes to express their sincere gratitude to family and friends for their sympathy, support and for the generous and kind donations to various charities.

Sam Kalchman, Helen Chaiton & family,
Marvin & Shelley Kalchman & family,
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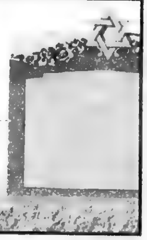

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Please join us on **Tuesday, May 29, 2007** at **7:00 pm** as JVS Toronto and the Borchiver Family pay homage to the life of our beloved Dr. Ruth Borchiver.

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If you wish to say a few words of tribute, please contact Silvana Adair at 416-787-1151, ext. 263 or email: sadair@jvstoronto.org

Watch this space weekly for obituaries and related notices

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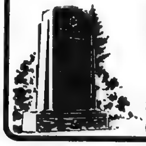

Holocaust historian draws record audience

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Six years ago, Deborah Lipstadt, a professor of modern Jewish and Holocaust studies at Emory University in Atlanta, found herself thrust into the international media spotlight when she was sued for libel by notorious Holocaust denier David Irving.

In a Winnipeg lecture late last month, Lipstadt recalled that her initial reaction to Irving's libel charge against her was to dismiss it as ridiculous. But then she realized that it could be serious.

"The problem is that in British law, the burden of proof is on the person being sued," she explained. "If I ignored the matter, he would win by default and his view of the Holocaust – that there was no German plan to annihilate the Jews, there were no gas chambers, that the number of those murdered was greatly exaggerated and that the guilty parties were rogue German officers – would have been vindicated."

The ensuing trial in London vindicated Lipstadt and left Irving thoroughly discredited and bankrupt. As a result of her courage in standing up to Irving, Lipstadt has been much honoured and has been in great demand as a speaker.

Lipstadt was in Winnipeg April 30 as the guest speaker at the second annual Sol and Florence Kanee Distinguished Lecture series (historian Martin Gilbert was the inaugural speaker last year). She addressed an audience of about 800 people, a Winnipeg Jewish community record for a speaker.

The lecture series was inaugurated by the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada to celebrate Sol Kanee's 95th birthday. In welcoming the audience, lecture series co-chair Harold Buchwald paid tribute to Kanee, who died on April 23 at 97, as a man who "cast a giant shadow" on world Jewish history in the second half of the 20th century.

Lipstadt, who earlier in the day told her story to more than 500 high school students from six Winnipeg high schools in a program organized by Holocaust survivor and educator Philip Weiss, did not disappoint the crowd.

The book at the centre of Irving's lawsuit was *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*, which Lipstadt had published in 1993.

She noted that she devoted just a few paragraphs in the book to Irving, whom she called one of "the most dangerous of deniers" because he had a reputation as a prolific author of history books covering all aspects of World War II.

"His books all had a whiff of anti-Semitism," she said. "His theses were that the Axis powers weren't so bad, the Allies did some things that were wrong and that the Jews got what they deserved."

It wasn't until Irving published *Hitler's War* in 1978 that he begin to show his true colours and became a champion of Holocaust deniers, she said.

The defence's strategy at her libel trial was to focus on discrediting Irving rather than try to prove the reality of the Holocaust. They called no Holocaust survivors as witnesses nor did they have Lipstadt take the stand. (Irving acted as his own lawyer.) Rather, they recruited a "dream team" of prominent historians to comb through Irving's footnotes and check them for accuracy.

Lipstadt listed several examples of their findings where Irving distorted written records by adding people who weren't there, adding or subtracting words to change the tone of the reports and changing the order of events to further his own agenda.

The defence team was also able to gain access to audio and video of Irving talking to supporters, and even to some passages from his diaries.

The tapes and entries portrayed a man who is bigoted, racist and misogynist, noted Lipstadt, who also gave some examples.

Personally, Lipstadt noted that the hardest part of the process for her was to refuse all media comment, on the strong recommendation of her defence team.

"They cautioned me that British judges dislike individuals involved in legal cases who litigate in the media," she said.

She also spoke of how moved she was by the support and encouragement of Holocaust survivors worldwide.

"The judge's verdict was 320 pages long and, in a unusual move, he read out the entire document in court over two hours," she said. "He laid waste to Irving's arguments. It was an overwhelming moment."

Although she has been described as a hero, she said she didn't feel heroic.

"I was defending myself and my freedom of expression against a liar and a racist. But I became aware that I was representing all the victims of the Holocaust."

Lipstadt's Winnipeg appearance was co-sponsored by the Freeman Family Foundation Holocuast Education Centre.

ANIMAL CRAFTS: Grade 2 students at The Toronto Heschel School are learning about the classification of animals as a part of their social-environmental studies which is integrated with the arts. In the picture, from left, art teacher Joy Alpert, Megan Abel, Harry Pencer and Jordan Cotton are creating models with paper mache.

SINGLES EVENTS

DEADLINE:
Wednesday 4 p.m.
8 days preceding issue date

For rates or to place an ad
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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries on events to the event's organizers

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COCKTAIL PARTY FOR JEWISH SINGLES 35-55 yrs. old, at Centro Lounge, 2472 Yonge Street, on Tuesday, May 29th at 7pm. Cover Charge $15. Space is limited! Call Anne at 416-483-8151. An evening of music, drink, dance and conversation. Co-sponsors for door prizes: Holt Renfrew, Harry Rosen, Men's PowerSpa, Sam Kleinberg Jewellers, Murano Jewellers, Bownngs, Natasha Stone Massage, Veda Health & Wellness Professionals, Capelli's, The Body Shop, Danier Leather, Beddington Bed & Bath...

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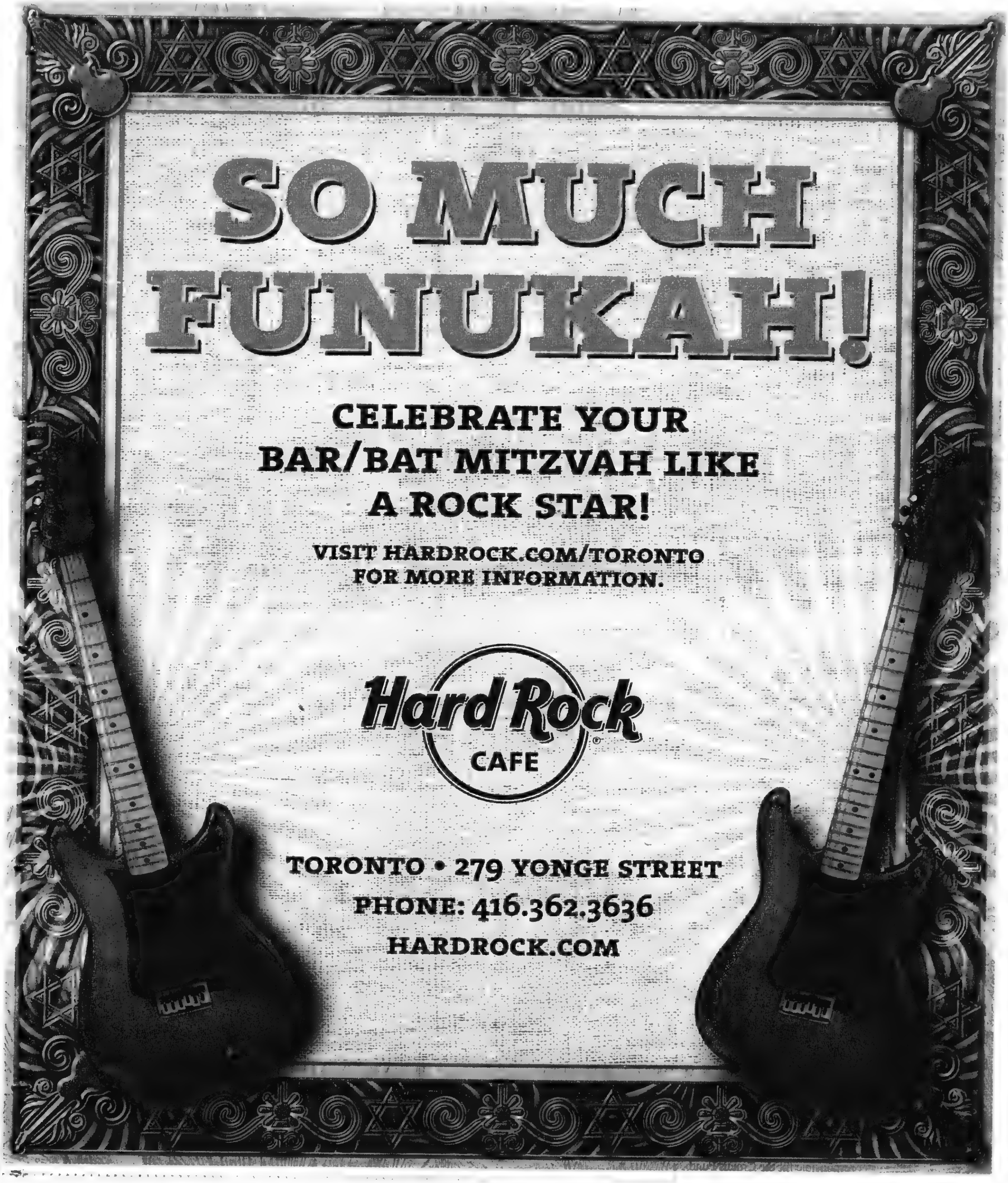

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Parliamentary motion calls for UN action on Iran

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

The House of Commons' foreign affairs subcommittee on international human rights last week passed a motion calling on the Canadian government to refer the "incitement to genocide" by Iranian officials, including President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, to the United Nations.

The motion states that Canada should also call on the UN Security Council to refer this incitement to the International Criminal Court.

According to former justice minister Irwin Cotler, who is now the Opposition critic for human rights and who put forward the motion, its passing, especially the recommendation to the Security Council, represents a first for a Canadian parliamentary subcommittee.

"This had the full support of Liberal party leadership," said Cotler, referring to Stéphane Dion. "This is not just me or you saying it," he told *The CJN*, "but a parliamentary subcommittee. This motion is important because it's a statement of a parliamentary consensus.

"It's the first time a parliamentary group is on record in asking to go to the UN," he said.

In a press release from his office, Cotler said that "we are witnessing in Iran the toxic convergence of the advocacy of the most horrific of crimes, namely genocide, imbedded in the most virulent of hatreds, anti-Semitism, propelled by a publicly avowed intent to acquire nuclear weapons and dramatized by the parading on the streets of Tehran a Shihab-3 missile draped in the emblem 'wipe Israel off the map.'"

The motion's preamble states as fact that the Iranian government has consistently violated the Genocide Convention (the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted in Resolution 260 of the UN General Assembly on Dec. 9, 1948), through "direct and public incitement" and persistent calls for the "annihilation" of Israel.

Also stated as fact is that such statements violate the "incitement to genocide" statute of the International Criminal Court.

Since Iran also intends to acquire nuclear weapons in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, and since state parties to the Genocide Convention (including Canada) are bound "to prevent the direct and public incitement to commit genocide," Canada, the body of the motion states, calls on the UN "to take such action… for the prevention and suppression of the public and direct incitement to commit genocide by senior Iranian government officials."

Canada also calls on the UN Security Council to refer this incitement to the international court's special prosecutor, "in order to determine the basis of an investigation and prosecution."

The motion passed by a vote of 3-2, with one abstention by the Bloc Québécois. Two Liberal MPs, one of them Cotler, voted in favour, but two Conservatives, Wajid Khan and Kevin Sorenson, opposed the motion.

The subcommittee is chaired by Conservative MP Jason Kenney, who would have voted in the event of a tie.

"Frankly," Cotler said, "I would have thought that Conservatives would have supported such a motion. I was kind of shocked at their opposition." He added that the Jewish community should be wary about handing the Conservatives a "blank cheque" on issues the community might assume they would support.

Cotler said he intends to bring up the motion with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and is hopeful that the motion will eventually be voted on by the full House.

Last December, Cotler was among several prominent figures, including Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz and former American ambassador to the UN John Bolton, calling for Ahmadinejad's criminal indictment for advocating that Israel be wiped off the map, contrary to the UN charter and Genocide Convention

Cotler said the subcommittee motion was initially longer, but was shortened after the subcommittee heard testimony from a selection of expert witnesses on issues relevant to the motion.

The next step is that the motion will go before the full foreign affairs committee and then, if passed again, it will go before the entire House of Commons.

Jewish candidates run in Manitoba election

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — It's been many years since a member of the Jewish community here has been elected to the Manitoba Legislature, and that situation is very unlikely to change in the upcoming provincial vote on May 22.

There are three Jewish candidates running this time around, but none of them stands much chance of winning.

The most prominent Jewish candidate is Bernie Bellan, co-owner of the *Jewish Post and News*, who is the Liberal standardbearer in the south Winnipeg riding of Assiniboia. The third place Liberals held only two seats in the outgoing Legislature and have not been in government in nearly 50 years, which means that almost all Liberal candidates are long shots to win.

Bellan also says openly that he has no interest in the concerns of voters in Assiniboia, nor is he planning to spend much time campaigning. He said he is running strictly to keep the Crocus Fund issue in the forefront of public attention.

The Crocus Fund was a labour-sponsored investment fund that was started in the mid-1990s under the former Conservative government. Investors were allowed generous tax breaks and could redeem their investments after a period of time. Crocus' mandate was to invest in Manitoba companies.

But the fund encountered financial difficulties and halted trading in December 2004. More than 33,000 Manitobans lost money when it collapsed.

Bellan was one of the first to detect problems with the fund. As co-owner of the community's weekly Jewish newspaper and an occasional business writer for the publication, as well as being an investor, he had followed the progress of the fund from the beginning. Early in 2002, he wrote a story raising questions about the operation of the fund and some of its investments. He and the paper were threatened with a lawsuit.

"I have been fighting to make this story public ever since," he said.

Bellan was instrumental in forming a coalition of former Crocus shareholders who have launched a class-action lawsuit and are demanding that the outgoing government launch an inquiry into the fund's collapse. It has also come out that members of the cabinet knew the fund was experiencing problems as early as 2002 but did not take action.

Bellan chose to run in Assiniboia because the current MLA, Jim Rondeau, was the minister responsible for the Crocus Fund at one point.

Alon Weinberg is also running to make a point. The Green Party candidate for Fort Garry, also in south Winnipeg, said he is running to raise the issue of electoral reform.

"People should be co-operating instead of fighting each other," he said.

Weinberg, the founder of Ada'Manitoba, a Jewish ecological group, is running in his third election. He ran unsuccessfully for the Green Party provincially in 2003 and federally in 2004.

Weinberg's friend and fellow Jewish Green Party candidate is musician and environmental activist Nathan Zahn, who is running in the north Winnipeg Kildonan Riding. This is his first attempt at public office.

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Orthodox rabbis adjust rules for conversion

By **PAUL LUNGEN**
Staff Reporter

Toronto's Beis Din is endorsing a decision by the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA) to limit the authority to perform conversions to approved regional rabbinic courts that apply a universal set of halachic guidelines.

The decision by the Toronto Beis Din was taken before a recent RCA convention, which discussed implementing the new conversion protocols, so as to offer converts the certainty that their status as a Jew would be recognized universally.

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, who attended the conference in Manhattan, said the RCA decision will not be affected by a recent announcement by the Israeli Chief Rabbinate that it will require members of the religious courts to be approved in Israel. The last-minute announcement from Israel prompted cancellation of a news conference to announce an agreement between the RCA, the Beth Din of America and the Chief Rabbinate that will govern Orthodox conversions in North America.

The RCA document is titled Geirus [conversion] Policies and Standards that Will Govern. The RCA is an umbrella organization representing almost 1,000 Orthodox rabbis in North America.

Rabbi Tradburks, the Toronto Beis Din's former secretary, said Toronto already has its own regional court affiliated with the RCA and its conversions have been relying on the same standards set out in the document – except for child conversions – for more than 20 years. The rabbinate in Israel is familiar with the Toronto Beis Din and has confidence in the legitimacy of its conversions, he said, adding the rabbis in New York were surprised by the position taken by the Chief Rabbinate.

Requiring North American rabbis to be approved in Israel was never part of the pre-conference discussions between the two sides, he said.

Tracing the evolution of the new set of conversion standards and policies, Rabbi Tradburks noted that in the past, individual rabbis used their discretion when performing conversions. Sometimes they could be pressured by members of their congregation to perform a conversion, or converts might have shopped around for a rabbi who would be more lenient in applying halachic standards, he said.

"That caused a lot of different standards in conversions throughout North America." In Toronto, conversions were taken out of the hands of individual Orthodox rabbis more than 20 years ago, he said.

Israel's rabbis were not sure whether to accept conversions from North American rabbis they were unfamiliar with (which could affect acceptance of the Jewish status of an immigrant to Israel), and even other North American rabbis were not confident about some conversions.

Establishing regional beit dins gives the RCA – and the Israeli rabbinate – some confidence they will be done properly, Rabbi Tradburks said.

However, it appears "the sticky point for the [Israeli rabbinate] is, 'Can we really trust you as to who will be the rabbis in the regional [beit dins] and can the standards be trusted?'"

Rabbi Tradburks said that in agreeing to be part of the RCA network and abide by its standards, the Beis Din also increased the requirements expected of parents of adopted, non-Jewish children. To convert an infant youngster, parents will have to agree to become Sabbath observant, join an Orthodox congregation, live within walking distance of a synagogue, keep a kosher home and commit to sending their child to a Jewish day school through Grade 12.

In the past, parents had to agree to keep a kosher home, mark the Sabbath and send their child to a day school, preferably an Orthodox one.

Rabbi Tradburks, a member of the RCA's geirus policies and standards task force, voted in favour of the changes. He said it is likely the number of child conversions in Toronto will drop in future years. On average, the Beis Din performs 20 child conversions a year, with slightly more adult conversions. The standards required of adult converts have not changed, he said.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz of Montreal's Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem, said the new RCA conversion policy appears to provide a second path to conversion of infant children. Pointing to the Geirus document, he said the goal is a complete standard of observance.

"Where this cannot be accomplished, then at the very minimum, if there is significant observance of Shabbat, complete observance of kashrut, a positive attitude towards full mitzvah observance and commitment to Halachah within the basic family unit… conversion of the child may be allowed," the document states.

Rabbi Steinmetz, past president of the Montreal Board of Rabbis, was, however "a bit perturbed" at the Chief Rabbinate for scuttling the agreement with the RCA. While he believes that eventually a deal will be reached, he criticized the rabbinate, saying haredi rabbis control the Chief Rabbinate and are using it "to advance an agenda in which they wish to impose a set of standards on conversions that might be more rigid than modern Orthodox rabbis would do.

"Both sides demand observance, the question is to what level of detail."

And "now they're attempting to choose the rabbis… I think it's just an attempt to control."

Rabbi Steinmetz, who is a member of the RCA-affiliated Beit Din in Montreal, said "the RCA essentially formalized a set of standards that were more or less out there and adhered to." Until now, however, the RCA "allowed a little more autonomy to the regions and rabbis."

Conversions will now be more centralized and standardized. "I'm not thrilled with it, but it's not completely nonsensical."

While he would prefer more local autonomy and respect for the decisions of local rabbis, he said he could live with the changes. But, he continued, he was disturbed by the requirement that conversion rabbis be approved in Israel. That shows "an incredible lack of respect for the modern Orthodox rabbinate in North America. It's shocking."

Throughout Jewish history, rabbinic decision-making was decentralized and diverse. It was considered a "breach of etiquette and a [lack] of respect" for rabbis outside one community to attempt to overrule a local decision, he said.

A Toronto rabbi, who wished to remain anonymous, said the Israeli Chief Rabbinate should not interfere in North American conversions.

"In conversions, each case is different. How can you make a blanket rule?" he asked.

"There's an old tradition in the Talmud of Hillel [a respected first century sage] who took sympathy to a convert without making demands first. How can the rabbinate in Israel dictate? Each case is a little different.

"Certainly we should make demands of every convert. To make it ironclad, it will take away the autonomy of recognized rabbis in every community.

"The haredim have taken over. You can't conceive of the first Chief Rabbis of Israel making these demands, of being so controlling… and laying down rules across the board."

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Coast to Coast

CJC names new Pacific chair

By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — Chair Mark Weintraub handed the leadership reigns over to Gerry Cuttler and a new slate of officers were named at Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific region's triennial meeting this week.

Weintraub held his volunteer position for three years and put in "hours and hours of work," according to Mira Oreck, regional director of CJC.

"It's a long three years for the amount of intensity it entails," Oreck said.

For that reason, the position's three-year term has been changed to a two-year tenure, in accordance with amendments to CJC's national bylaws.

Cuttler has been honorary legal council with CJC, Pacific region, for the past three years and has been in involved with the organization for more than 10 years.

"I'm hoping that my fellow board members are going to help carry the load," he said. "We've got a great staff and everyone's very keen to get on and do some good work."

The Morris Saltzman Award, given to a non-Jew for his or her outstanding contribution to community relations in British Columbia, was also presented at the meeting. This year's recipient is Rev. Barry Cooke, a United Church minister and associate professor of psychology at Simon Fraser University. Rev. Cooke was executive director of the Multifaith Action Society For more than 15 years, and he worked closely with members of the Jewish community.

"Dr. Rev. Cooke has been a wonderful friend and ally in working to build a climate of tolerance and acceptance across the many diverse communities of the province," Oreck said. "For 50 years, he has worked tirelessly in support of interfaith understanding and peace."

Oreck noted that the new board of CJC Pacific region is more balanced in terms of gender and geographic representation than its predecessor, with individuals from the cities of Richmond, Port Moody, Victoria, Vancouver and West Vancouver.

"There will be an increase in the number of women on our board, which was a priority for the outgoing board," she said. "They felt they wanted a more representative sample of the population."

The CJC meeting was held at the JCC of Greater Vancouver and featured Judea Pearl, father of slain *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, as keynote speaker on the topic "Carving a Dialogue between Muslims and Jews."

Pearl and his family created the Daniel Pearl Foundation in memory of his son, who was killed by Islamists after being kidnapped in Pakistan, to promote cross-cultural understanding, combat geographical and religious hatred, encourage responsible and creative journalism and unite people through the universal language of music.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון : אַלעק סילווער

איז דזשימי קאַרטער אַן אַנטיסעמיט?

פון אַלעק סילווער

איר וועט זיכער זאָגן, אַז דאָס איז דאָך שוין אַן אַלטע מעשה. ס'איז אמת. אָבער איך וויל אָנגעבן די סיבה, פאַרוואָס איך שרייב וועגן דעם איצט. איך האָב ביז איצט נישט געהאַט די געלעגנהייט צוצוגעבן מיין מיינונג וועגן דעם ענין, וואָס איז דווקא נישט אַזוי וויכטיק.

זייענדיק אין מיאַמי דעם ווינטער האָבן מיר, מיין פרוי און איך, באַשלאָסן אויסצולעשן דאָס טעלעוויזיע קעסטל און אָפגעבן מער צייט אויף צו לייענען די פרעסע, ספעציעל די יידיש־ענגלישע, וואָס דערשיינט אין פלאָרידע. איך קען אייך זאָגן, אַז איך בין געווען איבערראַשט, זייער איבערראַשט, פון דער הייסער און לאַנגער פאָלעמיק, וואָס איז אָנגעגאַנגען צווישן יידישע פירערס און זשורנאַליסטן פון אַלע שאַטירונגען בלויז וועגן איין פראַגע: צי קען מען, אָדער מעג מען, צושטעלן צום נאָמען דזשימי קאַרטער דעם עפיטאַף „אַנטיסעמיט"?

איר ווייסט דאָך שוין זיכער, אַז דער געוועזענער אַמעריקאַנער פרעזידענט קאַרטער האָט אָנגעשריבן אַ בוך א.נ.: **"Palestine: Peace, Not Apartheid"** — וואָס אין יידיש וואָלט מען עס געקענט איבערזעצן ווי: „פאַלעסטינע, שלום און נישט אָפגעזונדערטקייט". אַ גרויסע צאָל יידישע פירערס האָבן דערקלערט, אַז דאָס בוך איז אַנטיסעמיטיש און דער מחבר איז אַן אַנטיסעמיט. אַנדערע יידישע פירערס, אויך אין אַ גרויסער צאָל, האָבן דערקלערט, אַז עס איז נישט אַזוי. קאַרטער האָט געשריבן דעם אמת און דעריבער קען מען אים נישט געבן דעם עפיטאַף „אַנטיסעמיט".

אין זיין פאַרטיידיקונג האָט דער געוועזענער פרעזידענט דערקלערט, אַז ער האָט נישט געשריבן וועגן ישראל גופא, נאָר וועגן די אַזוי־גערופענע אָקופירטע טעריטאָריעס און אירע אַראַבישע איינוווינער. וואָס עס האָט מיך דערשטוינט איז געווען דער פאַקט, וואָס די פאַרטיידיקערס פון בוך האָבן זיך אַזוי „צעריסן דעם ספאָדיק" אויפצוווייזן, אַז קאַרטער איז נישט קיין אַנטיסעמיט. וואָס איז דאָ די „גרויסע מציאה"? מען האָט געפונען נאָך אַן אַנטיסעמיט . . . דאָס איז דאָך שוין נישט קיין נייעס ביים יידישן פאָלק. אונטער יעדן גראָז־בלעטל, אונטער יעדן שטיינדל, קענט איר געפינען אַן אַנטיסעמיט.

אויב ס'איז אמת, וואָס פרעזידענט קאַרטער זאָגט, אַז ער האָט געשריבן דאָס בוך, כדי צו פאַרשנעלערן דאָס ברענגען שלום צווישן ישראל און פאַלעסטינע, האָט ער עס געקענט טאָן אויף אַ מער דיפלאָמאַטישן אופן. מיט זיין איינזייטיקער שטיצע פאַר די פאַלעסטינער און זיין טוישן די אמתע פאַקטן פון די ישראלדיקע אַקטיוויטעטן פאַר שלום, האָט קאַרטער פאַרלוירן די רעכט צו זיין אַן אָביעקטיווער ריכטער אין דעם ענין.

ספעציעל איז דער נאָמען פון בוך ראַסיסטיש גענוג, וואָס ברענגט אַרויס ווידערווילן אין יעדן ליבעראַלן מענטש. איין יידישע זשורנאַליסטקע האָט געשריבן, אַז אויב אַפילו דאָס בוך איז נישט אַנטיסעמיטיש, וועט דאָס שערבלאַט פון בוך מיט זיין אילוסטראַציע זיכער אַרויסרופן נעגאַטיווע ראַסיסטישע און אַנטיסעמיטישע געפילן ביי אַ גרויסער צאָל לייענער.

דזשימי קאַרטערס בוך איז געוואָרן זייער פאָפולער און זיינע אויפטריטן אויף דער טעלעוויזיע און אין אודיטאָריומס זיינען געווען זייער דערפאָלגרייך. מען וואָלט אפשר געקענט מוחל זיין קאַרטערן פאַר זיינע אָבסערווירונגען, ווען ער וואָלט אַרויסגעברענגט די אמתע פאַקטן פון ביידע זייטן. ספעציעל האָט ער בכיוון אַרויסגעלאָזט דעם פאַקט, אַז ישראל האָט מסכים געווען צו צוויי באַזונדערע מדינות שוין באַלד ווי די יו.ען. האָט דאָס באַשטימט. איז ער אַן אַנטיסעמיט? כ'ווייס נישט. אָבער קיין „אוהב ישראל" איז ער זיכער נישט!

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Incumbency helps keep Olmert's Kadima rivals at bay

BY LESLIE SUSSER
JTA

Analysis

By all accounts, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert should have been history.

The Winograd Commission's interim report issued April 30 on the conduct of last summer's Second Lebanon War could not have been more scathing. The paragraph on the prime minister's responsibility for the failures and shortcomings in top level decision-making speaks for itself.

"The prime minister," it says, "made up his mind [to go to war] hastily, despite the fact that no detailed military plan was submitted to him and without asking for one."

Further, "His decision was made without close study of the complex features of the Lebanon front and of the military, political and diplomatic options available to Israel."

And, "He made his decision without systematic consultation despite not having experience in foreign and military affairs."

Ostensibly, the damning report should have been just the stick Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni needed to unseat Olmert. For months, Livni had been crafting a move to take over as Kadima party boss and prime minister. Her assumption was that a critical assessment of Olmert's conduct of the war coupled with his close to zero popularity ratings would force him to step down.

Kadima lawmakers, she thought, would not tolerate an increasingly unelectable leader who could cost them their parliamentary seats.

In the weeks leading up to the report, Livni's close ally, party Knesset whip Avigdor Yitzhaki, openly approached potential Kadima rebels trying to build a pro-Livni camp ready to move at the right time. The influential internal security minister, Avi Dichter, was supposed to join at a crucial juncture to create a critical mass against Olmert.

But there was one thing the would-be rebels had not counted on: the power of incumbency.

As soon as the Winograd report was published, Olmert and his aides used threats and promises to derail the planned "coup." Some potential rebels were offered important new posts that would open up with a planned government reshuffle; others were threatened with a premature end to their political careers.

All were warned that a move against Olmert would spark new elections Kadima would lose.

Less than 48 hours after the report was published, Livni's coup attempt had been stifled.

Still, Olmert remains vulnerable. There are three ways he could lose his hold on power: if he fails to keep control of Kadima, if he loses his Knesset majority or if mounting public pressure on him to resign becomes intolerable.

For now, his hold on Kadima seems secure, but there are rumblings in the party about replacing him with former prime minister Shimon Peres rather than Livni. The idea is that Peres would be a caretaker prime minister until Kadima chooses a new leader. That would give some of Livni's rivals for the top spot – Housing Minister Meir Sheetrit, Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz and Dichter – time to organize leadership bids.

Olmert, however, is moving swiftly to head off the Peres push the same way he quashed Livni's attempt.

To keep his Knesset majority, Olmert has been strengthening ties with his junior coalition partners and wooing the fervently Orthodox United Torah Judaism party. He has developed particularly good relations with Yisrael Beiteinu's Avigdor Lieberman and Shas leader Eli Yishai.

With them and the Pensioners' Party he has a base of 59 seats in the 120-member Knesset, and together with Labor, a solid majority of 78. The weak link is Labor, which is under mounting pressure to pull out over Winograd. Hence Olmert's effort to bring in the six-member UTJ faction, which would leave him with a majority of 65 even if Labor bolts.

To ease public disaffection, Olmert intends to come out with a new peace initiative, his confidants acknowledge. This would coincide with another major element of his survival strategy: the establishment of a second Olmert administration in June, after Labor elects a new leader.

The aim would be to regain public confidence by appointing strong ministers to the key defence, finance and foreign affairs portfolios, and pressing a peacemaking agenda. Again, the problem with this plan is Labor. Party secretary Eitan Cabel and leadership candidates Ophir Pines-Paz, Ami Ayalon and Dani Yatom are calling for Labor's peremptory withdrawal from the government if Olmert continues to head it.

Labor's dilemma, however, is far from simple. Pulling out of the Olmert government could spark early elections that right-wing Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu would probably win.

On the other hand, if Labor stays in the coalition, its new leader, probably Ayalon or former prime minister Ehud Barak, would likely become defence minister in Olmert's "second administration," a good base from which to build a future campaign for prime minister against a weak incumbent.

Netanyahu is biding his time, waiting for public pressure to force an election. He had toyed with the idea of generating a motion of "constructive no-confidence," in which 61 Knesset members would back him for prime minister, enabling him to form a government without having to go to the polls. But he dropped the plan when finding those 61 votes proved more difficult than he anticipated, and when close confidants pointed out that he stood to gain far more via the landslide election victory public opinion polls are predicting.

Likud's tactics will be to maintain the anti-Olmert pressure generated by the mass rally it helped organize in Tel Aviv on May 3. An estimated 150,000 people from the left and the right filled Rabin Square in a rare bipartisan demonstration demanding that Olmert go.

Olmert is facing other obstacles, too. In the coming weeks the commission will release his testimony. If it transpires that he tried to shift blame to his predecessor – Kadima founder Ariel Sharon – he could find himself in serious trouble inside the party.

For now the focus is on the commission's specific criticisms of the prime minister: the hasty decision to go to war; the loose definition of war aims; the failure to adapt to emerging conditions. This pits the strong public desire for change against the power of incumbency in an as yet unresolved battle.

But the findings of the Winograd Commission raise far deeper questions about Israel's leadership and future. Foremost among them: is the country capable at this critical time of producing a leadership proficient and strong enough to fight another war if need be, or steer the country toward peace with its neighbours if and when the opportunity presents itself?

This, more than Ehud Olmert or Tzipi Livni's political future, is the deeply disturbing question the Winograd Commission poses.

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Sarkozy seen as Israel's friend

By RINA BASSIST
JTA

PARIS — Jewish groups were quick to offer congratulations to Nicolas Sarkozy after his victory in the French presidential elections.

Sarkozy, head of the ruling Union for a Popular Movement (UMP), defeated Socialist party candidate Ségolène Royal in Sunday's runoff.

He garnered some 53 per cent to Royal's 47 per cent in the election, which featured a huge voter turnout.

The former interior minister was seen by Jewish voters as a friend to Israel and an important figure in the fight against anti-Semitism. Soon after his opponent conceded, Jewish groups came out with their good wishes.

"At a time when French Jews felt directly threatened by the rise in violent anti-Semitism in Paris and elsewhere across France a few years ago, Sarkozy played a critical role in moving the French government to finally recognize the gravity of the problem and to do what is necessary to address the ill winds that not only threaten the largest Jewish community in western Europe, but, as we know from history, would ultimately pose a threat to wider French society," American Jewish Committee executive director David Harris said in a statement.

The AJCommittee recalled that, during that period, Sarkozy was instrumental in stepping up police protection around Jewish buildings and schools, and arresting and prosecuting those who committed anti-Semitic acts. He told the group in a Washington address in 2004 that he would "consider any insult against Jews an insult against France."

CRIF, the French Jewish community's umbrella group, addressed its "warmest and most respectful congratulations" to Sarkozy in a Sunday statement.

"Your position statements during the electoral campaign carry much hope for a France that needs to be reconciled with itself," CRIF president Roger Cukierman wrote. "I was touched by what you said and I understand that you intend to be a standard bearer of the French values we so cherish, those of a republic that… respects every individual and leaves no room for intolerance, racism and anti-Semitism."

In a race that offered a clear choice between conservative and liberal policy, the voters gave Sarkozy, 52, a clear mandate for his economic and social reforms when he takes office May 16.

The grandson of a Greek Jew and the son of a Hungarian aristocrat, Sarkozy has pledged to initiate tougher rules to make it more difficult for immigrants to bring extended families to France. Among the economic reforms Sarkozy has pledged to push through early on are abolishing a tax on overtime, cutting the inheritance tax and requiring the unemployed to take work that is offered.

Sarkozy, who will succeed Jacques Chirac, will become the first president of immigrant stock.

Known as an American-style, law-and-order politician, Sarkozy had earned points in the Jewish community for his hard line against Muslim unrest in France, including anti-Semitic attacks – though he drew fire from some liberal and immigrant groups for referring to some of the rioters as "rabble."

In his victory speech at party headquarters in Paris, Sarkozy mentioned France's relationship with the United States. "True friends can accept each other, even if they have differences of opinion," he said.

Frédéric Encel, a professor at the prestigious Science-Po Institute, said Sarkozy's unusual willingness to be associated with the United States also strengthens hope for good relations between France and Israel. "Nicolas Sarkozy is by far the most pro-Israeli French presidential figure Israel could have hoped for," he said.

The fact that Sarkozy had not been trained at France's national public administration school or by the Foreign Ministry "is a great advantage for Israel, as he is not committed to traditional diplomacy," Encel said. "Royal would have stuck with the existing approach," he added, allowing people like her adviser Jean Louis Baillancourt, a member of a pro-Palestinian organization, to lead French diplomacy.

Royal, 53, who has trailed in the polls since Sarkozy won the first round of voting on April 22, had warned that electing Sarkozy might spark the kind of rioting that took place in the suburbs last year. She said his candidacy represented "a dangerous choice.

"It is my responsibility to alert people to the risk of [his] candidature with regard to the violence and brutality that would be unleashed in the country," said Royal, who, during a televised debate May 2, accused Sarkozy of "political immorality."

Both candidates symbolized a break with the old guard. Both were born after World War II and said they were intent on bringing a real change after Chirac's 12-year rule. But the similarities ended there, and French voters had to choose between two very distinct personalities, attitudes and political programs.

Sarkozy entered politics as a protégé of Chirac, but the two had a falling-out that remains to this day, when Sarkozy backed Chirac's rival for the presidency in 1995.

The Jewish community has seen Sarkozy as a friend of Israel, though he maintains that the Jewish state must make concessions to allow the Palestinians to establish a viable state. But he has made clear to the Palestinian Authority that there is no justification for violence to achieve its means.

In an interview in the *Jerusalem Post*, Sarkozy called the 2002 Saudi peace initiative "constructive." Under the two-state proposal, Arab states would recognize Israel if it withdrew to its pre-1967 borders. The proposal also calls for a "just solution" for Palestinian refugees.

In the interview, Sarkozy said, "Only if Israel is guaranteed that its existence will not be threatened and the Palestinians are allowed to form a viable state can we achieve a durable and viable solution."

One Jewish voter said, "As far as Israel is concerned, Royal has nothing to offer us, compared to Sarkozy."

Outside a synagogue in the Jewish Quarter, one Sarkozy voter rued some of Royal's supporters. "As a Jew, I don't like the fact that many pro-Palestinian radical activists participate at her meetings," said Armand, who asked that his last name not be used. "I think this is dangerous.

"Sarkozy, on the other hand, is one of the only [future] heads of states to have gone to the United States to meet President Bush. I'm not a fan of Bush, but still. In any case, I don't think that Sarkozy is a fascist, as some people try to make us believe."

Candidates had eyes on Israel

JTA

Comment

French Jews made it clear throughout the presidential campaign that candidates' positions on Israel were a key factor for Jewish voters.

There was little surprise, therefore, that advisers and allies to Nicolas Sarkozy and Ségolène Royal were out in force at Israel's glamorous Independence Day reception here. There was Jack Lang, a former culture minister and an adviser to Royal. There was Simone Veil, a former health minister and a popular public figure allied with Sarkozy.

A more unexpected guest at the April 24 event was Julian Dray, spokesperson for Royal's Socialist Party and a close adviser to the candidate. Observers said they couldn't recall Dray ever attending the event before.

Dray has clashed with the Jewish community over reports that most Jews back Sarkozy, a conservative, in his bid to succeed Jacques Chirac, who is from Sarkozy's Union for a Popular Movement Party.

But just days after the first round of balloting April 22 and a short time before the runoff between Sarkozy and Royal, there was Dray talking with Israeli Ambassador Daniel Shek and having his picture taken.

The celebration offered a golden opportunity for politicians across the spectrum to be seen with Jewish leaders and emphasize their sympathy for Israel, and no one was going to miss out.

The concept of appealing to specific ethnic communities is foreign to French political culture, which stresses the country's identity as a melting pot. But Royal and Sarkozy seemed to play by new rules in a new political atmosphere – one that favours U.S.-style politicking.

The candidates' private lives were more exposed, and they fought for TV time. Their campaigns were focused on interest groups – for Royal, immigrants and suburbanites; for Sarkozy, the middle class, far-right and liberal professionals.

Outreach to the Jews appeared to be part of this new strategy.

In criticizing Jewish leaders several months ago for backing Sarkozy, Dray expressed a certain bitterness among Socialist Party leaders. French Jews traditionally have voted Socialist, but with the French left sour on Israel, more and more Jews declared their support for Sarkozy.

No opinion polls were available on how Jews voted in the runoff. But conversations with Jewish leaders and grassroots community members showed that they they believed most French Jews backed Sarkozy in the first round of voting, and did so again in the run-off.

"I've never voted before," said Dominique, a shop worker in Paris' old Jewish quarter who asked that her last name not be used. "This time I felt that I had to choose, to support Sarkozy's warm relations with Israel and with the Jewish community, and at the same time reward the one who was able to take down" far-right candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Since the Palestinian intifadah began in 2000, the Jewish community has reoriented itself toward Israel in several ways, such as rising aliyah, investment in real estate and business opportunities. Most importantly, they have offered strong political support for Israel's leadership, not always a popular position in France.

French Jews see Sarkozy as a good friend of Israel. Indeed, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu refer to Sarkozy, who had a Jewish grandfather, as a personal friend.

As interior minister, Sarkozy took a strong stance against anti-Semitism. His tough stand on immigration also seemed to please most French Jews.

For her part, Royal ran into hot water when, during a tour of the Middle East, she met with Hezbollah politicians in Lebanon and looked on quietly as they compared Israel to the Nazis. — ***R.B.***

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Hezbollah won by controlling media: report

JTA

BOSTON — Hezbollah won a propaganda victory in last summer's war with Israel by its strict and undemocratic control of the media, a report concluded.

The paper, released by Marvin Kalb and Carol Saivetz through the Shorenstein Center at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, asserted that the media became "a weapon of modern warfare" in the asymmetrical conflict. They wrote that it "shows how an open society, Israel, is victimized by its own openness and how a closed sect, Hezbollah, can retain almost total control of the daily message of journalism and propaganda."

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah the leader of Hezbollah

Reporters were given open access in Israel but only very choreographed access within Lebanon.

"Hezbollah provided only limited access to the battlefield, full access to an occasional guided tour and encouraged visiting journalists to check its own television network, Al-Manar, for reports and information about the war," the report said. "Al-Manar was to Hezbollah what Pravda was to the Soviet Union."

This resulted in the media's portrayal of Israel as the aggressor, despite the fact that the war had been sparked by Hezbollah's deadly July 12 raid, and constant depiction of Israel's attacks as disproportionate. The authors wrote that the media's increased coverage of "movement of troops and the rocketing of villages," albeit unintentionally, "also became an extremely valuable intelligence asset for both Israel and Hezbollah, and Hezbollah especially exploited it."

They especially cited "UNIFIL's [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] gift" to the terrorist group when it posted detailed Israeli military movements online for public access. Bloggers on both sides of the war had a negative and "overwhelming" effect on reporting, creating "nonstop pressure on journalists to look over their shoulders – to conform either to extremes on both sides or to stick to the middle of public opinion," the authors wrote.

"If 'disproportionality' was the theme of the day, most reporters would try to do stories supporting or rejecting the theme but always keeping it in play. It was easier and safer to be in step with the public than to be walking into the wind."

More U.K. journalists reject boycott

JTA

LONDON — Journalists at Britain's Independent Television Network joined BBC colleagues last week in calling for a new vote on the decision by a journalists' union to boycott Israeli goods.

More than 220 BBC employees sent a letter to the National Union of Journalists.

"We call on the union to hold a ballot of all members to see whether they support the view… on an issue which could have a profound effect on the way all British journalists are viewed at home and abroad," it read.

On May 1, several dozen journalists from ITN, Britain's largest independent television broadcaster, added their signatures to the letter, which was published on the anti-Semitism discussion forum Engage.

In April, the 150 people present at the union's annual delegates meeting voted by a slim margin to urge members to boycott Israeli goods. Jewish groups and media interests such as the *Guardian* newspaper denounced the move as counter to journalistic ideals of impartiality.

The union has more than 39,000 members. Petitioners said a new vote is needed in part because of the small percentage of members on hand for the first vote.

Israel Briefs

Katsav hearing inconclusive

Israel's attorney general postponed a decision about indicting Israeli President Moshe Katsav. A hearing last week at the Justice Ministry on rape and breach of trust allegations against the suspended president was expected to produce a decision from Attorney General Menachem Mazuz. Instead, he ceded to Katsav's attorneys, who argued they needed more time to address the accusations against their client. They agreed to hold a second hearing in two weeks. Katsav's term ends in July. He is immune from prosecution while in office, but he has vowed to step down if indicted.

New Bishara allegations

A fugitive Israeli Arab ex-lawmaker is suspected of helping Hezbollah during last year's Lebanon war, police said. In a new statement on the case against Azmi Bishara, who fled Israel last month to avoid arrest and then resigned from the Knesset, police said there was evidence that Bishara gave Hezbollah information on locations to shell during the 34-day conflict and advice on waging psychological warfare against Israel. In exchange, police allege, Bishara was paid hundreds of thousands of dollars via Jerusalem money-changers. Bishara, who faces charges of treason and espionage, has denied wrongdoing and vowed to clear his name. If he returns to Israel and is convicted, he could be sentenced to life in prison. Bishara, who headed the anti-Zionist Balad Party, infuriated many in Israel with his solidarity visits to Lebanon and Syria, and his agitation against the Jewish state.

Saudis to give PA $250M

Saudi Arabia is giving the Palestinian Authority $250 million (US) on top of Arab League funds already earmarked for the Hamas-led government, PA finance minister said. Salam Fayyad told Reuters that he expected the money to arrive within weeks. The Arab League currently funnels about $55 million a month to the Palestinian Authority. The international community has isolated the Palestinian Authority since the election last year of Hamas, a terror group that rejects Israel's existence. Fayyad, a member of the Hamas-dominated national unity government, is considered a moderate. U.S. banking rules that ban dealing with entities that deal with terrorists have hampered direct funding to the Palestinian Authority. Fayyad said the Saudis obtained assurances from U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that such rules would not apply if the Saudis funneled the money to the Palestine Liberation Organization, which is run by the Fatah Party.

Firm buys Times building

An Israeli conglomerate is buying the *New York Times* building. Africa Israel Investments Ltd. announced last week that it would buy the midtown Manhattan landmark for $525 million (US). The newspaper's staff is expected to relocate in July. According to *Ma'ariv*, Israeli investors hold nearly $4 billion in prime New York real estate.

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Appointing Auditors and authorizing the Directors to set their remuneration
Election of Directors
Such other business as may properly come before the Meeting

Stanley K. Plotnick, President

N.J. communities launch $50M day school campaign

By JOHANNA GINSBERG
New Jersey Jewish News

WHIPPANY, N.J. — New Jersey's largest Jewish federation has launched a $50-million (US) community-wide campaign that is being hailed as a groundbreaking collaborative effort in support of Jewish day school education.

Eleven local families have committed $13.5 million toward the MetroWest Day School Campaign, which was launched officially on April 29.

Under the plan, the three day schools in the federation's service area will retain their own endowment funds while drawing on a community fund and a matching pool.

Organizers said the goal is to make day schools more affordable and offer a standard of academic excellence equal to any private school in the area.

The campaign is being co-ordinated by the Jewish Community Foundation (JCF) of MetroWest, the planned giving and endowment arm for United Jewish Communities of MetroWest N.J. The federation serves Essex and Morris counties, and has its roots in Newark.

"We want to increase enrolment at all three schools," said Kim Hirsh, endowment development officer of the MetroWest foundation, who will staff the campaign.

"We want to make day school available to all Jewish families. We have learned that enrolment is not just a matter of affordability. It's also a matter of academic excellence."

The three schools are the Orthodox Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy/Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School, the Conservative Solomon Schechter Day School and the nondenominational Nathan Bohrer-Abraham Kaufman Hebrew Academy.

The campaign is the latest in a series of high-profile projects in support of day schools, said Rabbi Joshua Elkin, executive director of the Boston-based Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE), a partner in the local project.

Rabbi Elkin said, however, that the depth of the collaboration and the amount of money being raised for just three schools are unprecedented.

"This is part of a wave of something new, but this is bigger than any other effort out there," he said. "A goal of $50 million is a significant amount of money for three schools – very significant. It's also very significant that federation has dedicated staff to this project. In that sense it's pace-setting."

Rabbi Elkin said the campaign "raises the bar substantially as to what is possible."

Similar recent projects nationally include a $45-million gift for excellence in Boston's day schools, a $50-million campaign to help reduce tuition in Chicago-area day schools, and $20 million for tuition assistance in Cleveland.

But these areas have more than three schools to serve, Rabbi Elkin said.

He added that the effort moves day school education "to the front burner of the community," a shift he said has been occurring slowly around the United States over the last 10 years.

Part of that shift has been driven by studies showing that those with a day school education are more likely to have connections with Jewish life into adulthood, from marrying Jews to affiliating with shuls.

The campaign was described as a "coming of age" for the Jewish community by Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg, who spoke at a ceremony announcing the launch.

Rabbi Greenberg, president of the Jewish Life Network and a PEJE co-founder, said the project marks "a fundamental transformation of the Jewish community, when we say whatever it takes to flourish in freedom, that's what we should do."

The local schools collectively are spending $2.3 million on scholarships, which are largely supported through fundraising and UJC MetroWest

"We know this is not enough," UJC MetroWest president Kenneth Heyman said in a statement. "The wealthy can afford tuition, moderate-income families are on scholarships, and those 'in the middle' are getting squeezed out."

UJC MetroWest's Jewish Community Foundation has donated $1 million to the campaign.

The three participating schools have said that the way the funds are structured was critical in securing their commitment and participation. The schools will design their own tuition reduction and academic enhancement programs, but will also take part in community-wide initiatives funded through the community fund.

The fund will be governed by a day school council with representatives from each school, as well as from UJC MetroWest and JCF MetroWest. It will also have independent members.

According to Hirsh, the impetus for the campaign came at least in part from Jerry and Paula Gottesman of Morristown, N.J. They began a program at the Hebrew Academy of Morris County that capped tuition for middle-income families.

The program is now widely considered a national model, and both the Schechter and Kushner schools say they will look to it as they design their own.

"Middle-income people could not afford to send their kids," said Jerry Gottesman, chairman of Edison Properties, a real-estate, parking and storage business. "It was either kids on scholarship or the children of dentists and doctors. There was no middle ground."

Funds from the Gottesmans also enabled the Hebrew Academy to begin implementing academic enhancement projects. Last fall, the academy was named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

"Our open houses usually draw two to three families. This year we've had 15 to 20," said Naomi Bacharach, the academy's director of marketing and development. "The interest level in our school is soaring. We are also seeing increased retention from kindergarten to first grade, when we usually have a dip, and in the middle school."

Administrators at the Schechter and Kushner schools say they have families whose children either leave or don't apply due to tuition costs.

"Consider a family making $200,000 with four kids in day school," said Kushner executive director Michael Grad. "The tuition bill can be more than $60,000. Can they make it?

"If they were making $50,000, it wouldn't be an issue," he said, because a family in that financial situation would be getting assistance.

Kushner has seen its enrolment drop from 847 students to 747 in the last five years, which Grad called a "significant" change, one he believes is due at least in part to rising tuition.

Schechter families face similar financial challenges, combined with the fact that day school is not as inevitable an option in the Conservative movement as it is among the Orthodox, said Schechter's head of school, Joyce Raynor.

"We have anecdotal evidence of people who say, 'We're leaving. Please understand we love the school but our financial situation has changed' or 'We're struggling with three children in the school' or 'I've lost my job,'" Raynor said. "Where do they go? They go to public school."

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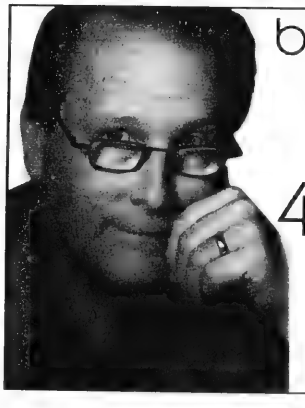

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This shivah is all fun and games

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

When you think of a shivah, it's usually with some solemnness and regret. But don't tell that to Dave Gilbert, self-taught computer game programmer extraordinaire and founder of Wadjet Eye Games.

Dave Gilbert

The 31-year-old New Yorker has captured the imagination of Jewish and gentile videogamers in Canada and the U.S. with his breakout hit, The Shivah.

Released in August 2006, the game was born out of a local competition, the Monthly Adventure Game Studio (MAGS) competition, between programmers to see who could concoct the best video game inside of a month.

Gilbert, who had just returned from a year-long journey to Asia, was feeling happy to be home and back among Jews, and the idea to create a game based around a Jewish theme felt fitting.

"I was never very religious, but I noticed [the lack of Jews] in Asia," Gilbert told *Heebonics/The CJN* by phone from New York. "It was very weird. So when I came back... I had this idea in my head to do a detective game that didn't star an actual detective. I thought of different characters and the idea of having a rabbi do it really appealed to me."

The game itself is kind of a two-dimensional, lo-res, old-style affair, that harks back to a time of simpler, 1980s graphics. But it's charming and tightly written, with terrific voice-acting and jazzed-up sound effects. It might well have the distinction of being the first video game named after the Jewish ritual of mourning the dead.

In The Shivah, the player controls Rabbi Russell Stone, a frustrated, cynical and slightly bitter rabbi presiding over a dwindling congregation in Manhattan and on the verge of losing his synagogue to financial insolvency.

That's where the story picks up. Rabbi Stone receives a message saying one of his former congregants has passed away, leaving the rabbi a stack of cash.

Being the crusty-on-the-outside, good-hearted-on-the-inside rabbi that he is, Rabbi Stone refuses to just accept the money without first determining how and why the man who left him the money was killed.

The story arc takes the player all over pixilated Manhattan, questioning quirky characters and fending off suspicious New York police.

The game is a fun chance for Jews in North America to test their logic and morals, and for a certain demographic, to relive days spent in front of their Commodore 64s and Apple IIEs, playing video games with similar appeal.

It's been reviewed all over the place, including on popular websites such as The Onion, Adventuregamers.com and the indygamer blogspot.

And Gilbert is totally aware that the retro look to The Shivah is a huge part of its success, in a sense.

"When I say the game's been successful... my games and [Wadjeteye] have been successful in every way but financially," Gilbert said with a laugh. "The fact that I was written up in The Onion... and all these mainstream places, has been a whirlwind. I was nominated for a Choice Award at the [2007] Game Developers Conference convention. A year ago I never would have thought I'd get this much publicity. I couldn't have asked for more. And it's still happening."

Gilbert also had the foresight to include a built-in Yiddish dictionary for players who might be confused with the game's many Yiddishisms.

And The Shivah is resonating particularly intensely with the Jewish community.

"I've seen reviews on [Jewish] blogs and newspapers," he said. "I've had rabbis e-mail me telling me the game was cool and also some complaining about the game. I was expecting that."

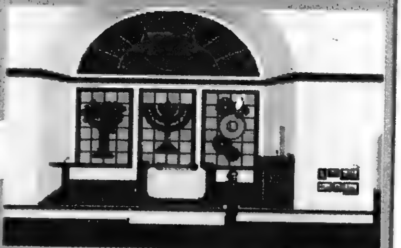
But Gilbert said he was most moved by a recent e-mail he received from a completely unexpected source.

"I once got an e-mail from an Israeli soldier telling me [his unit was] sitting around playing it wherever they were at the time. That just made my day," Gilbert said.

He isn't resting on his laurels either. After founding Wadjet Eye Games earlier this year to help him continue churning out video games, he's spent all his time since devoted to production on his latest creation, The Blackwell Legacy, another sleuthing game.

The Shivah is currently available for purchase online. A free demo version is also available.

For more information, visit **www.wadjeteyegames.com.**



WATCH FOR THE HEEBONICS LAUNCH

Gabi's Dresser to be presented at York U

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Following rave reviews and sold-out shows over the last few years, the acclaimed Holocaust drama *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser* will be featured on stage in Toronto throughout May.

In addition to a series of shows that will be seen by more than 9,000 students from across Toronto, a special community performance will be presented on May 20 at York University's Burton Auditorium.

"This show provides an opportunity for students from public schools to learn from the history of the Holocaust… and to make them aware [of intolerance] so they can be better citizens," said Helena Fine, the play's producer and the managing director with Te-Amim Music Theatre, which commissioned the production.

"We've also decided to have one performance for the public to make tolerance education accessible to everyone."

Inspired by a true story, the play is based on the eponymous novel by Kathy Kacer, whose real-life mother hid inside a dresser during the war in Czechoslovakia to elude the Nazis.

The play dramatically portrays the way in which Jews were singled out and separated from the rest of society and the impact it had on young Gabi and her family.

"Children and adults can identify with Gabi because they see how she was a happy child who had a lovely home and lots of love from her parents… and then lost her friends, her home and almost her life," Fine related.

"It's all about human rights and dignity."

Fine adds the play doesn't exclusively focus on Gabi's strife, but also sheds light on the Righteous Gentile who saved her.

To prepare students and teachers for the play, educational workshops organized in collaboration with the Toronto District School Board will be held.

A scene from *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser*

After each performance, Holocaust survivors will briefly speak to the audiences about their wartime experiences, followed by a question and answer session.

"Often, we bring survivors who were children that hid during the war so there is a real connection [to the play]," said Fine.

"For many audience members, this is the first time they've ever met a survivor."

The Secret of Gabi's Dresser stars Jill Morrison as Gabi, as well as Nadine Rabinovitch and Allan Price as her parents.

Friends is the sole sponsor of the production, which has been subsidized by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies through its Tolerance Series for Public Schools in the GTA.

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Jewish Film Festival offers an eclectic selection

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

This year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival is presenting, as usual, an eclectic selection of movies.

Hitler's Jewish Soldiers (Thursday, May 10 at 6 p.m.), based on Bryan Mark Rigg's book, *Hitler's Jewish Warriors*, is a fascinating account of a little-known phenomenon in Nazi Germany: the presence of mixed-race Jews, or *mischlings*, in the armed forces.

After the passage of the 1935 Nuremberg laws, which disenfranchised German Jews and categorized citizens along racial lines, full Jews were summarily dismissed from the army. Jews of partial Christian ancestry, however, were permitted to serve. According to Rigg, the Wehrmacht drafted 60,000 half-Jews, including Werner Goldberg, who appeared on a recruiting poster as an "ideal Aryan."

Werner Goldberg

Such jarring anomalies were eliminated in 1940 when half-Jews like Goldberg were thrown out of the army. "You are not Aryan," he was told brusquely. But due to manpower shortages, half-Jews were recalled in 1943.

Larry Price's 58-minute film revolves around several of these individuals.

Helmut Kopp, who was halachically Jewish and circumcised, was in a panzer tank unit. Though he passed as a Christian, he always feared that he would be "outed." He survived by remaining in the army, and was a prisoner of war after being captured on the Russian front. Arno Spitz, who came from a converted Jewish family, was a thrice-decorated paratrooper. Hans Geert Falkenberg stayed in Germany after his parents left the country, and was reunited with his Jewish grandmother in Poland. Ephraim Glaser, a Hungarian Jew who was an interpreter in the German army for five months, is also profiled.

In passing, Price mentions other Christians of Jewish descent in Hitler's army – Col. Ernst Bloch, who rescued the Lubavitcher rebbe; Gen. Erhard Milch, Hermann Goring's right-hand man, and Helmut Schmidt, a future chancellor of Germany whose grandfather was Jewish.

***

Eran Torbiner's *Madrid Before Hanita* (May 10 at 8 p.m.) concerns the 300 Palestinian Jews who volunteered for the International Brigades during the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War. This conflict, which pitted the legitimately elected government against the conservative nationalist forces of Francisco Franco, brought 40,000 volunteers from around the world to Spain who fought on the side of the Soviet-backed Second Spanish Republic. Of the 40,000, 10,000 were Jews, says Torbiner in this interesting documentary, which consists of file footage and contemporary interviews.

The Jews from Palestine who went to Spain, usually via France, were animated by one overarching motive. They regarded the war as a struggle against fascism, since the nationalists were supported by Germany and Italy. "It was the right placed to be," says one of the Palestinian Jewish fighters.

The majority appear to have been Communists or Communist sympathizers, but some were Zionists. One volunteer was ejected from his kibbutz when he declared his intentions. Decades later, he rose to be deputy director of the Mossad, Israel's secret service.

The reminiscences of the volunteers range far and wide. One man recalls being caught in the Italian bombardment of Barcelona. A second one remembers charging up a hill in an unsuccessful attack. A third person tells of nearly being crushed by a tank rumbling over his trench. A fourth individual speaks of a red-haired friend who was vapourized by a bomb.

Clearly, they paid heavily for their valour. Seventy of the Palestinian Jews, and 10,000 of the other volunteers, fell in combat. Torbiner distills the essence of their passion for a sacred but ultimately futile cause.

* * *

Miss Universe 1929 (May 10 at noon), by Hungarian filmmaker Peter Forgacs, focuses on Lisl Goldarbeiter, a lovely and graceful Viennese Jewish woman with dark flowing hair and an infectious smile who was crowned Miss Austria and then Miss Universe. Born in 1909, she hailed from a family of modest circumstances. When she entered her first beauty contest, she was working in her father's leather goods shop.

She was an old-fashioned girl who, after placing second in a Paris beauty pageant, said in accented English, "I'm a Viennese, and my greatest ambition is to marry and have a home."

After becoming Miss Universe in Galveston, Tex., King Vidor, a Hollywood director, offered her a contract if she improved her English, but nothing came of the offer. Courted by a succession of suitors, she married the wealthy playboy Fritz Spielmann, much to the disappointment of an ardent Hungarian admirer named Marci, who appears on screen both as a young and old man.

Shortly after Austria was annexed by Germany in 1938, Lisl's father was severely beaten by Nazi thugs, prompting her parents to move to Szeged, Hungary, where they had relatives. Forgacs says that Spielmann found refuge in Shanghai, China, but lets it go at that, never explaining why Lisl did not join him there. Lisl and her parents survived the Nazi occupation on forged Aryan papers. After the war, Lisl married Marci, and they lived happily ever after in Hungary. "Never a more beautiful woman has walked the earth, neither before or after," he says fulsomely.

Miss Universe 1929, an ode to the power of love that features the alluring Lisl in various situations and poses, unfortunately unfolds at a snail's pace and a muffled narration punctuated by incomprehensible whispering.

* * *

By one estimate, Latin America is home to 18 million Catholics whose ancestors were forced to convert to Christianity after the Spanish Inquisition. Gabrielle Bohm's *The Longing: The Forgotten Jews of South America* (May 10 at 1 p.m.) is about six of their descendants who, in an incredible leap of faith, return to their ancestral roots.

Bohm's heartfelt film, which was shot on location in Colombia and Ecuador, places their quest in context, with a Brazilian scholar explaining that "historical memory" and the maintenance of certain customs kept the flames of Judaism burning among some of the crypto-Jewish families.

The Longing turns on a Spanish-speaking Reform rabbi from the United States who takes it upon himself to convert these Christians to Judaism in the face of opposition from the established Jewish community. After her conversion, a convert says, "It's the nicest thing that could have happened to me." What an understatement.

* * *

Gary Beitel's *Chez Schwartz* (May 10 at 5:15 p.m.), a nostalgic tribute to a Montreal deli and institution, is frankly disappointing.

The camera pans on satisfied customers munching scrumptious sandwiches, workers talking about themselves and their respective jobs and eccentric neighbourhood characters. Fine and well. But the film tends to be annoyingly repetitive and often sounds like an extended paid ad. Worse still, in Beitel's telling, the history of Schwartz's is mostly a blank. Too bad. He missed a chance to tell a rousing story.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

CONCERT WAS A 'FREILICH FROLIC' THROUGH HISTORY OF YIDDISH THEATRE MUSIC

Last week's sold-out concert at Beth Tzedec – 100 Years of Yiddish Theatre Music, with **Zalmen Mlotek** and **Joanne Borts** – was a "freilich frolic" through a century's worth of musical treasures.

Mlotek's archival explorations in search of forgotten show tunes from the heyday of the Yiddish theatre has produced a rich vein of material, which he and Borts performed with charisma and boundless energy. All that was lacking was an orchestra to re-create the original orchestrations, but Mlotek's piano accompaniment served in good stead.

Kudos to the Kasrilevke Committee for supporting these ongoing efforts to revitalize our Yiddish theatrical heritage. We're looking forward to next year's event.

* * *

Siminovitch Tribute: Theatrical singers **Colm Wilkinson** and **Dan Chameroy**, and Yiddish song siren **Theresa Tova** headline a gala evening in tribute to medical scientist **Dr. Lou Siminovitch** for the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School. Other performers include **Sophie Milman**, **David Buchbinder**, **Hilario Duran**, **Rick Miller** and the **Tokai String Quartet**. **Ralph Benmergui** is MC.

Tickets $250. Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. Monday, May 14, 8 p.m. 416-928-3537, e-mail info@djds.ca

* * *

Names in the News: *Trying*, a play by Saskatoon-born playwright **Joanna McClelland Glass**, opened recently at the Centaur Theatre in Montreal. Set in 1967, the play is about the relationship between **Francis Biddle**, attorney general in the **Franklin D. Roosevelt** administration and former judge during the Nuremberg trials, and his new secretary, a young woman from the Canadian prairies eager to become a writer.

The story is autobiographical, since Glass herself worked for Biddle in the last year of his life after moving to Washington with her new husband. The play premièred in New York in 2004 and has since been seen in Chicago, Ottawa, Toronto and other cities, generally to glowing reviews.

Her numerous plays have been produced all over the world. She has also written two novels, *Reflections on a Mountain Summer* and *Woman Wanted*, which was adapted to film. An American citizen since 1962, she lives in Chicago.

Kitty Carlisle Hart, seen here in 2005 with singer-pianist Michael Feinstein, died last month at age 96.

* * *

More Names in the News: A production crew from the National Film Board and Montreal film producers **Garry Beitel** and **Barry Lazar** left recently for a "klezmer cruise" on the Dnieper River in Ukraine with musician **Josh Dolgin** and about 150 klez aficionados. Beitel, Lazar and the NFB are preparing to make a documentary on Dolgin. For concert footage from the Ukraine and a blog on the production, visit www.socalledmusic.com.

* * *

Arts in Brief

- *Laike and Nahum, A Poem in Two Voices* is a new work by **Ruth Panofsky**. The launch is at Israel's Bookstore, 870 Eglinton Ave. W. Wednesday, May 16, 7 to 9 p.m. Free admission, refreshments.
- Judy Singer speaks on the topic "On the Visual Language of Art – How to Look at Paintings," Salon Voltaire, Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St. W. Physicist Stephen Morris also lectures; $24 for both. Wednesday, May 16, 7:30 p.m. www.salonvoltaire.com or www.judysinger.ca
- Te-Amim Music Theatre presents *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser*, the children's Holocaust drama by **Kathy Kacer**. York University's Burton Auditorium, May 10 to 22. Special community performance Sunday, May 20, 2 p.m. $20; children $15. 416-736-5888, www.yorku.ca/ perform

* * *

Passages: Kitty Carlisle Hart, best remembered for her years as a panellist on the TV game show *To Tell the Truth*, died in New York City on April 17, at the age of 96.

Hart had a long performing career that extended until only a few months ago, when she performed her one-woman musical show *Here's to Life in Atlanta* and afterward suffered a bout of pneumonia. Her film career stretched over more than six decades and included roles in the classic **Marx Brothers'** film *A Night at the Opera* (1935) and *Six Degrees of Separation* (1993).

Born as **Catherine Conn** in Louisiana in 1910, she was married to playwright-director **Moss Hart**, who died in 1961. Afterward she added "Hart" to the stage name she had used since making her Broadway debut in 1933.

She was friends with **Irving Berlin**, **Harpo Marx**, **Noel Coward**, **George Gershwin** and other legendary figures, and filled her elegant apartment on Manhattan's Upper East Side with oil paintings and memorabilia. "I'm the only one left who sang *The Man I Love* with **George Gershwin** at the piano," she observed in 1999.

Known as a charmer, she was once asked for advice on how to be charming. "It's simple," she replied. "When someone enters a room, you say, 'What is it that would make them comfortable? What would they like to have? What would they like to hear?' And that's it."

Abigail Pogrebin recently wrote in the *Forward* that she felt lucky to include Hart in *Stars of David*, her book about Jewish celebrities, because Hart usually kept quiet about her Judaism. "You know, I came out in this book," Hart admitted to Pogrebin's sister.

Reviewer **Steven Winn** reported last year that the nonagenarian trouper was still getting mileage out of her famously good legs. "Early on in Wednesday's opening-night performance of her cabaret show, *Here's to Life*, the oldest working woman in show business recalled the black tights she wore in the 1933 show *Champagne Sec*," Winn wrote in *the San Francisco Chronicle*. "Then, with an approving glance downward, Hart collapsed seven decades in a twinkling. A packed house at the Empire Plush Room eagerly took the cue and cheered. Her gams, to this adoring crowd, looked as great as ever."

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Israeli quilt artist exhibits at Columbus Centre

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

"The tradition of patchwork and quilts dates back hundreds of years," says artist Rachel Covo.

In the past, quilts were popularized in many different cultures and were used mainly as blankets and dresses.

"Patterns, colours and materials varied according to time and place," she says. "Traditional quilts were made of small pieces of fabric, which were hand sewn together into repetitive and geometric patterns forming one large mantle."

But in recent years, she notes, the making of quilts has evolved into an art. The quilts she makes are primarily intended for wall hangings.

An exhibit of Covo's quilt wall hangings is being shown at the Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery at the Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Ave. W. until May 26.

She says that some traditional materials, techniques and motifs are still being used in creating the art quilt, "but there are many new and innovative approaches being incorporated, such as the use of paper, photo transfer, and silk, with total freedom in size and shape for all the pieces which form the quilt."

Covo was born in Bulgaria and immigrated to Israel as a child in 1948, after the War of Independence. She lives in Ramat HaSharon with her husband Shlomo, a dentist. They have three daughters and five grandchildren.

She said she has fond memories of living in Toronto for two years. "I wanted to exhibit in Toronto because 37 years ago, Shlomo attended a post-graduate program for two years in orthodontics at the dental faculty at the University of Toronto."

He was the first Israeli to be admitted into a post-graduate course at the school.

The quilts in her exhibit are inspired by Israeli landscape and reflect her personal interpretation of the evolving tradition of quilt making, Covo says. She has worked for seven years to create the exhibition.

Quilt artist Rachel Covo is seen with one of her quilt wall hangings, which are on exhibit at the Columbus Centre until May 26.

Covo has enjoyed working with her hands since she was a child, she says. "One day, about eight or nine years ago, I went to buy material for a costume for my granddaughter. The storekeeper told me that a woman from the textile college was going to come to teach patchwork and quilting.

"I took the course and I realized that I had finally found what I had been looking for – it combines all the things I enjoy working with and it brought together everything I had been studying for years."

She has degrees in physical education, Hebrew literature and education, and the history of art. She also studied at the College of Technology and Textiles in Ramat Gan.

Covo has exhibited in Israel, the Netherlands, England, Spain, France and the United States. On a previous visit to Toronto, she took a sample of her work to the gallery at the Columbus Centre.

"It took the curator at the museum all of two minutes to say that they would book me. One of the stipulations by the gallery was that it would be an exhibition and a sale," she says. "Throughout the years, I never wanted to sell my art quilts because it was the love of doing the art. But I agreed."

A perpetual student who continues to take courses, she is a member of the Israeli Quilt Association, Israeli Arts and Crafts Association and the International Quilt Association.

She adds that she is grateful to dentists Sidney Golden and Earl Holtrecht, who hung her quilts in the gallery, "and the many others, like Nancy Golden, who made this exhibition possible."

One of her art quilts will be donated to Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity. The fraternity will donate it to Baycrest.

For more information and gallery hours, call Rosa Graci, 416-789-7011, ext. 300, or rgraci@villacharities.com.

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Reading circle creates anthology of Yiddish women's writing

***Arguing with the Storm: Stories by Yiddish Women Writers,* edited By Rhea Tregebov, Sumach Press.**

By NORMAN RAVVIN

Arguing with the Storm: Stories by Yiddish Women Writers reflects important grassroots phenomena in Canadian literary life. Editor Rhea Tregebov explains in her introduction how a women's reading circle in Winnipeg, dedicated to the work of both little-known and well-known Yiddish women writers, transformed itself into an editorial and translating collective with the goal of creating an anthology.

Norman Ravvin

The accomplishment of the Winnipeg Women's Yiddish Reading Circle reflects a continuing interest in Yiddish; the popularity of "life writing" as a source of self-reflection; and the influence of women's reading and study groups on literary taste.

The stories translated into English for *Arguing with the Storm* reflect a variety of Jewish female experience, whether from prewar eastern Europe or postwar North America. The Holocaust exists in these pieces as a kind of dividing line – it represents the event that transformed many of the writers' lives.

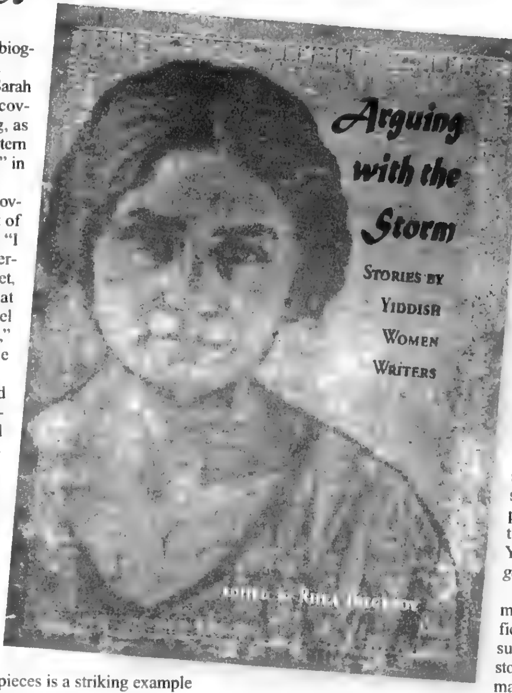
Yet the stories themselves tend to focus on more basic kinds of experience: women's work, family responsibilities, or such transformative experiences as the politicization of Russian Jewish youth at the turn of the 20th century.

A number of the stories in *Arguing with the Storm* reflect a period in Yiddish literary culture when a published story or tale – what we think of today as a work of fiction – was likely to be rooted in a mixture of autobiography, memoir and ethnography.

We are offered, in pieces by Sarah Hamer-Jacklyn and Bryna Bercovitch, a form of memory writing, as the authors' memories of their eastern European homes are "recovered" in often emotional prose.

"No, it really happened," Bercovitch tells the reader at the outset of her *Becoming a Revolutionary*. "I remember, first, a small, impoverished house on Kuznyetchna Street, in the town of Cherson." What follows is the curious tale of Yankel the shochet, "a secret socialist," whose energy is dedicated to the revolution.

In the case of Bercovitch and Anne Viderman, their reminiscences were originally published as columns written for the Montreal Yiddish daily *Der kanader adler*. Viderman's *A Fiddle* includes two early columns for the newspaper, one of which describes an awkward meeting on Montreal's Fletcher's Field between the narrator and a "group of French-speaking boys and girls" who are surprised to hear a Jewish girl play Russian folk songs on the fiddle.



Alongside these memoiristic pieces is a striking example of what was considered to be writing for young readers in the 1920s. This is Malka Lee's *The Apple of Her Eye*, whose distinctly New York opening is: "The apple of her eye first came into the world in a dark basement below the El. The racket of trains drowned out his first cry."

The final story included in the collection, Chava Rosenfarb's *Letters to God*, stands out as something different from the rest of the book's contents. It is a straightforward short story, highly stylized, which appeared in 1995 in the influential Yiddish journal *Di goldene keyt*.

Its characters, like many in Rosenfarb's fiction, are Holocaust survivors. But the story rests on the intimate relationship between a busy city doctor and his dying father. "I remember how triumphant you were," the son muses, "when I decided to give in to you and become practical. I embarked on the study of medicine. How proud you were when I received my medical diploma! You even accepted with good cheer my specializing in psychiatry. That was my compromise choice. I told myself that psychiatry, like poetry, tackles the mystery of the human soul and heals its wounds in its own way."

In her introduction, Tregebov refers to Rosenfarb as "a national literary treasure" whose work has contributed "to the renaissance of Yiddish literature, a movement that began to gain real momentum in 1980 with the establishment of the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Mass."

The editorial care applied to the contributors' work in *Arguing with the Storm* is reflected by the detailed introductions that precede each writer's work. These place the authors in their historical and writerly context, offer biographical and bibliographical detail, and include an author photo. They are effective at conveying the challenges in each writer's life, whether from forced immigration, the demands of raising a family, or the vagaries of Yiddish publishing in a century full of catastrophe.

This latter concern is strikingly present in the biography of Rochel Broches, a prolific Minsk-born writer, whose "collected works, containing over 200 short stories… was being prepared for publication by the State Publishing House of White Russia when the Germans invaded the Soviet Union in 1941. The book was never issued."

Included in *Arguing with the Storm* is Broches' *Little Abrahams*, a contribution to a genre that might be called the Yiddish grotesque, which offers a unique literary investigation of the concept of a *mamzer* in prewar eastern Europe.

Arguing with the Storm is clearly a labour of love, a grassroots literary undertaking with broad literary appeal.

Norman Ravvin's most recent novel, Lola by Night, *is due out in Serbian translation later in the year. His other books include* Hidden Canada: An Intimate Travelogue *and* A House of Words: Jewish Writing, Identity and Memory. *He is chair of the Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.*

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Rare skin disease prevalent in Ashkenazi Jews

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Vardit Zafri is currently fighting a disease called pemphigus vulgaris, which very few of us have ever heard of. And even most doctors only encounter one or two cases in their professional life, said Sunnybrook Health Sciences dermatologist Dr. Scott Walsh.

Pemphigus Vulgaris (PV) is an autoimmune disease in which the body attacks a protein that keeps the cells of the skin together.

The effect can be devastating. Walsh explained that it can lead to blistering of the mucosa and skin, from the mouth to the esophagus and all the way up to the nose. The skin may peel off, and Walsh said that patients with PV are sometimes sent to burn units, where doctors try to replace the layers of skin.

Red, blistered patches can spring up anywhere on the body. In a severe case, these patches can cover so much of the body that they literally suffocate the skin, causing death.

PV can also cause death from malnutrition if the disease destroys the ability to eat, or from secondary infections, he said.

Right now, the only treatment is prednisone, an anabolic steroid that suppresses the immune system. The problem is that prednisone itself has serious side effects, especially with long-term use. And those with PV have to take it for the rest of their lives.

No one knows what causes PV, Walsh said, although "it appears that it is a combination of environmental factors [although no one knows what those factors are] and a genetic component."

While the disease is extremely rare in the general population, with an incidence of only one to five cases per million of population, it is more prevalent in Southeast Asians, those from the Middle East and Ashkenazi Jews. A study from Jerusalem showed an incidence of one to two per 100,000 population.

Zafri said that six months ago she had never heard of pemphigus vulgaris either. That is when she discovered a small round patch of raised skin, which looked almost like a rash.

Fearing that she had skin cancer, which her mother had had, she sought treatment, eventually going to Walsh. A biopsy diagnosed PV.

"I was shocked," she said. "It sounded like a sexually transmitted disease."

Fortunately, Zafri has a mild case. Still, she has been taking prednisone and Imuran regularly. The side effects have led to weight gain and swollen legs, swollen badly enough that walking is difficult.

She said that she is not depressed, as one might expect her to be. "I'm scared. I have no immune system left. How long can I survive on drugs?"

Zafri says there is an urgent need to develop new drugs with fewer side effects and a need for research into the causes and possible treatments of PV. "I would like to see a research foundation here in Toronto," she said.

Walsh noted that a recent study in Israel showed that with long-term therapy, the disease can go into remission.

For the first time, the annual meeting of the International Pemphigus Vulgaris Foundation will be held outside the United States. This year, it takes place in Toronto, on July 28, and the focus will be on research into treatment, Walsh said.

Survivors found to be 'very resilient'

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

New research by Haifa University developmental psychologist Avi Sagi-Schwartz and his colleagues has exploded the commonly held belief that Holocaust survivors transmit their traumas to their children and grandchildren.

The findings show that survivors are "very resilient and adaptive," even after enduring terrible disasters, he said in an e-mail interview from Haifa.

Sagi-Schwartz, whose mother is a survivor, found that the offsprings of survivors exhibit "the same normative behaviours" as children whose parents were not traumatized by the Holocaust.

He acknowledged that most mental health professionals claim that the traumas of survivors trickle down to their children, who in turn transmit them to their sons and daughters.

But in his research – conducted with fellow psychologists from Israel, Germany and Holland starting in 1995 – he discovered that this perception was simply untrue.

Sagi-Schwartz, director of Haifa University's Center for the Study of Child Development, said that the success survivors have generally enjoyed in Israel prompted him to embark on the project.

He had the sense that survivors made the best of their difficulties, despite the problems they encountered in their new homes.

His mother served as a good example of this thesis.

She went into hiding in France and Belgium at the age of 14 after her parents were shipped to Auschwitz and murdered there. She arrived in Palestine in 1945, not knowing anyone or speaking a single word of Hebrew.

"After all these atrocities and hardships, my mother managed to build a new life. How this could happen, given theories and beliefs about traumatized survivors, was one more motivating factor in my decision to study the topic."

His skepticism made him wonder whether popular perceptions and academic studies about survivors were indeed accurate.

Born in pre-state Israel in 1947, Sagi-Schwartz joined forces with other researchers, including Klaus and Karin Grossmann and Marinus van Ijzendoorn, in an attempt to determine whether Holocaust traumas were transmitted to the next generation.

He and his colleagues have published their findings in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* and the *Journal of Traumatic Stress* and in a book, *Childhood in the Shadow of the Holocaust*, published in Hebrew by Hakibbutz Hameuchad Press.

Sagi-Schwartz, whose research has been supported by the Ford Foundation and the Israel Academy of Science, said he will not be surprised if his findings are disputed.

"We know that people working in the field who are used to old theories and popular beliefs will have difficulty accepting our conclusions. But additional research done in other parts of the world have yielded similar results."

After evaluating studies on Holocaust trauma from the United States, Canada, Britain and Israel and comparing them with his own study, he found that the results were similar.

"One of the problems was that, in many cases, researchers recruited participants from organizations that help survivors in distress. This meant that a very specific cross-section of survivors who took part in the study suffered from a high level of distress. This was not representative of the general population of survivors and, therefore, led to biased conclusions."

Sagi-Schwartz suggested that survivors who did not pass on their traumas had normal family lives and "supportive environments" before World War II.

They were thus able to shelve their traumas, call on their reserves of stamina and resilience, and resume normal lives after the war.

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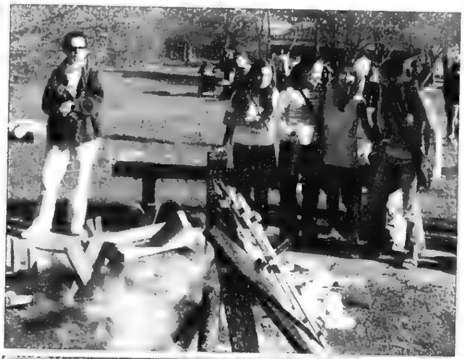
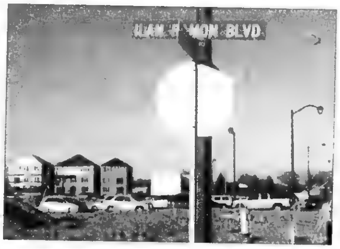


Habonim Dror Camp Gesher had their traditional Lab B'Omer bonfire and BBQ on May 6. The wonderful weather and plenty of good solid wood, provided the perfect setting for this event. After sitting around the bonfire and learning about Lag b'Omer from three of its main characters, Rabbi Akiva, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and Bar Kochba, played by the counsellors, the time was ready for some real practice in bow and arrows.

STREET NAMING

About 3,000 people attended Sunday night's ceremony and street festival that named a new street in memory of Israel's first astronaut Ilan Ramon, who died in 2003 in the Columbia space shuttle disaster. The road runs adjacent to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's new Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus, a 50-acre site along Bathurst Street north of Rutherford Road in Vaughan. [Carolyn Blackman photos]



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CFL's new commish has lots on his plate

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Mark Cohon is off to a flying start as commissioner of the Canadian Football League (CFL).

Unlike his predecessors Tom Wright, Mike Lysko, John Tory and Larry Smith, he's not facing fires that have to be put out, and put out now. He's got a five-year contract in his pocket, suggesting support from the league's often contentious governors, and thanks to the multi-year deal, he's not immediately under the gun.

Instead, Cohon's got the time to think strategically and implement his vision for the league. And what he's talking about only a few weeks into the job is growing league revenue, strengthening the relationship with corporate Canada and increasing the league's profile among the next generation of football fans.

It's all sunshine and blue skies right now, even though the league has been plagued in recent years with financial instability, faltering franchises, a U.S. expansion that flopped and a salary management system that many teams ignore.

Mark Cohon
[Shawn Coates photo]

Like his famous father George, founder of McDonald's restaurants in Canada and Russia, Mark Cohon is an enthusiastic salesman of his product.

A fast talker of no mean skill, Cohon the younger believes "the league is in good shape right now. We're in a building mode. We're engaging youth."

There was a time that the league had lost its cachet among young people, but that appears to be reversing, he said. The success of the Alouettes in Montreal has led to a phenomenal growth in young men playing football in Quebec – from 3,000 to 35,000 – and he sees no reason that success can't be duplicated elsewhere.

The league will partner with ParticipACTION, a federal fitness awareness program, to get kids more active. It will hold mini-camps for high school players, and Cohon believes the opportunities for marketing the game to young people are endless.

Growing the league demographic is one thing; expanding to new cities is another, and several Canadian cities are currently on the league's radar.

Cohon believes Ottawa may get a team again if the proper ownership group can be found. He acknowledges that in the past "the fans were burned" by owners who abandoned the franchise and this time, before any deals are signed, the league will "take time to find a [ownership] group committed in the long term."

The worst-case scenario would be to "rush back and have challenges in a couple of years."

Cohon said he is open to exploring other expansion sites, but it's early in the game and the league has not begun to do its homework in finding suitable candidates. However, he suggested that cities such as Halifax, Quebec City and perhaps even the Kitchener/Waterloo/London area could be considered.

Cohon said he would work with league governors and players to craft a drug policy that would address performance enhancing drugs, as well as the recreational variety. Currently the league has no such policy.

Toronto's infatuation with the NFL doesn't faze him, though he admits the league to the south is "a juggernaut" that attracts young people.

Still, the CFL has partnered with the NFL to develop programs for young people, and renegotiating that deal is certainly a priority.

The Argos, he said, have a solid core of followers and under the ownership of David Cynamon and Howard Sokolowski the team's profile has increased. It can only get better with the excitement that will be generated by the Grey Cup in Toronto later this season, he said.

At any rate, the league can't get too Toronto-centric, he continued. In recent weeks, Cohon has visited franchises in Winnipeg and Regina, and he marvels at the devotion fans in Saskatchewan show to their Roughriders.

Cohon, too, is a fan of the CFL. "I love the game. I think it's a great part of the Canadian identity," he said.

Cohon comes to the CFL after 15 years in sports marketing, sponsorship and business development. He's served in various executive positions at Major League Baseball and the National Basketball Association (NBA). He worked as the NBA's director and group manager of international marketing as well as marketing director of NBA Europe and vice-president of business development.

"I think it prepared me for the [CFL] job," he said.

While working for the NBA in Europe, he travelled to Israel frequently to negotiate the league's local television rights, license its products and build grass roots support – sort of like what he's expected to do for the CFL.

Cohon estimates he's visited Israel 15 to 20 times. "I feel when I land at Ben Gurion Airport, [I'm] at home, in a spiritual way."

In addition to his sporting endeavours, Cohon serves as chair of the Ontario Science Centre and is a member of the board of Katimavik, a youth services organization. He's a member of Holy Blossom Temple and he spoke recently at a UJA Federation of Greater Toronto panel discussion on sports and philanthropy that included Cynamon, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment chair Lawrence Tanenbaum and Toronto Blue Jays president Paul Godfrey.

Israeli juniors go 1-4 in IIHF tournament

Israel's under-18 junior hockey team avoided relegation to the International Ice Hockey Federation's entry level division with a 1-4 record at a tournament in Hungary recently.

Israel will return to the IIHF's Division II next year, thanks to a 5-3 victory over lowly Mexico. With a 0-5 record, Mexico was relegated to Division III while the Netherlands, undefeated at 5-0, will advance to Division I.

Israel was badly outscored in the tournament, with the Mexico game and an opening 5-2 loss to Belgium the only close contests. The Israelis lost to the Netherlands 7-1, Hungary 12-3 and Estonia 9-0.

It could have been worse without solid work between the pipes. Israeli Eden Nemenoff was named top goaltender in the tournament.

Daniel Erlich was Israel's leading scorer – 10th best in the tournament – with nine points on five goals and four assists.

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Who's in charge?

By MICHAEL GORDON

It was another call about a family conflict with the health care team.

A daughter was saying, "I want my mother to get all treatments available, no matter what you think. She is my mother and since I am her substitute decision maker [SDM], I am legally in charge."

The Senior Side of Life

The staff asked my ethicist colleague and me to intervene, because they thought the daughter's treatment requests were unreasonable, and it wasn't clear whether they were what the mother would have wanted had she been able to express herself.

Why would health care professionals feel that way about the request of a daughter acting as an SDM? Did the staff know something about what was best for the patient that the daughter didn't, or was the daughter requesting medical interventions that were excessive under the circumstances?

A team meeting with the ethicist revealed that some time in the past, another daughter who was not the SDM indicated to the unit's social worker that her mother would never have wanted to be kept alive with a feeding tube in a state of semi-consciousness. This comment was made some months after a feeding tube had been inserted at the request of the SDM daughter because of inadequate nutritional intake.

The staff, during their discussions with the SDM daughter, assumed that she was making the feeding tube decision based on her mother's wishes and values. It was only after the second daughter, who was estranged from her sister, suggested that the SDM daughter was not acting properly that the staff became concerned about the SDM daughter's decisions.

The health care team arranged a meeting with the SDM daughter and asked her how she came to her decision about her mother's feeding tube. She bristled at the question and answered, "I am not sure what my mother would have wanted. She was a very proud person and valued life to the fullest. She was upset that her sister had languished in a hospital in Montreal for a few years with a feeding tube. But she did not say for sure that she would never want this for herself – at least not specifically. We didn't talk about such dreadful things."

At the followup team meeting with the two ethicists, the SDM daughter's primary concern appeared to be about the potential threat to her decision-making capacity. She asserted that she "was in charge" and that if we challenged her, she would "take legal action" and make sure she got her "rightful and legal way."

The question for the whole team was whether it was worth challenging the SDM daughter's decisions because of their doubts that she was acting as her mother would have wanted. The basis of the SDM daughter's decisions were not completely clear, and the issue was clouded and confounded by the estrangement of the sisters.

SDMs must know that their legal mandate is to make decisions that represent the person for whom they are acting, not as they, the SDMs, wish.

The legal basis is what the SDM believes to be what the person would have wanted if they could express themselves. This could be based on written directives (advance directives or living wills) or discussions in which the topic was addressed.

If an SDM is acting otherwise, health care professionals can challenge his or her role through mechanisms such as Ontario's Consent and Capacity Board and can request to have the person removed from their decision-making role.

SDMs must be certain that they are acting properly, for the sake of the person they are representing, and also that they legally fulfil the requirements of a role that is considered a most honourable and important one.

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1 1/4 c fat-free evaporated milk
1/4 c fat-free sour cream
1 tsp Dijon mustard
4 lg egg whites
1 lg egg
1/2 c (2 oz) shredded Gouda cheese
1/2 c thinly sliced green onions
1/4 c thinly sliced smoked salmon, chopped (2 oz)
2 tblsp chopped fresh dill
1/2 tsp black pepper
Cooking spray

Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine first 5 ingredients in a large bowl, stirring with a whisk. Stir in cheese, onions, salmon, dill, and pepper. Pour egg mixture into a 9" pie plate coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350°F for 35 min. Let stand 15 min. to set.

Yield: 8 servings.

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Epi on Education

Recently, I was copied on an e-mail exchange that illustrated the essential value of Jewish literacy. A lay leader and a senior member of my staff were involved in an intense dialogue about a rather serious issue. While I can't reveal the actual topic, the issues that came into play were feminism, Orthodox halachic sources, and pluralism – heavy material.

Seymour Epstein

At first, the two people seemed to be of opposite opinions. As I read more of the exchange, however, I saw that, although there were differences, their respective positions were closer than I had originally thought.

Indeed, it was the content and process of the debate itself that brought the two of them closer. How? As they cited one classical source after another, along with their individual interpretations of those sources, two things happened. Firstly, they (and I) noted how the sources unified them. These same sources have been our inspiration for law and lore over centuries, and they have kept us together more than they have separated us. Secondly, their mutual command of the sources engendered mutual respect, even if the sides differed on interpretation.

This was yet another illustration of the essential need for Jewish literacy in order to have intelligent intercourse about our traditions – past, present, and future.

But the twist was that I learned a new/old lesson about literacy. A professor of mine once explained that the famous teaching of the Talmud, "Torah scholars increase peace in the world," was a bit of talmudic humour. But, I have come to see that, in fact, deep scholarship has the potential for increasing peace. The dynamic of give and take around a unifying text often leads to synthesis and agreement, but even disagreement demands Buberian mutuality – the ability to look the other in the eye and understand that he or she owns an equally empowering opinion.

I would guess that that is what the rabbis meant by "an argument for the sake of heaven."

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

An apology that's long overdue

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

The following official court notice appeared in local newspapers recently: "The Indian residential schools settlement has been approved. The healing continues."

URBAN WRITER

The court order states that $1.9 billion be given to native people who suffered in residential schools. Up to $275,000 per person will go to individuals based on the amount of sexual, physical and psychological abuse they suffered; $125 million has been set aside for "healing"; $60 million is earmarked for "research" and preserving the experiences of the survivors; and $20 million will go to national and community commemorative projects.

If you've never read about Canada's residential schools, Google "native residential schools Canada" and learn that children were pulled from the arms of their parents as part of religious missionary work and taken to one of 72 residential schools across Canada. The last schools closed in 1996.

In these unsanitary schools, children were punished for speaking their language and forced to sleep next to youngsters dying of tuberculosis (of whom thousands were buried in unmarked graves).

The $1.9 billion that has been earmarked to pay for this genocide – the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide says the forcible transfer of children from one group to another is an act of genocide if done "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group" – is long overdue and far too little.

If it's possible to quantify the value of a child, whether that child died in St. Philip Residential School or Duck Lake boarding school (where it is said that more than one half of the children sent there died before their 18th birthdays), $1.9 billion does not cover one single native son or daughter who died at the hands of nuns, priests, government officials and those sworn to protect us, the RCMP.

Over the next year, survivors of the residential schools or their family members will make claims for the suffering they endured. Those who present appropriate evidence will one day receive a cheque in the mail. They will open the envelope, remove the cheque and likely stare at it for a long time – the same way, I imagine, Jewish Holocaust survivors do when they hold a German government cheque in their hand.

The amount of the cheque or the simple fact they were granted financial compensation, will not, however, be sufficient to give them closure.

To achieve that will require thorough and ongoing education for people like you and me that reveals the anguish our native people have gone through. Our schools need to bare the Canadian soul by teaching the real history of Canada, including the nasty policies of corporations that committed unspeakable crimes against native Canadians.

To find closure, a government cheque will not suffice. The prime minister of Canada must involve our entire country in a truth and reconciliation process so, we, the children and grandchildren of those who perpetrated this national crime, are encouraged to beg forgiveness from native survivors, and from those who died and will never have a voice.

He must speak to the entire nation, on prime time television, and say: "We can never properly repay those who lost their lives in Canadian residential schools. We will never be able to return children to their mother's arms who died in those horrific places. The Canadian people will forever live with this aspect of our history. However, today we beg you for forgiveness."

How is it possible that in our country, one with "glowing hearts," the most vulnerable among us – our children – were treated by the Anglican, Catholic and United churches like the enemy? How do we come to grips with the fact our government for decades ignored report after report that death tolls in some of these schools had reached 69 per cent?

To our children, our Aboriginal children, we say: "We are deeply sorry."

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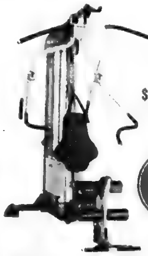

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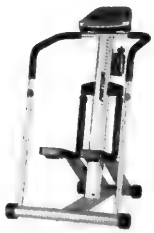

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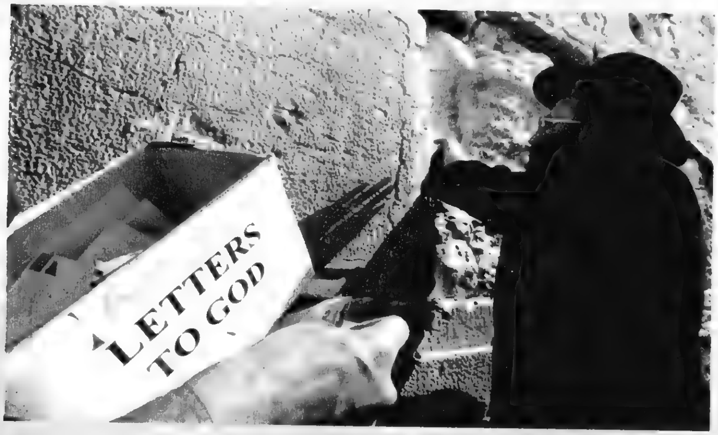
The Canadian Jewish news
Section B



[RNS/Reuters photos]

A place that speaks of hope

Editorial Feature

It is a phenomenon to behold. People come from around the world to stand before the large, imposing antiquity that we call the Western Wall.

Not all who are there pray. But invariably, most do touch the massive stones, fingers lingering on the smooth-surfaced blocks hewn from nearby quarries by unknown craftsmen more than 2,000 years ago.

And most leave behind small notes stuffed into the cracks and crevices of those blocks that carry in the secret code of the heart their most urgent pleas to a God Whom they need to be receptive and close at hand.

Even skeptics and rationalists have been known to acknowledge that there is a certain power in the experience. At its most mysterious, it can evoke the shudder of a beautiful moment that all of us know and try to hold onto, bittersweet against the passing of time.

In its essence, the experience is one of hope. Perhaps it is this feeling and all the possibilities and dreams that travel with hope that the stones communicate to us.

In the photo above, Rabbi Shmuele Rabinowitz, the official rabbi of the Western Wall Plaza, finds a place in and between the stones of the Wall for the countless letters from the countless individuals all around the world who send their correspondence, their pleas, to God, addressed simply to the Western (or Wailing) Wall in Jerusalem. The special post box from which he pulls the letters is labelled, poignantly, *Letters to God*.

The senders know their mail will arrive and that it will be delivered. One of the letters in the photo was postmarked in India.

But the mail was not always deliverable.

Between 1948 and 1967, access to the Old City, to the Wall, was forbidden to the Jews. The Jews were expelled from the Jewish Quarter during the fighting in the War of Independence by the army of Transjordan. Their homes and synagogues in the quarter were destroyed. Barbed wire and concrete blocks divided the Old City from the new.

In June 1967, the Jews returned to the Old City. The story of the war and of the city's reunification is now part of the miracle of Jewish history.

This year we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the city's reunification. And this supplement is intended to share with readers some information and insight into how the city is growing today.

In particular, we feature the work of the Jerusalem Foundation. Established 40 years ago by the late Teddy Kollek, it is dedicated to building and developing the city in the widest sense and for the widest good.

Thus, there are feature stories dealing with education of children from Jerusalem and abroad, art, culture, history, neighbourhoods and various new movements for social and other change that are rising among the new generation of Israelis.

In one story, a first-time visitor writes movingly of his experiences in the city and of how he was "unprepared" for his first visit to the Wall.

We also feature a dramatic photo essay of Jerusalem images compiled by the well-known Toronto photographer Beverley Abramson.

We hope you will take as much delight in this supplement as we had in presenting it to you.

The 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem is a profoundly important moment in modern Jewish life, and indeed, in world history.

Let us all celebrate the day when it arrives next week on the 28th day of Iyar (May 16) and thank God – without the need of a letter addressed to the Wall – that He has brought us to this wonderful day.

A woman and a city

By WENDY ELLIMAN
IPS

The city has a downtown street named for her great-grandfather and a major pharmaceutical industry founded by her grandfather, and her husband served as a Supreme Court justice for 14 years. Despite the vigorous involvement of her family in Jerusalem, however, Ruth Cheshin's many contributions to the city of her birth are uniquely her own.

"My grandfather was head of Palestine's Jewish community under the British Mandate, and we regularly hosted people from Jerusalem's different ethnic and religious groups," says Cheshin, whose family has lived in the city for seven generations. "I grew up with the awareness that many communities call Jerusalem their home."

It is this awareness and tolerance that has influenced Cheshin's leadership of the Jerusalem Foundation, which she helped create and has led for more than 40 years — and for which she was honoured on Israel's 59th Independence Day by being chosen to light one of the 12 beacons on Jerusalem's Mount Herzl.

"It was the foundation that was honoured, not me," she protests. But, since Cheshin and the foundation are hard to separate, it's fair to say they shared the honour.

It's for the sake of the Jerusalem Foundation that she agrees to an interview. "I'm usually reluctant to give time to interviews," she says, "but promoting the foundation is important. The better it's known, the more help it will attract, and the more forcefully it will push Jerusalem's needs to the forefront."

Seventh-generation Jerusalemite Ruth Cheshin, president of the Jerusalem Foundation [IPS photo]

It was in 1966 that Cheshin was pulled out of Jerusalem's Tourism Department by the city's newly elected mayor, Teddy Kollek, to help establish a committee to work for the welfare of all Jerusalem's residents and thus bolster the urban backwater that was the capital of Israel, the centre of the Jewish people, and the focus of the faiths.

She and Kollek had already worked together: in the early 1960s, when she returned from study-leave in London with her husband, the future Supreme Court Justice Mishael Cheshin, and their infant daughter Efrat, eldest of their three children, she and Jerusalem's future mayor had set up the City of Jerusalem's Tourism Department. Now they ushered the Jerusalem Foundation into the world.

Months later, however, Jerusalem and, with it, the foundation's role were to be transformed. In June 1967, the Six Day War was fought and won, and Jerusalem, then "the city at the end of the world," in Cheshin's words, found itself reunited, in the global spotlight and poised for exponential growth.

"Jerusalem in the mid-1960s was an arid, dusty town, perched on the edge of the desert," says Cheshin. "We saw the foundation's role in those early days as turning the city green. We wanted to provide outdoor space for the many families living in small, cramped apartments, and at the same time make the city beautiful. We believed that everyone entering it should ponder its beauty and feel: 'This is the Jerusalem I've dreamed of!' And I believe we have succeeded. We've built more than 200 parks and made Jerusalem verdant."

Verdant it may be, but Jerusalem remains an insolvent city, lacking sufficient budget even to care appropriately for the parkland created by the foundation. As the years passed – and particularly after Cheshin moved from co-ordinating the foundation to its presidency 20 years ago – the organization's focus moved from beautification into projects to promote the city's economy and bolster education, coexistence and tolerance.

Continued on page B3

MAZEL TOV

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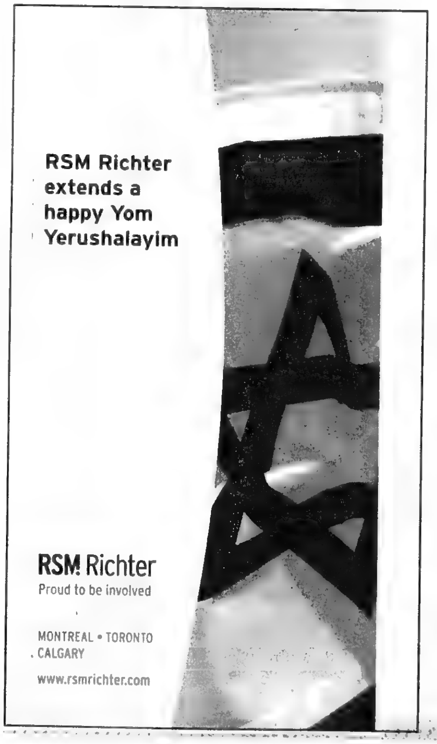
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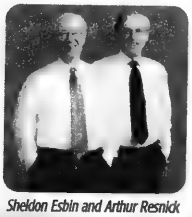
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'We must learn to live side by side with mutual respect'

Continued from page B2

"What's absolutely clear is that every group that venerates Jerusalem – Jewish, Muslim and Christian – is staying here," says Cheshin. "No one is bowing out. And that means we must learn to live side by side with mutual respect and without mutual suspicion. If we have respect, the rest will come."

This perspective has translated into literally thousands of projects. Mishkenot Sha'ananim, the 19th-century housing project on what was Israel's border with Jordan from 1948 to 1967, has become an international cultural centre, bringing in musicians and writers from all over the world. The foundation's Ethics Center is Israel's most important source of applied ethics, taking teachers, physicians, lawyers, judges, police, army personnel and businesspeople countrywide through a program drawn up by Justice Meir Shamgar.

Jerusalem's Cinematheque, housed in a 19th-century ophthalmologic hospital, is a magnet for the city's youth. ("My children say they forgive me everything because of this!" says Cheshin, smiling.) Add to this Jerusalem's Zoo, its Tower of David and science museums, the Henry Crown Concert Hall and Khan Theater, Teddy Stadium and Sam Spiegel Film and Television School, along with dozens of synagogues and community centres citywide, and the list is only partial.

Coexistence is the current emphasis, not least "because we're the only ones doing it," according to Cheshin. The foundation has established a Jewish-Arab kindergarten ("Children who play, sing and eat together won't grow up to hate one another," she says), along with Jewish-Arab summer camps and basketball tournaments. The foundation's Democracy and Peace Institute is 20 years old, and the campus of a Hebrew-Arabic school is under construction.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem is abuzz with dance, jazz, chamber music, poetry and puppetry in foundation-inspired festivals and it hosts an international book fair every two years. There are hot meals for the elderly, outreach to the city's Ethiopian youngsters, and a long school day in needy neighbourhoods, which, says Cheshin, "isn't a babysitting service – it actually teaches children."

The Old City **[G. Laforet photo]**

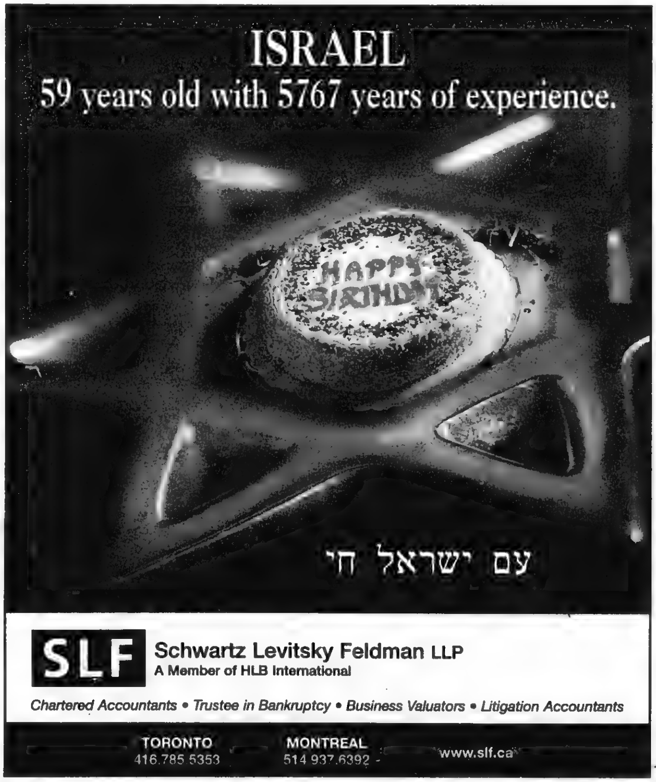
Cheshin, who is today a grandmother of six with half a century of public service behind her, has energy and passion for Jerusalem that burns undiminished. She remains active in many foundation initiatives, serving on the boards of the Israel Festival, Jerusalem Music Center, Mishkenot Sha'ananim Cultural Center and Guest House, and the Jerusalem Theater. She is also a director of her late grandfather's business, Teva Pharmaceuticals.

And, of course, she continues to preside over the foundation, today a multinational organization with branches in 10 countries, which has so far raised more than a billion dollars. Cheshin, however, is far from satisfied.

"While we spend an average $35 million a year helping the city, this is simply a drop in the ocean," she says. "Jerusalem is Israel's capital, and it has the potential to be the centre of everything. We've already seen how quickly it came back to life with the end of the intifadah. Just think if it received sufficient funding to address all its issues."

On the fingers of her hand, she itemizes these issues as education, housing, employment and society. More and better schools that teach for longer hours; support that will enable young academics to stay in the city; housing subsidies for young couples; and increased job opportunities, particularly for secular Jews living among the city's large haredi Jewish community.

Despite the immense challenges, Cheshin radiates optimism. "With hard work, all this will come," she says. "Jerusalem belongs to the world, and there are many people willing to help this city."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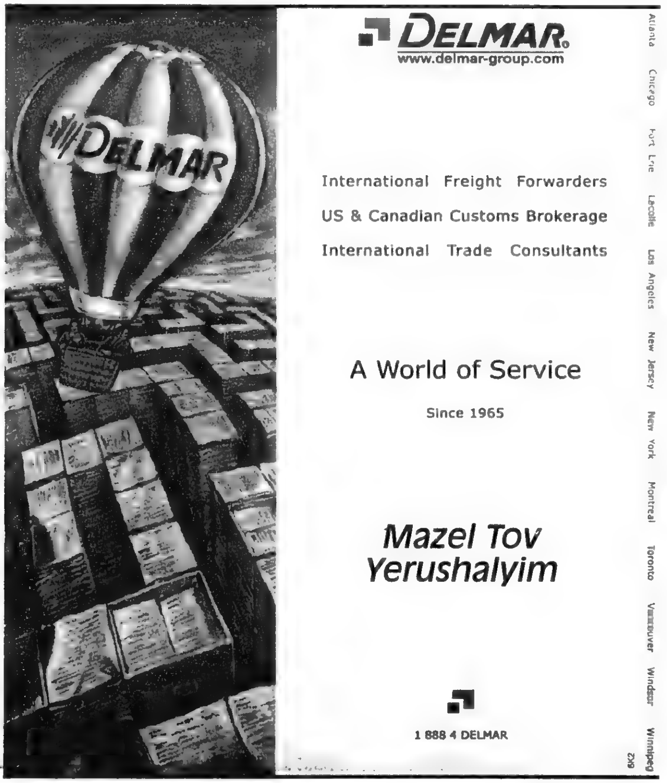

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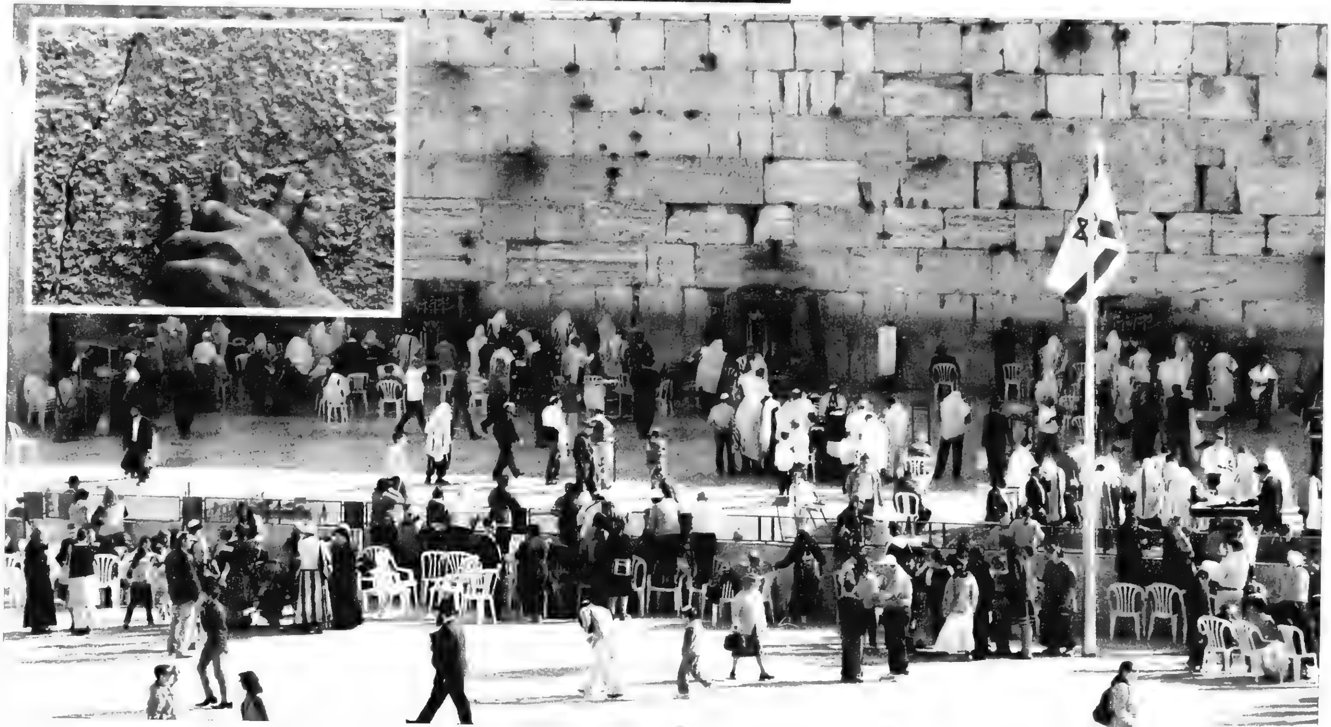

WHERE THEY ALL GATHER

Jews from all over the world — observant and non-observant — come to the Western Wall to "connect" in some way with their identities as Jews. Inset, the clasped hands on the stones convey the sense of hope and longing that the Wall has symbolized over the years. [G. Laforet and RNS photo]

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Machane Yehuda goes from cheap to chic

By WENDY ELLIMAN
IPS

Time was when Jerusalem's outdoor market was exactly that -- an open-air tangle of alleys heaped high with colorful fruits and vegetables, fish and meat, legumes and grains, dried fruits and nuts, all washed through with the scent of Turkish coffee and exotic spices.

Full of character and characters, it was known for the freshness of its produce and the bargains to be had, especially late on Friday, when prices plunge to rock-bottom.

Mazeitim in the Machane Yehuda market hopes to attract a new upmarket clientele with its boutique wines, olives and homemade bread. **[IPS photos by Jean Hazout]**

In the past few years, however, the Machane Yehuda market has become something more as well. This bastion of rough-and-ready second- and third-generation vendors, forcefully hawking their wares in the sprawling lanes between downtown Jerusalem's Jaffa and Agrippas Streets, has also become an attractive covered market – home to a growing number of chic restaurants and designer clothing stores.

Stylish clothes are sold at the Fig Leaves boutique in Machane Yehuda, while pots, pans and shopping bags on wheels are on sale next door.

"If the shuk was once known for its hummus, pita and rugelach, it's now developing a reputation for gazpacho, bruschetta and sashimi as well," says Eli Mizrachi, proprietor of a Mediterranean-type bistro called Tzachko, which he recently opened in the heart of the market.

The restaurant, whose specials of the day are determined according to the produce available in the market, is already the second undertaking of this 55 year-old son of a Machane Yehuda nut vendor.

Two years ago, on a nearby terrace next to a large butcher's shop and a couple of nuts and dried fruit stands, he launched Everything For The Baker And Coffee, Too, which both sells imported baking and kitchen equipment and serves Italian coffee and chocolate biscotti.

He has been joined by former high-tech professional Itzik Sananes, who opened the kosher deli Mazeitim across the way. Sananes sells cheeses produced in boutique Israeli dairies (although he imports the Brie and Chambrie), together with upscale wines from Israeli vineyards, olives and Tomer's bread, baked by a young Jerusalemite who runs a boutique bakery in Talpiot.

Sananes and Mizrachi are among a growing group who are aiming to make Machane Yehuda competitive with Jerusalem's other shopping areas – especially, they say, now that the security situation is better and the market, which has been a repeated and bloody terror target, is bustling once again.

"We want to keep this market alive and relevant in an age of shopping malls and superstores," says Mizrachi, who chairs Machane Yehuda's Council of Stallholders. "We don't want it going the way of Paris's Les Halles market. We want to see new alongside old."

So, flanking stallholders such as Boaz, who still stands behind the olive stand he has manned for 30 years, Eliezer, who has been selling nuts for more than 25 years, and Aliza, who bags vegetables as she has for the past 14 years, Machane Yehuda is gentrifying.

Since April 2005, three designer clothing stores have opened in the shuk. Bordeaux, the only one of the three that existed before opening in the market, relocated from Jerusalem's elegant Katamon neighbourhood to 6 Tut (Strawberry) Street, finding unlikely premises next door to a fishmonger and opposite a butcher.

"I've always loved the shuk and thought it'd be fun working in this environment," says owner Efrat Ben-Arza. "The difference going from a high-end business area to the bustling city centre has been huge, but I see great potential. I'm delighted to welcome customers who come to the market for tomatoes and end up buying one of my pashminas as well!"

The Alei Te'ena (Fig Leaves) fashion store chose a Machane Yehuda location at the suggestion of Eli Mizrachi, an old friend of co-owner Ronit Gilboa.

"At first I thought it was a mad idea," says Gilboa. "Who'd come to the shuk for stylish clothes? But later, talking it over with my partner Shoshi [Borenstein], we decided it was exactly the right place to create the personal kind of store we envisioned."

"Being in the shuk is very special," according to Limor Tov, co-owner of Egoz 30, the first designer boutique to open in Machane Yehuda. She and her partner Rahel Skimoul had been looking for a site that was both central and popular. "We realized that the shuk, with its colours, smells and warmth, reflects our style."

In general, the traditional market vendors have welcomed the newcomers, says Mizrachi. "The people working here want to make a living and they see that new enterprises bring more people here, people who didn't come to the market five years ago. This has helped them realize the importance of helping new initiatives become part of the market."

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School helps poor, young olim adjust to modern Israel

By **GAIL LICHTMAN**
IPS

Abraham Farhi has his work cut out for him. As the principal of the Brandt Elementary School in Jerusalem's Neve Yaakov neighbourhood, not only does he face the ordinary challenges of educating 300 boys and girls in grades 1 through 6, but he has to do so in one of the city's poorest neighbourhoods and with children of whom 75 per cent are new immigrants to Israel (60 per cent from Ethiopia and 15 per cent from Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union).

"Most of our students have been in Israel only three to four years, and their families are still trying to integrate into life in this country," he says. "This transition is particularly difficult for Ethiopian families, who must adjust from rural Africa to urban Israel. Many of the parents still don't know Hebrew and have difficulty finding work. Those that do, work in minimum wage jobs doing cleaning, guarding, gardening and the like. Their income is not enough to support their large families, which tend to include between five and eight children, and they can barely pay their bills and put food on the table. Sometimes two or more children sleep in one bed because the parents can't afford to buy basic furniture.

"Add to this the fact that we have children who can't read or do basic math, in addition to not knowing Hebrew. Our school is expected to teach these children Hebrew, plus all the skills they need to enter junior high school in the few short years they are with us. This is a daunting task and requires providing more hours of instruction, tutoring, enrichment, help in obtaining school supplies and books, and even food."

An Ethiopian girl eats her hot lunch. The program provides daily nutritious meals to ensure children aren't hungry and can focus on their studies. [IPS photos]

Farhi adamantly insists that if the school can give these children a good education and the tools to cope with life in Israel, they will not constitute another generation living in poverty but "contribute towards the building of a healthy society in Israel. If we do not invest in them, we run the risk of them turning to a life of crime, drugs and despair."

The school's aims are twofold: one, to provide the knowledge and educational tools needed to successfully cope with life in Israel, and two, to obtain the necessary equipment and set up enrichment programs to expand the children's horizons.

In these endeavours, Farhi is finding a partner in the Jerusalem Foundation. In recent years, the foundation, now celebrating its 40th year, has invested intensely in efforts to bolster the educational infrastructure in Jerusalem's poorer neighbourhoods. In 2002, it brought its Caring Community project to Neve Yaakov, with the aim of empowering individuals and the community to improve children's futures through educational opportunities. And now it has prepared a special project to help the children of the Brandt School.

The foundation has drawn up a comprehensive three-year program to improve the school's abilities to better prepare its children for the challenges and complexities of 21st-century Israel.

The program, which has still not been fully implemented, includes professional development for teachers – how to more effectively teach math, Hebrew, reading, English and other basic subjects; how to recognize and deal with problems, as well as referring students for professional treatment if necessary; and how to cultivate independent learners. It also deals with pedagogic development, such as advancing scholastic achievement through new and innovative methods and strategies and special individual or small group sessions.

One of the key elements in the plan is a special science education program. Research has shown that children who receive encouragement in science and math in elementary school are more likely to go on to advanced studies in these subjects in high school.

Working in co-operation with the Jerusalem Education Authority, the Bloomfield Science Museum in Jerusalem and Hebrew University's Meyerhoff Youth Center for Advanced Studies, the foundation developed "From Mars to Molecules" for fifth and sixth grade students.

The program consists of 12 study days over the course of the school year. Working in small groups, the children will study Mars and astronomy, electricity and electromagnetism, medicines, the world of the microscope, criminal identification and chemicals and senses. After that, they will conduct experiments in state-of-the-art labs and visit the Bloomfield Museum and the Meyerhoff Center.

Continued on page B7

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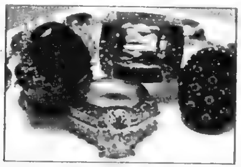

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A group of Ethiopian, Russian and Israeli-born youngsters at the Brandt Elementary School.

Extra study and 'enrichment' each day

Continued from page B6

Parental involvement is seen as critical in the success of a child's education. Building on the Caring Community, the program will expand on activities instituted by the Brandt School, such as teaching Hebrew to adults in the evenings and a "Roots" program designed to strengthen parent-child links to their heritage, with additional parent-child activities, special information days and trips.

The Brandt School is part of the extended school day program of the Jerusalem Education Authority. This means that the children study from 8 a.m. to 3:30 pm instead of the usual school day that ends at 1 p.m. This enables the school to provide extra hours of instruction, as well as enrichment activities.

But until last year, the school didn't have the resources to provide hot meals to sustain the children into the afternoon hours.

As a first step toward implementing the Jerusalem Foundation program, a hot meals program was started to ensure that every child receives a balanced, nutritious hot lunch.

For some, it's the only hot meal they get all day.

"If the children are hungry, they can't focus on their studies," notes Inbal Vaknin, assistant project manager of the Jerusalem Foundation. "This enables them to function in the afternoons. Plus it also teaches them about good eating habits, which has long-term health implications."

The kids don't seem to mind the extended time in school.

"I don't mind the long school day," says Israel, a sixth grader who came from Ethiopia. "We have nothing to do after school anyway. We would just end up hanging out in the streets and getting into trouble. It's good we get lunch. This allows us to stay longer in school. And we study better after we eat."

Farhi constantly emphasizes that the enrichment programs the school provides are not luxuries.

"These children do not have computers at home," he says. "If they are not exposed to computers and the Internet in school, they will not be computer literate – a skill now essential in our society. If we do not expose them to science, music, art, etc., no one will. We have to open the world to them and get them involved and interested."

Plus, he notes, art, music and sports are universal languages.

"Being able to succeed in these areas compensates for the children's difficulties in studies and learning Hebrew when they first arrive," relates Mazal Amsalem, the school's science and art teacher. "It gives them something they can excel in and makes them feel good about themselves, thus bolstering their self confidence and will to persevere in their studies."

The children's school trip this year enabled them to see a little of the country, sometimes for the first time.

"We went to the Hadera power station," says Gadi, a sixth grader who came from Ethiopia. "I have been in Israel six years, but I had never seen the sea. It was great. And the power station was really something. Now I am interested in electricity and want to learn more about it."

Farhi, who came to Israel in his youth from Syria, understands what it's like to be a newcomer trying to learn the language and fit in.

He repeatedly tells the children, "I was once a new immigrant just like you. People reached out to help me. Now, I am reaching out to help you. And one day, you too will be reaching out to help others."

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Multimedia exhibit presents 3,000 years of Jewish history

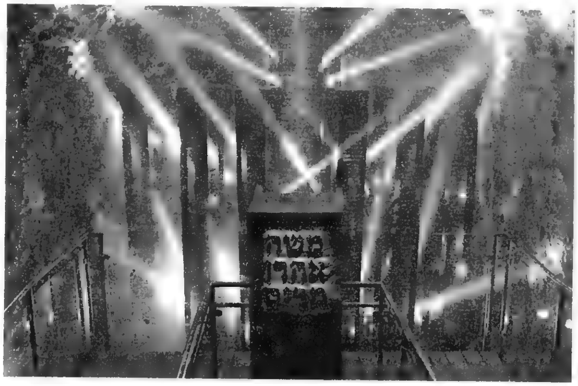
By SHARON KANON
IPS

Award-winning designer Eliav Nahlieli was commissioned by the Western Wall Heritage Foundation and the Israel government to create a special experience linking young people today with the heritage of millions of Jews.

The result is the Chain of Generations Center, which opened last year just a few short metres from the Kotel. The Chain takes visitors on a spiritual journey through what Nahlieli calls "an experiential, theatrical museological world," linking them to their cultural and historical roots through music, light, smoke and, in particular, through the monumental sculptures of glass artist and sculptor Jeremy Langford.

To follow the Chain, the visitor descends into the catacombs adjacent to the Western Wall plaza, just 50 metres from the bedrock of Mount Moriah – the Temple Mount. Visitors are guided through 3,000 years of history – from the binding of Isaac by Abraham in 2000 BCE to the Jerusalem of David and Solomon, Kings, Prophets and the Herodian Second Temple, and centuries of conquest and ruin, yearning and rebuilding.

Nahlieli's main inspiration for the centre's concept came from a story written by Moshe Amirav, a paratrooper during the 1967 Six Day War, while recovering from a wound during the battle for the liberation of Jerusalem. "It is about a Polish Jew whose biggest dream is to walk in the streets of Jerusalem," said Nahlieli. "Even when he and his friends are skeletons in the camps, he hallucinates that they are dancing and singing, 'Next year in Jerusalem.' They are all killed in the Holocaust. From then on, the paratrooper feels that he is fighting not only on behalf of the present generation but for the hundreds of generations that have gone before."



Artist Jeremy Langford's imposing glass pillar represents Jerusalem in biblical times.
[IPS photos by Jeremy Langford]

At the heart of the exhibition are eight majestic glass sculptures created by the British-born Langford, each in a separate chamber, to symbolize major events in Jewish history.

"Jerusalem," etched into a glass column against a background of verses from Chronicles, is the first of the sculptures created by Langford, who is recognized as the leading glass artist in Israel today.

Continued on page B9

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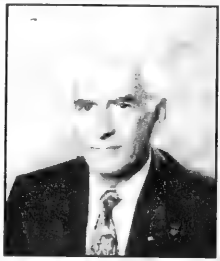

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'A feeling of endless movement'

Continued from page B8

"I envisioned the glass pieces as milestones to symbolize landmarks on the path taken by our ancestors," said Nahlieli. These were inspired by the Romans' use of milestones and the tombstones in the Jewish cemetery in Prague. The physical design of the centre was inspired by an Escher illustration of marching figures going up a ramp.

***The Holocaust* is a stacked and sculpted glass block split into six sections and etched with names of victims of the Holocaust.**

"I wanted to create a feeling of endless movement as the visitor walks slowly along the long, long trail."

The designer's eclectic creativity has gained him international recognition and won him the THEA award in 2000 (presented by Disney, Universal and Fox studios) for his innovative design of the Palmach Museum in Tel Aviv. He has also been a guest designer at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and Walt Disney Imagineering, which plans theme parks, and designed exhibits in Prague, Pompeii, Venice and Istanbul as well as Israel.

Langford describes himself as an architectural glass artist who works with his environment. "I have created many glass art works for public buildings, synagogues and private residences around the world," said Langford, "but this was my biggest dream, and my greatest challenge."

Langford used a cold-glass method of carving, which involves using many thousands of layers of glass to create impressive sculpted and stacked glass monuments. "The layers echo the layers of history of the Jewish people and the different civilizations that have built on and inhabited Jerusalem," said Langford.

It took Langford five years and 150 tons of glass to design and complete the project. His wife Yael, a chemist, helped him solve any technical problems he encountered along the way.

"Before I began, I sat whole nights in the tunnels, sometimes from midnight till dawn, connecting to the energy of the site. I communed with kings, prophets, conquerors, holy men and madmen," said Langford. The artist decided to use abstract forms – columns with straight lines etched with names – to avoid the biblical prohibition against graven images. "I did not want to interfere with the viewer's own image of the biblical personality."

The Patriarchs, which has the names of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel and Leah etched into three green-tinted pillars, leads the historical procession, followed by a row of columns in a narrow passage with the names of the 12 tribes.

"Carved in Hebrew, the names of individuals from early biblical times up to the present have deep significance," says Langford, a student of Kabbalah. "The lines in Hebrew letters have energy and spiritual dimensions."

The visitor walks along a ramp made of wooden planks to the era symbolizing Jerusalem. A separate glass sculpture in the foreground honours the importance of Moshe, Aaron and Miriam (who led the way to freedom and nationhood).

Destruction (of the First and Second Temples) *and the Exile* is the title of the next sculpture – cracked black glass panels between slanting stacked glass columns. To emphasize the theme, the focus of the next chamber is 48 shattered column stumps strewn on the ground and lit with fibre optics.

A highlight of the journey is the nine-metre-high, 15-ton *Yearning* pillar, representing the symbolic return to the Promised Land of Israel. An unexpected challenge (albeit an exciting discovery) foiled the original plan to pour concrete and sink the pillar into the ground. Archeologists on site found oil pots from the time of the Hasmoneans (on Chanukah, no less) and a ritual bath from the Second Temple period during excavations.

Langford and his team found a perfect solution – to suspend the pillar in the air on steel girders connected to the Roman period walls of the chamber. Visitors walk over a glass floor. Looking up, they can view the pillar; looking down, they see the ancient ritual bath.

Even more exciting was the rare archeological find that was discovered when workers were preparing steel girders to support the sculpture – a portion of the Wall from King Solomon's First Temple.

The sculpture entitled *The Holocaust* is a stacked and sculpted glass block split into six sections. It is etched with names of victims of the Holocaust. "I agonized over this sculpture for many months. I then saw the column, broken and fractured but still a column," said Langford.

Reawakening, symbolizing the return to the Land of Israel, is expressed in a cluster of columns – like buildings in a city – of different heights, sleek, strong and proud. Here the names etched into the handsome columns are, according to Langford, "random names from the telephone book, making sure we had all the cities and towns of modern Israel represented."

The final glass sculpture – a rough-textured, wavy memorial wall titled *Remembrance*, honours the soldiers killed in the battles for Jerusalem in 1948 and 1967.

To complete the tour, the visitor is invited into a small, dimly lit subterranean theatre. While candles burn and delicate rays of light are reflected off the walls, the moving story of the paratrooper who fought in the victorious battle to reunite Jerusalem is told. The image of the narrator is projected onto a screen, intermittently disappearing into the smoke and light before reappearing.

Visitors emerge onto the Western Wall plaza – a fitting end to an altogether unusual and exciting tour – reinforcing the fact that they themselves are another link in the chain of generations.

Langford has just completed two massive columns for Jerusalem Day – one geometric, representing the army, the other, a flowing surface, representing souls – which are to be placed in a niche at the foot of the Memorial Wall. The inscription reads: "How the brave have fallen."

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Canadian youths gain life experience in Israel

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts and Travel Editor

A few months ago, when Jordan Lass was volunteering with Magen David Adom ambulance service in Petach Tikvah, a routine call came in – the driver said a woman badly needed CPR.

Arriving at the scene, the 19-year-old from Toronto found an unconscious 80-year-old woman who could not breathe.

"After 45 minutes of chaotic and tireless efforts at CPR, we were sure the woman had little chance of survival," Lass says. "After a few final compressions that seemed to be in vain, miraculously the beeps on the EKG system continued without our assistance – the woman was to live.

"It was the most exciting, fear-filled moment I have ever endured, yet the most fulfilling experience I have had in my entire life."

Aaron Rosenberg, left, and Jordan Lass in Bat Yam, Israel.

Lass is one of thousands of youths participating in long-term programs supported by MASA (Hebrew for "journey"), a newly created program run by the government of Israel and the Jewish Agency that financially supports hundreds of programs through grants and scholarships.

Lass and his friend Aaron Rosenberg, 18, also of Toronto, are participating in Hadassah's Young Judaea Year Course, a nine-month gap program designed for recent high school graduates. The course consists of three trimesters: two periods of community volunteer and living experiences and a period of formal academic studies and field trips in Jerusalem.

"In Jerusalem, we really built a strong connection to the holy city and the interesting people that call it home," Rosenberg said.

When I met Rosenberg and Lass they were in their final trimester in Bat Yam, a small, poorer city south of Tel Aviv that is home to Russian and Ethiopian immigrants. They live independently in apartments and spend the mornings teaching English in local schools. In the afternoon, they run extra-curricular activities for troubled youths.

Rosenberg spent the second part of his trimester working at Tirat Hayeled, an Israeli orphanage in Netanya. "I was a counsellor for boys aged eight to 13. They're kids from broken homes, they're in a bad situation," he said. "They really looked up to me and taught me about Israeli society as I taught them English and life skills."

Rosenberg said one of his most memorable experiences was engaging in a political debate on a bus from Tel Aviv to Bat Yam.

"I had never had such an intense political debate anywhere, and I think this is the beauty of Israel. One can have an engaging political discussion on something as normal as a mundane bus ride."

Rosenberg has developed a strong connection to Jewish tradition and life while in Israel. "I wear a kippah every day, something I haven't done since I was 12," he said, "and I keep all the holidays and their respective mitzvot. More than anything, I feel a need to pass my traditions and Yiddishkeit on to the next generation. These are words that would have never come out of me before Israel."

His friend concurs. "I have been forced to reflect on my spirituality and my beliefs to the extent that ideas and values that I could and would never accept before have become the cornerstones of my beliefs," Lass said.

Matthew Coorsh

Lass said he joined the program because he thought it was the best way to spend a year in Israel and connect with Israelis. "I thought this program is the best for combining an academic and a living experience. For instance, we have to go grocery shopping in Hebrew."

MASA was created in 2004 to give Jewish youths age 18 to 30 the experience of a long-term stay in Israel. As of this fall, each Canadian participant is guaranteed $2,000 (depending on the type of program) plus scholarships for those who need it based on family income and the cost of the program. In return, each participant is expected to contribute at least 20 hours of community service in Israel.

There are over 140 programs covering a broad range of activities youths can participate in. They can continue their education at an Israeli university, study Jewish texts, teach English, do internships, volunteer, participate in gap programs, live on a kibbutz or study music.

This year 8,000 youths from more than 50 countries were part of the MASA program. MASA aims to have 20,000 participants a year. Programs are scattered throughout Israel, from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to the Negev and the Galilee.

Matthew Coorsh, 29, from Toronto, had just started his internship at the Israeli Knesset when I met him in Jerusalem in March. This is part of the MASA program he's participating in, the Career Israel Program, a five-month internship program open to college and university graduates from around the world.

"I've only been here for a month and really am just starting," he said. "I'll be doing some interesting things. I got interested in government politics back home and thought this would be a good experience."

Coorsh studied history at York University and got a diploma in public relations. "I'm hoping to get a job in foreign affairs or something like that, and I'm hoping something good will happen out of this program."

He said the MASA program has been extremely helpful. "You can't just walk off the street into the Knesset and get a job, otherwise."

Born in Montreal and raised in a secular home, Coorsh went to Israel on the birthright program in 2001, and his outlook has changed a lot since then. "Birthright was an appetizer, and I really wanted to immerse myself in the Israeli culture. I haven't ruled out making aliyah," he said.

Aliyah is not necessarily the stated goal of the MASA program. MASA is about strengthening Jewish identity and having youths make a connection with Israel.

"We're not trying to make them more religious," Israel Maimon, government of Israel secretary, said at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. "But if they do make aliyah, then that's a great by-product."

In fact, MASA's organizers hope many return home and become community leaders who can make some kind of positive impact in the Diaspora.

Continued on page B11

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Hoping for positive impact

Continued from page B10

Another young person seriously considering making aliyah is Chaim Cutler, 22, from Toronto. Cutler is also participating in one of the MASA programs. He's at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, which immerses its students in the study of classical Jewish texts.

"I wanted to come to Pardes to improve my Jewish knowledge and to live in Israel," he told me at the Institute after a spiel on Purim evening. "This is a co-ed program where we study the Talmud, Chumash, Bible and more modern commentary, as well as modern Jewish writers like Buber and Heschel."

Chaim Cutler

Cutler comes from a traditional Conservative home and went to Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto and the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) before studying commerce at McGill in Montreal. "I felt a big void in my Jewish learning throughout university. Coming to Pardes for the year gave me an excellent opportunity to fill that void."

He plans on returning to Toronto to work in accounting, but hopes to make aliyah in a few years.

"I've definitely thought about it before, but my desire to make aliyah has strengthened since I've been here," he said. "MASA is a great program that helps young people through their funding of long-term programs."

Ronnie Ollo, left and Bradley Armeland in Tel Aviv.
[Joseph Serge photo]

Like Coorsh, Ronnie Ollo, 20, of Montreal, who was studying political science at McGill, is also interning at the Knesset, as part of the overseas program at Tel Aviv University.

"I work for the Christian and Jewish Alliance Caucus, translating and preparing press releases," Ollo said over dinner at a Tel Aviv Hotel. "I spend time in the Israeli parliament which is a very exciting atmosphere to be in."

Ollo said his stay in Israel has been the time of his life. "It's the experience of a lifetime. Israeli society is very friendly."

Spending time with Israelis is one of the major attractions, he said. "My personal goals are to improve my Hebrew to perfection. I want to get a better sense of what it's like to live here, and I want to develop strong connections with the local people."

Bradley Armeland from Windsor, Ont., is participating in the Otzma program, a service-based leadership development program designed to offer Jewish adults ages 20 to 26 an opportunity to live and volunteer in Israel for 10 months in a variety of settings. So far Armeland has volunteered at a Be'er Sheva absorption centre and at a food bank. When I spoke to him in Tel Aviv he was volunteering at an army base. "Just cleaning rifles," he said.

"MASA really enhances the program that I'm on by organizing a lot of activities for us."

Armeland was looking for something that would bring him to Israel for a longer time than birthright. "I read about the MASA program and saw it had lots of free time, was very educational and was exactly what I wanted. It's a good choice for me."

He especially likes Tel Aviv. "I'm always finding something new in this place," he said. "Plus, there's always the beach."

He said his sociable nature has been very helpful. "I've learned that I can meet anyone I want here. I've met tons and tons of people, and everybody knows each other. It's a great experience."

At 18, Marlee Hershfield from Vancouver is in Be'er Sheva, away from her family for the first time. She is participating in the Nativ program, volunteering in the Ye'elim Absorption Centre. She lives in the centre in a separate dorm-like environment she shares with five other girls. The rooms are Spartan and clean. Apparently the residents were notified about the impending arrival of more than 20 journalists from around the world.

Nativ is a challenging, academic, year-long program dedicated to creating and inspiring the Conservative Jewish leaders of the future. It is geared toward gap year students, between high school and university. From September to June, participants engage in different programs, studying Hebrew and Jewish studies in Jerusalem and volunteering at places such as the absorption centre.

Continued on page B21

Mazel Tov

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Jerusalem: A personal exploration

By MEL NOODELMAN

This past January, the Jerusalem Foundation hosted a journalists' mission to the city to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the city's reunification and of the establishment of the foundation. It was my first trip to Israel and I was thrilled to have the opportunity to take part.

Oranges for sale in the market.

As our foundation hosts guided us through the old and new sections of the city, we were given a first-hand look at an incredible number of initiatives aimed at building infrastructure and fostering social and cultural bonding for which the foundation provides financial and moral support.

I felt hopeful after our meetings with some of the most forward thinking leaders and planners that the many grassroots initiatives could help bridge cultural differences and overcome ancient animosity. Mostly social experiments, however, they require a lot more funding and tremendous effort to be truly meaningful.

I was also mesmerized by the visual feast that seemed to be everywhere. The city was alive, and watching it through my camera lens was exhausting.

Ancient grace, the subtle dignity of the people, the blend of colours all vied for my attention. My camera's two-gigabyte memory card could hold 325 images. I used the full capacity nearly every day, collapsing on the bed each afternoon completely spent, but wonderfully contented.

Here are just a few of the experiences that resonated with me on a personal level.

Children play in the yard. **[Mel Noodelman photos]**

The Old City

Every cliché about the Old City's timeless beauty is absolutely true. But the vitality on the streets, the colours of a gaggle of girls in school uniform, and the nonchalant teenagers in battle fatigues casually holding automatic weapons all worked together as if to say, "This is normal life in a city that is far from normal."

As I sat at an outdoor café, the diversity of people from different cultures, values, economic and social circumstance all paraded by. It's remarkable that this can exist at all. That it's taken for granted in this wonderful place left me incredulous.

However, the places where we had to be shepherded quickly and carefully to avoid potential violence were a reminder of the tensions that live just below the surface.

Machane Yehuda Market

One afternoon, we had some free time to just wander by ourselves, so I struck off on my own to the open-air market of Machane Yehuda. It took me a full 25 minutes to move a couple of hundred feet. Every moment, something else would catch my eye. If I moved to capture one image, I lost another.

I wanted a few strawberries as a snack, so I approached a fruit stand. I pressed a couple of shekels into the fruit merchant's hands. He looked at me, quite accurately, like I was a crazy tourist. Putting a few strawberries in a bag, he shooed me away, making sure that I knew I hadn't given him enough money to make the transaction worth his while, and that he was happy for me to leave so he could attend to some real customers. The berries were delightful, and sated, I moved on a few more feet in the crowd.

The Children

A visit to the Max Rayne Hand in Hand School for Arab-Jewish Education in south Jerusalem demonstrated that Arab and Israeli children don't have to carry animosities into the next generation. This special school has two of everything, one Arab and one Jewish: two principals, two teachers in every class, two guidance counsellors and two nurses.

Yet there were grim reminders at every turn that the safety and security of children is paramount and not taken lightly. This was never more evident than my encounter with some children in a park. When one of the children noticed me taking photographs, he charged towards me accusingly. This was not allowed, he said. After I gave a proper explanation to the teacher in charge, the kids all jostled for position to have their picture taken. But the way suspicion quickly turned to friendship was alien to me. I couldn't imagine Canadian kids taking security so seriously.

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An animated discussion at the Western Wall plaza.

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'I wasn't prepared for our visit to the Western Wall'

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The Center for Middle Eastern Classical Music

Meeting Avi Shoshani, the director of this music centre, is an overwhelming experience. He is one of the gentlest souls I have ever encountered and seems to glow as he describes the musical history of the Middle East.

He held us spellbound for the better part of an hour, describing the roots of classical eastern music, the influences over the centuries from North Africa to Central Asia and India. These musical roots are shared by Israelis and Arabs alike, who study together in his institution, learning to play ancient Middle Eastern instruments with exotic names such as the oud, baghlama, tar, nei, balaban, darbuka, zarb and more.

The author, overwhelmed by emotion, being comforted by a friend. [M.E. Ben-Dat photo]

We were then treated to an impromptu concert by a four-person group called Tahmila. I came away renewed and invigorated to see how music operates as a fundamental cultural bridge capable of bringing together the cultures that are so often at odds with each other. I was amazed when I returned to Toronto that my daughter was well aware of Tahmila and waiting to attend their March concert in Toronto.

The Wall

I wasn't prepared for our visit to the Western Wall. The heavy security entering the plaza was an interesting, if saddening, experience.

The sight of all manner of Jews davening in front of the wall met my expectations. As I placed my piece of paper in one of the cracks with all the other bits of paper and said *Shehechiyanu*, I was still fairly nonchalant.

Returning to our group, however, I suddenly found myself crying uncontrollably. At first, no one from the group realized my emotional state, as I turned away and covered my eyes.

I was overwhelmed with conflicting emotions. I knew that my father would never see this sight again (he no longer travels abroad). I thought of my daughters and their own personal struggles and challenges.

And I knew that I was not alone, that all who come here have a moment of spirituality that is unique yet universal. Here, we are all the same. We share the same moment with the countless generations that have preceded us, as well as those that will follow.

It is a place outside of the world, yet a nexus that unites us all, a place where time means nothing, and where small pieces of paper that carry hope or despair will continue to be written, received into the holy spaces and gathered up to make room for the notes that will certainly follow.

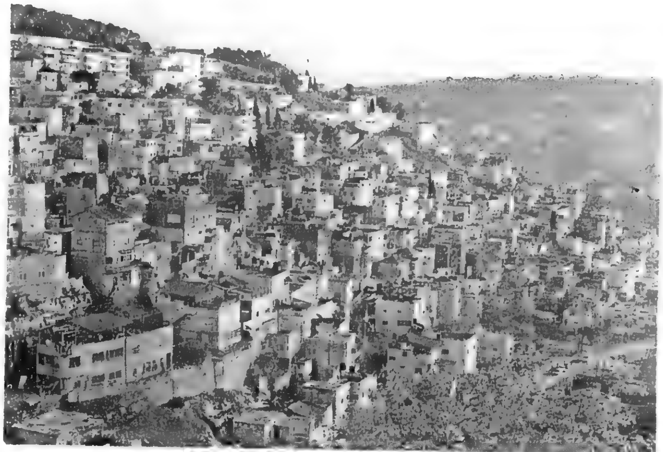
Beneath the Wall

The Kotel tunnel tour was an incredible look back through 2,000 years of history. As we walked through the excavations, you could see the layers of time peeled back like the layers of an onion, with each successive age built on the remains of the preceding one. The different types of construction and the quality of the stonework told much about each stage of civilization.

Each layer bore silent witness to another age of conquest, war, destruction and then rebuilding of walls. We were witnessing 2,000 years of enmity and destruction, as well as of optimism and rebuilding.

Exiting once more into the light of the courtyard, bar mitzvah celebrations were underway, shining faces enjoying the moment. The rabbis in deep discussion caught my eye, and I waited patiently to capture the accompanying image, one of the many that I would hold forever in my camera and in my heart.

Mel Noodelman is a freelance writer who lives in Toronto.



A view looking south from the Old City to the biblical City of David, as it appears today.

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Israel's green missionaries

By KARIN KLOOSTERMAN

Migrant workers manoeuvre through a south Tel Aviv neighbourhood traffic peddling reams of colourful fabric on their rickshaws. Muslim women dressed in hijabs zigzag around fresh carrot juice stands to enter wholesale clothing shops; a young woman in platform heels carries a half-finished canvas to a nearby art school.

These images, mixed with the heady smells of an oriental spice market and car fumes, are typical on Herzl Street in south Tel Aviv – a place where cultures from the east and west meet and sometimes collide.

It is appropriate then that in the midst of this action, you can find the headquarters of the Heschel Center for Environmental Learning and Leadership, an environmental education training facility devoted to helping cultures from the east and west live in harmony.

"Our approach is solving environmental issues through social change in Israel," says American-born Eilon Schwartz, the founder and director of Heschel. "We never dissociate the environment from the society that lives in it, making our environmental approach attractive and different from models used in other western countries such as America and Australia."

Adviser, mentor and educator to green organizations, politicians, universities and religious communities, the Heschel Center is arguably the heart and mind behind Israel's environmental movement.

If you open a newspaper in Israel and read an environmental expose, chances are staff from the Heschel Center had a hand in it; same is true if you hear about Muslim religious leaders learning about recycling practices in Israel; or that art schools in Jerusalem are teaching courses on sustainable design.

The centre is housed with other non-governmental organizations in Tel Aviv's "Green Building."

Participants in the Heschel Center's Environmental Fellows program solve environmental issues through social change.

Heschel Center's activities range far and wide. But at its core is a one-year environmental fellows program that disseminates culturally relevant environmental education to communities across the country. The fellows, who consist of journalists, lawyers, architects and politicians, meet once a week at the centre, where they are given the language and skills needed to integrate environmental practices into every aspect of their career. About 20 fellows a year participate and learn everything from the basics of lobbying the government on green issues to setting up their own environmental businesses.

"Our strategy is not on victories or issues," Schwartz said. "We are doing capacity building for a whole society. We show leaders how to plan a different and sustainable vision for agriculture and transportation and one that includes community involvement."

Admitting that environmental victories are important, Schwartz credits other Israeli green organizations for taking that lead. "Instead, we find a cadre of leaders that will lead individual sectors and network amongst each other. We are not just working with ecologists or lawyers or environmental scientists. And people get excited about that," he said.

Hussein Tarabieh, an Israeli Arab from Sakhnin in Israel's north, is using skills from his Heschel fellowship experience to establish peaceful ties between like-minded Israelis and their Palestinian neighbours.

Tarabieh graduated from the first class of Heschel fellows eight years ago. As the general manager of his town's environmental education centre, Tarabieh made the once-a-week journey to Tel Aviv for a year to learn how to communicate green issues better.

"I knew how to present scientific environmental evidence to people who came through my centre," says Tarabieh, who teaches youth and adults, "but Heschel helped to give me the language in a social context that people in my community could really absorb.

"The establishment of the Heschel Center and its programs has helped promote and accelerate the environment movement in Israel, mainly in the area of leadership activities. All the people that learn there get a new vision for their work toward a sustainable Israel," he said.

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Movement for change

Continued from page B14

Today, Tarabieh teaches about 50,000 people every year, transmitting policies of Israel's Ministry of Environmental Protection to an Arab-speaking population that might otherwise not receive this information at schools or at work.

But Tarabieh is not stopping at his hometown. He recently signed an agreement with politicians in the Palestinian Authority to help transfer the much-needed basics of environmental health to Palestinians. In the Gaza Strip, for example, the raw sewage of two million people gets dumped straight into the sea without passing through a processing plant.

"I am using environmental education as a bridge of peace to promote green and energy conservation activities," Tarabieh said.

Nisreen Mazzawi, an Israeli-Arab woman and environmental activist who studied as a Heschel fellow last year, has run a successful class for Arab women living in the north.

"Arab people in Israel aren't really associating environmental issues with politics and the economy, but this class was amazing for them," Mazzawi said.

Schwartz said he is currently working with Brown University to put together a coalition of like-minded partner organizations from around the world, to learn from each other's work; and with the Wuppertal Institute in Germany, to co-develop initiatives in environmental purchasing.

"One of Israel's greatest strengths is that the country is an ideal beta site for testing environmental policy and projects," notes David Pearlman Paran, Heschel's resource development co-ordinator.

"Israel is a small country, and some sectors are relatively undeveloped when it comes to environmental education, but that's not necessarily a bad thing," Paran added, pointing to Bedouin villages in Israel's south as an example.

Once a nomadic people, Bedouins now look to establish the basic infrastructure of modern life such as electricity and running water in their villages, some remotely located. A recent project, developed in part by Heschel, outfitted an entire village with solar panels to serve the community's basic energy needs.

To further facilitate the Bedouins' transition to western life, a Heschel fellow is helping to implement a low-interest micro-financing loan system in their communities, so that every family that wants them will be able to afford solar panels.

"Maybe we can help the Bedouins skip the stage that the west went through of using polluting fuel such as oil," suggests Paran. "As Israelis, and living in a small country where information travels quickly, we can learn from the mistakes that other countries have made, and can present good arguments as to why developing communities should use solar power straight away."

The urban environment in places like Tel Aviv, notes Paran, is also a priority for Heschel's educators, who often go to schools or are called on by tourist operators to give "sustainable city" tours. Paran also makes himself available at the drop of a hat, to give contacts and research to journalists reporting on the environment.

Recently, Paran was proud to report on a pilot project initiated by Heschel, which will be used to show Israelis how to green the urban office space. Among its other projects, Heschel has also set up a support program for university graduates studying ecological economics and is about to launch a new sustainability education and action centre for Israelis travelling in Katmandu, Nepal.

"We are the bubbling core of movements for social and environmental change in Israel," said Paran.

Karin Kloosterman is a freelance writer for ISRAEL21c, a media organization focusing on 21st-century Israel.

MARCHING FOR ISRAEL

These youngsters take a break from their march around the walls of the Old City. [Isranet photo]

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Danny Angel (centre) and late Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek with a cake picturing the Old City walls, prepared for Kollek by the Angel Bakery to mark 25 years in office.

Danny Angel – not about bread alone

By WENDY ELLIMAN
IPS

How would you imagine a master baker's inner sanctum? White aprons and clouds of flour? Baking trays and inventories? Wrong. Papers cover most of the surfaces in the office of Danny Angel, Israel's premier baker, sharing space with stacked boxes of Cuban cigars. But it's the walls that tell about the man.

There are photos everywhere, showing Angel during most of his 88 years, his hair and mustache growing from black through grey to silver, his waistline increasing. He embraces Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, Teddy Kollek, Ezer Weizmann and Yitzhak Navon (a former classmate). He is at dinner with Elizabeth Taylor, hugs Danny Kaye and stands arm-in-arm with Rudy Giuliani. Among the celebrity shots are family photos – from a stiffly posed couple who are Danny's grandparents, Shlomo and Esther, founders of the Angel Bakery in 1927, down to the business's fourth generation of Angels, Danny's son, nephew and niece.

Pictures of Danny Angel with soldiers and manufacturers, with new baking technology and with bread nudge dozens of framed citations and certificates – Angel as a Jerusalem Worthy, as a Jerusalem Prize laureate, as a Notable Industrialist, as president of Israel's Variety Clubs, Rotary Club and Manufacturers' Association. And dwarfing every other picture is a large painting of a young, smiling and clear-eyed soldier – Angel's 20-year-old son Ariel, killed on the Suez Canal in 1970.

An eighth-generation Jerusalemite who has worked in the family bakery for 75 years, Danny Angel's life runs parallel to that of the city he helped develop and the nation he helped build.

"I was seven years old when my grandfather Shlomo acquired a bakery in Bayit Vegan from a bankrupt client," he says. "At the time, my grandfather was a dried goods merchant who travelled regularly to Damascus, Alexandria and Beirut to buy flour and other foods, but when the bakery came into his hands, he decided to operate it. It reopened the next year, 1927, and by the time I was 13, my after-school job on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays was collecting money from the grocery stores to which we sold our bread. On Thursdays it was helping to bake and braid the challah."

In those early days, 25 workers produced 8,500 loaves of bread a week and delivered them in two trucks and a horse and cart. "The horse and cart were more efficient than the trucks," Angel recalls, "because the horse knew the route as well as the driver, so there was no problem when the driver was off sick!"

While Angel never doubted where his future lay, the family bakery was only part of the picture. "At the same time I began working in the bakery, I also enlisted in the Haganah," he says, naming the pre-State defence force. "Nine years later, in 1941, when I was 22, I volunteered for the British army and served in Egypt and the western desert. After that, I joined the Jewish Brigade and fought in Italy."

Angel stayed on in Europe after World War II ended, working with Aliyah Bet smuggling Jewish immigrants into Mandate Palestine. By 1948, when Israel was fighting for independence, he was back in Jerusalem, where his British military training equipped him to help defend the city.

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Cont'd from page B16

Angel bread is distributed to soldiers during a four-day March to Jerusalem in 1962. [IPS photos courtesy of the Angel Bakery]

At the same time, the Angel Bakery was playing its own role in the city's defence. "Three times a week, we'd bring bread in convoys to the fighters in Jerusalem's besieged Old City and on Mount Scopus," he recalls. "Hidden inside the sacks of bread were guns and ammunition."

Food and water ran low during the brutal siege of Jerusalem, but Angel's kept baking bread for the starving city: fire trucks brought water, and flour was swept up off the bakery floor.

With the war fought and won, it was time for change. The small Bayit Vegan plant was sold. Two of Shlomo's three sons moved to Haifa, where they built and opened the city's second largest bakery. The third son was Danny's father. He and Danny built the modern bakery that is still the company's home in Jerusalem's Givat Shaul neighborhood.

"We chose the area because it was close to the flour mill that we still use," Angel says. "We built Israel's first flour silo, and in 1965, brought a Texas company to Israel to build a 750-foot pipeline from mill to silo through which we bring 120 tons of flour to the bakery each day. The City of Jerusalem initially opposed the pipeline, as it had to go above ground, but we convinced them, and later won Israel's Kaplan Prize for Industrial Efficiency."

Modernization and innovation are the hallmark of both baking and business practice in the Givat Shaul plant into which the company moved in 1956, and in the Angel Bakeries opened in Lod in 1995 and Netivot in 1999. The Angels brought the first long ovens to Israel: 90 feet in length, they each bake 1,800 loaves an hour. The family also developed plant-based emulsifiers, which combine water and oil in the bread-making process and eliminate the kashrut problems of animal-based equivalents.

To ensure freshly baked bread for Sunday mornings after the bakery is closed for Shabbat, they found and imported a British-made mixer that can create dough in two hours rather than six. And in Hungary, they found machinery that cleans wheat, enabling them to bake whole-wheat products. It was Angel Bakeries that introduced sliced bread into the Israeli market and found ways to integrate soy flour into breads. And Angel is McDonald's sole supplier of hamburger buns in Israel.

Today, Angel's three bakeries produce 35 per cent of all bread eaten in Israel. Using 5,000 tons of flour a month, they bake more than 500,000 fresh loaves a day, produce 100 different types of bread and 250 different types of cake and cookies. Their fleet of 200 trucks (the horse and cart long since phased out) transports Angel produce to 6,000 stores and hundreds of hotels and army bases countrywide. Once a month, a full refrigerated shipping container of Angel's cakes and borekas is sent to Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Even by international standards Angel Bakeries is considered a giant," says Danny Angel. But, he emphasizes, it is not a faceless industry. "We have 1,800 employees – Israelis, new immigrants, Palestinians, several of them third-generation with us – and we've never had a single strike. In fact, the only time our bakery ever closes is Shabbat, festivals and Pesach."

Angel Bakeries was floated on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in 1984, the first Israeli bakery to go public, but it remains a family business. Management has passed from Danny's eldest brother Avraham, a lawyer by training, to his daughter, Ruthie. Production and technology have moved from Danny's second brother Ovadia, a pharmacist and chemist, to his son Gadi. Company directorship has been handed from Danny to his son Yaron.

A graduate of the American University in Beirut and of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, fluent in seven languages, Danny Angel is equally comfortable on the factory floor, at international baking conventions, among celebrities, in the corridors of power and working for the many good causes to which he devotes much of his time. Recently slowed down by health problems, he has cut his 12-hour working day to six, but the cigar remains clenched between his teeth, his mind remains razor-sharp and he is still filled with joy at what he and his family have created.

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FLAGS WAVED FOR UNITY: Israelis lined the streets last year waving flags of support for a united Jerusalem.
[RNS/Reuters photo]

Jerusalem:
City of Peace

By BARUCH COHEN

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PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE TO JERUSALEM

Thousands of Israelis marched last year around the walls of the Old City to proclaim their support for a Jerusalem united for eternity. [Isranet photo]

'We are the privileged generation'

Teddy Kollek died on Jan. 2. The following is excerpted from the Foreword he wrote in The Jerusalem Anthology: A Literary Guide, *Reuven Hammer, The Jewish Publication Society, 1995.*

By TEDDY KOLLEK

In spite of many changes in control and changes in name over the centuries, [Jerusalem] has remained the City of David. There have been periods when Jews were not permitted to live in Jerusalem, though modern research indicates that such times were fewer than was previously thought, but there was never a moment when Jerusalem did not live within the Jews – as individuals and as a people.

Jewish independent rule over Jerusalem ceased in the year 70 CE and was not restored until 1948, and fully in 1967. We are the privileged generation of Jews who have seen with our own eyes the return to Zion. We are those spoken of by the psalmist: "When the Lord restored our exiles to Zion, it was like a dream." (Psalms 126:1).

Yet Jerusalem must be the centre for all Jews; tolerance must reign amongst us, and Jews and Arabs must live together in peace. For a united Jerusalem to exist and flourish, we have to forge mutual respect and a willingness to understand and accommodate each other.

It has been a privilege to serve Jerusalem and its people for many decades and to be the first Jewish mayor of modern, united Jerusalem. I prefer to think of myself and my work here, not in terms of Herod, who for all his building cared more for himself than for the city, but as the heir of Nehemiah. It was Nehemiah who, at the end of the first exile, came back to Jerusalem in order to seek its "good" and energetically put the people to work.

His task, like ours, was not easy, but he succeeded in laying the foundations for the new Jerusalem which existed until the end of the Second Temple period.

We too have returned to Zion from exile. We too face enemies and problems, but we have dedicated ourselves to building and to creating a renewed Jerusalem that will be worthy of its past and able to endure to endure into the future. May Jerusalem's next millennium be remembered as Jerusalem's true age of gold, a time of harmony and peace.

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Historic Khan Theater turns 40

By WENDY ELLIMAN
IPS

There are two dozen men and women gathered. Some are seated, some doodle, others pace. They are there to brainstorm, and the atmosphere is electric with ideas. A tall man suddenly breaks into an improvisation to illustrate his point. Two people co-opt a third in a brief theatre game to emphasize their view. Ideas are seized, examined, expanded or discarded.

This is a rehearsal in progress at the Khan Theater in Jerusalem. The play, as yet, has no name. Nor does it have a set, costumes or lighting. In fact, it doesn't even have a script. But the core ensemble of 22 actors, led by playwright and artistic director Michael Gurevich, are implementing, once again, the prize-winning dramatic formula they have developed. Quite literally prize winning: they have won a string of awards – for direction, acting, translation, choreography, costume design and lighting and, most recently, Israel's prestigious Emet Prize.

The Khan Theater was once a 19th-century inn.

"Our rehearsals take longer than the traditional kind, but the creative teamwork we use is our path to new dramatic solutions," says Gurevich. "It's this which enables us to generate unique and vivid productions."

Their unorthodox approach fits seamlessly with the Khan Theater's unorthodox setting. Its permanent stage is an early 19th-century inn, which was successively used as a beer cellar, a carpentry workshop and an ammunitions dump. Surviving both the Jordanian guns of June 1967 and scheduled demolition thereafter, it was renovated into Jerusalem's only creative repertory theatre, the first significant cultural project of then-mayor Teddy Kollek's newly formed Jerusalem Foundation.

"The Khan is now celebrating its 40th anniversary – as, of course, is the foundation," says Yaki Har-Tal, today director of the Khan and previously, for 25 years, deputy director of the Jerusalem Foundation. "Its reputation is as one of the best theatres in Israel, consistently producing thought-provoking and high-quality performances."

Restoring the crumbling Khan of 1967 fitted with Teddy Kollek's vision of giving new cultural content to Jerusalem's ancient buildings. With money from the Gestetner Family Fund, the old inn was renovated into a modern theatre. Its picturesque arches and courtyards were preserved, while 230 seats and the computerized sound-and-light systems of a modern theatre were inconspicuously added.

The restored building, according to Har-Tal, has helped create a theatre-going experience for Jerusalemites characterized by direct contact with the audience and interaction with the community. "There's a unique and intimate atmosphere between audience and acting ensemble at the Khan," he says. "The physical setting and the close bonds between director, playwright and actors combine into a personal and direct relationship with audiences."

This scene from the *Town of the Little People*, a Khan Theater production, is based on a collection of Sholem Aleichem's stories. [IPS photos]

Audiences comprise most groups from Jerusalem's confusion of cultures, and with the help of the Jerusalem Foundation, the theatre also reaches out to specific populations.

"We subsidize workshops, theatre days and performances for schools, for the elderly and for special needs populations," says Danny Mimran, Jerusalem Foundation director and a member of the Khan's board. "We also support lectures, workshops, poetry readings, seminars, panel discussions and meetings with playwrights and actors for the public. In this way, the Khan brings the community closer to the theatre world and to the messages of its plays. We're delighted that it has become not only one of the highest quality theatres in Israel, but also a community institution as well."

If there has long been cause for pleasure on the artistic level, the economic level, too, is at last providing the same. Long plagued by financial problems, the Khan has for the past four years balanced its budget for the first time since its opening 40 years ago, Har-Tal explains with obvious satisfaction.

"As much as the theatre was known for acclaimed productions, it was also known for its debts," he says. "In the past few years, however, we've found the right balance between the size of the company (18 to 22 actors), the number of annual productions (three or four) and the economic potential of our public."

While the theatre won't descend from the economic knife edge until it clears its debts in four years time, it's now generating an annual surplus with which to pay off the accumulated deficit. "While commercial considerations take second place to the artistic in our productions, we're obviously happy when they can be combined, and when we have a lucrative hit on our hands – as we've had this year with *The Winners*," says Har-Tal.

The popularity of *The Winners*, a satire co-adapted by Gurevich, was unexpected. It is itself about an impoverished theatre that has experienced countless financial flops and decides it is time for a hit that will earn money and popularity. For its comeback, the theatre plans a musical about Israel.

Another acclaimed Khan production is the *Town of the Little People*, based on a collection of Sholem Aleichem's stories. Its theme is social and national displacement, exile and bereavement, as it examines the remembering and forgetting of Jewish culture that is first destroyed in the Holocaust and then buried with the realization of Zionism.

Plays like these are performed at the Khan alongside works by Agnon and Shakespeare, Jean Anouilh and Howard Barker, as well as original Israeli works (some written especially for the company) and plays by Ibsen, Chekhov and Pirandello. Gurevitch writes many of the Khan productions and selects all those performed, giving each the Khan ensemble's individual spin.

"We're a different kind of theatre," he says. "We maintain our own particular identity. This is expressed in what we perform and how we perform it."

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Tribute to Israel

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‘A fascinating experience’

Continued from page B11

Hershfield spent the first part of the program at an ulpan and then at Hebrew University studying Israeli literature, biblical art and the Holocaust. When I met her in March, she had spent one month at the absorption centre.

Marlee Hirshfield

“I grew up in a very secular house,” she said. “I wanted to explore what it was like to be Jewish. My mother pushed me to go on this program. It was a good opportunity to explore my Jewishness.”

At the absorption centre, Hershfield works in the elementary school helping with physical education classes. “I also work out of an old age home, talking to the residents, helping them wash after dinner and playing games with them. It’s somewhat sad,” she said.

In addition to learning about Israel, its society and its culture, Hershfield is picking up some necessary life lessons living away from home. “I’ve been doing my own laundry and my own cooking. Plus we have to learn how to budget our money,” she said.

All students are responsible for purchasing their own food from the monthly stipend they’re allotted.

Hershfield plans to attend McGill in Montreal next September and study Jewish and religious studies. She said the Nativ program has been very rewarding, and she probably wouldn’t have been able to afford it without MASA’s help.

“It’s been a fascinating experience overall,” she said, “especially meeting the immigrants here. I do miss my family though, and the language barrier is sometimes tough.”

She is hoping she won’t lose some of the spiritual vibes she’s picked up from the program. “I want to go home and show my friends how important it is to keep in touch with your Judaism. I want to observe Shabbat and go to weekly services.”

Kathryn Rubin-Goodman, 20, Dustin Koffler, 24, and Ari Wexler, 23, of Toronto and David Oppenheim, 20, of Calgary are participants in the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya – the Raphael Recanati International School program. It is the only academic institution in Israel that offers fully accredited, internationally recognized bachelor degrees (in government, diplomacy and strategy; business administration; and computer science) taught entirely in English for students from around the world.

Koffler is studying business administration. He was previously enrolled in the Tel Aviv overseas program before switching over to IDC. He liked what he heard about it and said it had a sense of “around the world” on campus and provided a feeling of community that he didn’t get anywhere else in Israel.

Rubin-Goodman, a former McGill student, felt there was something missing. She’d been to Israel every year since she was 14 and decided to give it a try. That she could study in English was a definite “pull factor.”

Wexler, who has lived in Israel for six years, is in his second year of studying business. “This is the perfect place because I have the opportunity to be in Israel and am able to study in English. It’s everything,” he said.

For Oppenheim, it was just a “good opportunity at the right time.” He is living in the university-sponsored apartments, with a Swede, a Brazilian and a New Yorker.

MASA application forms and information are available online. Visit www.masaisrael.org or call 1-866-864-3279.

Participants at the IDC program: Kathryn Rubin-Goodman, left, Ari Wexler, Dustin Koffler and David Oppenhiem.

[Lara Greenberg photo]

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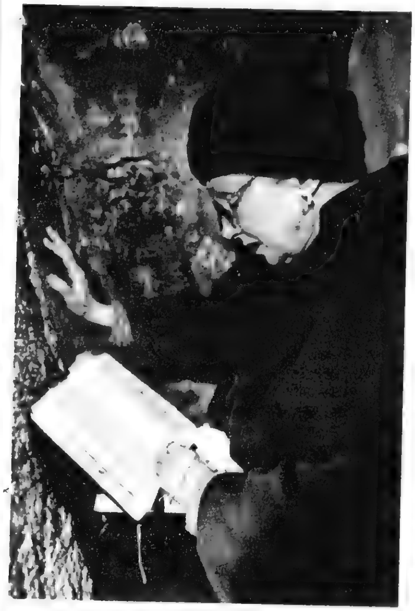
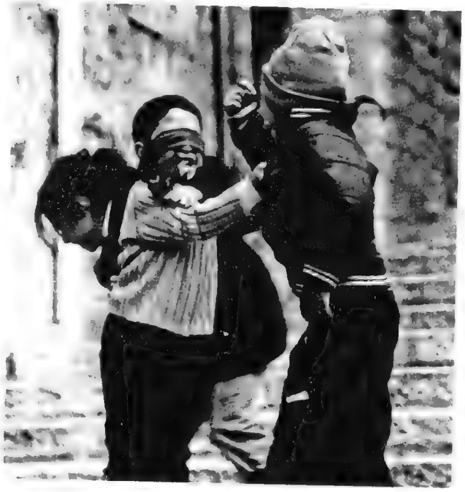
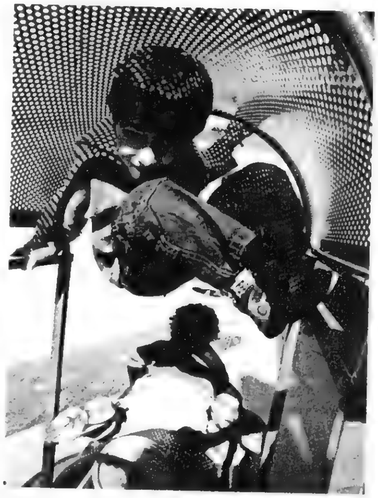
In Harmony



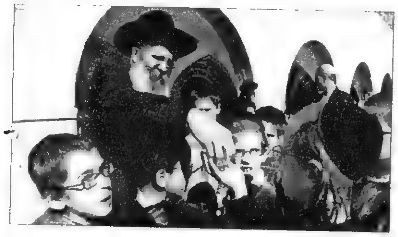
In prayer inside Western Wall Tunnel



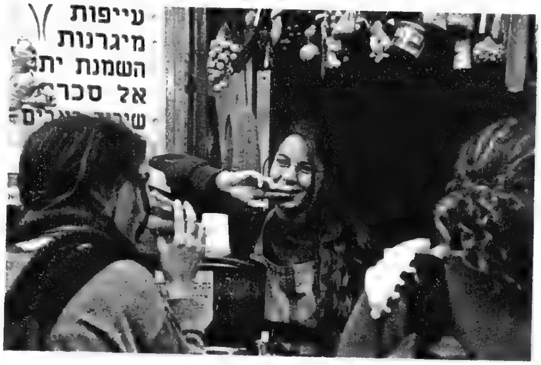
Playing, east Jerusalem



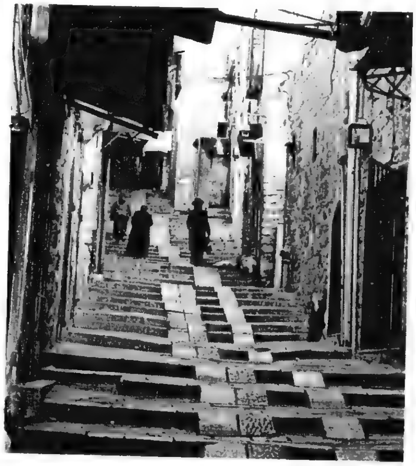
YMCA Peace Kindergarten for Arab and Jewish Children



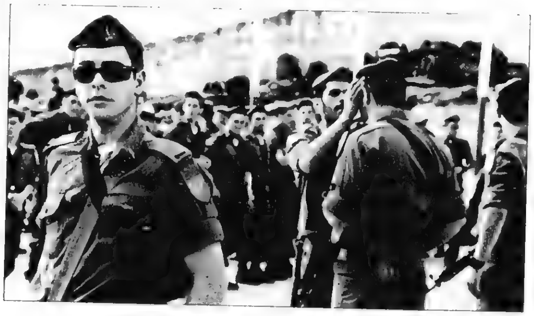
Teachers at Jewish-Arab-Christian school, Hand in Hand



Tasting Herbal Etrog Juice, Machane Yehuda Market



In Tandem, Old City



Soldier's Inauguration, Western Wall

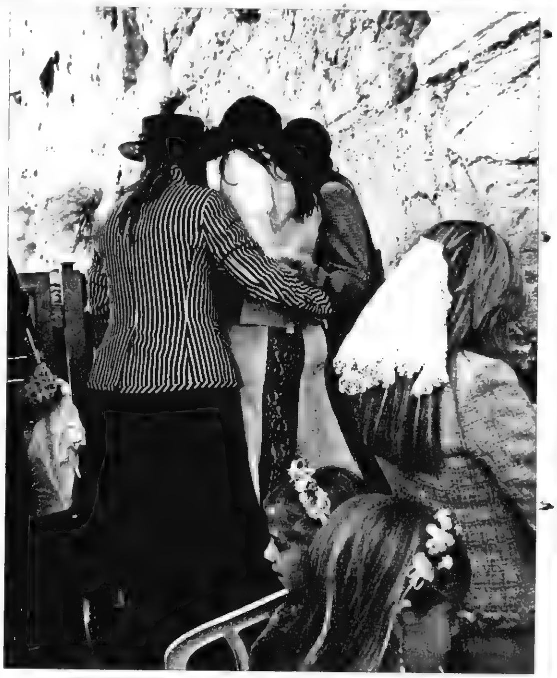
Renowned Toronto photographer Beverley Abramson was in Jerusalem earlier this year as a guest of the Jerusalem Foundation. She walked with her camera through the streets, alleyways, squares, playgrounds and coffee shops of the city. This is a small sampling of the photos she took, which she calls "In Harmony." They reflect selected glints and sparks of the compelling and always poignant diversity of life that pulsates through the beautiful ancient-modern city. Photographs from her most recent work in Israel will be on exhibit in October at the Jerusalem Centre for the Performing Arts and at Mishkenot Sha'ananim as part of the Jerusalem Foundation's celebration of the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

A photo essay by Beverley Abramson 2007

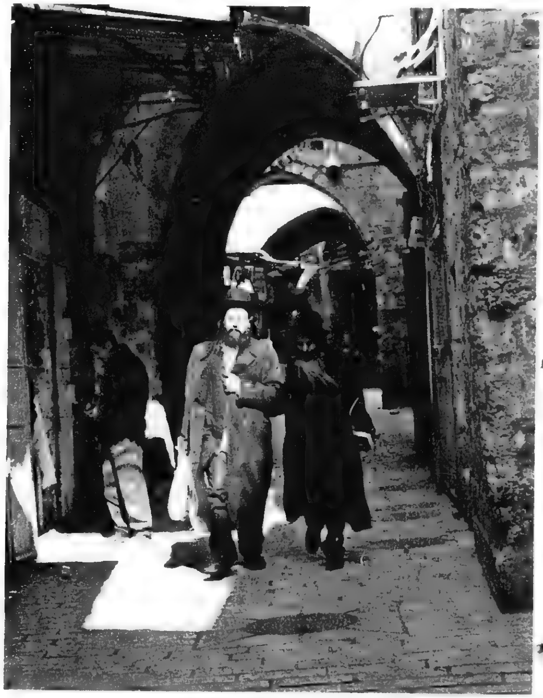
Lunchtime, Machane Yehuda Marketplace

Sharing an Etrog, Machane Yehuda Market

Picking Peppers, Machane Yehuda Market



Bar Mitzvah family, Women's section, Western Wall



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Powerful exhibit features Jewish and Muslim photographers. *Page 37*

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VE-Day in Jerusalem

Last week in Jerusalem, Russian-born Israeli veterans of World War II marked the 62nd anniversary of the victory in Europe – VE-Day. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert paid tribute in the Knesset to the 1.5 million Jewish fighters, soldiers and partisans who fought the Nazis. About 30,000 men and women in British Mandate Palestine fought with British forces against the Germans during the war. *[Isranet photo]*

Polish priest straddles Jewish and Christian worlds

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

It's not uncommon today for adoptive parents to tell their children at a fairly young age that they are adopted.

Of course, that's not the case every time or in every country.

Take Father Romuald Jakub Weksler-Waszkinel for instance. Born in 1943 in Nazi-occupied Europe, he grew up in a Roman Catholic home in Poland, well-loved and secure in his identity. Seeking to attain a more spiritual life, he entered a theological seminary at 17 – against his father's wishes – and was a priest for 12 years before he learned, at age 35, who his biological parents were.

That was on Feb. 23, 1978, and it's a date he considers his second birthday. It was then that his mother told him what she had withheld from him all those years – that he had been born in the small Lithuanian town of Swieciany, near Vilnius, to Jewish parents. His mother didn't know their names, only that they had another child, a four-year-old boy named Samuel, and that his birth mother was desperate to save her newborn son from death at the hands of the Nazis.

It was a life-altering moment for Father Weksler-Waszkinel, made all the more incredible by the pleas his Jewish mother made to his Polish mother, Emily, who herself was on the run from the Nazis. "She said, 'You are Christian. You believe in Jesus Christ. He was a Jew. Save my son in the name of the person you

Continued on page 6

Father Romuald
Jakub Weksler-Waszkinel

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Aboriginal leader sees Israel as model for his people — see page 23

The News in Brief

CANADA

Condolences Sent

OTTAWA — Israel's ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker, sent condolences last week to family and friends of Cpl. Benoit Chevalier, the lone Canadian peacekeeper among nine members of the Multinational Force and Observers who died in a May 6 plane crash in the Sinai Peninsula. Baker expressed gratitude to the force. "There are several different types of soldiers in the world, but the one who chooses to become a peacekeeper is a special breed," he said.

York U Settles Suit

TORONTO — York University settled a lawsuit earlier this month by a student who was suspended for his role in two noisy anti-Israel protests. Daniel Freeman-Maloy was suspended for three years in 2004 for using a megaphone during two indoor anti-Israel protests on campus while classes were in session. York withdrew the suspension after three months, and Freeman-Maloy, 24, sued York president Lorna Marsden for $850,000, saying she defamed him and harmed his earning prospects. "The terms of the settlement of the lawsuit, which are mutually satisfactory, are confidential," York said in a May 3 statement. Freeman-Maloy will be a graduate student in political science at York this fall.

Jewish Vets Honoured

VICTORIA — B.C. Lieut.-Gov. Iona Campagnolo and Victoria Mayor Alan Lowe attended a May 8 ceremony at Victoria's Congregation Emanu-el to honour Jewish Canadian World War II veterans on the 62nd anniversary of V-E Day, the end of the war in Europe. More than 200 people attended the event, and Lowe declared May 8 to be "Honouring Jewish Veterans of World War II Day" in Victoria.

WORLD

Israeli Lands In Iran

TEHRAN — An Israeli businessman became a guest of Iran after his flight made an emergency landing. Benny Medvediev spent a day in Tehran earlier this month after the plane he was flying on from Turkey to India landed because of technical problems. The crew wouldn't let him wait on the plane, so he had to disembark with the other passengers. He said Iranian officials treated him well despite his nationality. He was the sole Israeli among the group, which also included a Jewish couple from Britain. "For the first hour, I was scared to death," he told *Yediot Achronot* May 6. "But soon enough I realized that Iranians do not have horns. They were really wonderful to me and even invited me to return to Tehran. I told them, 'Come on, let's make peace and I'll invite you to Jerusalem.'" After a day's wait at Tehran's airport, the passengers reboarded the plane and flew to Mumbai.

KLM-Nazi Link Cited

AMSTERDAM — A Dutch film claims that KLM Airlines helped Nazis without legal travel papers escape to Argentina via Switzerland after World War II. The documentary, which aired this month on Dutch TV, cited documents it says came from U.S., Swiss, Argentine and Dutch archives. The former state airline, now part of Air France, said its own checks didn't reveal such evidence, and it will likely seek an impartial probe into the matter.

Lauder May Run For WJC President

NEW YORK — Ronald Lauder moved to clear the way for a possible run for World Jewish Congress president.

On May 8, the cosmetic mogul's lawyer sent a letter to the WJC's American section warning that the selection process must be in accordance with WJC bylaws. Lauder, a former WJC treasurer, is president of the Jewish National Fund and an ex-president of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Edgar Bronfman, WJC president for nearly 30 years, resigned May 7 at a WJC steering committee meeting, capping weeks of turmoil following the firing of Rabbi Israel Singer, a longtime senior WJC official, in March.

Founded in Geneva in 1936, the WJC is the umbrella group for more than 100 local communities. It had been under a cloud since the revelation several years ago that Rabbi Singer secretly transferred $1.2 million (US) of WJC money to a Swiss bank account. The cash was later returned, but critics say the transfer was never fully explained. A 2006 report by the New York State Attorney General's Office found no evidence of criminality, but it criticized the group for lax record-keeping and said Rabbi Singer violated his fiduciary duties by moving money around without proper authorization.

Bronfman declined interview requests last week. But his associate, WJC secretary general Stephen Herbits, said Bronfman left because the issue with Rabbi Singer had been resolved. "Bronfman has been trying to leave for six years. Now he is free to retire because the matter with Singer is closed," Herbits told JTA.

Suspect Transferred

SAN FRANCISCO — A New Jersey man who allegedly assaulted Holocaust survivor, writer and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel flew to San Francisco to face charges. City police picked up Eric Hunt on May 10 from a jail in Somerville N.J., where he was being held. His charges include attempted kidnapping, false imprisonment, elder abuse, stalking, battery and the commission of a hate crime. Hunt, 22, allegedly posed as a journalist to accost Wiesel, 78, at a peace forum at a San Francisco Hotel on Feb. 1. He was arrested Feb. 17 after allegedly boasting about the assault on a Holocaust denial blog.

Service Denied

BALTIMORE — A Maryland food co-op apologized after a pro-Israel student was refused service. In late April, a cashier at the Maryland Food Collective told the student that her "I Stand With Israel" T-shirt was offensive and refused to serve her, according to the University of Maryland's student newspaper. Another worker helped her, but she left the store "emotionally distraught," said Avi Mayer, president of the Pro-Israel Terrapin Alliance. Jewish students attended the collective's weekly meeting April 30, where workers asserted their right to deny service to anyone they chose. However, one worker said the co-op's policy on service will be reviewed.

The Canadian Jewish news

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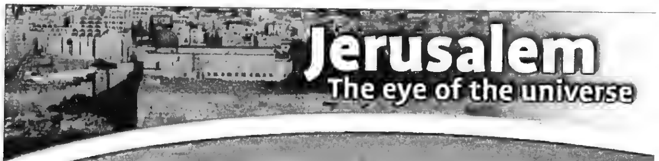

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The Canadian Jewish news

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USDS Vaughan move to be delayed, modified

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

United Synagogue Day School has postponed its plans to open a new branch at the Lebovic community campus in Vaughan in September 2008. Instead, it will likely open in 2009 with a scaled-down version of the original planned school.

The plans to open in 2009 are "as definite as one can ever be" when talking about buildings that are not yet built, said Wendy Bellack-Viner, president of the school's board of directors.

As recently as last June, USDS "committed that all students will be able to attend classes at the new campus" in September 2008, according to an article on UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's website.

Parents were initially notified of the delay in a Feb. 6 letter to USDS parents and staff written by Bellack-Viner and Brian Klar, executive vice-president and chair of the board of directors. The letter, which was followed by a town-hall meeting in March, was sent to parents so they would have the information before the deadline for re-registration, said Bellack-Viner.

In it, they wrote that the board "remains fully committed to the project," but that it is not feasible to open in 2008. They cited challenges "including municipal approvals, capital fundraising, construction schedules, and the financial feasibility of operating a full complement of classes from kindergarten to Grade 8."

One possibility, the letter stated, is to open with initial classes in preschool and Grade 1 only, with subsequent grades being added each year.

"Our aim is to open with as many grades as possible," Bellack-Viner told *The CJN*.

On a question-and-answer page that was distributed by the board of directors at the March meeting, the reason for the delay was said to be that "it does not appear that capital fundraising targets could be met within the necessary time frame."

Beit Rayim Synagogue, the school's partner on the campus, is planning to open in spring 2009, said Bellack-Viner. The congregation rented space at USDS's Richmond Hill branch from 1993 until it was sold last year, and is now in temporary premises.

USDS currently has two campuses, one at Beth Tikvah Synagogue on Bayview Avenue, and the other at Beth Tzedec Congregation on Bathurst Street south of Eglinton Avenue The third campus in Richmond Hill was closed in 2006, and 136 students – about two-thirds of those who were not graduating – transferred to the Bayview campus, presumably on a temporary basis.

Bellack-Viner, interviewed last month, said that fundraising would begin soon and that the school was still in the process of assessing its financial needs.

"There were some people who were understandably very frustrated and disappointed" by the delay, said Bellack-Viner, who apologized to parents on behalf of the board at the March meeting. She also emphasized the importance of the school being "open" with parents and urged families who live in the northern areas to become involved in the school's plans.

A second meeting was in the works for this week, said Bellack-Viner. The agenda will focus largely on fundraising, but she said it was too early to say how much the school needs.

Some "who were upset have come forward and said they were going to stay with USDS," she said. "That's very encouraging. We really see them as the future of the community."

Among them is Rich Dlin, the father of two children, one in Grade 4 and one in senior kindergarten. Both his children attended the Richmond Hill campus.

"We thought about not moving them [to the Bayview branch]," said Dlin, speaking for himself and his wife Marla.

They chose to remain with USDS because it best matched their own philosophy and their children could remain with the friends they had made.

"Many Richmond Hill families felt betrayed – myself included," Dlin told *The CJN* in an e-mail that elaborated on what he had said in a phone interview. Many of them "were prepared to leave USDS – not only because shifting our children to the Bayview campus would result in an extra 60 minutes or more of travel time per day, but also out of extreme anger and frustration."

Continued on page 25

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Greater Toronto Area

Failing to connect the dots

From the editor's desk

At one time or another, when we were young, most of us played a connect-the-dots game.

It wasn't an especially exciting game. But it taught us how to follow the natural path of our curiosity. It also taught us to withhold forming conclusions until most, if not all, of the relevant information was at hand. The image of the drawing on the page would emerge only in relation to the number of the dots we had connected. The more dots we joined, the truer the image we saw.

The lessons we learned instinctively as youngsters after we saw the importance of connecting all the dots seem to have been forgotten by many of the journalists who write about Israel and its conflict with the Palestinian Authority. They ignore the dots, let alone try to connect them, before drawing their negative conclusions about Israel.

A case in point was coverage last week, in some papers, of the economic crisis confronting the Palestinians. The trigger for the stories was the release of a report by the World Bank that criticized Israeli restrictions on Palestinian movement in the West Bank.

As reported by the *JTA*, World Bank official David Craig said that the security fence and military crackdowns against Palestinian terrorism had effectively broken up the West Bank into 10 enclaves. "Palestinian economic revival is predicated on an integrated economic entity with freedom of movement between the West Bank and Gaza and within the West Bank," he said.

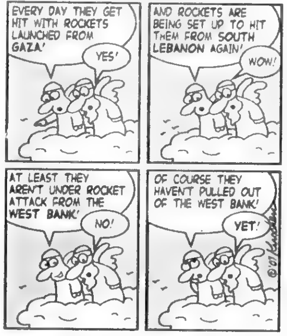
Picking up on the World Bank's report, *Globe and Mail* reporter Carolynne Wheeler, in an article ostensibly about the financial hardships suffered by Palestinian Authority employees and their families wrote: "Heavy checkpoints and permit systems inside the West Bank, imposed by Israel *in the name of its citizens' security* (my emphasis) also limit the PA's ability to raise money through the local economy."

It may be hyper-sensitivity on my part, but I cannot avoid feeling that Wheeler writes the words "in the name of its citizens' security," virtually sneering them onto the page, begrudgingly, as a concession to journalistic canon, but disbelieving that there might be any truth in them.

The "dot" the World Bank and Wheeler appear content to disregard or at least significantly discount is the terrorism that the Palestinian leadership unceasingly encourages and attempts to export into Israel.

It is the commitment by the Palestinian government and a large sector of Palestinian society to the murder of Israelis that necessitates the "heavy checkpoints and permit systems inside the West Bank." Were Israel still in control of the Gaza Strip, the checkpoints and permit systems would undoubtedly be imposed there as well.

Dry Bones AN OVERVIEW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NO!
OF COURSE THEY HAVEN'T PULLED OUT OF THE WEST BANK'
YET!
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It is not surprising that a society ruled by a government that steadfastly refuses to recognize the legitimacy of its neighbour and that abjectly refuses to abandon the use of violence and terror against it will become a twisted construct of perverse priorities, focused more on bringing down its neighbour rather than on building up its own territory.

Is it any wonder then, that an officially sanctioned collective agenda of "let's annihilate our neighbours" would produce childrens' television programming such as Farfur, the Mickey Mouse clone, whose enlightened message to his young viewers is hatred and contempt for Jews and Israelis? (See "According to Reports" in this issue.)

In the heyday of "Oslo," before former Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat let loose his strategy of suicide terror, the Palestinian economy boomed. Palestinian commerce and industry were in a state of constant expansion.

But after the launch of the terror war against it, as a measure of self-defence, Israel implemented the checkpoints, the permit system and then, as a final, sad concession to the intractability of certain Palestinian leaders' true intentions toward the Jewish state, it built the security fence.

Every other state in the world, caught in a similar situation, would have reacted at least the same way as Israel. Many others would have been far harsher and far more radical in dealing with the constant, mortal threat to its people.

Should the Palestinian ruling class not be held accountable at all for the pitiful condition of the society they lead?

Where are the billions of dollars stolen and misappropriated by the previous, Arafat-led, generation of leaders in the bloom days of Oslo?

Aren't these rather large dots to ignore in the overall picture of Palestinian suffering?

Israel's Deputy Defence Minister Ephraim Sneh tried to connect the dots for the World Bank spokesperson. He reminded Israel's critics of two key points:

- The World Bank vastly overstated the number of roadblocks in the West Bank by using data of the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
- What is making the life of Palestinians in the West Bank difficult is terrorism, not Israel.

If, as youngsters, we would have behaved as so many modern journalists behave today, we would have never seen the full, true picture.

Alas, neither do they. – ***MBD***

SeeJN

SONSHINES HONOURED AT YAD VASHEM: Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, recently paid tribute to Ed and Fran Sonshine of Toronto for their ongoing support of Holocaust remembrance. The Sonshines, both children of Holocaust survivors, are known for their philanthropy. Edward Sonshine was born in 1947 in a displaced persons camp in Bergen Belsen in Germany. Fran Sonshine was born the same year in a displaced persons camp in Cyprus. Yad Vashem chair Avner Shaalev (left) is seen with the Sonshines at the tribute ceremony at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem

[Yad Vashem photo]

Ed & Fran Sonshi

Lebanon war a wakeup call for Israel, analyst says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Last summer's war in Lebanon, the second since 1982, was both a failure and a wakeup call for Israel, Israeli analyst Gabriel Ben-Dor said last week.

Speaking at Holy Blossom Temple, he charged that Israel entered the war, its longest since 1948, "badly prepared."

Nor did Israel conduct the war with a systematic plan or its customary decisiveness and aggressiveness, said the Haifa University political scientist as he delivered the first of two annual Harry Posen Memorial Lectures.

The Israeli chief of staff and the defence minister should have known that the primary threat to Israel's security was posed by a "northeast triangle" composed of Hezbollah and its allies, Iran and Syria, and that Israel should have taken military steps to "dismantle" it.

Ben-Dor, and director of Haifa University's National Security Study Centre, disclosed that he and several colleagues submitted a paper on this potentially dangerous situation to the chief of staff and defence minister about six months before the outbreak of the war in mid-July, but it was ignored.

Suggesting that Israel is no longer complacent about Hezbollah's capabilities, Ben-Dor said the Israel Defence Force needs to be reformed with respect to doctrine, personnel, training and acquisition of state-of-the-art technology.

"The IDF has to be reformed, retrained and revived in spirit," he said. "Major changes have to be introduced."

In the future, Israel will be required to have access to better intelligence data, a more efficient anti-missile system, a better integrated land force and a bigger defence budget, he added.

Expressing anger and disappointment over the way Israel's leadership managed the war, Ben-Dor ripped into Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, whose performance was recently castigated by the Winograd Commission.

Olmert, Peretz should resign immediately, says Ben-Dor

Olmert and Defence Minister Amir Peretz should be held accountable and resign immediately. "They should go! A failure of this kind should not be forgiven."

Saving his greatest scorn for Olmert, Ben-Dor said that he is part of the problem and not the solution. "He should not be cleaning up his mess."

He called for a national unity government led by Shimon Peres, currently the deputy prime minister. He also recommended that the new defence and finance ministers should be Ehud Barak and Benjamin Netanyahu. Barak, the former prime minister, is a Labor party leadership contender, while Netanyahu, also an ex-prime minister, is leader of the Likud party.

In an analysis of the war, Ben-Dor said Israel had no reason to be surprised by the war, since Hezbollah had amassed a stockpile of 13,500 Iranian and Syrian rockets aimed at the Galilee.

Israel declared war hastily, carried out operations slowly, relied too much on air power, had no clear objectives and underestimated Hezbollah, he observed.

In addition, he said Israel should have committed more army divisions to the major land offensive it launched in the last three days of the conflict and should have moved to the Litani River faster so as to isolate Hezbollah fighters.

Pronouncing the war a failure from Israel's point of view, Ben-Dor pointed out that Israel failed to crush Hezbollah, as Olmert had promised, nor did Israel obtain the release of the two soldiers abducted by Hezbollah.

At best, he said, the war was a draw. "Psychologically, maybe we lost."

According to Ben-Dor, Israel's elite never really came to terms with the fact Israel was at war. "You might say we blew it. We did not win. We could have won."

Israel, having concentrated its military efforts on combating Palestinian terrorism in the West Bank and Gaza, was not ready for the kind of war imposed by Hezbollah.

Even on the last day of the war, Hezbollah gunners managed to fire more than 200 missiles into Israel, he said.

In short, Israel failed to deter Hezbollah, notwithstanding an admission after the war by its secretary general, Hassan Nasrallah, that he would not have started it had he known that Israel would respond so ferociously.

Iran may have encouraged Hezbollah to launch hostilities to shift attention away from its controversial nuclear program, he noted.

Ben-Dor said that Israel's policy of unilateral disengagement from the territories, as originally formulated by former prime minister Ariel Sharon, is as good as dead due to the "intransigence" of Hamas and Hezbollah. Neither Hamas nor Hezbollah wants a peaceful accommodation with Israel.

Israel's real enemy is radical Islam rather than Arab nationalism, he warned.

Ben-Dor said that the focus of Israel's concerns should be on weak Arab states rather than strong ones.

Weak states, such as Lebanon, tolerate armed militias like Hezbollah. Similarly, the weak and divided Palestinian Authority fosters extremism.

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‘My message is to be grateful to the Jewish people’

Continued from page 1

believe in and when he grows up, he will become a priest.’”

“My mother couldn’t refuse,” Father Weksler-Waszkinel said through an interpreter. “It would have meant refusing Christ, denying her own faith.”

She agreed to take the infant and in 1945, she, her husband, Peter, and Romuald moved back to Poland to avoid living under the Soviets.

Today, Father Weksler-Waszkinel is a professor at the University of Lublin in Poland and he travels the world telling his story and appealing for tolerance. He was in Toronto last week as a guest of the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada. During his visit, he spoke at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre and at St. Michael’s College, where his address examined Vatican II and its teachings about Jews and Judaism.

As a man who straddles two worlds, Father Weksler-Waszkinel believes “my role is to show the deep roots of the Catholic Church. These deep roots are Judaism.

“My message is to be grateful to the Jewish people for the roots of the Christian religion.”

A disciple of the late Pope, John Paul II, Father Weksler-Waszkinel echoes his mentor’s message about Jews: “If you meet Christ, you meet Judaism, so there should be gratitude. For centuries, there had been accusations that Jews murdered Christ, that God rejected Jews and that Christians had taken over the role of Jews. These were big errors,” he said.

“In the 19th century, they poisoned the climate of Christianity, and when Hitler started to proclaim his hatred of the Jews, he was able to collect [on] this hatred. Christianity has to be aware of its own sin and responsibility. This was the message of John Paul II. I am his disciple and it is obvious to me that that is my mission. It is the need of my heart.”

> ***‘My role is to show the deep roots of the Catholic Church. These deep roots are Judaism’***

More than just his disciple, Father Weksler-Waszkinel studied under Karol Wojtyla in seminary and considers the late Pope his mentor. When he first learned of his Jewish roots, he wrote a letter to the Pope telling his story but asking him to keep it secret. “The Pope responded in a beautiful letter that started ‘My beloved brother,’ and saying he would pray for my Jewish parents.”

It took 14 years for Father Weksler-Waszkinel to learn their identities.

While listening to the confession of a nun, he comforted her by saying one shouldn’t be afraid and that he himself had been saved five minutes before midnight.

Afterwards, the sister offered her help. She had saved many Jewish children during the Holocaust and asked – in reference to his statement of avoiding death – whether he was a Jewish child.

“I started to cry. I didn’t know anything about my Jewish parents,” except that his father was a tailor kept left alive after the first wave of killings because he performed a task deemed useful by the Nazis, he said.

The nun began contacting friends in Israel, and in 1992, she met a group of Jewish survivors from the Lithuanian town where Father Weksler-Waszkinel was born. The survivors immediately recognized his father as Yankele (Jacob) Weksler, who had a son named Samuel. They opened a memorial book of the town and there was a picture of his mother, Batia, who was described as the president of the local Zionist society.

“The sister returned to me in Lublin and brought me a picture of my Jewish mother and she is very much like me.”

It was the only picture of the Weksler family. No others survived the war.

He learned that his mother and Samuel had likely been sent to Sobibor in late 1943, where they were killed. His father survived a little longer in Riga, where he was sent for forced labour. He is believed to have met his end at another Nazi camp, Stutthof.

With his family name in hand, Father Weksler-Waszkinel embarked on a visit to Israel, where he met his uncle, Zvi Weksler, and an aunt. His uncle recognized him immediately as he walked in the terminal. “How do you know me?” Father Weksler-Waszkinel asked.

“You walk like your father,” his uncle replied.

Back in Poland, Father Weksler-Waszkinel wrote another letter to Pope John Paul II, telling him his story was no longer secret and asking whether he could add the names “Weksler” and “Jakub” (for Yankele) to his baptismal names in honour of his Jewish parents. He received a letter in response addressed to Father Romuald Jakub Weksler-Waszkinel, the name he goes by today.

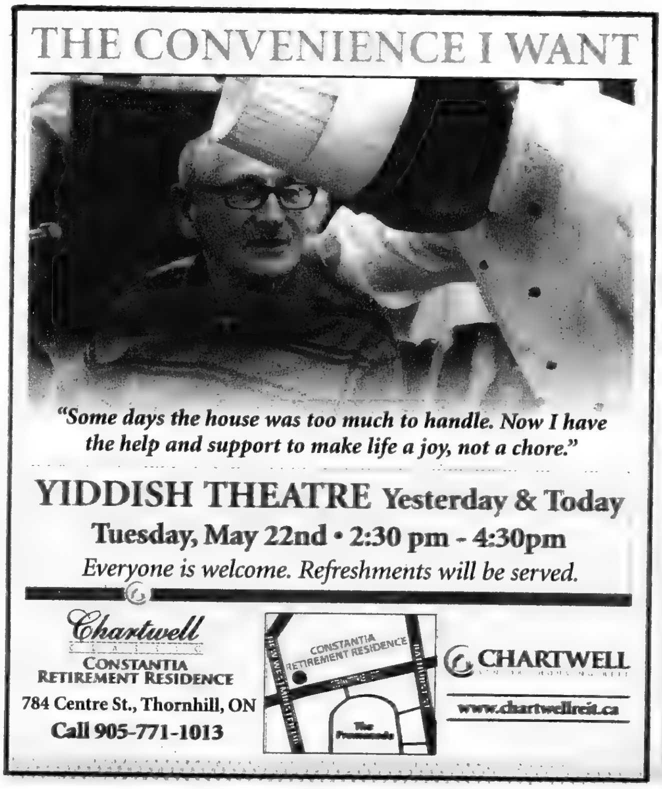
Ironically, his father, Peter, had opposed his choice of the priesthood. He learned from his mother that it disturbed him greatly and he took it hard. Peter recalled Batia’s pleas, but “he did not want the burden of being a Catholic priest [placed] on a Jewish child,” Father Weksler-Waszkinel said.

His father died of a heart attack at age 52 while Romuald was enrolled in the seminary. It almost prompted him to withdraw, but on further consideration, he decided to remain. “I though his death paid for the time in the seminary. Maybe it was a sign for me to stay.”

Father Weksler-Waszkinel knows that some Poles today don’t consider him a proper Catholic and some Jews don’t view him as really Jewish.

His response?

“I consider myself from Jesus’ synagogue. Jesus is my rabbi. He was a Jew, so I say I am a Jew from Jesus and I would like to love Jews as much as he loved them.”



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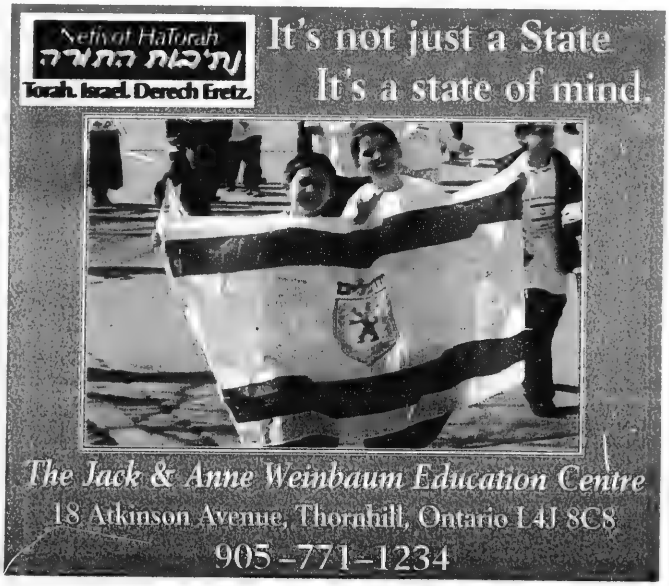

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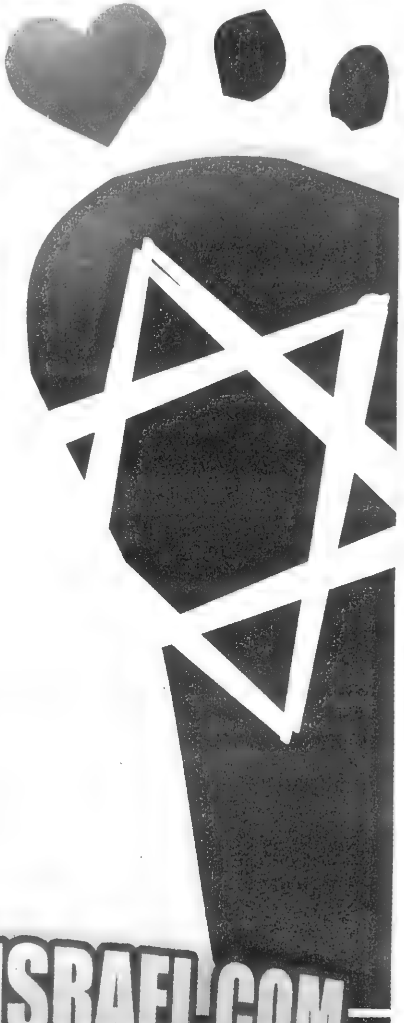

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United behind an undivided capital

On the eve of the 40th anniversary this week of Yom Yerushalayim, the reunification of Jerusalem, the widely respected Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies released a poll conducted for it by the Tazpit Research Institute concerning Israelis' attitudes to Jerusalem.

The results were quite staggering and gratifying.

As reported in *Ha'aretz*, an overwhelming 96 per cent of Israeli Jews are against relinquishing the Western Wall, even in exchange for lasting peace and ending the dispute over Jerusalem. Equally eye-opening, some 89 per cent of Israeli Jews are unwilling to give up the Temple Mount in exchange for the promise of lasting peace and ending the dispute with the Palestinians.

These results lead to two very important observations.

First: Most Israeli Jews simply no longer believe that territorial concessions in Jerusalem would in fact bring peace with the Palestinians. Some 44 per cent of Israeli Jews were far more willing to give up the Arab neighborhoods of East Jerusalem, as long as Israel retained the Western Wall and the Jewish Quarter. Sadly, 76 per cent believe peace is unattainable. Only 20 per cent said they believed peace could be reached in return for territorial concessions in Jerusalem. This belief was undoubtedly fashioned out of the recent experiences of unilateral Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

Second: Even in the hearts of the least observant, Jerusalem ignites a kindling that is very deep in the Jewish soul.

It was against the background of the release of the poll's findings that the ambassadors from the United States and the European Union announced that they would not attend the special Knesset celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification.

The EU and the United States regard east Jerusalem to be "occupied" or at least, "disputed" territory whose future will have to be determined in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

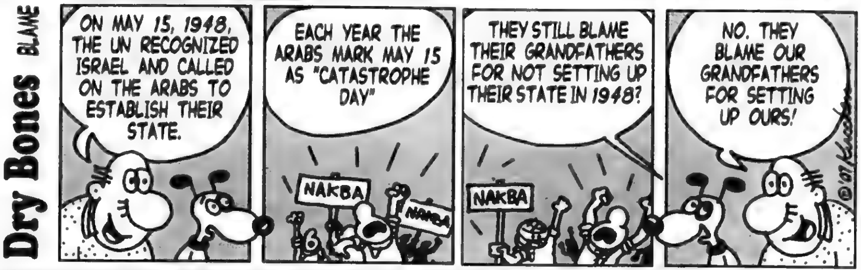
The spokesperson for the EU delegation in Jerusalem said the decision to avoid the events celebrating the reunification of Jerusalem "is not only the position of the EU, but of broad sections of the international community, and is in line with our position regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict."

And so, the EU missed yet another opportunity to affirm values of integrity over expediency and to ground its Middle East policy in the reality of the vibrant, united city and in the honesty of its irrefutable history and connection to the Jewish state.

It is the people of Israel – and the Jews around the world – who confirm "legitimacy" on Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel. The notion has its roots in the soil of collective Jewish yearning for more than 2,000 years. And it is impermeable to the diplomatic distortions in which the EU and United States find themselves, in craven deference to the Arab regimes.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Talks between Egypt and Israel on self-rule for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza were stymied by Egypt's refusal to meet in Jerusalem. Previous talks had been held near Cairo, in Washington and in Tel Aviv. The talks were assumed to be leading to an independent Palestinian state.


Dry Bones
BLAME
ON MAY 15, 1948, THE UN RECOGNIZED ISRAEL AND CALLED ON THE ARABS TO ESTABLISH THEIR STATE.
EACH YEAR THE ARABS MARK MAY 15 AS "CATASTROPHE DAY"
NAKBA
NAKBA
THEY STILL BLAME THEIR GRANDFATHERS FOR NOT SETTING UP THEIR STATE IN 1948?
NAKBA
NO. THEY BLAME OUR GRANDFATHERS FOR SETTING UP OURS!
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Nazis responsible for the Holocaust

The former chief rabbi of Israel, Mordechai Eliyahu, has opined that the Shoah was the result of what Jews did, and not the Nazis ("Former chief rabbi accused of Holocaust slander," *CJN*, April 26). Specifically, he remarked that the Shoah was God's punishment to the Jews for the development of Reform Judaism. In particular, Rabbi Eliyahu noted that Germany was the birthplace of both Reform Judaism and Nazism. He argued that this was no coincidence.

Jewish communities throughout the world are engaged in a serious battle to disarm those who argue that the Holocaust never happened, or that it was far less serious than it actually was. But we also need to ensure that theologically the people to blame for the horrific, numbing crime of the Holocaust are its true and real perpetrators – the Nazis. To suggest that Reform Jews or Reform Judaism are responsible for the Holocaust is in essence to absolve the Nazis of their crime. This cannot be permitted, or done. The Nazis were the criminals, and the Shoah is their crime, and their crime alone.

AND THE WINNER OF THE MR. JEWISH FESTIVAL IS...
PESACH
SHAVUOT

The Toronto Board of Rabbis affirms in an unequivocal voice the idea of *Kol Yisrael areivim zeh lazeh* – that all Jews share a bond, and that our common history, our shared values and our love of the Jewish nation bind us with affinity and love to each other. This does not mean that we need to agree on all things, but it does mean that we need to respect, tolerate and never demonize one another. In truth, the only lesson to come from the Shoah is that there is no lesson to be learned – it is a horror far too large to provide one. In the face of such massive inhumanity, we stand to answer with only silence, and determination to continue and never to cease.

Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich
President
Toronto Board of Rabbis

* * *

Toronto is not all of Canada

I was disappointed that no attempt was made to ascertain the opinions of Conservative rabbis west of the Manitoba/Ontario border, or east of the Quebec/New Brunswick border in the article "Local rabbis decry JTS move to admit gays" (*CJN*, April 5). Nor did you seek out local non-rabbinic opinions in Toronto, which might have differed from this view. Had you done so, you might have discovered a more balanced view, and you certainly would have discovered that the Toronto rabbis do not necessarily speak for all Canadian rabbis or all Canadian conservative Jews. This Canadian conservative Jew, for one, applauds the decision.

Although there are issues unique to the Canadian congregations in the Conservative movement, they are not going to be solved by forming a separate Canadian Conservative movement, as suggested by Rabbi Steven Saltzman and Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl. One of those issues is the small number of congregations relative to the physical size of the country. How would it help to contract into our own little shell without the wide resources of the United Synagogue or its rabbinical and cantorial assemblies?

Canadian Conservative Jews make up almost 30 congregations from Victoria, B.C, to Halifax, N.S. It would be very interesting to know how many of these congregations and their rabbis agree or disagree with the views of the Toronto rabbis on that one issue.

Irving M. Nitkin
Vancouver

* * *

CJC and day school funding

Seeking $15 million grants from the provincial government may not stop UJA Federation and CJC from advocating for fair funding for faith-based schools, as claimed by federation spokesperson Howard English, but it clearly dampens their willingness to support the kind of grassroots political action that is needed if such funding is to become a reality ("Ontario gives UJA Federation $15 million grant for new JCCs," *CJN*, May 10).

One can see this clearly by comparing the CJC website, www.fundingfairness.ca, on this issue with the website of Parents for Equality in Education Funding (PEEF), www.equalfunding.org, an independent grassroots advocacy organization dedicated to this issue. The CJC website does not use the word "discrimination" even once, and does not refer to the United Nations decision that found that Ontario's current official religious discrimination violates binding international human rights law. Unlike the PEEF website, the CJC website does not set out any concrete grassroots activities that members of the community can take to advance the fair funding cause.

CJC and federation do a lot of good work for the community. They need to be honest, however, about the limitations that this creates and work co-operatively with organizations such as PEEF, which is dedicated solely and without compromise to taking the political action needed to obtain fair funding.

Alexander Werner
Toronto

LET THEM GO…

Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Ehud Goldwasser, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz, Eldad Regev, Gilad Shalit

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The European Union must act in Darfur

By JOSCHKA FISCHER

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BRINGING
BACK THE
LIGHT
DARFUR
save
arfur

Israelis protested two weeks ago in Tel Aviv against the genocide in Darfur. **[Israel Sun photo]**

For four years, violence and terror have ruled in Darfur. After many futile efforts, the European Union must get tough with the perpetrators.

Joschka Fischer

Darfur is a humanitarian catastrophe: more than 200,000 dead, thousands raped and tortured, and 2.6 million people displaced, owing to the Sudanese government's war against its own people. Originally an anti-insurgency effort, the campaign quickly mutated into a killing and expulsion operation. Sudan's government has been recruiting and paying the local Janjaweed militiamen, who have attacked hundreds of defenceless villages and towns, often in close co-ordination with the Sudanese air force.

The consequences are devastating. Roughly a third of Darfur's population has been forced from their homes and are now in displaced persons camps inside Sudan, where they remain subject to the Janjaweed terror, or in equally vulnerable refugee settlements in Chad. International humanitarian efforts to help those in Sudan are hampered by Sudanese government harassment and pointless bureaucratic hassles. Even if the aid arrives, the point, to quote one senior UN official, seems to be "keeping people alive with our humanitarian assistance until they are massacred."

Darfur demands consistent and firm international action. We all bear responsibility to help the displaced return to their homes. In the last three years, the UN Security Council has passed 10 resolutions requiring the Sudanese government to change course and fulfil its obligation to protect its own people. These include a demand from the Security Council to disarm the Janjaweed. Yet the Sudanese government never follows through on its repeated promises to do so.

In November 2004, a peaceful solution was within reach, when the government and rebels signed a ceasefire and humanitarian agreement. For a short moment, there was reason to hope that peace was at hand. A Security Council resolution and international negotiation efforts had paved the way to end the 20-year war in southern Sudan – a breakthrough that in fact led to a deal signed by the government and southern rebels in January 2005. At that time, it appeared that a similar breakthrough in western Sudan would follow.

But the worst was yet to come. After an apparent lull in aerial bombardments, the planes soon returned, and the Janjaweed resumed their campaign of murder and destruction. The next round of peace negotiations, which opened in December 2004, stalled because the government launched a military offensive just as they started, in defiance of the ceasefire. This behaviour is symptomatic of the lack of respect Sudan's government has shown towards its obligations.

A Security Council resolution last August mandated a 20,300-strong UN peacekeeping force to replace the small and overwhelmed African Union (AU) mission currently on the ground. Not surprisingly, the government in Khartoum rejected the idea. Subsequent negotiations led to a compromise agreement in November for a hybrid AU-UN force that would deploy in three stages. Talks continue to this day, but despite the occasional newspaper headline announcing a deal, the Sudanese government has been using every opportunity to delay or to attempt to add conditions to the force's mandate. The result is that the second phase of the deployment has still not taken place, even though it was accepted by Khartoum six months ago.

'Target the Sudanese government where it hurts most'

The heart of the matter is this: the Sudanese government is either unable or unwilling to protect its own citizens from mass violence. In accordance with the "responsibility to protect" doctrine, adopted unanimously by heads of state and government at the UN World Summit in September 2005, if a state fails to meet this primary obligation, responsibility shifts to the international community, which may exercise various measures, including, if absolutely necessary, military force.

But military intervention in Darfur without the Sudanese government's consent is not an option today. Not only is there insufficient political will for an international force, but, more importantly, there are valid doubts about the feasibility and prospects for the success of such an operation.

Even so, the international community still has options. Although it would be best if these options were adopted by the UN Security Council, the EU itself can and must act to increase the costs to the Sudanese government of its continued obstruction of aid deliveries and its delaying tactics on the deployment of international peacekeepers.

That is why it is so important that EU foreign ministers heed the European Parliament's call for serious sanctions against the Sudanese government, whose key players were clearly identified by the UN Commission of Inquiry on Darfur and Panel of Experts on Darfur. The EU must freeze these individuals' assets and impose an EU-wide travel ban on them.

In addition, measures should target the Sudanese government where it hurts most: revenue and foreign investment inflows into Sudan's petroleum sector, and supply of goods and services to that and associated sectors. The EU and its member states' governments must enact legislation to ban companies based in their countries from direct involvement in Sudan's petroleum sector and in industries related to it.

Moreover, an investigation into the offshore accounts of Sudanese businesses affiliated with the National Congress Party, the ruling majority party in Khartoum, should be launched, paving the way for sanctions against the regime's commercial entities, which form the main conduit for financing its Janjaweed proxies in Darfur.

Such targeted sanctions would affect the power and privileges of the key players in this crisis. By imposing them, Europe would finally take a real step toward stopping the killing in Darfur and extending meaningful help to its people.

Joschka Fischer, Germany's former foreign minister, is a member of the board of trustees of the International Crisis Group, www.crisisgroup.org.

Religion by surprise

Exploring Inner Space is a book by David Hay that appeared more than a quarter of a century ago. Its emphasis is on a survey in which people were asked to describe themselves religiously (believer, agnostic, atheist, etc.) and then answer questions about their experiences of the divine. It turned out that self-definition and self-disclosure had little to do with each other. Agnostics and atheists testified almost as often to religious experiences as did believers.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

I thought of the book when reading about the survey of religious attitudes in Israel, conducted just before last Pesach by the mass circulation daily *Yediot Achronot*. Though 50 per cent of Israeli Jews describe themselves as secular, 85 per cent say they believe in God and only 12 per cent say they are atheists.

Almost two-thirds of Israeli Jews make Kiddush on Friday night and roughly the same number of families light Shabbat candles. Some 70 per cent will not partake of chametz during Pesach. Another poll indicated that nine out of 10 Israeli Jews attended a seder this year.

The statistics baffle Christian missionaries. They say they only wish to convert "secular" Jews but find among them no less resistance than among "religious" Jews. Christians tend to judge others by their own theology, which makes a fundamental distinction between religious and secular. Many fail to realize that it doesn't hold water in Judaism. Even those Jews who use it and describe themselves as secular are not really secular in the true meaning of the term.

Many "secular" Israelis attend prayer meetings on Sabbaths and festivals, as well as Torah study sessions, usually without the benefit of clergy, though sometimes non-Orthodox rabbis are invited to lead. Of late, there is even a secular yeshiva where traditional texts are studied seriously. It announced recently that it intends to ordain rabbis who would offer spiritual counselling and perform life-cycle events.

The notion of modern Israel as a society where the choice is between "nothing" (consistent non-observance and non-belief) and "everything" (all-embracing and often harsh Orthodoxy) is no longer true. What is happening in Israel today may be much more akin to the world of the Bible, where the seemingly secular and the ostensibly religious co-mingled. Modern Jews who have adopted a terminology borrowed from the non-Jewish world may find themselves more religious than they imagined. They are religious by surprise, as it were.

The reason for this religiosity is rooted both in the inner quest by sensitive souls and in the belief that Israel can only be a Jewish state if Jews, irrespective of how they label themselves, do traditional Jewish things.

God works in mysterious ways and mercifully disregards the artificial categories human beings create for themselves. Hallelujah!

Travel that's rewarding and lasting

At this time last year, I was manoeuvring around unpaved streets, conversing in alien dialects and exploring an exotic land. With beaches, jungles, deserts and savannahs, the West African nation of Ghana was my first foray into the African sub-continent. And what an adventure it was.

While I may have stuck out like a sore thumb, I eventually enjoyed the inquisitive glances and the constant chorus of voices calling *obruni* (white man) in my direction. Like many Canadian youths, I had chosen to travel internationally after my third year of university. Wanting a first-hand experience as opposed to the theoretical learning from university textbooks, I scoured the Internet for the best possible internship opportunity in the developing world, and eventually settled on an intern position at Channel R Radio in Accra, Ghana's bustling capital of three million. With the station's slogan "all gospel, all the time," it might seem an odd choice for a Jewish Canadian university student.

I quickly learned that Christianity is everything in Ghana, and there's no doubt about it. From barbershops named "God is Good Hair Salon" to restaurants named "Hand of God Cooking," the in-your-face religion in that society is surprisingly refreshing. Where many North Americans view organized religion as structured and outdated at times, religion in Ghana unifies impoverished people through a mélange of new-age spiritualism. In the same way, education is heralded as a beacon of opportunity rather than a system of standardized tests.

Jonah Bretman in Ottawa

While my internship position provided the opportunity to obtain hands-on radio station experience by scripting the international and African daily news updates, the prospect of engaging with a completely foreign culture was most exciting to me. Visiting slave castles in Cape Coast, I was reminded of a Holocaust remembrance trip I attended in Poland some years ago. While the connection to African slaves is less direct, yet when one stands in these contrasting chambers of death, intolerance and inhumanity seem eerily universal.

While the all-gospel radio station showed me the dominant Christian tradition of Ghana, I had heard that there was an oppressed minority of – that's right – Ghanaian Jews. Venturing far off the beaten path, I discovered a tiny community, complete with prayer books, a donated Torah and a newly constructed synagogue. The House of Israel community in Sefwi Wiawso has practised kashrut and observed Shabbat for many years. Spending a quiet Shabbat afternoon with these geographically remote people made me feel unexpectedly at home, as if our common Jewish experience was enough to lessen the distance of our connection.

Ultimately though, my travels taught me that while all people are hypothetically born the same, few receive as many opportunities as we Canadians do. Realizing this, one cannot help but think of the Jewish tradition of tzdakat tikkun olam, the giving of charity for the benefit of the world.

But charity seems so one-sided. Today's youth is often engaged more in cross-cultural experiences that provide equal benefit to locals and the travellers themselves. By the end of my trip last year, I truly believed I had learned more in six weeks of adventuring than in four years of studying.

"Backpacking with a purpose," as some call it, has become the travel option of choice for many students. By creating a lasting change in the communities they visit, they make the experience of travel much more rewarding and lasting.

As this column goes to print, I will be leading a dozen Canadian university students of all faiths in constructing an orphanage dormitory in Ghana's impoverished northern region. Through planned long-term initiatives such as bike eco-tourism, microloan financing, girls' scholarship funds and a water borehole for a well, we aim to create lasting change by empowering locals.

Our participants come from a computer-enlightened age where virtual advertising has spread our proactive message of horizontal development to thousands of people at the touch of a button. These are the tools at the fingertips of 21st-century do-gooders. I urge all students of the world, young and old, to seek out and explore.

To learn more and stay updated on our adventures, check out www.thelotuskids.org. Also check for my next two columns, which will be sent from Ghana, and wish me luck!

Goodbye, but hopefully not farewell

In just a few short days, I will be graduating and leaving Halifax, my university home for the past four years. While working for the school newspaper during my second year at King's, my roommate and I penned a piece titled, "Homeward Bound, I wish I was…" The article consisted of interviews with Halifax students who shared their thoughts about home. The general thrust of the article was that an essential part of going away to university is getting used to having two homes – the one where your family lives and the other that you are building for yourself.

The article was full of the existential angst common to many second-year students. My roommate and I were pained about the growing disconnect between Halifax and the respective communities we grew up in, while at the same time we knew this was part of the process of becoming more fully at home in this city.

Two years later, it's clear to me that when I walk the streets of Halifax, I'm treading through a city I call my own, more so than any other place in the world at the moment. Perhaps part of this is familiarity, but a big part is also my great affinity for the place where I have become an adult. Here I learned to make everyday decisions, large and small, for myself. Here I hosted my first seder and began to take ownership over my Jewish life, instead of expecting it to be handed to me.

Mordechai Walfish in Halifax

Many of my friends have remarked that Halifax is the perfect place to start one's adulthood during the crucial years of university. It has all the big-city amenities: great music, libraries, shops, a reliable transit system, and interesting neighbourhoods.

At the same time, it has retained enough of its maritime friendliness that there's little danger in being lost in a sea of anonymous faces. I can't remember the last time I walked downtown without running into someone I knew. The Jewish community is a beautiful mirror image of this: there are services, vibrant celebrations for all holidays, and interesting cultural events, but at the same time, there's no chance that people won't know who you are if you make the effort to attend just some of these events.

Of course, there is something silly about calling Halifax home. After all, being a student in this city, I always knew that this would be a four-year stint and that I shouldn't get too comfortable. It's certainly strange, and perhaps even futile, to build a community that you know is temporary. Indeed, it seems that the student community itself is structured by the comings and goings that each student partakes in many times a year. The locals are already quite accustomed to the fact that students take off every time there is a break from classes and are rarely seen again once their final exam has been written. There are students who fall so much in love with the city that they find work here, but their numbers are still quite low. Even though most of my friends are quite sad to leave Halifax, there is a general consensus that there are new places to conquer and that Halifax must be consigned to the realm of glorious undergraduate memory.

At the same time, most of us realize the necessity of keeping in touch with our former home. Fours years later, it seems most of us have learned that we don't need to disavow our family homes in order to be an adult. Contrary to the musings of my second-year self, I am well aware that I am not homeless. There may not be one place in the world where I feel entirely at home, but I know I should be thankful for all the places that I do feel comfortable. Perhaps all of these places cobbled together are my home.

Being a student in a self-consciously temporary community was a good reminder that in fact, in life, transitions never truly end. Perhaps an essential part of growing up comes when you realize that not even the most experienced adult has everything figured out.

But I'm certain I'll carry some experiences – such as hosting my own seder – with me, and hopefully this growing ownership over myself and my decisions is something that will remain throughout all of life's transitions.

The Kirshner File

Jewish Film Festival docs examine Holocaust

World War II, with the Holocaust at its core, was one of the major themes of the annual Toronto Jewish Film Festival, which ended last week after yet another successful run.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The documentaries I watched examined topics ranging from the Nazi theft of Jewish art to the mistreatment of Jews in Italian-occupied Libya. The calibre of these films is such that they are likely to be aired again by television stations in the future. So stay tuned.

The Rape of Europa is a stunning expose of greed and malevolence. Many Nazi leaders, from Adolf Hitler on down, were avid collectors, and if the pickings were free, they were all the more enthusiastic. They looted everything they could get their paws on, including classical paintings, rare religious objects and fine furniture, and more often than not its owners were Jewish. Some of these items have disappeared and may never turn up. Still others, having been bought unwittingly by museums and claimed by the heirs of the original proprietors, are enmeshed in painful litigation.

Hitler, a failed art student whose landscapes and renderings of buildings do not rise above the mediocre, was an obsessive collector, as was his deputy, Hermann Göring. Hitler was partial to Old Masters and German Romantic pieces and despised modern works, or "degenerate art." Göring was not as finicky.

As this meticulously researched film notes, the plundering was launched with Germany's annexation of Austria in 1938 and the establishment of a special department to funnel purloined art to a gargantuan museum Hitler intended to build in his native Austria.

From Poland alone, the Nazis plundered 59,000 items. The Louvre, in Paris, anticipated the looting and shipped its valuables to castles and private homes for safekeeping. Nevertheless, the Nazis seized 16,000 paintings from Jews in France.

The Rape of Europa also documents the extraordinary care the Allies took not to bomb Nazi-held national monuments, the special units they created to track down looted art and the "trophy brigades" the Red Army dispatched into eastern Germany.

Saved by Deportation revels in irony.

Germany and the Soviet Union carved up Poland in 1939, leaving it supine. The German invasion prompted thousands of Polish Jews to flee into the Soviet zone. But once there, some of the Jewish refugees actually returned to the other side, not realizing that genocide awaited Polish Jewry. In virtually every instance, they went back to be reunited with family and friends and to reclaim homes and properties.

During the brief Soviet occupation, Joseph Stalin, the Soviet dictator, arbitrarily sent 500,000 Polish citizens, of whom 200,000 were Jews, to labour camps in Siberia and Central Asia. What they did not know, of course, was that Stalin's policy inadvertently saved their lives.

Life in the Soviet Union was certainly hard, but compared to Nazi-occupied Poland, where Jews were murdered en masse, it was a bed of roses. As a result, most Polish Jews who survived found a haven in the Soviet Union.

Saved by Deportation, which consists in part of interviews with seven of the deportees, revolves around an American Orthodox couple.

Riding in the back seat of a jeep negotiating bumpy roads, they return to a camp in Siberia where they fought off bedbugs, struggled with hunger and deadly diseases and coped with frigid weather in winter. As the movie ends, they go back to a town in Uzbekistan where they apparently spent their last months in the Soviet Union. Far from bitter and realizing how fortunate they were to have been sent to the Soviet Union, they recall the Russians as being friendly, helpful and remarkably free of anti-Semitism.

Hanuszka is the autobiographical tale of Hanna Mandelberger, a 12-year-old Jewish girl who scraped through the Holocaust in Poland by finding refuge in a convent and passing herself off as a Catholic.

Although the trajectory of her story is not unknown, it assumes unique proportions by virtue of the fact that she befriended a young priest, Karol Wojtyla, during this dangerous period. Wojtyla, a rising star in the Polish church, was anointed Pope John Paul II in 1978, and in the 1980s, Hanna, an Israeli citizen, met him at the Vatican.

"It never crossed my mind that you were Jewish," he said, touching off a flood of memories about the war, during which Hanna seriously considered conversion to Christianity and worked for the Polish underground as a courier. The film, which unfolds through dramatizations, flashbacks and Hanna's visit to Rome and Poland as an adult, is of interest, but is less than compelling.

Nazi war criminals stand trial in Nuremberg

A Matter of Time deals with a comparatively little-known aspect of the Holocaust: the deportation of Libyan Jews to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany.

When the Wehrmacht, commanded by Gen. Erwin Rommel, conquered Libya, an Italian imperial colony, the Jewish population was immediately imperilled.

Jews who had previously welcomed the British army were arrested and detained in a remote camp in the desert 250 kilometres south of Tripoli. Jews who held British citizenship were transported to Bergen-Belsen. In *A Matter of Time*, the survivors recall their ordeal and agree that they most likely would have been killed had the Germans not been driven out of Libya by Gen. Bernard Montgomery's British army.

Nuremberg: The Nazis Facing Their Crimes is absorbing.

John Ford, the great Hollywood director, was commissioned to film the Nuremberg war crimes trial, which began in 1945, lasted for 10 months and convicted nearly all the Nazi defendants.

Ford's heretofore unseen footage lifts this documentary to new heights and explains the importance of the tribunal in terms of criminal jurisprudence.

The wan defendants, guarded by white-helmeted sentries, look broken and spent. Yet they appear unrepentant after being charged with conspiracy, or premeditated murder. Only Wilhelm Keitel, the Wehrmacht chief of staff, seems contrite, admitting that he "erred" in carrying out his duties. The testimony of a French resistance member, who was brought to Auschwitz, is spellbinding.

Once a Nazi is about the power of conscience.

Adlabert Lallier, a Waffen SS guard at Thererienstadt, immigrated to Canada and taught economics at a Montreal university.

Burdened by guilt at having witnessed the shooting of seven Jews, and seeking redemption, he disclosed that he had been a cog in the Nazi machinery of death.

His confession, which led to the imprisonment of a former concentration guard after a trial in Germany, had unforeseen consequences.

Lallier, whose observations are supplemented by comments from his daughter, his former colleague and his Jewish acquaintances, comes across as a sincere, overwrought do-gooder who wants to do the decent thing late in life.

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Toronto to celebrate 40th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification

Jerusalem - Ours to Share comes to Beth Tzedec June11

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA FEDERATION

Forty years ago, on June 11, 1967, Dan Meridor fought as an Israeli Defence Force tank commander with the 7th Brigade in the Sinai during the Six Day War. Merdior was there when the city of Jerusalem was liberated and reunified, ending 19 years of separation between predominantly Arab and Jewish sections of the city.

On June 11 this year, Meridor, a former minister in the Israeli government, and the current chairman of The Jerusalem Foundation, will be the keynote speaker at Jerusalem – Ours to Share, a special celebration at Beth Tzedec Congregation celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the city's reunification.

"Although I was in the heart of the fighting, I do remember the Wednesday when they announced on the radio, that Jerusalem had been liberated," Meridor told Jewish Toronto in a telephone interview. "I remember sitting on the tank in the desert, and everyone was in tears. The reunification of Jerusalem was one of the most exciting and moving days of my life. To this day, when ever I cross the Jaffa Gates into the Old City, it is very exciting."

Sponsored by the Canada-Israel Committee and UJA Federation, Jerusalem – Ours to Share –will celebrate the city's unique place in history for all faiths through music and film.

"This event celebrates the magic and majesty that is Jerusalem," said UJA Federation board chair David Engel. "Jerusalem is a city that has been revered for thousands of years, a city that symbolizes the yearning for peace of everyone in the Middle East."

"Jerusalem symbolizes the redemption of Jewish people and Jewish independence," says Meridor. "Also, it is a beautiful city – over 3,000 years old. It is an impressive combination of modern and old, which is rare. It is a city of diverse population where so many cultures merge with different expectations of what Jerusalem should be."

Jerusalem – Ours to Share, a celebration of Jerusalem will take place at Toronto's Beth Tzedec Congregation on June 11. Above, Israeli soldiers dance in celebration at the Kotel in June, 1967.

Jerusalem – Ours to Share is sponsored by the Canada-Israel Committee, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Jerusalem Foundation.

Koffler Centre of the Arts hosts unique exhibit

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG

To celebrate its 25th anniv ersary, Toronto's Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles, is presenting a new exhibit of Judaic needlework at UJA Federation's partner agency, the Koffler Centre of the Arts, until May 20. "Threads of Identity," which is free to the public and is located in the Loggia of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, showcases original Judaica including challah covers, sukkah decorations, mezuzot, and chuppas.

Since its inception in 1982, the Pomegranate Guild "has brought together people who are interested in studying and creating textile art and needlepoint based on Jewish themes," explains its website, www.pomegranateguild.ca <http://www.pomegranateguild.ca/> .

Visitors can see pieces by individual Guild members as well as group projects. A photo collage gives a broad visual overview of the art created by the Pomegranate Guild in its 25-year history. Also on display is a series of shadowboxes in which guild members interpret the show's theme, "Threads of Identity."

An example of the creative needlework on display at the Koffler Centre of the Arts' "Threads of Identity" display.

In addition to providing the space free of charge, the Koffler Centre of the Arts arranged and paid for the installation of large pieces, including a Kohen HaGadol (High Priest) wall hanging. "There are eight different pieces of special clothing that he wore," says Elaine Genesove, past president of the Pomegranate Guild and co-chair of the exhibit with Melanie Siegel.

Genesove is hoping visitors will walk away from the exhibit with a new appreciation for the Guild's work and the inspiration to create art of their own. "We want people to know about our guild and the wonderful work we do and to see that Judaic needlework is creative and modern. We also want to get people interested in expressing their Jewishness by creating works of art. The works that we do today are going to be the heirlooms of tomorrow."

Taglit - birthright israel hits milestone of 10,000

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA FEDERATION

Dave Stein, 24, is no ordinary participant on a Taglit - birthright israel trip. As he boarded Air Canada flight 084 to Tel Aviv with Canada Israel Experience last Wednesday, Stein became the 10,000th Torontonian that Taglit-birthright israel has sent to the Jewish homeland.

The number of Toronto participants on Taglit - birthright israel is second only to New York City. In total, Taglit - birthright israel has sent approximately 120,000 youngsters to the Jewish homeland, with Toronto accounting for over eight percent of that total.

For Stein, Israel provides a connection to his grandparents, who passed away in 2000 and 2001. "When I was five years old, my bubby and zayde went on a trip to Israel and I remember, very vividly, they came back with all their pictures – my Bubby in the sea and them by The Wall – and tales of Israel's history, and since then, I've wanted to go," he says. "It was such a part of my relationship with them."

FREE Trip to Israel

Dave Stein, Taglit-Birthright israel's 10,000th Toronto participant.

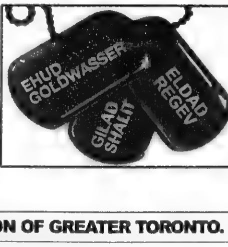
That desire to visit Israel grew when his sister returned from her own trip a few years ago. "She came back with stories and pictures and amazing friends that she's stayed in contact with," he says. "She got me a hand-stitched kippah and a gorgeous Chai necklace, and I was really excited about them, but I also thought, 'I want to experience picking them out myself in Israel.'"

But while anticipating the many personal experiences he hopes to have on the trip, Stein also reflects on the collective significance of 10,000 Toronto young adult Jews visiting Israel. "There's a communal impact because it touches so many individuals," he says. "It changes the Toronto community because there are now 10,000 people here who have more in touch with their Jewish faith and background. The Jewish organizations have more of a force behind them because there are all these people who now have an even greater passion for Jewish causes."

Stein's affiliation with the Jewish community is mainly through his work as a DJ for Mint Lifestyle Events, staffing bar and bat mitzvahs and events such as UJA Federation's Walk With Israel. He is looking forward to meeting other young Jews on his trip.

"There's always a connection between Jews and it'll be great to be able to share such a heart-touching experience," he says. "I'm really excited to meet people from all over Canada and then, as well, especially Israel. My sister made friends there, so hopefully one day we'll go together and I'll have friends and she'll have friends. That'll be cool, to go back."

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome Dave Stein," says Elizabeth Sokolsky, VP Education & Operations, Taglit-birthright Israel. "Taglit - birthright Israel, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and the Canadian Jewish community have been wonderful partners in the birthright program. The positive outcomes for the Toronto Jewish community of having so many young Jewish adults – like Dave - more connected to their Jewish identity and to the land and people of Israel will resonate for years to come."



We don't leave our sons behind

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Walk With Israel will fund important projects

Rain or Shine, annual event takes place on May 27

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA FEDERATION

This year's Walk With Israel will be more than an expression of moral support for the people and State of Israel; it will also provide material support for development programs in the country's northern region and elsewhere. Proceeds from this year's Walk, scheduled for May 27, will go to a new daycare centre in Hatzor Haglilit, and educational initiatives for Ethiopian women in Kiryat Moshe. Both projects are being coordinated through the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), UJA Federation's overseas partner.

The daycare centre – with classrooms/activity rooms, kitchenettes, and restrooms, as well as outdoor playgrounds and seating areas – is part of a comprehensive plan to empower the community of Hatzor Haglilit. More than 8,000 of its citizens lived in bomb shelters or were forced to run from their homes under a barrage of Katyusha rockets last summer. While the war with Hezbollah may have receded somewhat from Diaspora thoughts, the people of Hatzor Haglilit are still recovering lost ground.

Today, as the community rebuilds, one area of focus is its underserved 1,400 children up to age six, who at present "lack a formal educational framework that provides enriching daycare," explains the JAFI project proposal. "Active educational and enrichment frameworks for early childhood education form the basis for strengthening not only Israel's North but also our next generation," it continues. "Early childhood is when opportunities begin, and we must ensure that each and every child experiences the type of early environment that will enable him or her to flourish."

Young women from the Ethiopian community in Kiryat Moshe expand their professional horizons with vocational training as daycare workers.

And as Walk With Israel funds build a daycare centre in one community, they will train daycare workers in another. The impoverished Rehovot neighbourhood of Kiryat Moshe is populated largely by Ethiopian Jews, a community in which many women lack the education to secure anything but minimum wage jobs.

To help these women climb out of poverty, UJA Federation is joining with JAFI to provide them with vocational training as daycare workers and allied health professionals. The programs, ranging in length from eight months to three years, also include Hebrew language tutorials and workshops on interview skills and resume preparation.

Wunesh Vuvey, who is studying to be a dental assistant, says that "getting a degree will fulfill my dream to help people and have a respectable profession for others in my community to look up to and be proud of. This profession will also help integrate me further into Israeli society, as everyone needs to go to the dentist."

To make a donation, visit www.walkwithisrael.com, where you can also register for the Walk.

Jewish Foundation opens its heart to Toronto Societies

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA FEDERATION

The Toronto Jewish community's future rests in the hands of those with the strongest connection to the past, members of UJA Federation's Societies Division heard at a recent luncheon at the Lipa Green Building for Jewish community Services.

Paula Krakowsky (from Chenstochover Aid Society) presents a cheque to Ronit Holtzman, establishing the Chenstochover Aid Society Endowment Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto.

Hosted by the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, the endowment arm of UJA Federation, the event formally introduced the Societies to the Foundation's work and opportunities to get involved.

"There's a way to guarantee that your values live on far into the future," Ronit Holtzman, director of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, told those assembled. "To a large degree, many of you are already showing that the Jewish value of tzedakah and communal responsibility is important to you by participating in our annual UJA Federation Campaign and by supporting special projects in Israel. By creating an endowment fund, you can take the necessary steps today to make sure you and your Society will be helping others for many years to come."

Susan Jackson, director of the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage, emphasized the critical role grandparents play as the "Jewish anchor" in their grandchildren's lives. "When you were growing up, the role model was the rabbi, people who were learned, people who had a set of values," she said. "That, in many ways, is what the grandparents represent today. It's our job to build the community for them, then they take it and hopefully they run with it."

Societies date back to the early 1900s, when Jewish immigrants organized themselves into associations of people from the same villages in Eastern Europe, known in Yiddish as landsmannschaften, which functioned as support systems for the newly-arrived.

The networks were eventually incorporated into the community's federated structure, and under the leadership of co-chairs Michael Rosenberg and Morris Flicht, the 27 active Societies have taken on numerous fundraising projects for Israel. Six Societies have already established funds with the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto.

"The Societies helped promote Jewish education and influenced the next generation to become involved as active community members," said Rosenberg. "It is clear that the effort and hard work has paid off as many of our new community leaders today are children of Societies members."

Scholarships create opportunities for Israel's immigrant students

There are some things that, simply put, make Jews around the world proud to call Israel their homeland.

Israel's investment in the education and advancement of new immigrant young people is one of them. Each year, UJA Federation's overseas partner The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) enriches the future of Jewish people buy supporting Student Authority Scholarships that provide full college tuition for thousands of new immigrants.

These scholarships are part of JAFI's mission to strengthen Israel's greatest natural resource – the next generation.

Argintinean-born Daniel Saadia Maoz, 29 (pictured above) is a bright young man who exudes the truly rare combination of optimism and realism. In 2002, he fulfilled a lifelong dream and make aliyah. Daniel was determined to go to college, but he was not sure how he would manage to work and pay college tuition. "Without the help of JAFI, it would have been virtually impossible for me to get a college education in Israel." With the financial burden of college tuition lifted by the Student Authority Scholarship, Daniel was able to focus on his studies and earned his BA in international relations and the history of the Jewish people from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Today, Daniel is close to completing his MA in Middle Eastern studies and international relations and is now involved in Israel advocacy. Daniel also teaches, writes and lectures in a variety of settings.

Children's Israeli dance festival turns 37

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

York University played host to the 37th annual Rikudiyah, the Israeli dance festival for children, on May 6.

The event, co-sponsored by the Koffler Centre for the Arts and UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE), saw grandparents, parents, siblings and friends clapping and singing along excitedly as they watched kids from 14 Ontario Jewish day schools strut their choreographed stuff to traditional music in the university's Tait McKenzie gymnasium.

Seymour Epstein, senior vice-president of Jewish education and identity for the BJE, said the event was the continuation of a great tradition.

"It's a great activity, bringing together all the schools in the spirit of dance," he told *The CJN*. "It brings us closer to Israel, to music… and to physical education, which is very important."

Organizers estimated that close to 1,000 people attended.

After *O Canada* and *Hatikvah* were sung, Rikudiyah got off to a colourful start with the Chai Dancers, a seniors group that performed a dance called the "Magen David Mexicana," using vibrant shawls and Spanish music in a visual celebration of togetherness.

Perennial festival director and local Israeli folk dance icon, Teme Kernerman, choreographed the seniors.

Once the elder dancers gracefully left the gym floor, Kernerman introduced the Dor L'Dor dancers, a group of Grade 2 students and their parents, who danced together, to the delight of the audience.

Then came the main event, as all 14 schools took to the floor to hoof it with verve.

This year's theme, "Beyachad" (Together), had the children performing various routines together, in addition to each school presenting its individually prepared dances.

One by one, Kernerman introduced the schools by name and the music they were swaying to.

The schools all danced to six main songs: *Orchim L'Kayitz*, *B'Ahavah Uvmilah Tovah*, *Veshuv Itchem*, *Anashim Tovim*, *Rak Beyachad Ninatzeach* and finally the Yiddish melody *Alle Brider*.

The Nirkoda Israeli dancers then took the floor for a spirited performance of *Latzafon B'Ahava*, before making way for a collective dance finale to the tune of *Hinei Ma Tov*.

Kernerman, who founded Rikudiyah and anticipates returning as festival director for her 38th year next spring, stressed the ongoing importance of Rikudiyah.

"I believe [keeping Israeli dance alive] has to start with the kids," she told the *CJN*. "If they have a good experience when they're young, it will keep Israeli folk dance healthy. Rikudiyah is my way of keeping Israeli folk dance alive for me, for this city and for Israel."

Students from Jewish day schools dance at the 37th annual Rikudiyah festival on May 6. [Photo courtesy of the UJA Federation Jewish Board of Education]

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An '*upsherin*' and a mitzvah

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Noah Gropper is feeling a bit lightheaded.

Last week, eight inches of his curly blond hair was cut, to be donated to Eva & Co. Wigs, a Vancouver shop that specializes in wigs for cancer patients.

"I'd rather have it long," he said right after the cut at Bialik Hebrew Day School, where he is in Grade 6.

"I'm sure it was hard, but I think he set an example for the other kids," said his mother, Elise Stern.

The family called the event Noah's *upsherin* to parallel the first haircut ceremony some boys undergo at the age of three. They wanted to hold it as close to Lag b'Omer as possible, when many *upsherin* ceremonies take place as the restrictions on haircutting are lifted.

Noah Gropper, before his haircut

The family decided to have Noah's hair cut at school, Stern said, because Bialik reinforces the idea of tikkun olam in the students.

Noah's grandfather died of cancer two years ago, and the cut happened a day after the yahrzeit.

"He was close to his zaide and he was very, very loving," said Noah's grandmother, Bernice Stern. "Every Friday he would sit with him and hold his hand."

The 12-year-old had his locks chopped in front of about 30 family members, friends and classmates.

Dani Tayfour of Dani's Hair Salon, who did the job, said he has done "hundreds" of cuts for cancer.

Tayfour first straightened Noah's hair and separated it into small ponytails. Family members got to snip individual sections, and afterward Tayfour evened out the job.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity for us to put tikkun olam in practice," said senior division vice-principal Beverley Young, who cut off the last ponytail.

"Tikkun olam is one of the tenets of our philosophy. It's one of the things we really believe in and we take action upon, and this is a really good example," Young said.

The last time Noah had his hair trimmed was last September.

"I took him to get half an inch cut off and he cried," joked his father, Bernie.

Elise Stern said Noah's old hair defined him, but thinks his new style is "gorgeous."

"It hasn't been this short since probably Grade 2," she said. "I'm proud of him."

Noah Gropper, with his locks trimmed.

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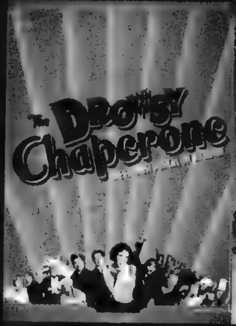
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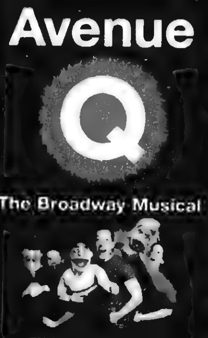
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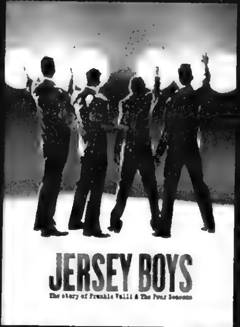
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Stress on education has undeniable effects

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

Through A Sephardi Window

One particular tribe, one of many such nomadic tribes in the times of Moses, rose above the rest. It quickly distinguished and defined itself in its civility, egalitarianism, decency and hygiene. Most notably, this tribe stood alone by virtue of the fact that in its time, only its members were literate. But it was not only literacy that made it unique. The pursuit of knowledge was also integral to its society.

This people had a law, a law under which they wished to be governed. In order to keep this law, they first had to understand it. In order to live it, they had to learn it. Even a simple understanding of the Torah requires advanced literacy and mental skills.

But simple understanding of the tradition would not do. This law asked all of its adherents to propagate it. The responsibility of its transmission from one generation to the next rested on parents. It was the parents' task to teach the law to their children – youths who question and challenge, young minds that could only be satisfied by logic and intellect. Failure on the part of any parent would be self-evident and a source of great embarrassment. Hence, communal pressure in this endeavour was very real.

This system of transmission from parent to child, in which each member of a generation was expected to educate the next generation, continued until the destruction of the Second Temple. At that point, we are told in the Talmud, an individual named Rabbi Yehoshua ben Gamla instituted a formal system of universal education, one that provided schooling for every child. Wherever the smallest Jewish community existed, one would find educators.

It might be said that all of this stress on education has resulted in advanced levels of intellectual capacity. Torah commentaries and commentaries on talmudic law take one to dizzying heights of intellect that challenge and strain the minds of even the most gifted.

To be sure, this idea of a superior Jewish intellect is a highly sensitive one, since it's rather politically incorrect and loaded with possible anti-Semitic implications.

One might challenge this theory by saying that just because a father is a doctor does not mean that his son will be more inclined toward medicine than anyone else. Yet this is not so, as it has been shown that the sons of doctors disproportionately tend to be doctors themselves. Living in a certain culture and environment has undeniable effects.

In the first half of the 20th century, 14 per cent of the Nobel Prizes in medicine, physics, chemistry and literature were awarded to Jews, despite widespread discrimination and anti-Semitism. In the second half of the 20th century, the percentage rose to 29. And so far in the 21st century, Nobel prizes awarded to Jews stand at 32 per cent of the total. And Jews constitute less than half of one per cent of the world's population.

The gift of the Torah was a precious gift in many ways.

Synagogues must experiment

By EDGAR M. BRONFMAN

Guest Voice

Rabbi Hayyim Hirschensohn, who lived in New Jersey at the turn of the 20th century, espoused a doctrine that Jews, if their intent was clear and honourable, could experiment with their religious observances.

"For the truth," he wrote in 1921, "emerges only after inquiry and investigation, and in the initial stages of study, everyone possesses false beliefs and errs until acquiring a clear comprehension of the matter.".

Rabbi Hirschenson was responding to those who promoted a dogmatic and fixed interpretation of Judaism and Jewish life.

Most pulpit rabbis of large congregations would probably have a difficult time acting on such a statement, and understandably so. The idea of experimentation and trial by error can seem oxymoronic when placed next to the words "religion" and "synagogue."

Yet without experimentation, the synagogue will continue to diminish as Judaism's central institution.

With the approach of Shavuot on May 23, which celebrates the Jews' receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai and focuses on Jewish learning, let me suggest a few experimental approaches that might result in increased synagogue attendance and engagement.

In the world of Orthodoxy, why wouldn't a rabbi experiment with some forms of gender equality? Even within the limitations of Orthodox Jewish law, why wouldn't a rabbi try to propose that instead of a minyan of 10 men, there should be one of 10 men and 10 women?

Why wouldn't a rabbi in a Reform congregation experiment with dispensing with the Torah reading as it is done now, ask the congregants to read the parshah before the service begins, and then have a discussion involving any congregant who wants to be involved? Perhaps that same rabbi would refrain from giving a sermon to allow time to thoroughly discuss the Torah reading.

Most importantly, all synagogues would do well to experiment with shortening the length of service. Two to three hours is a daunting commitment for anyone, let alone someone who wants to explore Judaism for the first time.

When I speak with young people, they tell me that services should be shortened. But even then, an hour can be too much, if what transpires is boring, irrelevant and bereft of meaning. With beautiful music, choirs chanting, meaningful short services and prayers that speak to the human condition, perhaps we can attract a younger segment of the population, especially if we ask them to participate.

A 2006 poll conducted by Gallup ranked Jews second to last in terms of weekly worship attendance, beating out only those who report no religious affiliation.

The Evangelical churches burgeoning across the country prove that congregational life can be meaningful and relevant and a source for communal identification. Aside from taking contemporary visual and audio esthetics seriously – something sorely lacking in synagogues – the success of these groups has come from realizing that massive, anonymous Sunday church experiences alone fail to provide worshippers with the kind of rich communal experience they are seeking.

Therefore, alongside the large-scale gatherings we see on TV, Evangelicals empower the laity to take part in smaller study groups hosted in their friends' homes and other intimate venues. Encouraging laity to experiment with where and when services are held does not weaken communal bonds; it diversifies and strengthens the core religious experience.

Some congregations and organizations have begun to promote and adopt such an experimental approach. Others have gone further, permanently changing their services and venues based on the above-mentioned ideas. Such initiatives should be encouraged and the experimental outlook fostered.

Synagogues have long been bastions of the most conservative tendencies – lengthy, drawn-out services, *geshrying* over our historical grievances and focused more on God's needs than on man's yearnings. Instead, we should encourage synagogues to become places of joy where people find meaning and fulfilment.

Many of us respect and admire the traditional forms of synagogue life as important strands in the rich overall tapestry of Jewish life and observance. We hope and trust that those forms will always be there for those who are drawn to them. But for the most part, synagogues whose raison d'être is to preserve a certain form or style will inevitably lose their ability to respond adequately to the needs and aspirations of younger people.

The challenge before rabbis of all branches of Jewish observance is to make the synagogue experience joyful and affirming on an everyday basis.

Can experiments like broadening minyans and shortening prayer services achieve that goal? If we don't try, how will we ever know?

Edgar M. Bronfman is the president of The Samuel Bronfman Foundation.

'Top books' not to every taste

***The Top Ten – Writers Pick Their Favorite Books*, edited by J. Peder Zane, W.W. Norton & Company.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Are you looking for a book to read? You shouldn't have any trouble. In 2005, American publishers produced more than 150,000 new titles. That's 50,000 more books than had been accumulated in the nine-century history of the ancient, renowned library in Alexandria, Egypt.

Consider this: since 1980 more than two million books have been created, compared to the 1.3 million titles published in the preceding 100 years. If you peruse one book a week starting at the age of five, and live to be 80, you will have read a grand total of 3,900 books – a little more than one-10th of 1 per cent of the books currently in print.

Social critics continue to bemoan the decline in reading and the death of the age of literacy. Such baleful notions are misplaced. Actually, our age is swimming in books.

J. Peder Zane, a veteran book reviewer and editor, eager to help us find our way through the literary labyrinth, has asked 125 well-known American and British writers this question, "What are the 10 greatest works of fiction of all time?" Their answers provide an informative, often fascinating guide to the world's most extraordinary books.

Altogether, 544 books were selected. The editor has broken down this larger list into smaller, helpful categories such as the top 10 list, the 10 top works of 19th- and 20th- century literature and the 10 top novels by American and British writers. A welcome feature of the book is the well-considered one-paragraph summaries of all of the books mentioned.

The top 10 list is:

- *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy
- *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert
- *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy
- *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *In Search of Lost Time* by Marcel Proust
- The stories of Anton Chekhov
- *Middlemarch* by George Eliot

The top 10 works by living writers are:

- *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez .
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
- *Rabbit Angstrom* by John Updike
- *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut
- *Blood Meridian* by Cormac McCarthy
- *The Stand* by Stephen King
- The stories of Alice Munro
- *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* by Muriel Spark

Where the group of top 10 selections are concerned, there are few surprises. However, the larger pool of recommendations offers a generous number of lesser known significant books.

Not everyone is happy about lists of recommended books. Joseph Epstein maintains, "How useful it would be to have an authoritative list of books that despite the world's generally high opinion of them, one really need not read: books that are generally overrated or overwritten – books that somehow or other do not come near repaying the time required to read them!"

Samuel Johnson said that a person ought to read just as inclination leads him; for what he reads as a task will do him little good.

In the end, many books – even if they are universally regarded as great and enduring – don't satisfy every taste, sensibility or intellect. For some readers, they don't have the power to inspire or nourish. Book lovers have their own small library of golden volumes that opened their eyes to new visions or unlocked their souls. For them, these books remain supreme.

The Six Day War, Part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The war may have only lasted six days, but its impact was immediate and its legacy is still felt – and debated – 40 years later.

For many Jews in the Diaspora, the war meant it was time to help Israel. In mid-June, Lydia Aisenberg phoned the Israeli Embassy in London "to ask if I could do something to help – thinking of sticking stamps or answering phones." Rather than licking stamps, Lydia found herself working in the fields of Kibbutz Mishmar HaEmek. **[http://tinyurl.com/363tyz]**

Ilana Rosen remembers "marching with others down Cheetham Hill Road in Manchester, carrying an Israeli flag, to a rally at the New Century Hall, and everybody along the route [non-Jews and Jews] was cheering us. (A bit different from now!)" **[http://tinyurl.com/yv77mo]**

There was certainly pride in Israel's military prowess. But in the days and weeks following the war, it was not hard to hear the word "miracle" being used to describe what had happened. The Lubavitcher Rebbe is quoted as saying in August 1967, "This was a war won by Torah and mitzvot. There can be no doubt of this. A Jew in Moscow recited Psalms, and a Jew in Buffalo, N.Y., put on tfillin, and this helped the Jews defeat their enemies in the Land of Israel." **[http://tinyurl.com/2zncbq]**

And the long-term effects of the war on the world's Jews? In Andrew Furman's review of *The Six-Day War and World Jewry*, he cites examples to illustrate that the effect on some western Jewish communities was less pronounced than one might have expected. "The rates of aliyah… did not rise dramatically, if at all, in the years after the war. And the public status of the Jews and Jewry in these [western] countries appears to have changed minimally… As Israel's perceived ethos shifted in the years subsequent to the war from that of the heroic underdog to the dominant military force in the Middle East… increasing tensions developed between Israel and the more liberal segments of the Jewish population in the pluralistic-democratic Diaspora." **[http://tinyurl.com/3xuf48])**

For Jews living in Arab countries, the war had a very different effect. SixDayWar.co.uk looks at the repercussions of the war on the members of Jewish communities throughout the Arab world, most of whom fled to Israel, and to France and North America. **[http://tinyurl.com/258pjy]**

In June 1967, the UN Security Council passed several resolutions calling for a ceasefire in the area. But it wasn't until November that it passed a resolution still being quoted four decades later. Security Council Resolution 242 called for "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict" and recognition that "every state in the area" has the "right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force." You can read the resolution at the Jewish Virtual Library. **[http://tinyurl.com/ywjjwd]**

One of the longest entries I've come across about the war can be found in Wikipedia. **[http://tinyurl.com/ e2oyy]** Not surprisingly, the entry carries this note: "The neutrality of this article is disputed." More interesting than the article itself is the area where the cause and legacy of the war are debated. And since this is Wikipedia, you, too, can join the discussion. **[http://tinyurl.com/ytgn3k]**

Michael Oren, author of *Six Days of War*, suggests another lesson can be learned from the war. He says that that war was not inevitable and points to several events – some of which seemed relatively trivial at the time – that collectively brought the region over the brink. The lesson for observers 40 years later?

"Today, like 1967, the Middle East faces a situation in which a large-scale war could be ignited by a relatively small spark. In these circumstances, rational decision-making, cogent analysis and logical reactions to events on the ground are, in the end, often subordinate to the vicissitudes of fortune, the vagaries of war and dumb luck. Chance and randomness had a profound influence on the conduct of the Six Day War and on the war's impact on the region and the world. Recognizing the power of chance – then and now – is both humbling and frightening." **[http://tinyurl.com/pnkcl]**

Next week, Jerusalem and the Six Day War.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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A new site for 20- to 30-something Jews will report on emerging Jewish culture including: music, film, travel, business, social activism, and more.

Is kosher organic food worth the money?

By ASHLEY SPEGEL

Special to The CJN

The popularity of organic foods is heightening as health-conscious consumers are demanding nutritious alternatives to what's presented at their grocery stores.

Organic meats have a lot in common with kosher goods, including health regulations and standards, and the two are merging together in an attempt to attract a Jewish market.

Surprisingly, this market isn't flourishing and grocers providing Toronto's Jews with organic meats aren't replenishing their stocks.

"We've been carrying kosher organics for a couple of years now but it doesn't seem like there's a big market for it," said the manager of Hartman's Kosher Meat, who asked not to be identified. "Kosher meat is really expensive on account of the dietary laws that have to be followed. By eating kosher you're eating a healthier product, and organic is higher up in terms of quality and price."

Kosher organic meats double, triple and quadruple in price compared to kosher meats, and the manager at Hartman's argues there's no reason to go organic because kosher is a sufficient and affordable alternative.

"The concept of kosher is that the product is checked for diseases and flaws before it's sold. It's cleaner than other meats and you're already going health-conscious by buying kosher, so why go organic?"

An organic product is raised, grown and processed without exposure to synthetically produced chemicals or fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, growth hormones or growth regulators. Meat and produce aren't exposed to harmful chemicals and are believed to be safer, healthier and more nutritious.

Aviva Allen, author of *The Organic Kosher Cookbook*, has been buying kosher organic foods for four years because of her experience working on an organic farm in Connecticut. She's always kept kosher and said adding organics into her diet was a natural step.

"[Within] Judaism you'll find there's a lot of laws and philosophies that are similar to the regulations of organic farming," she said. "Both share the principle which encourages healthy eating and awareness of what goes into your body."

Aviva Allen

The Jewish laws Oshek and Chovel assert workers have to be compensated fairly for their labour and they shouldn't be injured when doing their job. Similarly, organic work regulations state that all workers must be treated fairly and be compensated accordingly for their labour.

Shmirat haguf, another law Allen follows, emphasises safeguarding the body.

The Environmental Protection Agency considers 60 per cent of all herbicides, 90 per cent of all fungicides and 30 per cent of all insecticides to be carcinogenic. Research suggests that if these chemicals are successful at killing living creatures, they can also be harmful to humans.

"The health of your body is dependent on what you're fuelling it with," she said. "I feel it's worth it to pay slightly more for food that's going to be more nutritious minus hormones, antibiotics, pesticides, and that's where I choose to put my money."

Kosherfest is an annual convention held in New York City where vendors come together to discuss the future of kosher foods. Kosher organics was the buzz of the 2007 convention, and Manny Alter, manager of Toronto Kosher, was convinced the hot topic would generate demand back home.

"The underlying theme of the event was organic, everything from crackers to meats," he said. "However, in New York you can get kosher organic meat easily and in Toronto there's no market for it. It's a challenging market because the kosher meat market is difficult as is."

Alter says the lack of awareness in the Toronto Jewish community is one reason why organic meats haven't gained popularity. Another reason is price.

"We sell kosher chicken wings for approximately $4 but the same product that's organic is $9," said Alter.

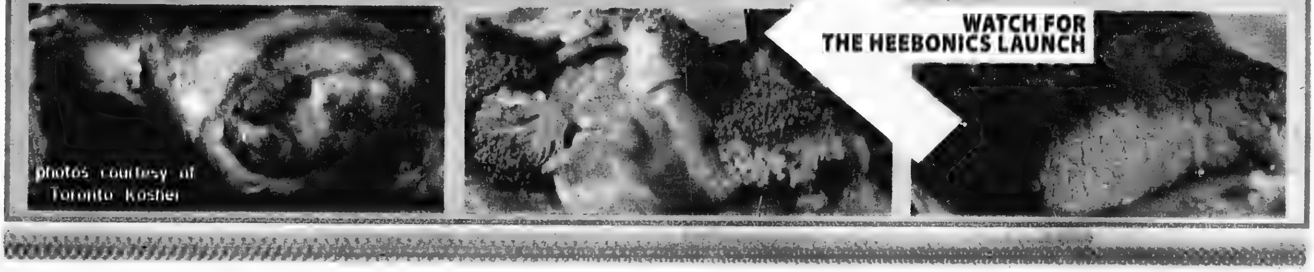
Currently, the grocers supplying kosher organic meat and poultry rely on shipments from Montreal because Toronto doesn't have a producer. Since supply and demand is low and shipping costs are high, grocers like Toronto Kosher are no longer carrying kosher organic meats.

"[Buying organic is not] necessarily more expensive, it depends on where you're purchasing it," said Allen, who gets her organics from Ambrosia, Whole Foods Market, and Hartman's. "If you're buying local organic [produce] and you shop at farmer's markets you can get better quality and lower prices because you're taking out the middle man. If you're buying seasonally, it'll also be cheaper."

She says the organic foods at grocery stores are at a higher price because of the intense labour put into harvesting them. Organic farms are small operations where farmers spend the majority of their time in the fields. Rather than a plane flying over a field of crops to spray pesticides and herbicides, the farmer is in the field pulling out the weeds with his hands.

"A lot of people are turned off by the price," said Alter. "I think that if you're not going to lead a fully organic lifestyle it's not worth it."

"I feel a difference by eating organic food," said Allen. "Being able to eat kosher and organic makes me feel good from both angles. It's like a double mitzvah."



photos courtesy of Toronto Kosher

Ex-UN ambassador speaks about threats to Israel

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, John Bolton, an outspoken advocate of the effort to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power, was in Toronto last week to speak about the threats facing Israel and western democracies.

Bolton was the keynote speaker at an event titled Jerusalem and the Jewish People, which was organized by Aish HaTorah to celebrate its 25th anniversary, as well as the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

The event, held May 8 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, was attended by hundreds of members of the Jewish community, who were addressed by a number of guest speakers, including Rabbi Noah Weinberg, the founder of Aish Hatorah and a leader of the *kiruv* (Jewish outreach) movement; Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; and Yitzchok Yifat, who was among the first Israel Defence Forces troops to enter the Old City of Jerusalem during the Six Day War in 1967.

Guests were also treated to a performance by Israeli singing sensation Yoel Sharabi, who sang songs that included *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav* (Jerusalem of Gold).

After speeches in tribute to Jerusalem, Bolton spoke about the challenges and security threats that face Israel and the West.

He said the four biggest threats to Israel and western democracies are the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Lebanon and Syria, Iraq and Iran.

Bolton said that there is no doubt that citizens of the Middle East are suffering hardships as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but he doesn't believe that now is the time to negotiate a peace deal.

"I hear leaders in the United States say that it is time for Israel to work harder on the peace process with the Palestinians. I question that approach. I don't think this is the right time for Israel and certainly not the right time for Palestinians," he said, referring to the fact that Palestinians are on the verge of civil war.

John Bolton

He said the argument that the disputes in the Middle East – including the conflict between people in Lebanon and Syria, the ongoing civil war in Iraq, and the belligerence of Iran – will disappear if Israel comes to an agreement, are wrong.

"They've all got nothing to do with the State of Israel… The solution of the Israeli-Palestinian issues won't do the slightest thing to change that."

Speaking about Israel's conflict with Hezbollah, Bolton said Iran and Syria provide the terror group with millions of dollars a year for weapons and operational costs, and without this kind of outside help, Hezbollah wouldn't be what it is today.

He criticized western democracies that failed to support Israel during the Second Lebanon War.

Bolton said that even though Hezbollah launched unprovoked attacks against Israeli civilians, and in this case, ended up killing several IDF soldiers and kidnapping two others, Israel was widely criticized for using disproportionate force.

"For what? For engaging in a legitimate exercise of self-defence."

Bolton also spoke about the war in Iraq, saying that the highest motives are behind the actions of U.S. forces there.

No American wants to occupy Iraq, he said.

"What happened in Iraq falls into two analytical categories. The first category is whether it was right to overthrow Saddam Hussein because of the threat that he posed to the region, and second is the handling the matters after the fall. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind, with everything we know today, that the overthrow of Saddam Hussein was unquestionably the right thing to do."

But the biggest threat to the stability of the Middle East, and the rest of the world, is Iran, he said.

"[Iran] is a pursuer of weapons of mass destruction, it is an authoritarian government and it supports international terror on a global basis."

He said that the biological, chemical and nuclear weapons that Iran and North Korea are pursuing are only used against innocent civilian populations and this is why it is up to democracies such as the United States to stop these regimes.

"Iran poses a devastating threat to Israel, a small country where two or three nuclear weapons would produce what [U.S.] President [George. W.] Bush calls a 'nuclear Holocaust.'"

He said that all the negotiations with Iran over the past three years have failed because they haven't been able to stop Iran from enriching uranium.

"The longer we persist in the delusion that these negotiations can be successful, the closer the Iranians will be to a point where we simply can't control them anymore. I believe that the only approach that will be successful is to greatly increase economic and political pressure, leading to a necessary overthrow of the government in Tehran."

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Kolel conference to study women and Judaism

The first Canadian conference in more than 10 years on the subject of women and Judaism takes place June 3 and 4.

Hosted by Kolel and The Learning Centre, the conference is called L'hadlik Ner: Bringing Women's Light to Jewish Learning.

"I'm so thrilled that such a conference – both academic and spiritual – is taking place in our community," said Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, rabbinic director of Kolel. "It's a fabulous array of speakers and experiences focusing on the depth of this topic."

Pluralistic in nature, the conference features speakers from across the entire Jewish denominational spectrum. Women and men interested in issues related to women and Judaism will find a plethora of learning opportunities.

Topics include Jewish law on matters relating to women; female characters and narratives and laws about women in the Bible; theological issues such as God language and how gender affects spirituality; cultural issues such as women expressing themselves and their Jewish identities through poetry, art and film; ritual issues such as women in synagogue and women's life-cycle events; and sociological issues such as women in leadership roles in the Jewish community, the "image" of the Jewish woman, stereotypes, etc.

"The many voices of our Jewish expressions have always served to enrich Jewish dialogue," explains Rachael Turkienicz, founder and director of the Learning Centre. "It's fantastic to bring these varied expressions to focus on women and their Jewish spirituality. What a celebration!"

Speakers from Canada and the United States include rabbis, academics and Toronto comedians Tracey Erin Smith and Diane Flacks – all are supportive of the conference's goals of open dialogue and study.

Kolel and the Learning Centre – which are both pluralistic centres dedicated to intra-Jewish dialogue through study and discussion – have been partners before. L'hadlik Ner: Bringing Women's Light to Jewish Learning is the third of a three-part co-sponsored series that began with the very successful workshops Bringing Women's Light to Chanukah and Bringing Women's Light to Passover.

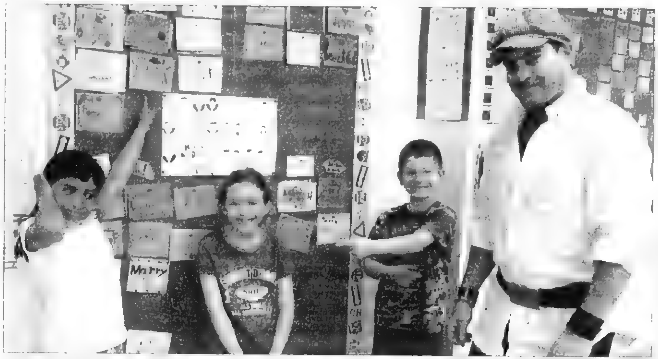
June 3 highlights include an opening keynote address by Blu Greenberg, the first president of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance. The evening continues with a roundtable "dialogue dinner" followed by a women's music and cabaret featuring Czech born singer-songwriter of world and new Jewish music Lenka Lichtenberg; Tracey Erin Smith of the one-woman show *The Burning Bush!* and Diane Flacks of the three solo shows *Myth Me*, *By A Thread* and *Random Acts*.

June 4 highlights a morning keynote speech by Avielah Barclay, the first woman to be certified as a Torah scribe. Prof. Norma Joseph, director of the women and religion specialization in the department of religion at Concordia University, is the afternoon's keynote speaker.

During the day, there will be more than 20 workshops on a wide range of topics. The conference concludes with a study session co-taught by Rabbi Goldstein and Turkienicz.

The conference is also receiving support from the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada – Toronto section.

Space is limited. The conference takes place at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. For registration, schedule and prices go to www.kolel.org or call 416-636-1880, ex. 385; 416-630-6488, or 416-633-5100.



SHAKESPEARE IN THE HOUSE: In preparation for a school-wide presentation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* May 18, Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School Grade 2 teacher Joshua Ball, dressed as a character from one of Shakespeare's plays, leads Rachel Rubinstein, left, Liora Klein and Dylan Shekter through a lesson on the Bard.

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Dr. Geoffrey Solomon
"Resolving the Conflict between Science and Religion"
Dr. Geoffrey Solomon is Staff Physicist, L-3 Cyterra (formerly Coleman Aerospace) in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Solomon holds a Ph.D. in Experimental Nuclear Physics from Florida State University. Throughout his outstanding 20 year scientific career he has maintained a strong commitment to Judaism. He is presently enrolled in the Smicha program at the Institute for Traditional Judaism.
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Israeli centre helps heal victims of psychotrauma

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

One of the things Danny Brom finds most rewarding is to see a patient heal from psychotrauma.

The director of the Temmy and Albert Latner Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma (ICTP) says that seeing someone "come out of it" is a beautiful process.

Brom was in Toronto recently to raise awareness of ICTP, established in 1989 as a project of the Herzog Hospital Latner Institute. The centre meets the diverse needs of trauma victims by treating post-traumatic symptoms and reinforcing natural coping mechanisms.

Danny Brom

He also announced that Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital is presenting a fundraising concert in honour of Albert Latner, planned for Oct. 25 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

Brom, a clinical psychologist who grew up in Holland, was the first director of the Dutch Institute for Psychotrauma. He said that one of the greatest challenges for therapists at his centre is realizing that they are as vulnerable as the patients they are treating.

"It is an unwritten rule that when therapists' children go into the army, they do not lead a group of bereaved parents.

"People cope by thinking that 'it won't happen to me.' This illusion is broken when they are confronted with their fears."

A new ICTP program, he said, is aimed at soldiers just coming off duty. "These soldiers may not be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, but they do need to recover."

The centre is now organizing boating trips for these soldiers because the staff has learned that it is healing to be part of a group in an outdoor challenge, he said.

"They are coming out of a situation in which they had no control, and these trips give them back a feeling of control over their environment."

He discovered the concept from a group that arranged similar trips for cancer survivors, Brom said, "and we thought that we could adapt it for our soldiers. It could work, as well, for Canadian and American soldiers."

Another ICTP program is aimed at families living near Sderot, where Qassam rockets have been falling for about six years.

"We want to safeguard the children's development and try to prevent any long-term difficulties."

In the '90s, Brom said, research was done on children of Holocaust survivors, and it was discovered that about 15 to 20 per cent have long-term difficulties in maintaining relationships and regulating emotions.

"We started looking at children living in Sderot and were amazed to discover that 30 per cent of the children in the 300 families we looked at had developmental and behavioural problems."

Looking further, he said, they learned that two-thirds of this 30 per cent had parents with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Watching the parents and children playing together, he said, they noticed that anxious parents either do not let their children out of their sight, or on the other hand, withdraw from them.

"Our goal is to have them interact in a healthy way. We want to reach the children now, so they don't wake up in 30 years with unresolved problems. By teaching parents to deal with their fears, we are investing in the future of the kids."

The centre also trains day-care staff and teachers to identify children who may be experiencing problems, and helps the staff understand that the anxiety they feel in their daily lives can reflect on the kids in a negative way, Brom said.

"We work with staff on containing their own anxiety, and give them tools to work with the children."

He said his staff is busiest when things in Israel are calmer. "During peak periods, people do not want to hear about our services. They just need to get through the difficult time.

"When things calm down, that is when they begin to think about what happened. That is typically the process."

With the knowledge they have gathered at their centre, he said, ICTP staff has gone to Mississippi to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and to New York after 9/11. "We are planning on creating an international collaboration so that we can share our knowledge with other communities.

"Terror and violence are here to stay, and we need to reach out and help people. We cannot say, 'Things will be okay.' That is the passive approach. We have to be active in our outreach."

The biggest problem the centre faces, he said, "is that there is so much to be done, we don't know where to direct our money. Small children and their parents are a burning issue, but we also have to help soldiers recover. It is almost impossible to choose which programs to fund first."

For information on the fundraising concert, e-mail herzoghospital@rogers.com, or call 416-256-4222.

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"Resolving the Conflict between Science and Religion"

Refreshments 11:30-12:00 midnight

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12:00 Midnight-5:00 a.m.

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- **Miracles**
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Early Shaarit 5:15 a.m.

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7:00 pm	Torah Procession from Cedarvale Park to Beth Tzedec **Torah Dedication in honour of Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl**
8:30 pm	Minhah/Ma'ariv
9:15 pm	Keynote Speaker: **Rabbi John Moscowitz,** Holy Blossom **Post-modern, Chastened-modern, Pre-modern: Why Believing and Thinking Trump Feeling What Sinai Teaches Us**
10:15 pm	Lasagna & Pizza Dinner
10:30 pm	Keynote Speaker: **Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich,** Beth Sholom **Left In and Left Out – What the Parts of our Torah Tell About Us**
11:30 pm	Dessert break
11:45 pm	Moonlight Torah Reading
12:15 am	Study sessions throughout the night
5:05 am	Sunrise Service and Pancake Breakfast

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Dinner (by reservation only)	7:15 – 8:15 pm
Candle Lighting	8:22 pm
Study Session I	8:25 – 9:35 pm
Ma'ariv followed by Kiddush	9:35 pm
Study Session II	10:15 – midnight

Programme: **The World of Blessings**

Session I	**Havruta** We are going to prepare for the later session by Studying in Havruta. The Ninth Chapter of Mesekhet Berakhot will be available in Hebrew and English with Questions to research.
Session II	**The World of Blessings** **Rabbi Martin Berman** How the rabbis sought to sensitize us to the world around us.

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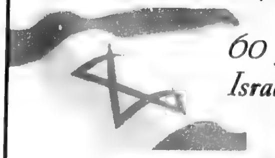

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A legal threat may do the trick

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash

B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Partner, Beard Winter LLP

Question: My husband is divorced since 1991 and has children ages 22, 21, 20 and 18, now all working full time.

None of them are in school anymore, but he owes tens of thousand of dollars in "arrears" for the time the children were already working full time.

His ex-wife will not send a letter to the Government child support enforcement office, the FRO, admitting any of this, so they are not erasing the arrears. What are we to do?

Answer: Make an application to the court to retroactively cancel the arrears on the grounds of a material change in circumstances: namely, that the children are no longer in school and are working full time.

Once you even serve the court documents on his wife, she is liable to write the FRO because she may not wish to incur the unnecessary court costs of needlessly defending the lawsuit, especially if she loses.

Why? If she loses she will have to pay your husband's legal costs. In fact, an initial letter from a competent family law lawyer with the threat of such a lawsuit may do the trick.

Question: My friend, who recently got her Canadian citizenship, is about to give birth out of wedlock. She wants to remain single and wants her baby to exclusively use her maiden family name, especially on the birth certificate.

What are the pros and cons of my friend's decision regarding the baby's last name in the long term from the child's point of view?

Answer: Legally speaking, the mother just may find it more difficult later to make a child support or paternity application to be credible.

For the child, there are no technical legal ramifications within Canadian law, other than that he too could be denying himself the right to child support from his Dad later in life, if he so chooses.

Knowing his genetic history may also become crucial for health reasons at some stage. Also, if his Dad is a citizen of another country, such as the U.S.A., there are significant benefits in having him on your birth certificate because the child automatically can benefit from his Dad's foreign citizenship rights, if he wishes it.

On the flip side, if Dad later wants to have access to the child it will obviously be easier to prove he's the Dad if his name is on the certificate. But then again, Dad can always legally insist upon DNA tests if he is serious about making a court application for those rights.

Finally, the child much later in life may actually resent not knowing.

*John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of **Beard Winter LLP**. Neither Beard Winter LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at 416-306-1733, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@beardwinter.com. You can also visit www.beardwinter.com and www.spousalsupport.com.*

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Feature

'Miss Moneypenny' tormented the Nazis

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Vera Atkins was an unknown and unsung hero of World War II, at least until quite recently.

A brilliant woman with a misleadingly innocent smile and an eagle eye for detail, she was a spymaster, responsible for recruiting and training a select group of British spies whose mission was to torment the Nazi occupiers of France.

Always remaining in the shadows, she worked for the Special Operations Executive, formed by Prime Minister Winston Churchill after the fall of France in 1940 "to set Europe ablaze."

Atkins was a Romanian Jew whose real name was Vera Maria Rosenberg. By all accounts, she apparently inspired Ian Fleming to create the character Miss Moneypenny in his James Bond series.

She died on June 24, 2000.

Atkins, who did not write her memoirs, never received public recognition until France honoured her in 1995 at a special ceremony during which she received the Légion d'Honneur. Recently she was singled out as an extraordinary person by William Stevenson, the author of *Spymistress: The Life of Vera Atkins* (Arcade).

Vera Atkins was an unsung hero of World War II

Stevenson, a British-born Canadian journalist who has written books ranging from *A Man Called Intrepid* to *90 Minutes at Entebbe*, discussed Atkins at a book launch last month at the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies in Toronto. By chance, he spoke on the 64th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Stevenson, who met Atkins when he was a boy scout in London, described her as "this very English girl," who was both ruthless and outspoken.

Born in Bucharest, she settled in London with her parents in 1933. Adopting her mother's maiden name, Etkin, she studied modern languages at the University of Paris and and went to a finishing school in Switzerland.

Stevenson, a Canadian businessman who would later head up British intelligence, met Atkins before the war and sent her on a fact-finding trip to Europe to gather material about the growing Nazi threat.

In her first mission, Stevenson related, she brought back an Enigma decoding machine from Poland. During the war, the device helped the Allies immeasurably.

Although she was technically an enemy alien, her boss at the Special Operations Executive, Maurice Buckmaster, seems to have had no qualms about hiring Atkins as his assistant.

The group's mandate was to harass German personnel in France linked to the occupation.

Atkins recruited 480 agents from a cross-section of society, and they were trained to pass as French citizens.

According to Stevenson, they wreaked havoc on the Nazis.

With the help of the French resistance movement, they cut phone lines, blew up bridges and tunnels and derailed military trains.

During the 1944 Allied invasion of Normandy, they harassed German divisions rushed to France, slowing them down and turning the tide of the war.

U.S. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme commander of Allied forces, had high praise for Atkins' agents, saying they were "the equivalent of 15 divisions."

Fiercely loyal to her agents, Atkins stood on the runway to watch each batch take off to parachute into France.

One hundred eighteen were captured, tortured and murdered by the Germans. She herself did not venture into enemy territory because "she knew too much," Stevenson noted.

After the war, Atkins spent almost a year tracking the deaths of her agents, interrogating Nazi concentration camp officers who may have come into contact with them.

Atkins also interviewed the commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Hoss, who told her that 1.5 million Jews had been exterminated there.

Despite her stellar performance, Atkins fought running turf battles with British officials who disapproved of the methods used by the Special Operations Executive and, in a class-ridden nation, opposed the recruitment of agents from "the street," Stevenson said.

He added that because of anti-Semitism, she concealed her background as a Jew.

Stevenson suggested that she left a lasting impression on William Donovan, a confidant of U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Impressed by the Special Operations Executive, he convinced Roosevelt to create the OSS – the Office of Strategic Services – the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Atkins, who was single, retired after the war, living in a cottage from which, on a clear day, she could make out the coastline of France.

"She lived quietly – and silently – for the next half-century," Stevenson writes of Miss Moneypenny, otherwise known as Vera Atkins.

Aboriginal leader sees Israel as model for his people

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Ovide Mercredi, a former grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, says he has returned from his first visit to Israel determined to use the Jewish state's accomplishments as a model for his own people.

"I didn't know what to expect before I went," said Mercredi, who is currently chief of the Misipawistik (Grand Rapids) Cree Nation in northern Manitoba. "The media only focuses on the conflict."

But Mercredi came away impressed by the Jewish state.

"It was amazing what Israel has accomplished in such a short time," he said. "I kept reflecting on how we could use Israel's model for the benefit of my own First Nations people.

"I saw a country with scarce land and water resources, but a lot of intelligence. First Nations people also have few natural resources. There is no reason that we can't use our intelligence to overcome our lack of resources and develop our communities' economies."

Mercredi said he also learned from his visit that you can't rely on others. You have to do things for yourself.

Mercredi's trip came as a result of a Manitoba-JNF memorandum of understanding that was signed last June. It called for the province to commit $1 million to be invested with the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba to support scientific and technological exchanges between Manitoba and Israel.

One of the priorities of the agreement was the adaptation of Israeli greenhouse technology to a northern Manitoba community.

After they spent a week visiting First Nations communities last July, JNF scientist Avi Gafni and Graham Dixon, president of JNF for Manitoba and Saskatchewan, concluded that the Misipawistik Cree Nation, led by Mercredi, was the best community for a pilot project.

The community, located about 450 miles north of Winnipeg, has a year-round population of close to 800, with another 800 people living in the area.

Mercredi's visit to Israel was co-ordinated by JNF. Also part of the April 23-May 3 trip were five other members of the Misipawistik Cree Nation, as well as Dixon and his wife, Faye, Ray Hoemsen from Red River College and Manitoba Agriculture's Brian Hunt.

They visited Moshav Hayogev's greenhouses in the north, where the moshav grows herbs, vegetables and flowers. They also stopped at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology to meet with a professor of agricultural engineering, and later visited the greenhouse at Bakaa Al Gharbia and the Yair Station greenhouses/hothouses and fish farms in the Arava, a low rainfall region, as well as other areas of agricultural interest.

Mercredi said he was struck by the range of activity fostered by JNF, which he sees as a model for "how people can liberate themselves from dependency."

He added that he'd like to establish a version of JNF for Canada's First Nations people.

"I am really excited about this project," he said of JNF's involvement in developing a greenhouse in his community. He also foresees selling surplus produce to other northern Manitoba communities that are equally starved for fresh vegetables, and having his community's greenhouse serve as a model for other northern communities that also decide to build greenhouses.

Mercredi said he has a meeting scheduled for early June with the provincial government, Red River College and Manitoba Hydro, all partners in the project.

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Coast to Coast

Well-known lawyer named to the bench

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA – Prominent Ottawa lawyer Stanley Kershman was sworn in as a judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario on March 27.

Kershman, well known as an expert in bankruptcy and insolvency, practised with the firm of Perley-Robertson, Hill and McDougall and sat as a small claims court judge. He is also the author of *Put your Debt on a Diet*, about which he has been interviewed widely in the media, both in Canada and the United States.

> ***Family court has been a learning experience***

Born and educated in Ottawa, Kershman graduated from the University of Ottawa Law School in 1976 and has practised in this city ever since.

The son of Sylvia and the late Harry Kershman, and the father of teenaged children Kayla and Zev, the newly minted judge credits the support of his family for his accomplishments in life.

"I have received a huge amount of support from my family – my wife Carol, my mother, my late father and my extended family and friends. That support has allowed me to achieve my goals. Without support, it is much more difficult," he said.

Being extremely focused and goal oriented is a trait that has served Kershman well throughout his career.

"I set goals in my life and one of those was to become a judge," he said. "About 15 years ago, I thought this would be the next stepping stone. From that point, my focus was on doing what was necessary, which meant going to court, which meant writing, which meant being knowledgeable of litigation, as opposed to strictly solicitor's work."

Kershman will be based in Ottawa but will also be sitting throughout eastern Ontario.

He said his first assignment, in family court, has been a learning experience.

"It really has opened my eyes to the fact that I have been very lucky in terms of the type of life I have led," he said. "A lot of what I have seen in the family law area really makes me grateful for the wonderful life I have."

A long-time member and regular attendee of Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas, Kershman is proud of his Jewish identity and finds comfort in his faith.

"Every Saturday morning I go [to shul] because for me it is a most enjoyable part of the week… it provides me with an opportunity to thank God for everything, and it allows me to see a whole different family, my shul friends and family, which is in itself an amazing support group."

Many of his shul friends attended his swearing-in ceremony at the Ottawa Courthouse, during which speaker after speaker praised Kershman's professional accomplishments and laudable character.

And the reception following the ceremony was perhaps a first at the Ottawa Courthouse – strictly kosher.

שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

מה קורה שם

בטלויזיה הישראלית הראו מצלמה אלקטרונית שתפסה נהג אופנוע שנמחץ בין שתי מכוניות, נופל חסר הכרה על הכביש ונשאר מוטל שם כשעשרות מכוניות עוברות אותו ואינן עוצרות. חלקן בבירור אפילו "עוקפות את המפגע". דקות ספורות אחר כך נקבע מותו של האיש. תמיד אמרנו בגאווה שבניגוד לצפון אמריקה, בישראל דברים כאלה אינם יכולים לקרות.

במשחק של בית"ר ירושלים דרס הקהל שניסה לפרוץ למגרש כשלושים אוהדים, וכמה מהם אושפזו במצב אנוש.

ממש לא יאומן שישראל הפכה לעוד מדינה לבנטינית במזרח התיכון.

רופאים מבית חולים "ביקור חולים" הציגו מחקר כירורגי בכנס בינלאומי בברצלונה, שרובו המוחלט מבוסס על חומר בדוי, שלא נאסף על חולים. הם הכחישו בכל תוקף עד אשר הדברים הוכחו מעבר לכל ספק. בידוי של מחקר רפואי הוא עבירה חמורה ביותר שעלולה להוביל למסקנות מוטעות, שיכולות לסכן חיי אדם.

יש הרגשה כללית, כפי שהיא משתקפת מהדוגמאות האלה, של פומפיאה בשקיעתה, של קריסה מוחלטת של נורמות, ולא רק אצל פוליטיקאים, אלא ברמה הרבה יותר עמוקה, וזה בהחלט מבהיל.

לכל הילדים ששרדו את המאה שעברה

תודה לחברים ששלחו לי את הקטע הבא:

אנחנו, ילדי המאה שעברה-, שרדנו למרות שהאמהות שלנו עישנו ושתו בהריון, למרות שאכלו טונה מלאת כספית ולא נבדקו לסכרת הריון. אחרי הטראומות האלה השכיבו אותנו לישון על בטננו בחדר שנצבע בצבעים על בסיס עופרת. הסיעו אותנו במכוניות ללא חגורות בטחון וללא כסאות בטיחות לילדים, ולמרות זאת שרדנו.

שתינו מים מהברז ולא מבקבוקים ואף אחד לא מת מזה. אכלנו לחם לבן ושתינו משקאות כל בסיס סוכר, אבל לא השמנו כי היינו רוב הזמן בחוץ, מבוקר עד חשיכה. בנינו עגלת גלגיליות מכל מיני גרוטאות, ורק במדרון גילינו ששכחנו לבנות מעצורים. אחרי מספר פעמים שנזרקנו לשיחים-מצאנו פתרון.

לא היו לנו נינטנדו או פְּליי סטיישן, לא די וי, ולא מאה וחמישים ערוצים, לא אינטרנט ולא סי די. אבל היו לנו חברים, יצאנו החוצה ומצאנו אותם. נפלנו מעצים, נפצענו, שברנו עצמות ושיניים, אבל אף אחד לא הגיש תביעה משפטית.

היו לנו חופש, כשלון, הצלחה ואחראיות, ולמדנו איך להתמודד איתם.

איחולים לכל מי ששרד את הימים ההם.

רחוב אילן רמון

אלפי אנשים התאספו לאירוע קריאת שמו של רחוב אילן רמון.

גליה סרנר, ממארגנות האירוע מסכמת:

"זמן קצר לפני מותו הטרגי כתב אילן רמון מכתב לנשיא המדינה וביטא את אמונתו בכוחות האדירים של העם היהודי וישראל, ושְׂמֵה שנחוץ זו מנהיגות נכונה. אני מרגישה שהאירוע המרגש הזה, במעמד אלפי איש, ובעבודה של מתנדבים רבים, מגשים את דבריו של רמון על איכותם הגבוהה של אנשי הקהילה שלנו."

הזבוב בקפה

מה קורה כשזבוב נופל לכוס קפה?

האנגלי חוטף גועל ושופך את הכוס.

האמריקאי מוציא את הזבוב ושותה את הקפה.

הסיני אוכל את הזבוב ושופך את הקפה.

היפני שותה את הקפה עם הזבוב כי הזבוב היה אקסטרה.

הישראלי מוכר את הקפה לאמריקאי, את הזבוב לסיני וקונה לעצמו קפה חדש.

הפלשתינאי מאשים את הישראלי בפעולת איבה על שֶׂשָׂם את הזבוב בקפה שלו, ומבקש מהאו"ם עזרה, לוקח הלוואה מאירופה לקנות כוס קפה חדשה, אבל משתמש בכסף לקנות פצצות להרים את בית הקפה, שבו יושבים האמריקאי, היפני והסיני ומנסים להסביר לישראלי שהוא היה מִדַי אלים.

אבל שישאר בינינו.

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Man arrested for punching chassidic teen

By JANICE ARNOLD
Special to The CJN

MONTREAL — Jewish groups say the attack on a chassidic teenager by a 24-year-old man appears to be a hate crime, but Montreal police say there is no evidence of that and he will likely be charged with simple assault.

"Considering the victim's dress, it is reasonable to fear that the crime was motivated by hate," Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region president Jeffrey Boro, a criminal lawyer, said in a statement.

B'nai Brith Canada feels the same. Allan Adel, national chair of its League for Human Rights and also a lawyer, said the attack has "the hallmarks of a hate crime."

The man, whose name was not released pending his appearance in municipal court scheduled for July 9, was captured on a chassidic school's surveillance video camera. He crossed Bloomfield Avenue in Outremont, apparently without provocation, and punched the boy in the head, hard enough to knock him to the ground.

The boy was bruised but not seriously hurt and returned to school the next day.

Witnesses called 911 and police arrested the man a few blocks away. He was later released.

The attack took place on May 10, around 5:40 p.m. in broad daylight, near the Skver community's Toldos Yakov Yosef yeshiva, which the boy was leaving. This is the same school that suffered significant damage after a Molotov cocktail was thrown into its entrance in September. Two suspects in that incident were arrested last month and are being detained. Police do not believe there is any connection to this latest incident.

Police spokesperson Claude Hamel said the attack appears to be one of mistaken identity. The suspect told police that a female friend of his had been hurt by a Jewish man a couple of weeks earlier, and he thought it was the boy. According to police, he said he did not realize his victim was so young and apologized.

Boro suggested that the attack may have something to do with the "reasonable accommodation" of minorities debate that has been raging in Quebec for many months.

Both Jewish groups applauded the police for their quick response. However, Adel reiterated B'nai Brith's call for a specialized hate-crimes unit like those in Toronto and Vancouver, an idea police chief Yvan Delorme has rejected.

USDS branch delayed

Continued from page 3

Dlin had been chair of a parent committee called "Preserve our Presence," which lobbied to have the Richmond Hill branch remain open.

However, many of the Dlin family's friends also stayed with the school, "based on the promise of the Lebovic campus opening in 2008, as well as a promise made that when the campus opened, it would open with *all* grades," he wrote.

Like a number of other families, the Dlins moved to Thornhill Woods more than two years ago to be close to the Lebovic campus. Their new house cost "a great deal more" than their previous home in Aurora.

He also resigned as a York region teacher to take a position at the the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's Richmond Hill location, which will move to the Lebovic campus this September.

"In a sense, my family has placed many of our eggs in the Lebovic basket," he wrote.

Having decided to stay, he said, he wanted to be more actively involved in USDS' policy and decision-making, and is now on its board of directors. As well, he is chairing a new committee whose "task is to investigate the potential for opening more grades than just the early ones.

"That experience has taught me what I basically already knew. Although it is natural to be angry with the people making the decisions, the truth is the decisions are correct.

"Every parent, when they first hear bad news, is frustrated, but after you let the anger and frustration pass, you start to think constructively," Dlin said.

The school continues to have discussions with federation and Beit Rayim, Bellack-Viner said.

Registration for next year looks "good," she added after a preliminary deadline, but the final deadline will be more telling in terms of how many families are committing to staying.

Israel Day at Earl Bales

Thousands of people are expected to celebrate the sights, sounds, tastes and spirit of Israel at the Canadian Zionist Federation's 12th annual Israel Day Festival, June 3, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m at Earl Bales Park.

The free outdoor celebration features non-stop entertainment including a drum circle with the Halleluja Drummers, Hebrew day school choirs, singer Limor Twena, and dance troupes Chai Dancers and Nirkoda Dancers.

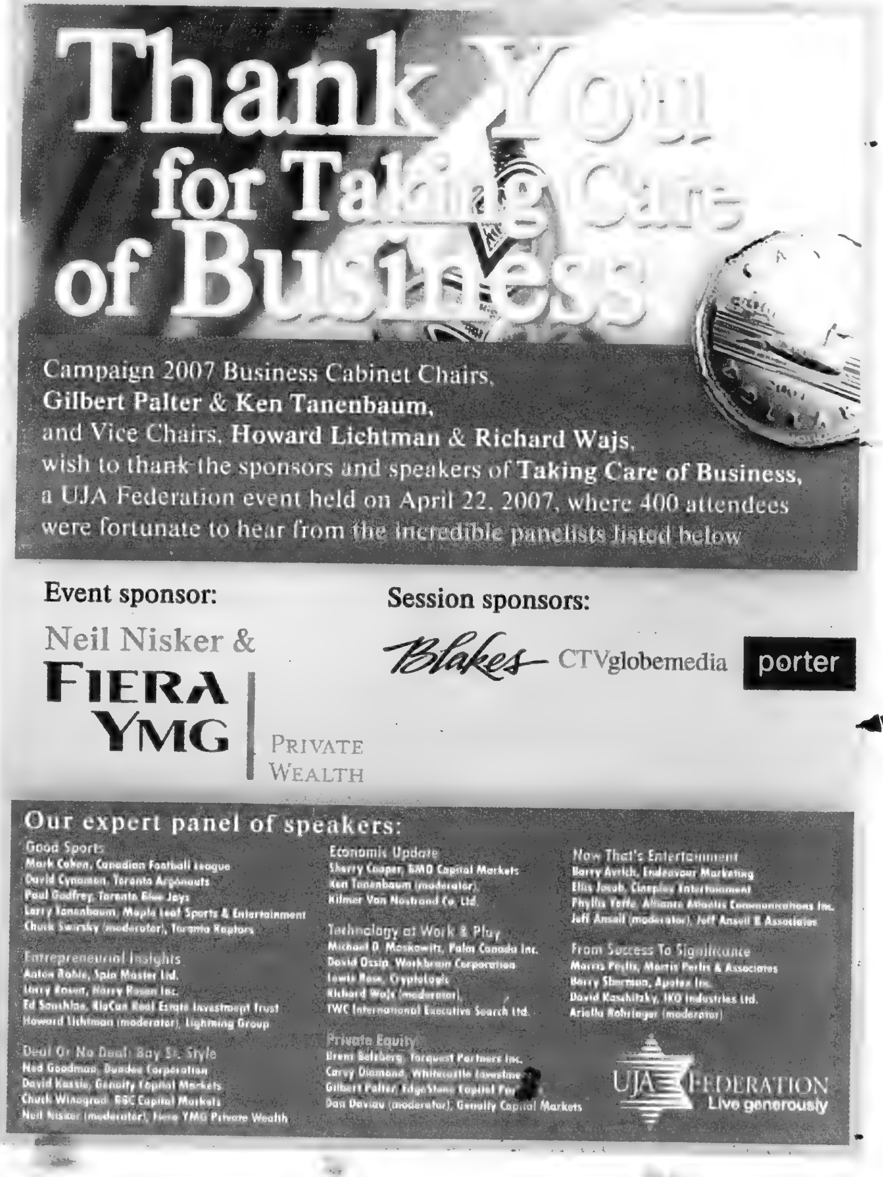
For shoppers, a shuk will showcase Judaica, Israeli artisans, books, herbal products, Israeli flowers, skin care products, jewelry, shoes, flags and housewares.

Children will be entertained with arts and crafts, inflatables, clowns, face paints, a treasure hunt, and kosher food such as falafel, salads in pita, hamburgers and hot dogs.

At 12:30 p.m., items such as electronics, toys, restaurant and event vouchers will be up for bids at a live auction.

Barbara Peters, executive director of the Canadian Zionist Federation, said the goal of the festival is highlight Israel to the entire Jewish and general population.

For information, call 416-633-3988 or e-mail czf@jazo.org.il. To volunteer, e-mail syurman@conquestvacations.com.



Thank You for Taking Care of Business

Campaign 2007 Business Cabinet Chairs, Gilbert Palter & Ken Tanenbaum, and Vice Chairs, Howard Lichtman & Richard Wajs, wish to thank the sponsors and speakers of Taking Care of Business, a UJA Federation event held on April 22, 2007, where 400 attendees were fortunate to hear from the incredible panelists listed below

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Morris Perlis, Morris Perlis & Associates
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Ariella Rohringer (moderator)

UJA Federation
Live generously

FAMILY GATHERING: 5,000 people gathered at Earl Bales Park for a grand Lag B'Omer Parade & Family Outing. The event was sponsored by the network of Chabad institutions in the GTA. The day's events included a show by Zero Gravity Circus in the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre, a parade saluting Jewish unity, a family picnic and carnival rides and games. The festivities concluded with a "Medura" bonfire and kumzitz led by Hatzadikim band.

Anti-Israel incitement makes peace difficult

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

On May 8, Canadian Press carried an Associated Press report from Gaza City titled "Hamas 'Mickey Mouse' calls for Muslim world domination." It described a weekly Hamas children's show broadcast on Al-Aqsa TV calling for Islamic domination and "armed resistance."

Every Friday, a character innocuously named Farfour (meaning "butterfly"), a Mickey Mouse clone, incites children against Israel, Jews, the United States and the entire non-Islamic world.

In a recent episode, Farfour says: "You and I are laying the foundation for a world led by Islamists… We will return the Islamic community to its former greatness and liberate Jerusalem… liberate Iraq… and liberate all the countries of the Muslims invaded by the murderers."

Children are encouraged to call the show and engage with Farfour. According to a May 9 transcript from MEMRI (the Washington-based Middle East Media Research Institute) of an episode from last month, one child named Sanabel, when asked by Farfour to "liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque" (i.e. Jerusalem and Palestine), replied: "We will annihilate the Jews."

Interestingly, the show has received criticism from a small number of Palestinians. Samir Zakkouf, a psychologist working with the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, denounced it for glorifying violence and creating a culture of aggression that has penetrated mainstream Palestinian society. He blamed both Israel and the Palestinians for this situation.

Basem Abu Sumaya, head of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation controlled by Fatah, also spoke out against the show. "I don't think it's professional, or even humane, to use children in such harsh political programs."

This is somewhat ironic, because for years, and especially after Yasser Arafat became president of the Fatah-controlled Palestinian Authority in 1994, Palestinian television and schools have been indoctrinating an entire generation with anti-Israel and anti-Semitic messages.

When Israel repeatedly voiced its objections, some of the messages might have been occasionally toned down, but Israel's concerns were met mostly with denial or indifference. (Under current PA President Mahmoud Abbas, there were inconsistent efforts to moderate this content before Hamas took over the PA in February 2005.)

It would be inaccurate to claim that Hamas alone is guilty of inciting Palestinians, and especially young people, to hate Israel and Jews. But Hamas's campaign is more pronounced than Fatah's and is backed by its charter, which not only calls for Israel's destruction but for the murder of Jews. (Contrary to popular misconception, the PLO's charter calling for Israel's destruction has never been re-written to eliminate anti-Israel clauses as promised during the Oslo peace process years.)

Countless experts have long argued that genuine peace can only occur when two peoples are prepared to live in a climate of mutual tolerance. Yet the constant Palestinian anti-Israel rhetoric is virtually guaranteed to maintain a poisonous atmosphere regarding the Jewish state.

Robert Fulford touched on the situation of incitement in a broader political context in his column, "Don't mention the war," (*National Post*, April 28). He referred to a discussion on Hamas TV calling for "the kidnapping of more Zionist soldiers" amid increased Qassam rocket fire into southern Israel. At the same time, Abbas was meeting in Rome with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi trying to secure renewed EU funding for the PA and assuring him that the Hamas rocket fire would cease. But in such an atmosphere, Fulford says, talk of normalcy and stability in the absence of responsible leadership, as in the Hamas-led PA "unity" government, is just "politics grounded in daydreams."

Without dispelling such daydreams of normalcy and ending the vicious incitement in Palestinian society, the prospects for Palestinian-Israeli reconciliation remain very bleak indeed.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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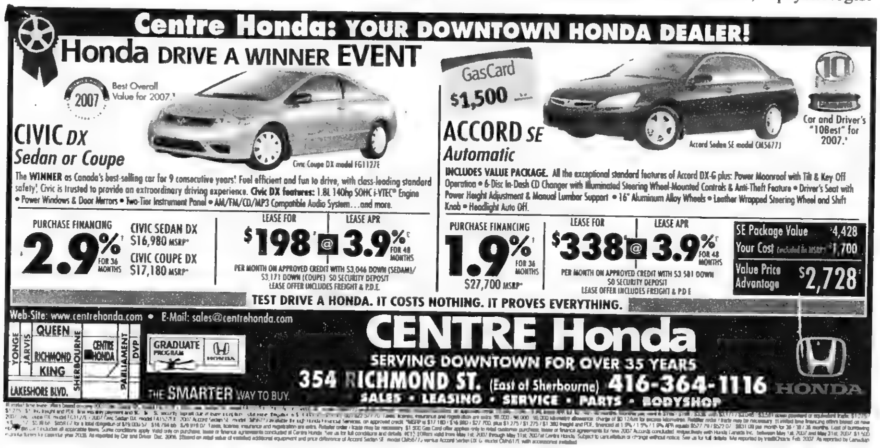
Phil & Faygie Schwartz



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Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Only paid Family Moments announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

Mazel tov announcements featured on onlysimchas.com will appear once a month.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words, maximum. Send your photos to:

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or email to:
cblackman@cjnews.com

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www.onlysimchas.com

Mazel tov to Zena Pearl of Montreal & Ari Hirsch of Brooklyn, N.Y., on your recent engagement.

Mazel tov on the engagement of Moti Agiashvili of Kirat Ata, Israel, & Devorah Leah Chein of Queens, N.Y.

Mazel tov to Levy Greenwood of Toronto & Aviva Dena Miller of Oak Park, Mich., and Albany, N.Y. on your engagement.

Mazel tov on the engagement of Josh Bender & Talia Mann of Vancouver.

Mazel tov on the wedding of Shuli Boxer of Vancouver & Ari Rieser of New York, N.Y.

Mazel tov on the engagement of Rachel Miller of Sharon, Mass., & Justin Sakofs of Morristown, N.J.

Mazel tov on the brit milah of Uriel Yaakov. Parents are Atara (Engel) & Avi Bessin of Toronto.

Mazel tov on the brit milah of Hananel Aharon Bloch. Parents are Yael & Yossie Bloch of Jerusalem, Israel, formerly of Kitchener, Ont.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, May 28, is the deadline for the June 7 issue and Monday, June 4, is the deadline for the June 14 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, May 17

YOM YERUSHALAYIM

Join Beit Rayim Synagogue and School for Jerusalem: Past, Present and Future, a celebration of Yom Yerushalayim with **Ya'acov (Cobie) Brosh**, consul general of Israel and a performance by the Beit Rayim choir. 7:30 p.m. at Reena Battle Centre, 927 Clark Ave. W. Free. 905-770-7639, ext. 31, or admin@beitrayim.org

SPIRITUAL PATH OF MUSSAR

Toronto Jewish Library presents **Alan Morinis**, author of *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar*. 7:30 p.m. at the Bathurst JCC, room 120. 416-635-2883, ext. 111, or latnercentre@ujafed.org

JEWISH GENETIC DISEASES

Canadian Magen David Adom present **Dr. Annette Feigenbaum**, of the Hospital for Sick Kids, on "The Power of Prevention: Jewish Genetic Diseases and Screening." 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $18. 416-780-0034 or cmda@interlog.com

CHABAD ANNUAL DINNER

The fourth annual Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre "Spirit of Community Dinner" takes place at the Renaissance Parque Centre with guest speaker **Dennis Prager**. Tickets and info, 905-709-7770.

Saturday, May 19

MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Join Shaar Shalom Synagogue and cantor **Ben Silverberg** for a musical extravaganza. Shabbat services followed by a festive kiddush. 8:45 a.m. 905-889-4975

Sunday, May 20

FAMILY TREASURES

The Ontario Jewish Archives hosts Preserving Your Family Treasures, a workshop with **Ellen Scheinberg**, director of the OJA, and **Lincoln Ross**, photograph conservator. Participants are invited to bring one photograph or document that they have questions about in terms of preservation or conservation. The second half of the workshop will be used to answer questions. 1-3 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building. $25. Register, 416-635-2883 ext. 187.

SECRET OF GABI'S DRESSER

Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre sponsors the Te-Amim Music Theatre children's Holocaust drama, *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser* by **Kathy Kacer**. 2 p.m. at Burton Auditorium, York University. Tickets $20, school-age children $15. For tickets, call 416-736-5888 or visit www.yorku.ca/perform.

Tuesday, May 22

ALL NIGHT LEARNING

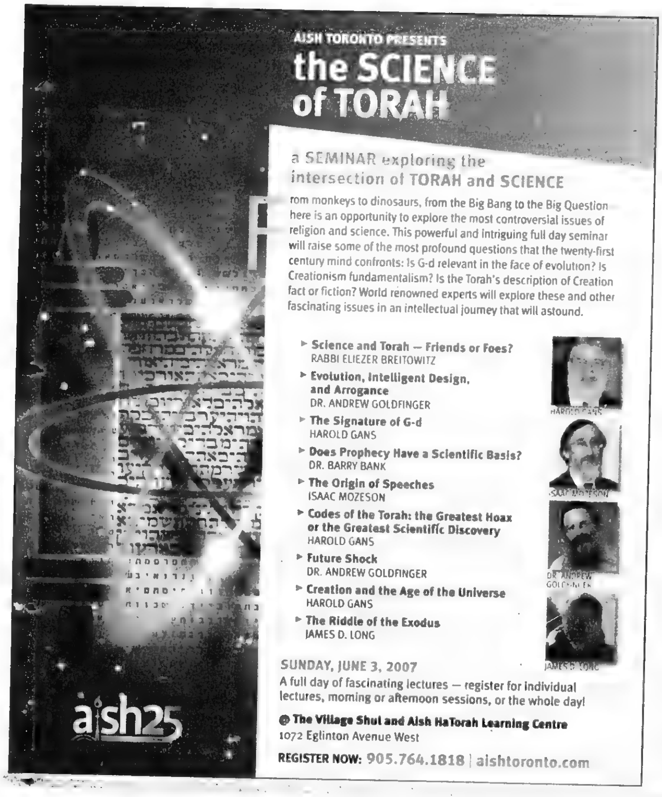
The Little Minyan at Beth Tzedec Congregation hosts a Tikkun Leyl Shavuot program, from 9:15 p.m. to dawn. Shacharit service at 5 a.m., followed by a pancake breakfast. 416-781-3514, ext. 34

Shaarei Tefillah Congregation hosts Leyl Shavuot Torah learning, midnight-5 a.m., followed by Shacharit and breakfast. The program includes **Rabbi Avrahan Bartfeld** on "Human Rights, Animal Rights, Inanimate Objects Rights?" 12-1 a.m.; **Rabbi Shmuel Klein** on "Why the Rejection of the Torah by the Gentile World," 1:15-2:15 a.m.; **Rabbi Michael Skobac** on "Torah and Truth," 2:30-3:30 a.m.; **Rabbi Nachum Berlat** on "How Not to Perform the Mitzvah of Bikur Cholim," 3:45-4:45 a.m.; and **Rabbi Moshe Stern** on "Potpourri of Current Halachic Issues." 4:20-5 a.m. 416-787-1631

FAMILY SHAVUOT DINNER

Join Beth Tzedec Kadima for a

Continued on page 29



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- Does Prophecy Have a Scientific Basis?
  DR. BARRY BANK
- The Origin of Speeches
  ISAAC MOZESON
- Codes of the Torah: the Greatest Hoax or the Greatest Scientific Discovery
  HAROLD GANS
- Future Shock
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Concerts at Roy Thomson Hall

Continued from page 28

family Shavuot dinner, 7-9 p.m., followed by a speaker. RSVP, 416-781-3514, ext. 30.

Wednesday, May 23

SHAVUOT COMES ALIVE

Meet live biblical characters as Chabad Lubavitch of Markham re-enact and re-experience the Mount Sinai drama. Morning services begin 9:30 a.m, followed by program at 11 a.m. with dairy lunch and ice cream bar. 905-886-0420, ext. 221

Other News

NCJW 50TH REUNION

The Study and Service Branch of National Council of Jewish Women invite members past and present to a 50th reunion, Wednesday, May 30, 7:30 p.m. at 5444 Yonge St. For info, call 416-789-5973.

TORONTO'S POVERTY GAP

Congregation Darchei Noam presents an educational forum on Toronto's poverty gap, with **Armine Yalnizyan**, research director, Community Social Planning Council of Toronto, and **Ed Segalowitz**, vice-president, United Jewish Appeal Federation. Thursday, May 24, 7:30 p.m. 15 Hove St. 416-638-4783

STUDY WITH ILANA SOBER

Mekorot offers "The Splitting of David's Kingdom," a final course with **Ilana Sober**, before she moves to Israel. Focusing on King Yeravam, the course will use biblical texts to explore the events and personalities that led to the splitting of King David's mighty empire into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah. Men and women welcome. Mondays, May 28 to June 11, 8-9:30 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation and Thursdays, May 31 to June 14, 10-11:30 a.m. at Ulpanat Orot High School. Info and registration, 416-877-2050.

BORCHIVER MEMORIAL

Join JVS Toronto and pay homage to **Dr. Ruth Borchiver** at a memorial service Tuesday, May 29, 7 p.m. at Bialik Hebrew Day School. Those who wish to say a few words of tribute, contact **Silvana Adair**, 416-787-1151, ext. 263, or sadair@jvstoronto.org.

PLAYWRITING CONTEST

The 2007 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition invites submissions by Thursday, May 31. Plays should have a Jewish focus, be between one and two hours in length and have a strong Canadian connection. It is preferred that plays be sent via e-mail as an MS Word attachments. Place a pseudonym on the manuscript's front page, include real name and contact information in a separate letter or in the e-mail. Send submissions to esthera@mnjcc.org.

FILM: *EVER AGAIN*

National Council of Jewish Women presents *Ever Again*, a film examining the resurgence of anti-Semitism and terrorism across the globe with an introduction by a Simon Wiesenthal Centre representative. Wednesday, May 30, 8 p.m. at 4700 Bathurst St. $10, non-members $15. 416-633-5100

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Beth Tzedec Museum presents "Lives Remembered: Photographs of a Small Town in Poland, 1898-1937" taken by **Zalman Kaplan**, on display until the end of June in the Mezzanine Gallery, second floor. 416-781-3514, ext. 32

VENDORS WANTED

Clubs Beersheba and Aviva of Na'amat Canada are looking for vendors for their craft and gift show, Sunday, June 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden Centre. Call 416-636-5425 (days) and 905-881-8161 (evenings).

EXHIBIT AND AUCTION

Support the Hospital for Sick Children's Tea Four Two Exhibition and Celebrity Auction. Teapots created by professional artists and celebrities on display at the Petroff Gallery through June 10. To participate, visit gallery or online at www.sickkidsauction.com.

THEATRE AUDITIONS

Teatron Jewish Theatre is seeking actors for *Conversations With My Father*, a dramatic comedy by **Herb Gardner**, Nov. 21 to Dec. 2, and *Chaim's Love Song*, a dramatic comedy by **Marvin Chernoff**, Feb. 27 to March 9, 2008, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Auditions for both plays take place May 29, 31; callbacks June 5, 7. Book an audition at teatron@sympatico.ca or call 416-781-5527.

ZAREINU MOVEATHONS

Join the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Zareinu Moveathon in support of the Zareinu Educational Centre, a treatment facility and school for children with a wide range of physical and developmental challenges. This year there are two opportunities to participate. On Sunday, June 10, join a 2-km walk, 10-km run or 20-km bike ride at Downsview Park. On Sunday, June 24, join the Zareinu Moveathon Pro Tour, a 50-km and 100-km bike ride at the Niagara Escarpment. For info and registration, visit www.moveathon.com.

SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

Are you a survivor of abuse who is willing and able to speak about your experiences? Jewish Women International of Canada (JWIC) now offers speakers to community groups, to educate men and women about the issue of abuse and its effects. JWIC is looking for women who would speak publicly to interested groups in the Jewish community. Training is provided. Call 416-630-9313.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna**, ext. 215, for info and registration.

One Family, Two Homes, a three- session series for families experiencing separation and divorce. Children participate in separate age appropriate groups. Begins Thursday May 31, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer, or for information on these programs call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Café: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual, friendly environment with JIAS volunteers Thursday evenings at the Bathurst JCC or Thursday afternoon location in Thornhill. Children are welcome.

Volunteers are needed for JIAS Telephone Language Companion program. Call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

JUMPStart: If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer, connect Elisa at ext. 24.

Family to Family welcomes newcomer families and provide informal advice and orientation to our community. To participate, call Joanna, ext. 30.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Registration now for September 2007 Morning School including Tic Tac Two, nursery and junior kindergarten. All programs include music, Hebrew, Fun Centre time, gym time and swimming. Call ext. 248 for information.

Day-trip tickets on sale for Shaw Festival, *Mack and Mable*, July 17 and *Tristan*, Aug. 21. Call ext 235.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Earl Bales Club In The Park. Sunday Dance, May 20, 50+ singles and non-members welcome. Fallsview Casino Niagara, Thursday, May 31; Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 13. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

The Association of Jewish Seniors and ACSCO host a "Good Health Day" at Earl Bales Park Community Centre, Tuesday, June 5, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Register by May 22. For info, call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

Temple Sinai Social Club hosts the North Toronto Community Band playing concert band music including Souza, Webber and Berlin. Sunday, May 27, 7:30 p.m. $5, guests $7. RSVP **Marcie**, 416-487-3281.

WAGMAN CENTRE

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OBITUARIES
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Steeles Memorial Chapel

Schayer, Hilda	April 24/07	7440 Bathurst St
Tokman, Mikhail	April 26/07	Private
Krengel, Rachel	April 26/07	3560 Bathurst St
Kovari, Arthur	April 27/07	Private
Goldin, Rose	April 27/07	Private
Kamenetsky, Nina	April 28/07	2045 Finch Ave. W.
Grichman, Bettie	April 28/07	33 Weldrick Rd. E
Rotenberg, Dora	April 28/07	85 Millersgrove Rd
Gortchakov, Lev	April 29/07	Private
Spiegel, Harry	April 30/07	4266 Bathurst St
Benitah, Stanley	May 1/07	316 Summer Ridge
Aiken, Harry	May 3/07	17 Laurelcrest Ave

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Eli Himelfarb	Apr 22/07	40 Stouffville Rd
Harvey Abrams	Apr 22/07	7 Townsgate Dr #104
Florence Vigod	Apr 23/07	901 Queen St W #603
Pola Litvack	Apr 23/07	155 Marlee Ave #1911
Tzivia Serlin	Apr 23/07	306 Finch Ave E
Edward Charney	Apr 24/07	100 Upper Madison Ave #1407
Leon Malinowski	Apr 24/07	9 Kirkland Bl
Samuel Schacter	Apr 25/07	3800 Yonge St #719
Hy Maker	Apr 27/07	866 Sheppard Ave W
Rose Peters	Apr 27/07	1101 Steeles Ave W #814

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late

NETTIE BERUL ז"ל

will take place
Thursday, May 31st, 1:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Labour Zionist Organization Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late

GEORGIA KELMAN ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 20th, 12:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Temple Sinai Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The family of the late

Morris Small ז"ל

remembers.

I did not forget you Moishe. I think of you day and night. Rest in peace my beloved husband.

Your ever loving wife, Paula
and family

PHILLIP WINTROB ז"ל

Beloved son, brother,
uncle and friend
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never a day forgotten.

Missing you.
Mum and Dad, Suzanne, Kyle and Brett

AARON, GLADYS ז"ל Peacefully, in her sleep, on Wednesday, May 2, 2007, in her 89th year. Beloved wife of the late Joseph, loving mother of Raymond and Susan, dear baba of Juli-Ann, Emma, Lisa and Lori. Gladys was a Past-President of the Canadian Natural Hygiene Society and a senior citizen fitness instructor for many years. No funeral service will be held at this time.

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The family of the late

MORRIS MILSTONE ז"ל

Would like to express heartfelt gratitude for all the expressions of sympathy during their recent bereavement, and for the many donations given in Morris' memory. Your support has been a great source of comfort at this time.

Bea Tannenbaum

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late

ROSE LUFTIG ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 20th, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, south of Steeles
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late

ANNE RIFF ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 27th, 10:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late

FRANCES GOLDMAN (MALKIN) ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, June 3rd, 12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Temple Sinai Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
honouring the memory of

MARTHA TATRANSKY ז"ל

beloved mother of Janet
will take place
Sunday, May 20th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community 3 Section EEE
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The family of the late

JACOB GOLDLUST ז"ל

wishes to express our sincerest appreciation to family, friends and colleagues for your generous and kind expressions of sympathy and support during our difficult time.

Judi Shiner, Risa Oziel and families

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MANIA SPELLMAN ז"ל

Beloved Wife, Mother, Bubbie, Sister-in-law & Sister
will take place
Sunday, May 20th at 11:00 a.m.
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Farbund Section
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Dairy foods traditional for Shavuot

By SUE EPSTEIN
Special the The CJN

Shavuot marks two important events in Judaism: the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai and the celebration of the spring harvest, in keeping with the description in the Book of Exodus that commanded the Israelites to gather the first fruits of their labours.

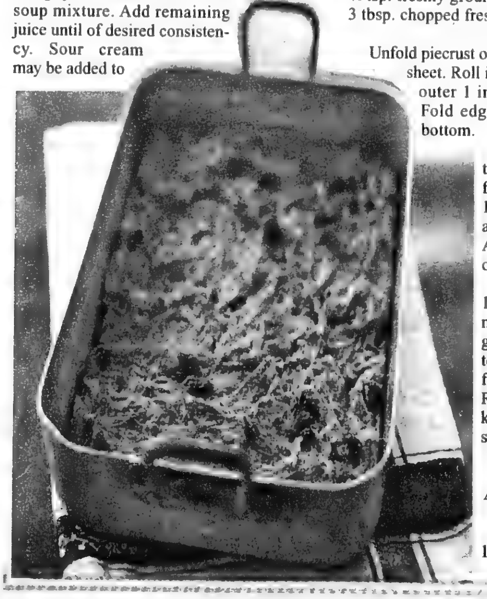
Some people have a tradition of staying up all night learning Torah and then taking a long nap before eating the holiday meal. It is also traditional to serve dairy foods and an excellent time to try out all those wonderful dairy dishes that you wouldn't take the time to make for an ordinary weekday dinner. Here are some of my favourites.

COLD STRAWBERRY SOUP

This is one of the warm weather soups I like best. Since strawberries are in season for only a short time in Israel, this soup is a special treat and a great beginning for the Shavuot meal.

1 cup sugar
½ cup cornstarch
1-1½ cups grape juice or red wine
1 cup water
1 tbsp. vanilla
2 pints strawberries
¼ cup lemon juice
½ cup orange juice concentrate
1-1½ cups additional juice (grape, orange or apple)
2 cups sour cream, optional

Mix sugar and cornstarch, then add grape juice and water. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly until thickened. Remove from heat and add vanilla. Save about half a container of the prettiest strawberries for garnish and mash the remainder. Add lemon juice and orange juice concentrate. Add to soup mixture. Add remaining juice until of desired consistency. Sour cream may be added to soup at this point if using. Chill and serve topped with strawberry slices. Makes 6 servings.



"CARDIAC" KUGEL

When you look at the list of ingredients you can see how this kugel gets its name. This is my once-a-year-on-Shavuot recipe and it's worth every single calorie and cholesterol point!

8 oz. medium noodles
½ cup butter or margarine, softened
8 eggs
½ cup sugar
½ tbsp. cinnamon
½ tbsp. allspice
4 oz. cream cheese (not whipped)
¼ lb. ricotta cheese
8 oz. sour cream or yogurt
¾ cup milk
1½ tsp. vanilla
½ cup raisins, optional

Preheat oven to 375. Grease a 9x13-inch pan. Boil noodles, drain and mix with butter or margarine until melted. Place them in prepared pan.

Beat eggs in a bowl. Mix in sugar, cinnamon and allspice. Add cream cheese, ricotta cheese and sour cream. Mix well. Pour this mixture over the noodles. Add milk, vanilla and raisins. Bake 40-60 minutes. Makes 12 servings.

TOMATO-PESTO TART

½ 15-oz. package refrigerated piecrust
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
5 plum tomatoes, sliced
½ cup mayonnaise
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
2 tbsp. basil pesto
½ tsp. freshly ground pepper
3 tbsp. chopped fresh basil

Unfold piecrust on a lightly greased baking sheet. Roll into a 12-in. circle. Brush outer 1 inch of crust with water. Fold edges up and crimp. Prick bottom.

Bake crust at 425 for 8 to 10 minutes. Remove from oven. Sprinkle with 1 cup mozzarella cheese and let cool 15 minutes. Arrange tomato slices over cheese.

Stir together remaining 1 cup mozzarella cheese, mayonnaise and next 3 ingredients. Spread over tomato slices. Bake at 375 for 20 to 25 minutes. Remove from oven; sprinkle with basil. Makes 4 servings.

SMOKED SALMON AND HORSERADISH CHEESECAKE

16 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
2 oz. cornstarch
1 oz. horseradish juice from jar of horseradish
1 tsp. salt
1 egg
4 oz. heavy cream
12 oz. diced smoked salmon
6 bagels split and toasted
1 red onion sliced thin

Preheat oven to 350. In a standing electric mixer fitted with a paddle, cream the cream cheese, cornstarch, horseradish juice and salt. Add egg and heavy cream. When filling is mixed thoroughly, add diced smoked salmon and fold it in. Place in buttered 8-in. springform pan and bake for 1 hour or until cheesecake sets up. Remove from oven and let cool to room temperature. Slice into 6 equal portions and serve with bagels and sliced onions.

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On Campus

Website posts messages to save Darfur

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

What more would it take to help the people of Darfur? Student activists in Yale University's law program think they've found an answer in a website they have created called "24 Hours for Darfur."

Conceived and led by Torontonian Benjamin Plener, 24, now in his second year at Yale, the site is unique in its method and aims: to compile a day's worth of 30-second video postings, sent in by people from all over the world and from all walks of life, pleading for aid for Darfur.

Once that's done, Plener and his fellow Yalies hope to spur politicians into action on the issue by taking the footage and projecting it onto screens in front of the U.S. Congress, the UN building in New York and "at other parliament buildings and embassies around the world… in a co-ordinated global launch," Plener explained to *The CJN* by phone from Connecticut. "In Canada, we'd do this in Ottawa on Parliament Hill."

Though not yet "officially" launched, the website is gathering steam, as Plener and his team continue to rally their friends, family members and acquaintances to the site, encouraging them to post their own messages calling for peace for Darfur.

"The bottom line is we'd like to see security for the people of Darfur, which will most likely involve the deployment of UN troops this summer," Plener said. "The diplomatic process is ramping up… But we thought the most effective way to achieve change on the ground is to open things up and try to connect the global citizen to the global policy-maker."

It's estimated that more than 400,000 civilians have died in Darfur since 2003 in an ongoing, genocidal campaign led by the government of Sudan and its Janjaweed militia.

Plener said he expects the official launch to happen within a month.

In the meantime, he's courting 24 celebrities and "prominent people," to record their own 30-second spots, which will intermingle with the rest of the footage.

Among the more than 120 clips gathered as of last week are videos from the dean of Yale Law School, Harold Hong JuKoh; author Bill Berkeley; Mark Malloch Brown, deputy secretary general of the United Nations; and Democratic national committee chair Howard Dean.

24 Hours for Darfur has no official position with regard to troop counts or deployment dates, but Plener encourages anyone who posts a message to say what they feel about the issue and share their ideas about a solution to ensure Darfur's security.

"The truth is, there are political actors who need to do different things [to help Darfur]," Plener said. "The U.S. might not be dedicating troops to any hybrid force or UN force, but it could provide financial support… lots of different actors have different roles to play. It's striking how effective advocacy can be. And we see an opportunity for high-level negotiations and perhaps another resolution in the UN Security Council in moving forward with strengthening the African Union Force."

Though Plener admits that his campaign's engine currently runs primarily on student activism from Yale, he's thrilled to see posts coming in from around the world.

"We have hits from Spain, Egypt, Israel, Europe, Australia… and that's what we're hoping will happen. That this thing will go viral and global," he said.

Plener's sister, Abby, a Grade 12 student at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, was one of the first to post a message on the site. She e-mailed *The CJN* about how her brother's campaign has inspired her.

"I am excited to be a part of this global movement, and to contribute to this unique form of online video advocacy," she wrote. "We can show our leaders and the people of Darfur that we will no longer sit idly while innocent people are massacred."

For more information, visit www.24hoursfordarfur.org.

THE JOURNEY: Kol Neshama, the York University Jewish a cappella group, pose for a group shot after taking the stage to perform a concert last week at Beth David Synagogue in Toronto. The show, *The Journey*, was organized to raise money for D.A.N.I. (Developing and Nurturing Independence), an organization that creates opportunities for physically or cognitively challenged young Jews.

[Andy Hoffer photo]

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Jewish teacher killed in Russia in possible anti-Semitic attack

By AMIRAM BARKAT
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — A Jewish teacher in the Russian city of St. Petersburg was stabbed to death on Saturday, May 12, according to sources in the local Jewish community.

On Sunday, the St. Petersburg police arrested a suspect, the sources told *Ha'aretz*. Communal leaders said they believe the attack was anti-Semitic.

Dmitri Nikolasky, 22, was studying biology at a local university and teaching in a Jewish school. He was killed near the door of his apartment where he was stabbed several times in the face and chest. The suspect's arrest was reportedly based on photographs taken by the security camera at the building's entrance.

"The information available for now leads to the serious suspicion that the crime was ethnically motivated," Russia's chief rabbi, Berel Lazar, said in a statement. "The victim sustained more than a dozen stab wounds and nothing was stolen."

He added that the authorities need to get tougher when punishing racist attacks and behaviour in order to stamp them out. Members of St. Petersburg's Jewish community echoed these sentiments.

Russia has witnessed an increase in racist attacks in recent years. President Vladimir Putin has described this situation as a threat to national security and has called for the courts and police to step up their efforts to eradicate such crimes, which have included many specifically anti-Semitic incidents.

Last year, a man shouting "Heil Hitler" burst into a synagogue and stabbed nine people. In addition, Jewish graves have been desecrated with swastikas. In 2005, five teenagers beat a Jewish man to death with a metal bar.

Altogether, there have been some 200 anti-Semitic incidents in Russia and Ukraine over the last three months, according to Amos Hermon, the World Zionist Organization official in charge of the war on anti-Semitism. He added that some 50 people were killed in racist attacks in Russia in 2006.

Under Soviet rule, passports specified whether a person was Jewish and Jews often had difficulty in finding employment at top universities and in leading companies.

ADL study finds many Europeans feel Jews too powerful in business

By AMIRAM BARKAT
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — A study conducted by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) among five European countries found increasing anti-Semitism, including beliefs that Jews possess too much power in business and finance.

"A large number of Europeans continue to be infected with anti-Jewish attitudes, holding onto the classical anti-Semitic canards and conspiracy theories that have dogged Jews through the centuries," the ADL said in a press release.

The study, which polled 2,714 adults in France, Italy, Germany, Spain and Poland, found that negative attitudes toward Jews increased, or in some instances, did not change, when compared to a similar study conducted in 2005.

The ADL study found that 39 per cent of respondents believe "Jews have too much power in the business world," while 44 per cent said they agree with the statement that "Jews have too much power in international financial markets."

Overall, 20 per cent of respondents said they blame Jews for the death of Jesus.

ADL national director Abraham H. Foxman said the study marks the first time that the organization decided to examine the connection between criticism of Israeli government policy and increased anti-Semitic sentiment.

At a Jerusalem press conference, Foxman said the results prove there is indeed a link between the two.

"We still can't say how reservations about Israeli policy affect the anti-Jewish sentiment and to what extent, but the fact that there is a relationship between the two phenomena is significant," he said.

Fifty-one per cent of respondents said they feel Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their home country.

Twenty-five per cent said their opinion of Jews is influenced by Israel's actions, and 52 per cent of those said Israel's actions have made their views on Jews more negative.

Responding to a reporter's question, Foxman said "biased media coverage" of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a contributing factor to anti-Semitic beliefs among the public.

In addition, nearly half of all respondents, including a majority of respondents from Spain and Poland, said they believe American Jews control the United States' foreign policy in the Middle East.

"The findings of this survey demonstrate that individual governments and the European Union, who have condemned anti-Semitism and sought ways to counteract it, need to find methods and implement programs that will break down the old stereotypes that die hard, and take leadership to make anti-Semitism unacceptable in their societies," Foxman said.

The survey also examined the respondents' attitudes toward the Palestinian unity government and the Iranian nuclear issue.

"A majority identified Hamas as a terrorist organization and supports the European decision not to provide foreign aid to the Palestinian government until Hamas renounces terrorism and recognizes Israel and agreements signed by Israel and the Palestinian Authority," the ADL reported.

However, a majority also said they do not believe Israel had the right to respond militarily to the abduction of its soldiers last summer.

Regarding Iran, 67 per cent of respondents said they believe Iran's nuclear program is at least partially military in nature, and only 14 per cent said the program is intended solely for civilian energy purposes.

PM pledges NIS 5.75B to develop Jerusalem

By JONATHAN LIS
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert pledged Sunday to allocate NIS 5.75 billion ($1.45 billion US) for urban development projects in Jerusalem over the next five years. However, knowledgeable sources maintained that Olmert was merely announcing the transfer of funds that had been promised to the capital in previous years, for projects that had already been approved.

"The claim that [Olmert] 'strengthened' the city by more than NIS 5 billion is defrauding the public," said one of the officials involved in the plans, which were made public ahead of Jerusalem Day on Wednesday. "All in all, Olmert put a check mark next to plans and initiatives that were approved in the past, and presented them like a new plan. In reality, aside from the cancellation of the employers' tax [for non-profit associations], which is worth some NIS 300 million [$75 million US), and an addition of a few million shekels a year – there is nothing new here."

In addition to the revocation of the employers' tax, the projects include the transfer of all government ministries to Jerusalem within the next eight years, the rehabilitation of the Atarot industrial zone, the construction of a new courthouse complex and the establishment of educational institutions dedicated to the study of Jerusalem.

Olmert, a former mayor of Jerusalem, made the announcement at the weekly cabinet meeting, which was held at the capital's Menachem Begin Heritage Center in honour of the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

The officials involved in the plans said the annual government grant meant to strengthen Jerusalem is between NIS 35 million ($9 million US) and NIS 50 million ($12.5 million US) less than the amount allocated in the last few years.

A source in the Prime Minister's Office confirmed that the NIS 5.75 billion did not refer exclusively to new projects, and said Olmert did not try to hide this at the cabinet meeting. Rather, the source said, the prime minister used the sum to illustrate the extent of the aid the government grants Jerusalem and the importance of supporting the capital.

Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski said during the meeting that the capital was not receiving enough support and warned that Hamas could triumph in the city with a demographic victory in the future.

"We must deal today not with crumbs, but with a real Marshall Plan to strengthen the Jewish citizens of the city," said Lupolianski, referring to the 1947 U.S. aid package that helped put Europe on its feet after World War II.

Lupolianski cited statistical data as indicating that within 12 years, the Hamas movement would be able to take over the mayoralty, once the Arabs become a majority in the city.

"Jerusalem, God forbid, is liable to not be under Jewish sovereignty, but under that of the Hamas movement – which knows that it won't need to conquer Jerusalem in war, but on the demographic issue," the mayor said.

Uri Lupolianski

Ehud Olmert

Yaakov Edri, the minister for Jerusalem affairs, said his ministry is planning to publicize a long-range plan that is supposed to reduce the gaps between east Jerusalem and west Jerusalem, and to encourage young couples to live in the city. The scheme is awaiting Finance Ministry approval, which the ministry expects to receive within a few weeks.

Slated to be implemented over the next decade, the plan requires a "huge" budgetary investment, said Edri. "In order to minimize the gaps, you have to invest," he added.

Until they accept responsibility

By SHLOMO AVINERI

Comment

The Palestinians will mark the annual Nakba Day on May 15, as they have done in previous years. We must listen to their voices. As human beings and as Jews we must listen and be attentive to the other's pain, even if the other is – at the moment – our enemy. However, we must listen critically.

First and foremost we may ask, why May 15? It was on this day that the British Mandate on Palestine ended and the State of Israel was established. But the United Nations' resolution of Nov. 29, 1947, also stipulates that an Arab state was to be established on part of Palestine this very same day. This resolution gave the seal of international approval to erecting two nation states on the controversial territory of mandatory Palestine.

Do the Palestinians mention this along with their rejection of the compromise resolution proposed by the international community, in the form of the partition plan?

With all due understanding and empathy to the Palestinians' suffering, the way the Nakba, the "catastrophe," is presented in the Palestinian and pan-Arab narrative raises several questions. It is portrayed as something terrible and evil that happened to the Palestinians. There is not even an iota of introspection, self-criticism and readiness to deal with the Palestinians' own contribution to their catastrophe.

We can understand – without justifying it - the Palestinians' rejection of the partition plan, just as we can understand – without justifying it – the Revisionist Zionist position negating the partition. But most of the Jewish community accepted the idea. And if most of the Palestinians had accepted it, then an independent Palestinian state would have risen on part of Mandatory Palestine in 1948, without war and without refugees.

The Palestinians are not prepared to deal with this complex reality. After 1948, quite a few books were written in Arabic about the Arabs' defeat in their war against Israel. To this day no book has raised the question of whether, perhaps, the Arabs erred in rejecting the compromise - painful as it may be – of the partition? Perhaps they would have done better if, like the Zionists, they had gritted their teeth and accepted the half-full glass?

A much-used expression in Jewish tradition says "because of our sins we were exiled from our land." This expression is religious, but it indicates that the Jews viewed their exile in a self-critical manner. It would have been easy, of course, to blame the Romans and the other nations for their fate. But the Jewish narrative did not do so and viewed both the destruction and exile as deriving, among other things, from the Jews' own actions and shortcomings.

Every nation, especially a defeated one, sees itself as a victim. But most of the nations that were defeated – Germany after World War II is the classic example – also looked at themselves, at their society, values and actions.

Far be it from me to maintain that in 1948 the Jews were "right" and the Arabs were "wrong." What troubles me and other Zionist Israelis wishing to be attentive to the Palestinians' pain and willing to help rectify injustices and accept a historic compromise, is the Palestinians' complete unwillingness to acknowledge that in 1948 they and their leaders made a terrible historic mistake – of both political and moral proportions – by rejecting the international compromise they were offered.

It is for this reason that the Palestinians' customary comparison between the Nakba and the Holocaust is so outrageous. Did the Jews of Germany and Europe declare war on Germany? Were the world's Jews offered a compromise that they rejected? Europe's Jews were murdered by the Nazis because they were Jews. What does that have to do with the Palestinians' decision to refuse the UN's compromise proposal and go to war?

It would not be exaggerated to say that there will be no true compromise between Israel and the Palestinians without a readiness on their part – however minute and partial, for the "truth" is always complex – to admit that they, too, are partly responsible for what happened to them in 1948.

Shlomo Avineri is a professor of political science at Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

March of Living disbursed questionable payments: report

JTA staff

NEW YORK — The Claims Conference says it will not release any more funds to the March of the Living until the Holocaust education program proves that it runs a "clean operation," according to the chairman of the Claims Conference.

Julius Berman made his comments days after the New York *Jewish Week* reported that the March of the Living disbursed some $700,000 (US) in questionable payments to a close associate of Israel's suspended finance minister and of Rabbi Israel Singer, the president of the Claims Conference.

Curtis Hoxter has ties to Israeli Finance Minister Abraham Hirchson, who has stepped down while being investigated for corruption, and Rabbi Singer, who was fired from the World Jewish Congress in March over allegations of financial impropriety.

Rabbi Singer remains president of the Claims Conference, an umbrella organization that oversees the allocation of restitution payments from the Holocaust-era. The money comes from governments and institutions that were complicit in victimizing Jews during and after the Holocaust. Billions of dollars have been allocated to survivors and their heirs, with a small percentage going to groups involved in Holocaust education and research.

March of the Living, a Jewish identity program that takes Jewish teens to Holocaust sites in Poland and then to Israel, receives major funding from the Claims Conference – more than $7.4 million since 1998.

According to the *Jewish Week's* joint investigation with the Israeli business publication *Globes*, March of the Living began payments to Hoxter totalling $709,000 in 2003. That was the same year Rabbi Singer "was instructed to stop funnelling unauthorized payments to him via the World Jewish Congress – payments that by then had totaled $657,600," the *Jewish Week* reported.

Tax records showed that March of the Living payments to Hoxter took place over three years and purportedly were for fundraising services. But Hoxter has never registered with the New York State attorney general as a fundraiser or fundraising counsel, and said he did not recall specifics of what he did for the payments he received.

"It was a minor activity," Hoxter, 85, is quoted as saying. "I did fundraising, basically an activity to advise them to run a campaign in the U.S."

Rabbi Singer has denied any wrongdoing. His son Eliezer relayed a statement from his father to the *Jewish Week* saying, "I'm not involved in allocating Claims Conference funds, and certainly have no say or interest in any consultants that grant recipients might choose to hire."

Claims Conference officials say Rabbi Singer has never had any role in its allocations process. His primary role is to negotiate with governments on restitution issues.

The Claims Conference, which supplied grants to March of the Living even before Rabbi Singer was president, provides funds to the group exclusively for scholarships to bridge the gap between what the trip costs and what a student can pay, said Berman, the Claims Conference chairman.

Last week, the Claims Conference announced its in-house financial controller, Yigal Molad, was launching an "in-depth audit" of grants it had made to March of the Living in response to the Israeli police investigation of Hirchson and other allegations.

Herod's tomb found

By EDGAR ASHER
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — The long search for Herod the Great's tomb has ended with the exposure of the remains of his grave, sarcophagus and mausoleum on Mount Herodion's northeastern slope, Ehud Netzer of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Institute of Archaeology announced last week.

Herod was the Roman-appointed king of Judea from 37 to 4 BCE, who was renowned for his many monumental building projects, including the reconstruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and the palace at Masada, as well as the complex at Herodion, 15 kilometres south of Jerusalem.

Herodion is the site where Herod chose to be buried and to memorialize himself, "all of this with the integration of a huge, unique palace at the fringe of the desert," said Netzer. "Therefore the exposure of his tomb becomes the climax of this site's research."

The approach to the burial site – which has been described by the archeologists involved as one of the most striking finds in Israel in recent years – was via a monumental flight of stairs 6½ metres wide, leading to the hillside. The stairs were especially constructed for the funeral procession.

The excavations on the slope of the mountain, at whose top is the famed structure comprising a palace, a fortress and a monument, commenced in August 2006. The expedition, on behalf of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was conducted by Netzer, Yaakov Kalman and Roi Porath, with the assistance of local Bedouins.

"The location and unique nature of the findings, as well as the historical record, leave no doubt that this was Herod's burial site," said Netzer.

Worthy of note is the fact that the sarcophagus was broken into hundreds of pieces, no doubt deliberately. The breaking of the sarcophagus, along with the destruction of the monument, apparently took place in the years 66-72 CE, during the first Jewish revolt against the Romans, while Jewish rebels took hold of the site, according to the historian Josephus and the archeological evidence. The rebels were known for their hatred of Herod and all that he stood for, as a "puppet ruler" for the Romans.

The search for Herod's tomb, which actively began 30 years ago, focused at lower Herodion until the middle of 2006.

This is Herod the Great's burial site, as seen from the air, and a general view of Herodion. The burial place is located in the centre of the image. [Isranet photos]

Sarkozy won strong Jewish backing

By RINA BASSIST
JTA

PARIS — The 53 per cent support for Nicolas Sarkozy in the second round of France's presidential election was the strongest showing by a right-wing candidate since Charles de Gaulle – perhaps because he was the man who finally cut down far-right extremist Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Nicolas Sarkozy

Nonna Mayer, a professor at the prestigious Institute for Political Studies in Paris, noted that in the first round of voting on April 23, Sarkozy took more than one-third of far-right voters. In the May 6 runoff, it jumped to two-thirds, as well as 40 per cent of centrist votes.

"His victory is so convincing in the sense that only a quarter of his voters chose him just in order to prevent Royal from the presidency," Mayer said, referring to Sarkozy's Socialist Party opponent, Ségolène Royal.

"Among Royal voters, some 47 per cent voted not for her but against her rival – anyone but Sarkozy."

Sammy Ghozlan, president of the Union of Jewish Communities in the Paris region, congratulated Sarkozy for "his brilliant election as president of the republic." Ghozlan also heads an agency that fights anti-Semitism and has commended Sarkozy's firm stance on the issue.

"We are persuaded that the new president will continue eradicating anti-Semitism the way he has begun doing," Ghozlan said. "We will remain his partners in his efforts to construct civil peace here in France, and we assure him of our total confidence and support in his actions to establish peace between Israel and its neighbours."

Sarkozy could hardly ask for more. Despite the French Republic's official discouragement of sectoral politics, the Jewish community strongly supported Sarkozy.

Jewish voters saw the former interior minister as a friend to Israel and an important figure in the fight against anti-Semitism. Soon after Royal conceded, Jewish groups came out with their good wishes.

Sarkozy, the grandson of a Greek Jew and the son of a Hungarian aristocrat, has pledged to make it tougher for immigrants to bring their extended families to France. Among the economic reforms he has pledged are the abolition of a tax on overtime, a cut in the inheritance tax and measures to force the unemployed to take whatever work is offered.

Considered a law-and-order politician in the American mold, Sarkozy earned points in the Jewish community for his hard line against Muslim unrest in France, including riots and anti-Semitic attacks.

Sarkozy was one of the first French politicians to react strongly to a spike in anti-Semitic attacks in France after the Palestinian intifadah began in 2000 at a time when other French officials did not seem to take the problem seriously.

The Jewish community's respect for Sarkozy was demonstrated by absentee voting results from French Jews living in Israel. Sarkozy received 5,655 of the votes cast at the French Embassy in Tel Aviv – more than 90 per cent – compared to just 580 for Royal.

That's even greater support than the 87 per cent Sarkozy received in his hometown of Neuilly-sur-Seine, where he has served as mayor. The Tel Aviv figures reportedly top those voting for Sarkozy in any other French voting bureau around the world.

The victory may well reflect a change in French political life. The phenomenon of right-wing extremist Le Pen making the runoff, as he did in 2002, is over, and France has returned to its traditional left-right balance. Royal's Socialists lost the presidential election for the third time in a row, and the internal battle over the party's leadership is yet to begin.

Sources in the Jewish community say the shift back to a right-left balance is due in part to Sarkozy's obstinate fight against anti-Semitism and racism. In April 2002 elections, 18 per cent of French voters chose Le Pen, sending his anti-immigrant message – which in the past has included anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial – into the second round.

This year, in contrast, French voters elected a candidate whose father was an immigrant. Even most female voters chose Sarkozy, polls showed, despite Royal's blatant plea for women to show gender solidarity.

Jews traditionally have supported the Socialists, but this year several Jews interviewed said no Socialist leader, including former president Francois Mitterrand, had succeeded in bringing Le Pen to his knees as Sarkozy did, perhaps ending Le Pen's political career.

Sarkozy told of a difficult childhood in which he was hassled because of his unusual family name. In his inauguration speech, he spoke of building a new France where no one would feel excluded, regardless of his or her origin or beliefs.

Sarkozy's tactics may not have been to the liking of some Jews – Simone Veil, a Holocaust survivor and former Cabinet minister backed Sarkozy even though she deplored his call for a "national identity and immigration ministry" – but the results can't be contested.

Israeli, Palestinian researchers develop test for learning disabilities

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Despite ongoing tension between Israel and the Palestinians, Israeli and Palestinian academics from Haifa University and Al-Quds University in eastern Jerusalem have completed a joint research project.

Funded by a $1.5-million U.S. government grant, it led to the development of a diagnostic test for learning disabilities and fostered personal friendships.

Zvia Breznitz, one of the researchers, said that the six-year project proves that Israelis and Arabs can coexist.

"I think that the way to live in peace is to get to know one another and not just talk about peace," said Breznitz, the director of the Center for Brain Research and Learning Disabilities at Haifa University.

In an interview from Haifa, she added: "We always talk about grandiose ideas such as peace and love and never make any progress. But if a connection starts with a specific, professional project, at the end of the day, friendships are established. In my opinion, this is the recipe for coexistence."

Breznitz, who has maintained professional and social ties with her Palestinian colleagues since the completion of the project recently, said that the test will be introduced to Israeli Jewish, Israeli Arab and Palestinian schools come this September.

She described it as the first in Israel and the Palestinian territories to identify and diagnose learning disabilities in the classroom.

In general, she noted, one quarter of people in the developed world suffer from a learning disability. But among Israeli Arabs, the rate is higher.

"It is possible that this does not stem directly from learning disabilities but from cultural deprivation," she explained. "For this reason, a test for the identification and diagnosis of learning disabilities was so important."

The co-operative project, officially known as the Wye River People-To-People Exchange Program, was launched a year after the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising in September 2000.

Its objective was to foster Israeli-Palestinian dialogue on a scientific basis.

It was Breznitz who suggested that the funds, allocated by the United States, should be used to develop a diagnostic test that could be administered in both Israel and the Palestinian Authority (the West Bank and Gaza Strip).

"The aim was to provide learning opportunities for every pupil," she said. "Since there were no normative tests for the diagnosis of learning disabilities in Hebrew and Arabic, we decided to create such a diagnostic system."

By agreement, the researchers were not allowed to discuss politics.

Israel Briefs

Livni advances talks

Tzipi Livni visited Egypt to set up talks between Israel and the Arab League. The Israeli foreign minister met her Egyptian and Jordanian counterparts, as well as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in Cairo last week as part of recent attempts at rapprochement between Jerusalem and the Arab League. The regional bloc is trying to convince Israel to support a Saudi-led proposal for a regional peace deal, but those talks have been held up by the Israeli political crisis surrounding the commission of inquiry on the Lebanon war, as well as Arab League intransigence on amending the plan. Livni and her interlocutors agreed that an Arab League working group comprising representatives of Egypt and Jordan would travel to Israel in the coming weeks for preliminary negotiations.

24 Sudanese reach Israel

Twenty-four Sudanese refugees reached Israel. The group of men, women and children, apparently fleeing the slaughter in their country's Darfur region, arrived in Be'er Sheva last week after slipping in from Egypt. Their arrival stirred a bureaucratic debate in Israel, with neither the military nor police wanting to detain them and the Interior Ministry unsure about how to accommodate illegal migrants from a country classified as an enemy. Some 250 Sudanese have sought refuge in Israel over the past year. Most are in jail while the government discusses asylum options, but a small number have been placed in temporary kibbutz homes.

Millions to go for Darfur

Israel reportedly is planning to donate $5 million (US) to Darfur refugees. *Ha'aretz* reported that the aid recommendations must be approved by the Foreign Ministry. Thousands of refugees have fled from Sudan to neighbouring Chad. The department suggested giving $4 million to the United Nations Refugee Agency, the UN Children's Fund, the World Food Program and the Red Cross; sending $800,000 worth of medicine and water-purifying supplies to refugee camps; and donating $150,000 to IsraAID, *Ha'aretz* reported. Government-backed Arab militias have killed hundreds of thousands and displaced millions in the ongoing conflict in Darfur.

Ban sees closer UN ties

The UN secretary general said he wants to improve the world body's relationship with Israel and increase Israeli involvement in UN activities. Ban Ki-moon said he attaches "great importance to strengthening the relationship between the United Nations and Israel. I view Israel as a full member of the community of member states, with the same rights and obligations as any other. Israel also has a wealth of experience to offer the organization, and much to gain by participating in the UN's efforts for peace, development and human rights."

Dollar drops against shekel

The U.S. dollar hit a seven-year low against the shekel. The U.S. currency was valued at 3.996 shekels last Monday, the first time it has sunk below the 4-shekel mark since 2000. Analysts cited the dollar's international slump as well as Israel's strong economy. The exchange rate is bad news for Americans visiting Israel, though it has meant a frenzy of spending on imports and real estate in the Jewish state.

Israel subsidizes flights

Israel will keep regular flights going to Egypt and Jordan by increasing government subsidies on the politically sensitive routes. *Ha'aretz* reported that security costs for the flights are unusually high and El Al loses some $5 million annually on the routes, although the government already foots half the bill. "The existence of regular flights to and from Egypt and Jordan is of primary importance in the political sense," Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz said.

Beckham coming to Israel

Spanish soccer powerhouse Real Madrid, and its star David Beckham, will be in Israel June 19 for a soccer friendly against a joint Israeli-Palestinian team, Israeli media reported. Beckham and Real will be guests of the Peres Center for Peace, founded by Nobel Peace laureate Shimon Peres in 1996 to encourage co-operation between Israelis and Palestinians. *– Files from JTA*

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Book helps moms to document children's early years

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Judy Siblin-Librach says her new book *Love, Mommy: Writing Love Letters to Your Baby*, (ECW Press) started off as the hormonal meanderings of a new mother.

The author, life coach and *CJN* columnist says that she was so overjoyed when her son Max, now 9, was born that if she was a dancer she would have created a dance, "but I'm a writer, so I wrote."

Judy Siblin-Librach

At first the writing had no shape, she says, but eventually it took the form of love letters.

Also the mother of Lily, age 7, Siblin-Librach says that the love for one's children "is the most unconditional and holy love of all, and I was swept away. Letters are a lovely way to let them know my feelings.

"It is also a way for children to learn about early moments in their lives, moments for which they have no memory. This is a way of giving them these memories."

When children read about them later on, she says, they'll learn about such milestones as coming home from the hospital, taking their first bath or their first steps, speaking their first words, and about how she felt at the time.

"Verbal stories are wonderful, but when they're written down, they're forever."

Love Mommy: Writing Love Letters to Your Baby is a tool for other mothers to document the special memories and milestones of their child's early years, Siblin-Librach says. "I want them to accomplish this labour of love, and it's never too late. If your kids are older, you can reach back into your memory and capture [certain stories] on paper."

In addition to letters to her own children, the book contains writing tips – don't procrastinate, keep a sense of humour – and suggestions for topics. "Topics can be about everyday events such as the look my son gave me on the first day of school, or the pink hat my daughter wore on the first day of summer camp. These are topics that will make us all smile when we look back."

At a workshop she held about her book, she asked mothers at what moment they knew "they had become a mother for sure, and that there was no going back.

"Quite often it is a quiet moment between you and your child. My moment with Max was when I gave him his first bath by myself. I could feel that he had put his whole trust in me."

In her letter to Max about that bath, she told him that "it was as if all time had stopped and we were the only two people in the world. You stared at me with such intensity that I was caught off guard. Your look said, 'I love you and trust you completely.'"

Before her letters were made into a book, Siblin-Librach had shoeboxes and cartons and envelopes bursting at the seams. "Finally I [put them together] and bound them into two separate books, one for each of my children," she says.

Eventually, it became a 400-page book, which had to be shortened to 140 pages. "It was a daunting task, but it was the right thing to do because I want it to be a gift suitable for every mother, and it can be a lovely project for a grandmother or aunt."

"Imagine giving a loved one a piece of your heart. There is nothing like it."

LAG B'OMER: **Students at the south campus of the Leo Baeck Day School celebrated Lag b'Omer with an outdoor fun day. At the school, the day is also known as Leo Baeck Day to connect the heroism of Rabbi Leo Baeck during the Holocaust to that of other heroes in Jewish history. Seen from left are Jeffrey Gould, Jenna Pasternak, Adam Sigesmund and Madeleine Shiller.**

Project Campfire sends terror victims to camp

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Three friends with a passion for summer camp have joined to help send terror victims to camp in Israel.

Jason Kimel, 31, Ira Pettle, 29, and Ari Laskin, 23, who met at Camp Winnebagoe in Huntsville, Ont., are raising money for Project Campfire, on behalf of One Family Fund, an organization that provides direct financial, legal, and emotional assistance to victims of terror in Israel.

Pettle said the idea for Project Campfire came about from his desire to "help kids, help Israel and help One Family Fund. I wanted to make a positive difference. I approached Jason and Ari and they were inspired, and the fire kept growing."

Jason, a lawyer, said he has had an appreciation for camping from a young age, and his life's goal is to get involved in it. "Camp is tremendous for youngsters' self-esteem and confidence. When Ira approached me, I jumped right on board."

Laskin said he was captivated by the idea. "My interest was twofold. I was looking to get involved in a charity, and I appreciate camping because the skills I learned have had a huge impact on my life.

"Kids need the option of going to camp, and Project Campfire can help them get there."

Kimelman said they are working with several camps in Israel, and eventually they would like to expand the grassroots organization to help kids in Ontario, too.

Project Campfire's first fundraising event will be a party on June 21 at the Revival Bar. For information, call Pettle at 416-737 3666.

Q. I have noticed lately that a lot of grocery products have a number of different health-related labels. Why is this?

A. This is certainly a growing trend. I am pleased to say that we are in an increasingly good place in nutrition in Canada right now, and it is only getting better for consumers, as I see it.

About Nutrition

An ever-widening variety of products are available at all price points in all supermarkets to appeal to many nutrition and health needs, from vegetarian, organic and natural foods, to health-based ones that are lactose free, nut free, gluten-free, low sodium, sugar free, trans-fat free and high fibre. There are several reasons for this.

I believe this trend is due partly to an increased interest in the market, driven to some degree by the baby boomers now in their 50s and 60s, who have a desire to extend the middle years of their lives. Thanks to medical advances, the boomers realize that they will likely live longer than their parents did, and they want to be healthier as they age. As a major market share, they are more and more interested in their bones, their heart, their blood pressure and disease prevention, in general. This creates a great demand for healthy products that are prevention-oriented, and thus healthier foods are emerging on the scene almost daily.

I believe another factor behind the current trend is the push to prevent childhood obesity, which has propelled the food industry to offer healthier, lower fat foods geared to kids and families.

While we still have to be enlightened shoppers and carefully read labels for misleading claims or names, we do have an increasingly great array of truly healthful foods available to us all across the country.

A related trend that you will notice growing over the next year will be improvements in restaurant foods and more nutrition disclosure and information about the foods available when you eat out. This, too, is a positive and important piece of the move to improve our overall nutrition.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

Diverse images from Jewish, Muslim photographers

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Cultural and religious diversity.

The burdens of war.

The ugliness of intolerance.

The beauty of childhood.

These are among the themes of A Light Unto the Nations, a new photographic exhibition featuring the work of Jews and Muslims.

The show, which runs until May 20, is at the Lennox Contemporary Gallery, which sits in an immigrant neighbourhood of Vietnamese restaurants and Portuguese tile and household stores in the west end of Toronto.

Gilad Benari's photographs are strong and stark.

Children of the Apocalypse shows three Palestinian youngsters playing in a sand dune near what appears to be an Israeli gun emplacement in the Gaza Strip.

Gilad Benari's *Co-Existence*

In a self-portrait, *Prayer for Survival*, Benari, wearing an Israeli army uniform, takes a much-needed break from a morning patrol.

Co-Existence, his least subtle and most hopeful photograph, depicts the Shield of David connected to Muslim prayer beads.

In *A Prayer for Tomorrow*, three fervent Orthodox Jewish men pray on a deserted Tel Aviv beach at dusk, their backs to a blood-red sky streaked with shades of blue and black.

Hanging Out is an innocuous piece. It portrays an Israeli flag draped from a balcony and hanging next to drying bed covers.

Kitra Cahana's photographs zero in on intense Christian worshippers in Jerusalem, an Ethiopian monk reading a book at Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, three Palestinian girls enjoying ice cream cones in the shadow of a 19th century windmill, and a Jewish man at prayer during Lag b'Omer in Meron.

Her ensemble of photographs from Ethiopia focuses on Falash Mora Jews in Addis Ababa waiting to immigrate to Israel.

Though only 18, Cahana is already an accomplished photographer with a sharp eye for composition and colour.

Steve Simon went to an Aryan Nations gathering in Idaho and brought back chilling photos of its members and of a parade in which young neo-Nazis strut out their naked chests in defiance.

Simon's clear and unambiguous message is that racial hatred brews in the hearts and minds of some Americans.

The photographs of Tamara Abdul Hadi are moody. A mosque is reflected in a pool of water. Two Iraqi women in black robes mourn at an ornate tomb in Jordan. A menacing-looking man with tattoos on his face glowers theatrically for the camera.

The images of Sawsan Yassine emphasize esthetics. A woman with an embroidered head shawl leaves a powerful impression. A woman biting into the morsel of a nut also stops you in your tracks.

Aasil Kazi Ahmad's candid photographs dwell on Muslim pilgrims in Mecca during the annual haj to the seat of Islam in Saudi Arabia.

Lamaya Gargash's stunning photograph cries out for attention. The face of a woman is partially covered with paper on which appears flowing Arab letters. It seems like a protest against the oppression of women in parts of the Arab world.

Anthony Asad's guileless photographs of African children celebrate the innocence of childhood. They brim with vitality

The Lennox Contemporary Gallery is at 12 Ossington Ave., just north of Queen St. W. Hours are from noon to 5 p.m.

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Joy Fielding's latest novel is about bullying

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The pride of the Canadian Jewish writing community, Joy Fielding, is celebrating the release of her latest thriller, *Heartstopper,* which is being praised by fans and critics alike.

The novel, which is set in Torrance, Fla., a town of less than 5,000 people, is about a series of disappearances and murders of the prettiest girls in town – the so-called heartstoppers.

Throughout the novel, the serial killer teases readers with his journal entries, which describe the chilling process of kidnapping and murdering the young girls.

Sandy Crosbie, a high-school English teacher, who followed her cheating husband to Florida from New York, becomes invested in the search for the serial killer when her beautiful daughter goes missing, too.

While the plot has to do with the murders, thematically, it is a book about bullying and its various guises, Fielding said.

"I related to the theme because of what I had been reading about Internet bullying and also just some of the stories I'd read in the paper – you know, the whole Reena Virk incident [a 14-year-old girl who was bullied and beaten to death by a group of teens] and some of the other incidents of high school bullying," said the bestselling author of novels, including *Puppet* and *Mad River Road*.

"In general, I feel the media and society tend to bully women into thinking that they have to look a certain way in order to be attractive and there is only one increasingly narrow standard of beauty and just the way that women are bullied in other aspects of their lives, into doing things they are uncomfortable with doing."

Although *Heartstopper* was only released about a month ago, Fielding has already been getting positive feedback from her readers.

"So far they're responding very well. *Heartstopper* is on all the bestseller lists. I think they'll really enjoy it. I think it's a very strong book, it covers a wide range of characters and age groups and types and I think it gets into the head of all those characters quite well."

Fielding, a former actress who got to kiss Elvis Presley when she landed a role in an episode of *Gunsmoke* in the 1960s, had her first novel, *The Best of Friends*, published in 1972. Since then, she's written almost 20 novels and said that she always tries to make each book different from the last.

"This one is different in the sense that it is a real thriller and it's told from a multi-person point of view… but this one mixes up first person and third person and moves around in age and sex," said Fielding, a Toronto native who splits her time between Toronto and Florida.

Continued on page 39

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

FOUR GARAGE ROCK BANDS TO HELP BAYCREST CLINIC

In a night that promises to be one of the most raucous fundraisers in Toronto, the Baycrest Foundation has invited four garage boomer bands to live out their rock'n'roll fantasies.

The foundation has arranged for the bands to perform their own rock concert in exchange for a pledge from each to raise $5,000 in personal and corporate sponsorships for Baycrest's Mood and Related Disorders Clinic. The band that raises the most will perform at Jeff Healey's Road House with the legendary **Healey**.

"Bands Together for Baycrest, Baycrest Rocks" is being hosted by musician **Danny Marks**. $50 in advance, $60 at the door. Phoenix Concert Theatre, May 16. www.baycrestrocks.com, 416-785-2500, ext. 2020

* * *

Toronto Jewish Folk Choir: In its 81st annual spring concert, the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir celebrates the late Toronto composer **Milton Barnes** (1931-2001), who wrote some of the choir's most popular pieces.

Conducted by **Alexander Veprinsky**, the 30-voice choir performs the Canadian première of *Di Lererin Mire: Ghetto Cantata*, a stirring work by **Vladimir Heifetz**, about **Mire Bernshtein**, a schoolteacher in the Vilna ghetto during the Holocaust. The concert also features tenor **David Wall** and pianist **Marilyn Lerner**, who present a set of original klezmer compositions.

$23 - $19. Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. Sunday, June 3, 7:30 p.m. For reservations, e-mail tjfolkchoir@sympatico.ca or phone 416-636-0936 or 416-665-7766, ext. 224.

* * *

Play by Pulitzer-Winning Author: Mea Culpa Productions presents *Collected Stories*, **Donald Margulies**'s play about writer-teacher Ruth Steiner (played by **Cayle Chernin**), who has carved out a comfortable life for herself in a Greenwich Village apartment. Also featuring **Erin Mackinnon**.

Tarragon Theatre Extra Space, 30 Bridgman Ave. Previews Wednesday, May 23 ($10), runs May 24 to June 3. $32 - $15. 416-531-1827, www.TOtix.ca

* * *

Audition Notice: Teatron Toronto Jewish Theatre seeks a variety of actors for two plays to be staged next winter in the Leah Posluns Theatre. *Conversations With My Father*, a dramatic comedy by **Herb Gardner**, focuses on three generations of a Jewish family on New York's Lower East Side. The other play is *Chaim's Love Song*, a dramatic comedy by **Marvin Chernoff**, about a retired mailman in Brooklyn, an American Tevye who tells his exotic life story to an associate from Iowa.

Auditions for these non-union, non-paying roles take place May 29 and 31. For an audition, please send your resumé and photo by e-mail to teatron@sympatico.ca; by mail to Ari Weisberg, Artistic Director, Teatron Theatre, 41 Warwick Ave, Toronto M6C 1T7; or phone 416-781-5527.

* * *

Sophie Milman

Names in the News: The young Russian-born Israeli-Canadian jazz singer **Sophie Milman** is set to release a new CD titled *Make Someone Happy* and then to depart on a cross-Canada tour from Victoria to Montreal. Milman has matured enormously as an artist since her debut album appeared in 2004, generating sales of nearly 100,000 worldwide. "Sophie's transition from shy bookworm to glamorous ingénue exudes throughout this new recording, displaying an artist coming into her own, and destined for international stardom," one observer has commented.

Milman is scheduled to perform at Toronto's Roy Thompson Hall on June 28.

* * *

Daniel Variations: Soundstreams Canada presents the Canadian première of *Daniel Variations*, a recent work by **Steven Reich** for four singers, four pianos, six percussionists and string quartet; it is to be performed as a tribute to Reich on his 70th birthday.

Proclaimed a masterpiece by the *Los Angeles Times*, *Daniel Variations* was composed in memory of journalist **Daniel Pearl**. Upon its première last year in London, the *London Guardian* described it as "a haunting work… that attains the Reichian qualities of hypnotic rapture." $40, $30, $20. MacMillan Theatre, 80 Queen's Park, May 24, 8 p.m. 416-366-7723

* * *

Arts in Brief

- The Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour features Israeli American **Charley Warady**, Palestinian American **Ray Hanania**, former Irish Catholic convert **Yisrael Campbell** and African-American convert **Aaron Freeman**, with introductory remarks by **Maya Angelou**. Its slogan is "peace through comedy." $49-$69. Roy Thomson Hall, May 29, 8 p.m. www.roythomson.com, 416-872-4255
- **The Chai Folk Ensemble**, North America's oldest and largest Israeli folk dance troupe perform in a Beit Halochem gala fundraising concert. $120-$50 with partial tax receipts; $250 also includes reception. Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts, Thursday, May 31, 7:30 p.m. 905-695-0611. (The Ensemble is also performing in Montreal on May 29.)
- The Jewish Cabaret Theatre presents a variety of music, dance, game show and other surprises encompassing a Jewish theme. Hosted by **Edward A. Fine** and featuring **Lori Sand**, **Bob Natanson**, **Janette Burke**, **Lance Cohen**, **Dr. Adolfo Cotter** and **Michelle** and **David Winter**, the event is geared for Jewish secular singles and couples in their 30s and 40s. 7 West Event Venue, 7600 Weston Rd, Unit 69, Woodbridge (beside Winners). June 2, 8 p.m.

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Israeli film focuses on terrorism in Jerusalem

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Close to Home, an Israeli drama due to open commercially in Toronto on May 18, focuses on the here-and-now of Israel's perpetual battle against terrorism.

Directed by Dalia Hager and Vidi Bilu, and inspired by their own experiences in the Israeli army, *Close to Home* leaves little to the imagination in describing the daily perils Israel faces to protect itself.

The first few minutes set the tone.

Two female soldiers at a checkpoint examine a Palestinian woman who has aroused their suspicion. They find nothing of interest, but the intrusive inspection is a source of distaste to one particular soldier.

The camera then pans on a room where their commanding officer berates them for a poor performance. Her wrath is focused on Smadar (Smadar Savar), a rebellious type, and Mirit (Neama Shendar), an introvert.

By way of punishment, she hands them a lousy mission. They are assigned to patrol the streets of Jerusalem, check the papers of Palestinians and register the details in special forms.

As the film unfolds, Smadar and Mirit stop a number of Palestinian men for questioning. But one of their commanding officers takes them to task for not fulfilling their quota. In truth, Smadar is a slacker who does not comprehend the seriousness of her job.

Neama Shendar and Smadar Savar in *Close to Home*

A suicide bombing brings Smadar to her senses. It is a well-executed scene. The frantic sirens of ambulances sound. Smoke rises from the pavement. Police set up barricades. The cries and screams of victims resound.

Mirit, stunned by the impact of the explosion, lies quietly on the street. A handsome stranger tends to her. Romantically smitten by him, she later tries to track him down.

Close to Home, which was screened at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, concentrates on the spectre of terrorism, both on the streets and in the buses of Jerusalem.

It also tries to flesh out the lives of Smadar and Mirit when they are out of uniform, but this dimension seems padded and is unnecessary.

Clearly, *Close to Home* deals with an important topic, but the tension that should be at its core is missing.

From this perspective, it falls short of the mark.

Now's editor, Alice Klein, segues into filmmaking

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

After nearly 25 years as a journalist, Alice Klein knew it was time for a change.

"I kind of needed to take on another creative challenge," said Klein, the co-founder, editor and chief executive officer of *Now*, the biggest alternative news and entertainment weekly in Toronto.

That moment dawned two summers ago when, in a more or less spontaneous burst of inspiration, she decided to make her first film. The documentary, *Call of the Hummingbird*, which was shot in central Brazil and had its debut at last month's Hot Docs festival in Toronto, deals with the degradation of the environment.

"I don't remember not being interested in this topic," said Klein, speaking a day after a United Nations panel released a report warning that the world has only 15 years to stabilize the growth of greenhouse-gas emissions.

In her film, which she describes as a "full-frontal eco manifesto," Klein warns that we're on a collision course with nature and that if we we do not shape up soon we could well place ourselves on a trajectory course toward extinction.

Long a social activist and feminist who passionately holds that nature is "our only teacher," Klein is nevertheless optimistic that the situation can be reversed through a much better awareness of and concern with the planet's fragility and prompt and uncompromising action by governments.

"Optimism is the only useful position to take because the alternative is a prescription for utter despair, which leads to inaction and is ethically untenable," said Klein. "We, as humans, don't see ourselves as part of nature. We don't have a democratic relationship with life on the planet. We're deeply out of balance with reality."

Klein's impetus for making *Call of the Hummingbird* was a gathering of earth lovers in a jungle clearing where waterfalls tumble down crystal mountains. Having interviewed some of the participants, ranging from ecologists to holistic health workers, she made a last-minute decision to attend and record the proceedings.

Although she was a rank neophyte as a filmmaker, she had sufficient confidence in herself as a storyteller to pull it off. "So it was a pretty experimental thing," she said in an interview at a mid-town café popular with university students and 1960s-type bohemians.

Flying down to Brazil with a small crew, Klein spent three weeks in a temporary eco village to observe whether these tree huggers, ecologists and flower children could get along and adjust to nature harmoniously. Amid flooding, sickness, the formation of cliques and the piling up of garbage, she discovered that even the best of intentions can go awry.

"I really enjoyed this new, wonderful, exciting artistic medium," said Klein, who financed the film. "It was a learning process."

Klein hopes to make another film, but hasn't settled on a theme as yet. In the meantime, she tends to her duties at *Now*, a free pickup newspaper with a circulation of about 350,000 and a freewheeling, leftish philosophy.

She and *Now*'s co-founder and publisher, Michael Hollett, met at York University when he was the editor of the campus newspaper *Excalibur* and she was pursuing an MA in social history that she never finished.

Asked who dreamed up *Now*, she replied, "We were driving along one day and Michael said, 'Hey, we should start our own newspaper, like the *Village Voice*,' and I said, "Great.'"

Back then, they were an unmarried couple, he a speechwriter for the Workman's Compensation Board and she – a graduate of Harbord Collegiate and the University of Toronto – a housewife. She and Hollett were romantically involved but never married, though they would have two daughters. Although their personal relationship eventually ended, they remained business partners.

They started *Now* in 1981 heavily in debt and with six employees. The first edition, a mix of music, movie and theatre reviews and of lifestyle and political pieces with an iconoclastic twist, set its tone.

Klein, who helped start a short-lived feminist publication titled *The Velvet Fist* when she in a high school, never imagined that she would enter mainstream journalism.

She was simply too left-wing. Today, however, she is fed up with what she annoyingly calls "self-righteous politics on either end of the spectrum."

Now, with currently 120 employees, broke even after a year and a half and turned profitable soon afterward. "We were really good journalists, but it took a while for us to become business people."

As the custodian of its left-liberal editorial values, Klein promotes multiculturalism and a respect for human rights and condemns racism and xenophobia.

Now's coverage of the Arab-Israeli dispute has angered some readers, who claim that it is partial toward the Palestinian cause. Klein, who considers herself culturally Jewish and has visited Israel once, opposes Israel's occupation but wishes Israelis and Palestinians well.

"On both sides, there is terrible suffering. My heart goes out to the Jewish and Palestinian victims of this violence. I want them to find as non-violent solution."

Klein considers herself "a child of the Holocaust" by virtue of her parents' past. Nicholas, her late father, was a Prague lawyer whose entire family was wiped out by the Nazis. Elizabeth, her mother, was born in Berlin into a Catholic family of partial Jewish ancestry. Facing oppression, they fled to Mexico, where they met, married and conceived Klein and her two sisters, Jeanette, a psychologist, and Heidi, a holistic educator.

The murder of her father's family left a deep and lasting impact on Klein. "My views," she mused, "were formed by that experience."

Fielding gets into the mind of a killer

Continued from page 37

She said that when she gets feedback from her fans, most applaud her ability to create characters with whom they can easily relate.

Fielding thinks the reason her fans relate so well to her characters, despite the fact that most will never find themselves in the same situations as the characters, is because they identify with their basic human emotions.

Joy Fielding

"We're all basically similar. We're much more alike than we are different, and we all feel hate and love and fear and the feeling of being trapped and unsure and depressed and lonely and angry and happy. I think when I create the characters I make them believable," Fielding said.

"What I've always done in my fiction is try to put myself in the position of the particular character and try to imagine how I might feel or what I might do in a certain situation."

In the case of *Heartstopper*, Fielding's challenge was to get into the head of a cold-blooded murderer who loved to watch his victims suffer.

"This character is obviously darker and hopefully not part of my psyche at all, but I've done enough reading over the years and I've really done a lot of what I call casual research. So I know a lot about sociopaths and that type of personality… I just try to get in to the character, and knowing the basics that I do about these people, that they are intensely narcissistic and that their overriding emotion is anger… it's easy to get into this character and say, this is what is happening to me."

The prolific writer isn't interested in taking a break from writing even though booksellers have barely had time to finish stocking copies of *Heartstopper* on bookshelves.

Fielding is currently in the final editing stage of her next book called *Charley's Web*, which she anticipates will be released next April.

"*Charley's Web* is a suspense novel and is a story of a young journalist who gets a letter, one day from a convicted child killer, a young woman who is sitting on death row and she wants her to write her story. And in uncovering details about this young woman's life, basically who she really discovers is herself."

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The odyssey of an enlightened Muslim woman

***Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Simon & Schuster.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

In case you haven't heard, Ayaan Hirsi Ali is the new poster girl for the liberated Muslim woman.

Born in Somalia and raised in Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and Kenya, she arrived in Holland in 1992 when she was 22. Within a few years, she was a Dutch citizen, parliamentarian and outspoken critic of Islam whose analysis earned her the undying enmity of some of her fellow Muslims.

Ali was also a filmmaker. She and Theo van Gogh made two documentaries, *Submission, Part 1* and *Submission, Part 2*, about the plight of Muslim women. The films enraged Muslim radicals, and one of them, Muhammed Bouyeri, killed van Gogh in a brutal daylight attack and threatened Ali.

In *Infidel*, a bestseller in Europe and North America, she examines her journey from the deserts of Somalia to the urban landscapes of Europe and the United States, where she currently lives.

Describing her book as "a subjective record" of her personal memories, she dedicates it to her family, though her father, an anthropologist and a dissident Somali politician, disowned her.

Hailing from a family of strictly devout nomads, Ali was two years old when her father was arrested and dumped in a prison. When she was still a child, she was "purified" when her genitals were removed

Once in Saudi Arabia, she was enrolled in a religious school where anti-Semitism was rampant. Her teacher portrayed Jews as "physically monstrous" and claimed that they controlled the world and, for the sake of Islam, had to be destroyed.

In retrospect, she writes: "The kind of thinking I saw in Saudi Arabia, and among the Muslim Brotherhood in Kenya and Somalia is incompatible with human rights and liberal values. It preserves a feudal mindset based on tribal concepts of honour and shame. It rests on self-deception, hypocrisy and double standards."

Tellingly, she adds, "This mindset makes the transition to modernity very painful for all who practise Islam."

An iconoclast, Ali's first act of rebellion occurred when she flouted her father's wish to marry a Canadian Somali in an arranged marriage.

Looking back, she observes: "I might have [had] a decent life, but I would be dependent – always – on someone treating me well. I knew that another kind of life was possible… the kind of life I had always wanted, with a real education, a real job, a real marriage. I wanted to make my own decisions. I wanted to become a person, an individual, with a life of my own."

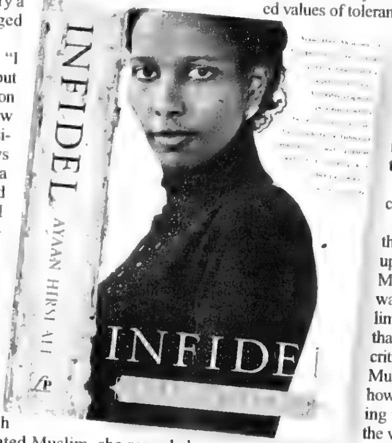
And so she fled to Amsterdam in a bid to reinvent herself. "After this," she writes, "anything was possible."

Holland changed her profoundly.

She shed her head scarf and discarded her long skirts as she immersed herself in secular Dutch society. But still being a dedicated Muslim, she regarded Holland as "an infidel country."

In 1995, she got her first job as a Somali-Dutch interpreter assisting Somali asylum seekers. Subsequently, she studied political science at Holland's oldest university, in Leiden, and graduated in 2000 with masters of science degree.

A refugee since childhood, Ali obtained Dutch citizenship so that she could travel and fit in more easily.



She claims that Holland's brand of multiculturalism was self-defeating. As she sees it, the Dutch government promoted Muslim separatism by funding Islamic schools and politely allowing Muslim immigrants "to live alone in their own world."

As a result, many Muslims never learned Dutch and rejected values of tolerance and personal liberty, she notes.

Not long after her graduation, Ali was hired as a junior researcher by the left-of-centre Labor party. Its indulgent view of Muslim separatist practices rankled Ali, who, after the terrorist events of Sept. 11, 2001, was no longer willing to turn a blind eye to Islamic fundamentalism.

By that point, her view of Islam had crystallized.

"What was I trying to achieve? Three things: first, I wanted Holland to wake up and stop tolerating the oppression of Muslim women in its midst. Second, I wanted to spark a debate among Muslims about reforming aspects of Islam so that people could begin to question, and criticize, their own beliefs. Third, I wanted Muslim women to become aware of just how bad, and unacceptable, their suffering was. I wanted to help them develop the vocabulary of resistance."

In line with her philosophy, Ali urged the Labor party to stop funding Qur'an-based schools, saying that they dismissed the values of universal human rights.

She argued that societies in the "rigid grip of Islam" oppress women, lag behind in development, are poor and seethe with conflict, while others are wealthy and peaceful.

When Ali realized that she and the Labor party could not reconcile their diametrical views, she bolted to the more conservative Liberal party, which offered her a chance to run for a seat in parliament in an upcoming election.

The Liberals did not fare brilliantly, but Ali was elected as the first Somali in the Dutch legislature.

She was a firebrand.

At a Liberal conclave, she proposed that the party should come out in favour of closing down existing Muslim schools and refusing to finance new ones. Her colleagues were shocked by her audacity.

In parliament, she raised a motion that would require the police to register the number of Muslim "honour killings" committed in Holland each year. The minister of justice announced a pilot project to track such murders.

Ali's decision to join forces with Van Gogh in the films *Submission* was hardly surprising.

"My message was that the Qur'an is an act of man, not of God. We should be free to interpret it; we should be permitted to apply it to the modern era in a different way, instead of performing painful contortions to try to recreate the circumstances of a horrible distant past. My intention was to liberate Muslim minds so that Muslim women – and Muslim men, too – might be freer."

Submission was broadcast on Dutch TV without much reaction, but then van Gogh was murdered by a disaffected Moroccan extremist. The murder devastated Ali, but did not crush her.

What seemed to affect Ali more was the nullification of her Dutch citizenship, which was probably orchestrated by her enemies. When she applied for it, she foolishly used a false name and date of birth.

This blow to her pride has not diluted her ideas.

As she puts it in the closing pages of this courageous book, "My central, motivating concern is that women in Islam are oppressed. That oppression… causes Muslim women… and men… to lag behind the West. It creates a culture that generates more backwardness with every generation. It would be better for everyone – for Muslims, above all – if this situation could change."

Fighting words, these.

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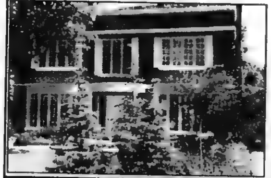

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$1,795,000. Charming, beautifully maintained centre hall plan home. 4+1 br's. Spacious & bright w/bay & picture windows, Fr. & sliding glass doors & spectacular skylight. Finished lower level. South facing enclosed yard w/exquisite gardens & pool.

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REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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PRIME ALLENBY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fabulous home only steps to Avenue/Eglinton offers large master bdrm, fin basement w/walk-out, hardwood flrs, halogen pot lights. Must See! $1,399,000. Corinne Kalles* Ext 555

PRIME YONGE ST LOCATION

Fab investment property 6 legally zoned units, Four 2 Bdrm units, Two 1 bdrm units, eight 4 pc baths, 4 Gar prkg spaces. Steps to subway & Shops. $599,000. Corinne Kalles* Ext 555

SKYMARK CONDO-THE ELEGANCE

$429,000 – New Price! Great Unit with wonderful Views. 2 Br, 2½ baths. Fam Rm. Sep. D.R., 2 Prkg, Lots of Storage. Excellent amenities. 24 Hr Sec. $429,000. Jack Solomon* Ext 306

LOVELY 3 BR+1 – DESIREABLE STREET – THORNHILL

Easily accessible to Yonge, and walkable to shops, synagogues, schls, Garnet Williams ++; fam size kit; fam rm; fin bsmnt; upgraded and well maint. Paula G. Bernstein* Ext 228

2 BDRM CONDO – THORNHILL

2 Baths; Renovated Kitchen; Large Laundry/Storage room; parquet floors; Mirrored Closets; 2 Parking; All Incl. in Maintenance Fees; Paula G. Bernstein* Ext 228

YORK MILLS/ OLD YONGE

Prestigious address, charming country styled home w/renov'd Kitchen/baths. Heated marble flrs in bsmnt. Fab. Grdn 145x67. $1,889,000. Ft. Cheryl Graff* & Marni Lokash* Ext 272/410

YORK MILLS/BAYVIEW

Wonderful updated neutral décor family home. Enjoy private garden & pool, Walkout lower level. 4+1 bedrooms. $984,900. Cheryl* & Samantha Graff* ext 272/606

STRIKING STUCCO FRENCH STYLE HOME

6 Years new home, Approx. 7000 sq ft. Elevator. Master on main floor backs onto parkland. Wonderful for large family, 4 car gar. $3,999,000. Cheryl* & Samantha Graff* ext 272/606

WINTERIZED LAKEFRONT COTTAGE

2800 sq ft, 4+1 bedrooms, 4 baths, high ceilings, 10 years new, concrete Breakwall, seasonal dock, comes furnished. 10 minute walk to Tent City Shul. $949,000.

LUXURY ON LAKE SIMCOE - LEFROY

4000 feet featuring 7 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, fireplace, Cathedral Ceilings, numerous walk/outs, cedar decks, steel breakwall + Permanent dock. $1,349,000.

ENORMOUS LIVING SPACE PALM DR

Room sizes like you've never seen before! Master, Living, Dining, Kitchen + Study all on the main floor. 4+2 Bedrooms, 5 Baths, double garage. $749,000.

JACK SAMUEL* EXT 345

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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416-488-2875 Forest Hill Village
416-785-1500 Central
416-226-1987 Bayview

CENTRAL PROPERTIES

PALATIAL ELEGANCE! YORK MILLS/BAYVIEW 119'x232'
Beautiful 5 bdrm, 9 bath, custom home gourmet kitchen, full table land! Gated entrance, 10+++. $2,695,000. Debi Stone* 416-226-1987

LYTTON PARK – MASTERPIECE $2,350,000
Grand 3 Storey Built in 1991, Luxury finishes, approx 5,000 sq ft + spa, I-level, 3 car garage. Gary Mitchell** 416-488-2875

NEW CUSTOM + STONE + BRICK 5 BDRM HOME $1,618,000
Gourmet Kitchen, Library, Family Room, Fin Basement, 2nd Kitchen, Walk to Synagogue, TTC, Shops. Cathy Goldman* 416-785-1500

LISTED AND SOLD HUNT CLUB
Magnificent, 3Bdrm, Executive townhome! Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

UPPER VILLAGE! BACKS ONTO BELTLINE!
4+1 Bedroom, 4 Bath Home, Large Principal Rooms, Main Floor Family Room, Lots of Custom B/ins. Susan Goodman* 416-488-2875

LOWER FOREST HILL $878,800
Gorg'us Reno'd Spac Detached 3 Bdrm, 3 Bath, Lrg Mn Flr Fam Rm/Office – Great L/Lvl, Steps to Village. Gary Mitchell** 416-488-2875

1ST AD! 285 DELORAINE AVE! EAST OF AVENUE RD!
$779,000! Stunning Reno! Fab 3+1 bdrm, 2bth! Nanny ste. Gorg'us landscaped 25x150' south lot! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

UPPER VILLAGE FIRST AD – $699,000
Fabulous Updated, 2 storey, SOLD entral Hall, Large Mn Flr Fam Room with w/o to 154' lot, Great L/Lvl. Gary Mitchell** 416-488-2875

NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

BEAUTIFUL UPDATED 3+1 BDRM HOME! THORNHILL!
Cul De Sac, prem lrge lot on a very desirable street "Concord Model". Eat-in kit, fam rm and fin bsmt. $399K! B. Westbrook* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

FABULOUS PENTHOUSE! $899,000 – 10 PRUE AVENUE
Approx 2500 sq.ft. Plus Rooftop Patio, 3 Bedroom, Family Room, Powder Room. Jeffrey Wagman*** 416-785-1500

YONGE/ST. CLAIR $559,000 – 1 DEER PARK CRES 1222 SQ FT
Bright and Spacious Suite, 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2 Premium Prkng, Lckr, Hrdwd Flrs, Granite, Shows to Perfection! F. Sversky** 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTIES

FOR LEASE – PRIME LOWER VILLAGE $7,500/MO.
$7500/mo. Charming Tudor Home, 5 Bedroom, 4 Baths, Recently Renovated Kitchen, 1 Yr Minimum. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

PRIME LOWER VILLAGE – RENTAL $6,900/MO.
Lovely 5 Bedroom Home with 6 Baths, inground pool, 3rd floor Loft, 1 Year Preferred. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

BATHURST/SHEPPARD – LEASED ASE – JUST $3,850/MO.
Huge Family Home, Just Re LEASED, Approx 4000 sq ft, 4 bedroom, 5 baths, Double Garage+++. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

LOTS OF PARKING! GREAT POTENTIAL $3,000/MO.
Two floors of possible offices plus finished basement. Close to subway and shopping. Gary Day* 416-226-1987

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FINE PROPERTIES

HEATH / AVENUE ROAD - $1,495,000.
Architecturally beautiful Kellner Jourdan built, spacious townhome. Fabulous location. Entertaining size living & dining rms. Eat-in kitchen. Wonderful landscaped garden. Private drive & garage. ***Edith Weiss / * Barbara Kaplan**

* * *

UPPER VILLAGE - $1,199,000.
Wonderful residence on most sought after block. 4 bdrms., 4 baths. Spacious kit., family rm. & dining rm. Fin. lower level. Pool w/cabana. Dble. driveway w/gar. ***Daniel Pustil / *Shawnee Slan**

* * *

BATHURST / WILSON - $1,119,000.
Magnificent executive home w/exceptional quality & detailing. Centre hall plan. 5 bdrms. Custom kitchen w/granite counters. Fin. lower level. Deep 190' lot. ****Ron Chichora / **Darren Slavens**

* * *

ESTATE SALE - $749,000.
Spacious Forest Hill Village home. 4 bdrms., 3 baths. Finished lower level. Private drive & attached garage. Backs onto Beltline. Easy walk to schools & transportation. ***Linda Rose**

* * *

RICHMOND HILL BEAUTY - $625,000.
Located in Prime Hunter's Point neighbourhood. Main fl. family rm. w/wet bar + walk-out to deck. 5 spacious bdrms. Fin. lower lvl. Close to park & golf course. ***Elliot Gordon / **Darren Slavens**

* * *

CASA LOMA AREA - $619,000.
Stunning freehold townhome. Bright, open concept w/eat-in kitchen & walk-out to deck. Beautiful master w/huge ensuite + w/o to deck. 2nd fl. laundry. Finished lower level. ***Barbara Kaplan**

* * *

BATHURST / FINCH - $569,900.
Fully reno'd 3 bdrm. bungalow. Open concept kitchen. Walk-out to new deck. Finished lower level. Oversized lot. Detached garage. Excellent area, close to all amenities. ***Anita Evans**

* * *

AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE - $369,900.
Prestigious Lawrence Park Condos. Beautiful 2 bdrm. suite with balcony. Parking & locker included. Great building amenities. Steps to schools, parks, restaurants & shopping. ****Cary Chapnick**

* * *

**Salesperson **Broker*

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1ST AD – THORNHILL GEMS

**CUSTOM BUILT—
ARNOLD AVE.**
$1,975,000 Elegant and refined 6000+ s.f. home in the Heart of Thornhill. Open and flowing design, spacious sun-filled foyer with extra high ceiling and skylight. Exquisite wood finishing, and cornice moulding, 5+3 Bedrooms., 6+2 WR. Newly renovated kitchen, Pesach kitchen on main floor. Bar/kitchen on lower level, sports/games rm. Exercise rm. And extra large rec. rm. 2 entertainment centres surround sound system 3 fireplaces, and beautifully and privately landscaped.

STARTERS DELIGHT
$375,900, Fantastic location for first time buyers. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, minutes from shuls, schools, shopping, public transportation and community centre. Dining room opens up to deck and a tranquil setting among ornamental bushes and shrubs.

**Marty Collis, Sales Representative
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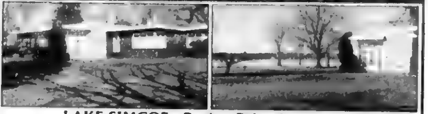
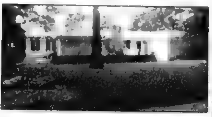


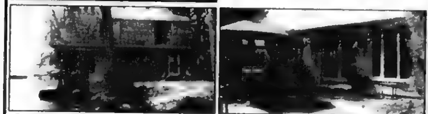
LAKE SIMCOE - Roches Point Area...rare!
Family Retreat rare opportunity for further enhancement, 400' Lakeshore on rare point with large 4 bedroom, 5 baths, fireplace, wood floors, 2 boat houses with 3 wet slips & 2 L/shaped permanent piers, gorgeous Sand beach, sunsets. $1,890,000

LAKE SIMCOE (Little Cedar Av.) Walk to shul!!
Absolutely Outstanding - Magif. Custom, stone fireplace, 6+bedrooms, 5 baths, wood Floors, multi walkouts, superior le. Lot boat house. Permanent pier and bunkie $1,879,000.



**LAKE SIMCOE
(Kempenfelt Bay, Big Bay Pt.)**
6.63 acre compound rarest finest in privacy and impeccable quality. Newer post & beam Muskoka room, wood floors, granite, luxury Master and ensuite, 3 beautiful residences. $1,875,000

LAKE SIMCOE (Big Bay Pt. - 120' lakefront south exposure)
Panabode Log get-away to perfect everything! High beams ceiling/wood floor/stone fireplace, s/s appliances, Must see!! $799,000.



LAKE SIMCOE (Cedarvale, Big Cedar Point) walk to Shul!
Year round main beauty & Gorg. Beach house + shop, very large great rm, lrg Stone fireplace open to spas. Florida rm, very private! $685,000.

LAKE SIMCOE (Little Cedar ideal lovely 4 Bdrm. Cottage) walk to Shul!!
Fireplace, open concept, Gorgeous Level gated/hedged lot. $649,000.

LAKE SIMCOE South of Big Bay Pt. SAND BEACH
Beautiful 60' sand beach lot - open concept, fireplace, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths. $555,000.

LAKE SIMCOE - Little Cedar Pt. Walk to Shul!
Lease for Season. Call to discuss. Beautiful immaculate 3 Bedroom+1 Bedroom, guest cottage, nicely furnished, Open plan fireplace, screened gazebo, boats etc.

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THORNHILL. 2 storey, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, fin. bsmt., double garage, excellent location. $ 579,000.

* * *

THORNHILL WOODS. 2 storey, double garage, oversized window for extra light, berber carpet, hardwood, Dutch clean, $739,000.

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THORNHILL DOWNING. Prestigious location, 4,000 sq. ft., 5 bdrms. + fin. bsmt. for nanny's quarters. Granite, crown mouldings, 9 ft. ceilings, skylight, custom cedar playground. **ONLY $979,000 — ACT NOW!**

* * *

BATHURST MANOR BUILDING LOT 55.89 ft. x 157 ft.

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TORRESDALE CONDO New kitchen, renovated baths, low floor, very quiet private location, $189,000.

* * *

THORNHILL TOWNHOMES FROM $375,000 1,700 sq. ft. $370,000, 2,055 sq. ft. $375,000, 2 storey, 3 bdrms., 3 baths, granite kitchen counters, ceramic tile in bathrooms, hardwood floors, 9 ft. ceilings, 5 appliances, will close Dec. 2007. **ONLY 5 LEFT — ACT NOW!**

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HOUSES FOR SALE

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Spacious principal Rooms. Beautifully Renovated, Main floor-4+1 Bedrooms, Family Room, Den, Finished Basement, Nanny's Quarters, Located on a sought after Street, Steps to shops, synagogue, & Schools. To view this lovely home Call *Helen Gould

* * *

BATHURST/CENTRE – BEAUTY!
5 Bdrm, Fin. Bsmt, Hrdwd,Cent air, Gourmet Kitchen, All the Bells & Whistles, A must see! Asking $879,000 **Mark Waxman

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CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST-STEELES "TOWNSGATE"
Fabulous 2 Bedroom Split Bedroom Plan, Appliances, Locker on Main floor. Shows Great! Asking $309,000 *Ted Waxman

* * *

BATHURST-CENTRE 1535 SQ. FT.
2 Bedroom + Large Family Room, Huge Eat-in Kitchen, Granite, Laminate Flooring thru'out, 5 New Appliances, Never Lived-in, South Exposure. Asking $489,900 *Ted Waxman

* * *

BATHURST/CENTRE – FOREST HILLS NORTH
Fabulous 2 Bedroom + Solarium, South Facing, Tandem parking spot, Mirrored Walls & Closet doors, Six appliances, 24 hour security. Shows Great!! Call **Mark Waxman

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HOMES

Bathurst/Lawrence – Exclusive Listing! 3 bedroom bungalow, finished basement with apartment, updated kosher kitchen, 50 ft lot, close to subway. Asking $485,000.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Great Starter Bungalow! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, finished basement, garage, 42 x 132 lot. Asking $569,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – New Custom Home! 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, approx. 3,400 s.f. finished basement with income potential, beautiful finishings, double garage. Asking $1,150,000.

Bathurst/Eglinton – 1st Ad! Charming Forest Hill 2 storey tudor, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, stone front, large kitchen, paneled study. Asking $1,400,000.

Bathurst/Eglinton – Exclusive! New Custom Home! Approx. 4,000 s.f., 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, stunning design and finishings, walk out basement, prime location. Asking $2,400,000.

CONDOS

Bathurst/Lawrence – Luxury unit at 1 Glen Park Avenue, approx. 1,720 s.f., 2 bedrooms, 3 baths, den, balcony, west exposure, close to everything. Asking $599,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – "Crystal Towers" 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, approx. 1150 s.f., great facilities, outdoor pool. Asking $425,000.

RENTALS

Bathurst/Lawrence – 3000 Bathurst, 2nd floor unit, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, large solarium A-1 condition. Asking $1700 per month.

Bathurst/Glencairn – Renovated Bungalow! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, big backyard, available immediately. Asking $1600 per month plus utilities.

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Bathurst/Alexandra Wood - Brilliantly located, stone/brick 3 bedroom sidesplit, 57 ft. frontage, aprox. 106 ft. depth. High fully finished basement, 3 Art Deco style bath. Where you want to be! Priced at $769,518.

Leslie/Green Lane - Offered at $599,000. Fabulous, elegant, spacious 4 bedroom + 2, 4 Baths, full professionaly finished basment, 2 fireplaces, great inground pool, hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen. A must see!

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BATHURST & CENTRE
Large 4 bdrm, 2 storey, huge family rm, very quiet crescent, 171' lot, basement apt w/sep entrance, fantastic location.

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ESSIE SHER

Bathurst/Clark $759,000
On a quiet cres!! Amazing opportunity!!5 bdr, close to shuls & all amenities. Prof. landscaping. Gorgeous master ensuite. Kosher kitchen, finished basement with Pessach kit.+2bdr. A warm charming home. Call **Essie** 416-464-5261.

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ARMOUR HTS. BEAUTY
40x130 ft., renovated 2-storey, w/o to 2-tier deck from kitchen, offering $579,000.

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Unique 4 bdrm, 4 bath, L-shaped liv & din, rosewood floors, w/o to balcony & terr, 4 car prkg. A-1 loc.

FAIRLAWN/BATHURST
Freehold TH, 2-storey, 2 bdrms, 2 kitchens, 2 baths, rec room, 2 car parking, steps to all.

BATHURST/SHEPPARD
House for rent, 5 rooms, 2 bdrms, liv & din comb, mod. kitchen, appls, steps to TTC, shopping.

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30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

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Bathurst/Sheppard. Country feel in the city, spacious bright clean apts, quiet ravine setting off main street, renovated, TTC. 2 bdrm. avail. immed., June. 905-474-3600, 416-638-6813

Bath./Sheppard, 6 storey apt. bldg., 2 bdrm., reno'd, w/new kit. & bath. Avail. Call 416-635-5031.

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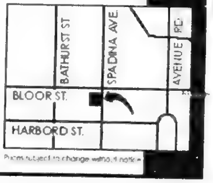

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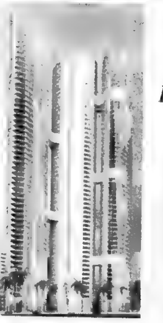

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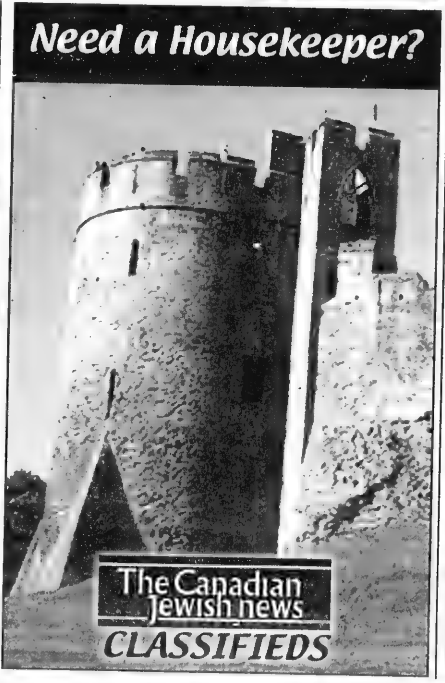

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NHL players' union fires executive director

Ted Saskin

CJN Staff

The executive board of the National Hockey League Players' Association voted unanimously last week to fire its executive director, Ted Saskin.

The move, which was announced by the union in a short statement, came after a conference call of the board, made up of player representatives from the NHL's 30 teams, plus the union's six-member executive committee.

Saskin and senior NHLPA director Ken Kim had been on a forced paid leave since March following allegations he and Kim read players' e-mail as part of the ongoing turmoil in the union over his hiring.

Saskin took over the job from longtime NHLPA head Bob Goodenow in July 2005 after Goodenow stepped down following the settlement of the NHL lockout.

As Goodenow's right-hand man, Saskin was credited with playing a major role in hammering out an agreement between the league and the union. But his hiring was controversial – some high-profile players were critical of the union for agreeing to a salary cap, and some alleged Saskin got the job without going through a proper hiring process and were unhappy with his pay, said to be the highest among player union heads in the four major North American professional sports leagues.

> ***16 years with NHLPA included key role in negotiations to end lockout***

He was two years into a five-year contract reportedly worth $10 million.

In its statement, the union said it would not comment further about Saskin, "as this is an internal matter."

In a brief e-mail to Canadian Press, Saskin said, "All I am going to say at this time is that I remain proud of all the work I did for NHL players over the last 16 years and particularly in negotiating the new CBA, which has been working out well. I will work towards a fair resolution of my contractual rights with the NHLPA and wish them well in the future."

Saskin, a Montreal native, lives in Toronto with his wife and four children. A former intellectual property rights lawyer with the Toronto firm Goodmans, he's a member of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation and has long been active in Jewish communal life.

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The politics of tolerance

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

Last month, I was invited by Canadian Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center to visit the worldwide headquarters of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Beverly Hills, Calif. The centrepiece of the Los Angeles campus is the Museum of Tolerance, an engaging tool for educating people (especially young people) about the importance of, well, tolerance. The museum is truly a multimedia exhibition (there are TV and computer screens everywhere) – just the kind of design you need if your goal is to educate elementary and high school students. And the setup seems to be working: according to our tour guide, the museum hosts an average of 1,000 students each day.

Any exhibit bearing the name of Simon Wiesenthal must have a Holocaust aspect to it, and at the Museum of Tolerance, the displays about the murder of six million Jews are the final and most elaborate ones. The exhibit misses no detail in chronicling the Nazis' genocidal campaign against European Jewry, beginning as Germany comes to grips with defeat in World War I, continuing through the rise, fall and second coming of Hitler and culminating with a chilling death march through a mock gas chamber.

The Holocaust section and other museum exhibits dealing with racial politics, poverty and genocide send a clear message: we must be tolerant of one another, because when we are intolerant, we are inhumane.

But the Museum of Tolerance is not quite comprehensive. Among its omissions (and, admittedly, there are few) is any mention of the torturing of Iraqi prisoners by American troops at the Abu Ghraib prison. When one member of our group asked the tour guide why that example of intolerance was left out, she replied, rather unconvincingly, that museum exhibits are updated every few months, and that the Abu Ghraib incident – in 2004 – had simply occurred between updates. There are, after all, the politics of tolerance, too.

While in Los Angeles, I was reading journalist Christopher Hitchens' new book *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything.* Hitchens is an interesting personality: a political leftist who nonetheless sides with neoconservatives on U.S. foreign policy (he continues to support the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan), he's also a devout atheist and a belligerent anti-theist.

One needs only to read the title of Hitchens' book to understand where he's headed. *God Is Not Great* alternates between the two basic arguments that there is no such thing as God (he's a man-made creation used by powerful people to inspire feelings of fear, vulnerability and inadequacy in the rest of us), and that religious people are destroying the world because of their intolerance. Organized religion, he argues, is the driving force behind everything bad in the world.

Hitchens' anti-religion manifesto glosses over the obvious fact that non-religious movements – take Nazi fascism, for example – have committed their fair share of atrocities over the course of history. Still, *God Is Not Great* does contain an undeniable truth: Intolerance is a rather popular policy in most religions. That is, powerful groups within each of the world's major religions unabashedly preach and practice intolerance towards anyone who isn't exactly like them – that is, non-believers, those who believe in another God and even people who follow the same God but in a different way. Religion has had a dark, intolerant side from day one.

You'd think that tolerance would come naturally to people – do unto others what you would have them do unto you seems so obvious – but it often doesn't turn out that way. That's probably because there are so many forces running interference against tolerance. One could convincingly argue that Hitchens' intolerance of religion bears a strong resemblance to the religious intolerance he decries. And, even at an essentially honourable institution like the Museum of Tolerance, the force of politics sometimes gets in the way.

ROASTED CORN & EDAMAME (SOY BEAN) SALAD

Buy edamame beans in the frozen vegetable section of the supermarket

1/2 cup edamame beans
1 1/4 cups corn kernels
1/4 cup chopped red onion
1/4 cup small-diced red bell pepper
1 tblsp finely chopped fresh cilantro
1 tblsp light mayonnaise
1 tblsp lemon juice
1 1/2 tsp finely chopped ginger
1/8 tsp salt
1/8 tsp freshly ground black pepper

Soak fresh corn in cold water about 30 mins. Grill corn in husk 10-15 mins. on BBQ turning once. Cool. Remove husks. Cut corn from cob into a bowl, or use canned corn kernels.

Combine corn kernels and edamame beans. Add remaining ingredients. Cover and chill in refrigerator until ready to serve.

Makes 4 servings.

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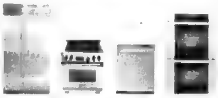

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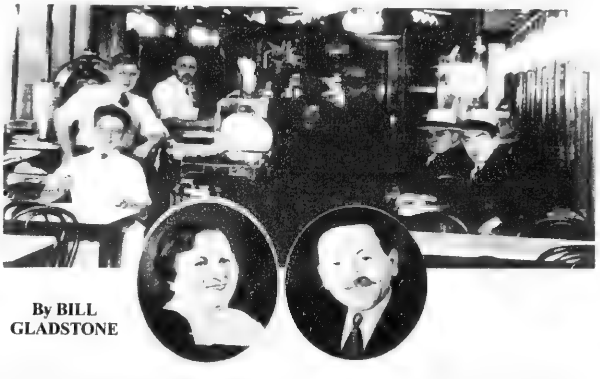
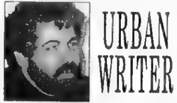


By BILL GLADSTONE

In 1921, Harry and Jenny Shopsowitz, former egg candlers from Kielce, opened a tiny ice cream parlour on Spadina Avenue near Dundas Street, in the heart of Toronto's garment district, that grew into the famous Shopsy's delicatessen. The deli is shown here in 1939, with Harry behind the cash register and son Israel (Iz) standing in front of him. Brothers Israel and Sam took over the hot dog and corned beef emporium from their parents and built it into a multi-million-dollar meat and catering business that they eventually sold. For decades a Spadina landmark, Shopsy's was situated between the Standard (Yiddish) Theatre (later renamed the Strand and Victory Burlesque) and Sammy Taft, the "Mad Hatter" of Spadina.

War: a Diaspora-Israel partnership

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG



I'm sitting on the porch of a friend's cottage, overlooking Georgian Bay. I'm chatting with an Israeli buddy. At one point during our talk, he looks at me very sternly, and says, "There is a smell of war in the air in Israel."

I ask him to explain, and he tells me that most Israelis are expecting a war this summer between Israel and Iran, Syria and Hezbollah. My Israeli comrade says the chances of things turning out otherwise are slight, as Israel must fight this war to show that it's strong, as well as to eradicate Iran's nuclear threat and the threat from Syria and its support of the very thorny and dangerous Hezbollah.

So what does a Jew do to prepare for war?

If you're an Israeli, you debate tactics and strategies over and over again in coffee shops all over the country. Arguments are plenty among Israelis about the potential outcome of such a war and whether their country has the will to really take the war to the enemy, as it did in 1967.

If you're an Israeli, you puff up your chest with courage and resolve, accepting the inevitability of bloodshed. Israelis are on the front line.

Israelis have a way of dealing with such eventualities by combining humour and disassociation with practical acceptance. I once listened to a conversation between two Israelis who brushed off a terror attack in which "only two people were killed." Clearly, the Israeli response to war and death is a deep-seated defence mechanism against pain and suffering.

What does a Diaspora Jew do to prepare for war? We are in a difficult predicament, knowing that the battle is not on our doorstep and that the world will hammer away at us for precipitating such an action, regardless of whether self-defence plays a role or not. On a deep, self-conscious level, we also fear reprisals and terror attacks on our own turf. Diaspora Jews are at base camp.

We experience tremendous outward fear as Syria masses on its front and Iranian madmen continue to hurl threats of destruction at the State of Israel. We do because unlike Israelis, we haven't built up the same resistance to cope with the realities of war.

This partly stems from the truth that it's scarier to be at a distance from the "action" then it is to be in the middle of it. Proof of this comes when a terror attack happens in Netanya or Kiryat Shmonah and for days on end, we mourn the deaths of those who perished and pray for those who were injured.

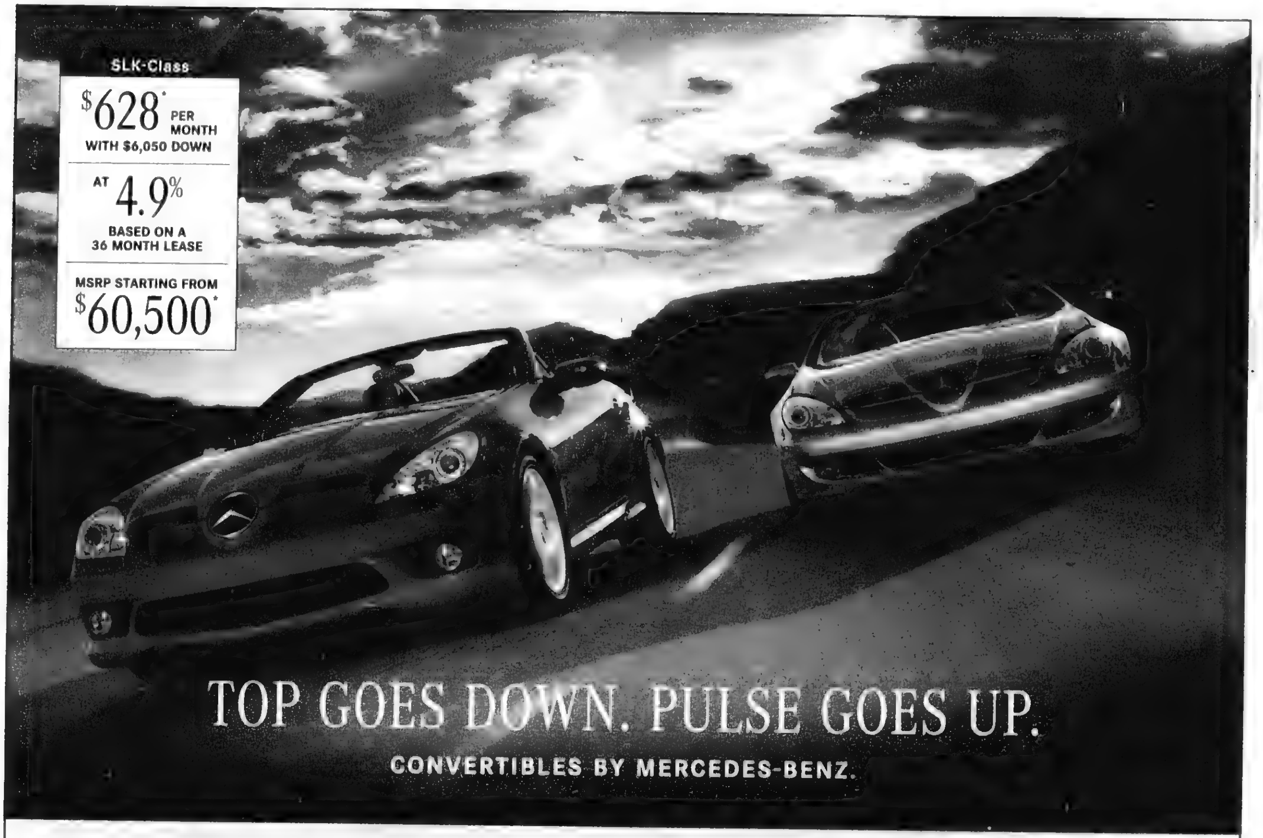
Israelis, as mentioned, instead face the situation, size it up, clean up "the mess" and move on (although the long-term mental and emotional state of Israelis is affected in ways that are very serious).

Israelis survey the political and military terrain and then hunker down to get the job done. Diaspora Jews, however, are, in part, bystanders, despite the fact we contribute to the war through funds, prayer and keeping a constant eye on day-to-day news. We are partial outsiders to our own history, feeling guilty in assuming that we're safe from the immediate harm of rockets dropping on our home or landing in our local schoolyard.

Yet, at the end of the day, as the smell of war becomes stronger, Israeli and Diaspora Jews join together, each aware of our individual responsibilities – Israelis to fight the war, and we to defend our homeland Israel everywhere and anywhere when required.

As war once again comes our way, we Jews know our job. It is to be one with each other and to contribute in any way that we're able. May God bless us with life and the strength to fight the war properly so that the State of Israel is forever.

Avrum@veahavta.org, Sudan?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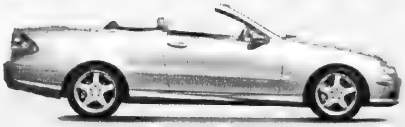

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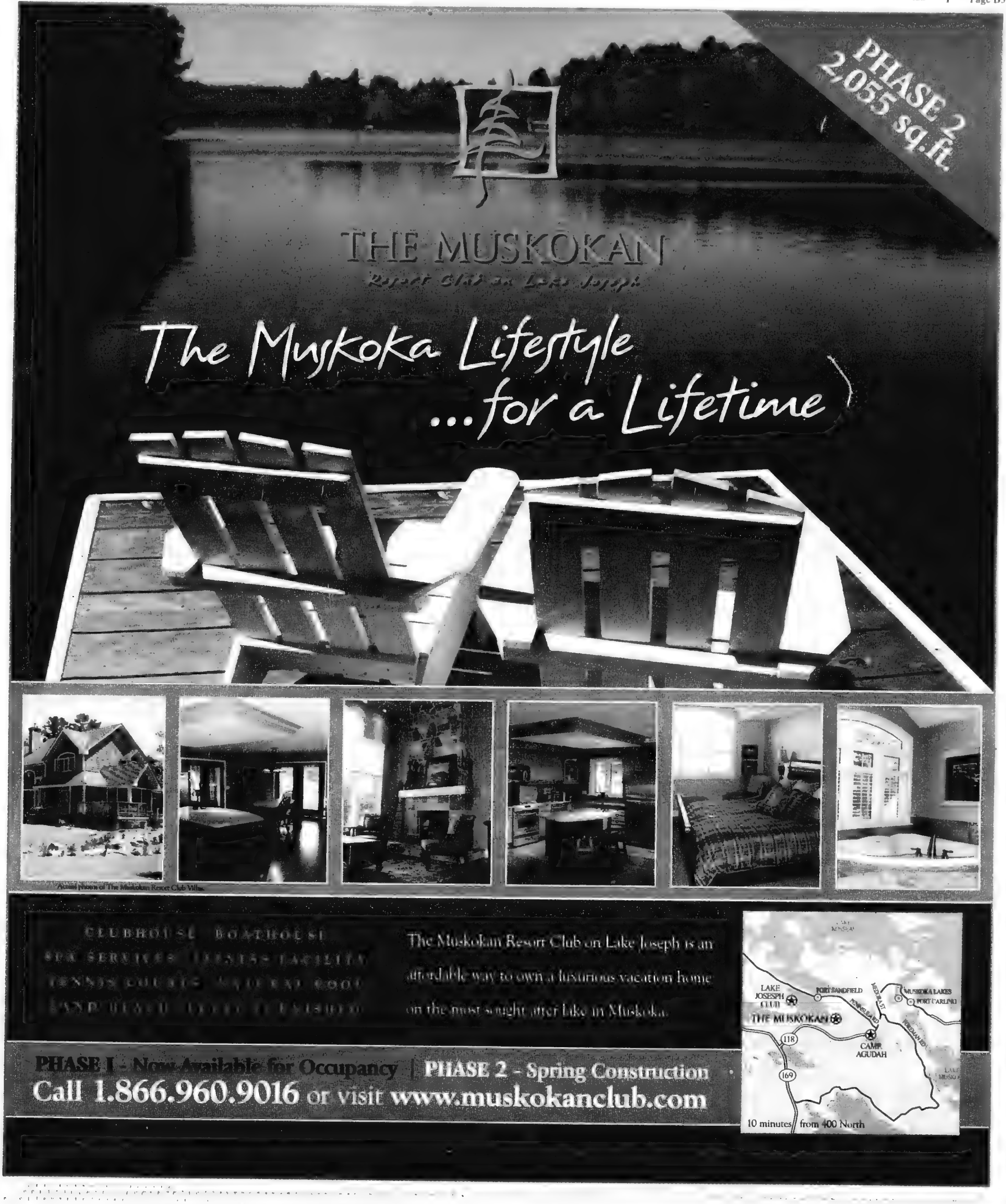
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Shul members help Habitat build homes for the needy

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Donning their hard hats and safety boots, members of synagogues along the Bayview corridor shlepped, sawed and hammered away for a good cause.

About 20 volunteers from Temple Emanu-El, Kehillat Shaarei Torah, Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Temple Har Zion, Beit Rayim Synagogue and Shaar Shalom Synagogue joined forces on April 29 with Habitat for Humanity, an independent, charitable housing program that provides affordable housing to low income families.

Left to right - Gerhardt (crew leader) Hayley Demone, Brian Demone, Eda Shere, Karl (crew leader), Gloria Shere

Volunteers were on hand at 4200 Kingston Rd., south of Lawrence Avenue, to help with Phase 1 of a build that ran from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and will lead to the erection of 10 homes for families who can't afford traditional mortgages.

"People gave up a day to do this as well as donated and collected pledges. So it's not just your time, it's also money you're raising to participate," said project co-ordinator Gloria Shere.

The volunteers, who had to be at least 16 years old, were asked to raise at least $50 to participate. As a group, they managed to raise more than $1,100.

This is the third time that members from the synagogues on or near Bayview Avenue joined together to participate in a Habitat for Humanity build.

"It's a wonderful program, they provide homes for low-income families and I guess most of us who belong to these synagogues are homeowners and appreciate what it means to have your own home," Shere said.

Habitat for Humanity, which aims to give families in need a helping hand rather than a handout, requires that recipients go through a screening process with its family selection committee, which determines who is entitled to a home based on their need, their ability to pay the interest-free mortgage, and their willingness to give back to the community.

If a family is living in an overcrowded or run-down home, or their housing costs exceed 35 per cent of their gross income, they will be considered for a home.

The family must also be willing to put in the mandatory "sweat equity" – 500 hours of volunteer work – to help build their own houses and other Habitat houses as well.

With thousands of Habitat for Humanity affiliates all over the world and about 60 chapters in Canada alone, the organization has helped more than one million people since 1976.

"It was great. We shlepped, we hammered, we sawed, but it was a lot of fun. I think this was an activity that a lot of us don't participate in normally, and it was just a lot of fun," Shere said.

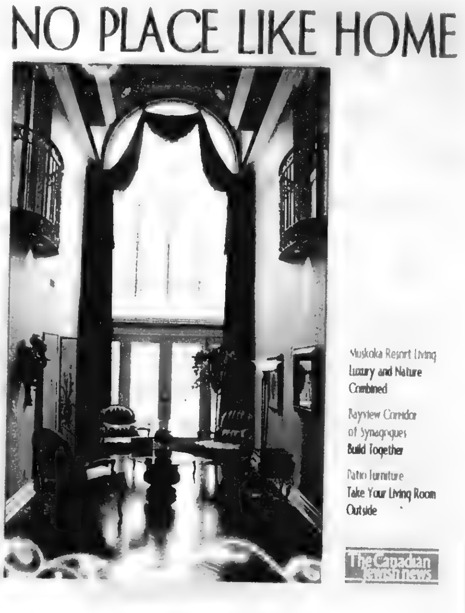
She added that it was very encouraging to see that many youths, despite the fact that some were too young to participate in this year's build, were interested in the project.

"There were a lot of young people, which was very nice, a few 25-year-olds. It was very nice to have them participating."

Shere said that there was one young volunteer who loved the program so much that he plans to volunteer all summer.

"Apparently, he was supposed to be a counsellor at camp, but the camp didn't get enough campers… so he decided that he wants to spend the months of July and August building as a result of his experience."

For more information about Habitat for Humanity, visit www.habitat.ca.



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Cleaning service can help ready house for sale

While spring cleaning seems like a daunting task at first, it presents you with the opportunity to renew, recharge and transform your home from its drab winter state into a fresh environment ready for the summer.

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With an extensive list of services, including carpet cleaning, "enviro-care" specialty cleaning, duct cleaning and 24-hour water and fire damage emergency repair, Cleanol isn't just an ordinary cleaning company. Quite the contrary – Cleanol operates out of a 35,000-square-foot plant, and houses North America's largest automated rug-cleaning system and state-of-the-art dry-cleaning system.

"We're proud of our company," says Jeffrey Friedman, vice-president of sales and marketing. "The majority of our personnel have been with us for over 20 years. We pride ourselves on our excellent customer service. Once we quote the price for a job, we stick to it. We always guarantee our work."

Cleanol helps clean up

One of Cleanol's newest services is Centre-Stage, which helps to "de-clutter" and revitalize your home so that it looks its best for potential buyers.The company can call in any help you may need. From consulting with interior decorators to bringing in extra lighting fixtures and art pieces and utilizing off-site storage facilities, Cleanol helps ensure that your home receives the amount it deserves when it is sold.

"Centre-Stage allows us to deliver many of the different cleaning services we have to help you increase the value of your home," says company chairman Ted Bzialowski.

Cleanol also offers a myriad of eco-friendly services that do no harm to the environment or the people in the vicinity of the cleaning products, including using a hardwood cleaner that utilizes a self-contained dustless system. Since the chemicals are not released into the air, they pose no breathing hazard.

Cleanol also offers services unique to the Jewish market. For example, as one doesn't generally plan to host shivah, the company can be called in on an emergency basis to help ready the house to welcome guests.

Cleanol can achieve a level of clean that is seldom achievable on your own. "For example, people rarely clean their air ducts, if ever," says Bzialowski. "You'd be horrified to know how damaging that is to the airflow of your home."

Friedman adds that "most people also aren't aware that simply vacuuming a carpet doesn't remove anything below the surface."

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Is your place a mess? **The Declutter Queen** can help

By **BARBARA SILVERSTEIN**
Special to The CJN

When Corinne Kalles needed someone to help her organize some rooms in her home, she called in The Declutter Queen (416-521-9326).

"The Declutter Queen came to my home two summers ago and organized my home office, kitchen, laundry room and, most importantly, the dreaded storage area.

"She grouped all of my years of buying and receiving gifts and labelled everything for easier access."

Kalles, a sales rep for Harvey Kalles Real Estate, saw the benefits of using The Declutter Queen – alias Cindy Gorenkoff – when she moved to a new home.

"Last year, we sold our house," she wrote. "Because we had done quite a bit of organizing with Cindy, it was very easy to pack and move. Cindy worked diligently to achieve great results."

Client satisfaction and referrals have been key to the growth of The Declutter Queen, the company started by Gorenkoff two years ago.

Although the company is relatively new, Gorenkoff, who describes herself "as a meticulous and detailed person," spent more than 15 year honing her organizational and logistic skills as a fundraising supervisor for a staff of 24 and in her work co-ordinating meetings and hearings for the Ontario Council of University Affairs.

Cindy Gorenkoff

She chose her new career in organizing after watching Clean Sweep on TLC. "I was inspired by the host of the show. He took organizing from the perspective of the psychological meaning of decluttering. What does it mean to hang on to things? His attitude is: 'Let us help you make your life simpler.'"

She stresses that she helps people make their homes more livable. "People waste a lot of time looking for things because there is so much clutter in their homes.

"My mission is to help busy women and families organize their things so they can use their time for more important things."

To that end, The Declutter Queen helps people simplify their lives by sorting through and getting rid of things. "I help people figure out what they can give away."

The services offered by The Declutter Queen include packing up homes for staging before a home goes on the market, home staging, packing people for moving, general decluttering, and content and estate sales.

Helping people part with items they don't need can be a challenge, says Gorenkoff. "You have to make them feel good about what they are giving away."

She says she's in touch with charities that pick up furniture and companies that dispose of garbage.

One of the reasons clutter builds up is because people hold on to things they don't need, she explains. "People redecorate their homes. They get new linens and drapery and they hold on to the old stuff.

"The main challenge is helping them let go of things they feel there'll be some use for in the future."

She says there is usually one room in a house that becomes the catch-all place for junk. "If someone gets a new TV, they take the old TV and throw it in that room. My suggestion is to take a lot of the things you no longer need and pack them up."

For instance, she suggests pre-packing things such as extra linen and dishes for later use when children go way to university or move out and items designated for the cottage should be moved there as soon as possible to free up space.

To reduce excess junk in a house, The Declutter Queen advises people to "reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible."

She says the best way of organizing people is to help them find a space for things. "Everything has to have a home. It's easy to put the item away if it has a home."

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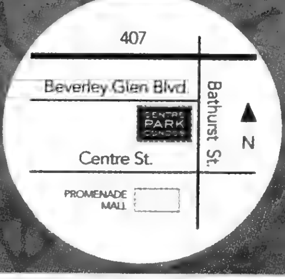
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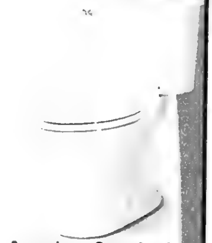

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Cottage resort offers escape from city life

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

With picturesque lakefront views, a bounty of nature trails and amenity-filled residences, cottage resorts are a hot commodity.

People of all ages are fleeing the hustle and bustle of big city life for more tranquil settings, replete with all the creature comforts they cherish.

"People want to go on vacation to a place that they can call their own," says Bill Van Gelder, the founder and developer of Blue Water Acres, a cottage resort near Huntsville, Ont.

Nestled on the Lake of Bays in the Muskoka region, Blue Water Acres is home to almost 40 detached cottages, with a variety of resort services available, including tennis courts, indoor swimming, a children's playground, kayaks and canoes, as well as extensive recreational trails.

Van Gelder emphasizes that when people are looking for a cottage resort, location is key.

"The number one thing is location," he says.

"For instance, cottage buyers often want a natural sandy beach, privacy and lakefront access. We have all of that here."

Van Gelder adds that the cottage's proximity to nature trails, restaurants and the length of time it takes you to drive there are important location-related factors to consider.

Whether you buy or rent a cottage, the resort setup is appealing to many people because it offers the convenience of someone else looking after property maintenance and management.

"Good service and property management is something people really care about," says Van Gelder, noting Blue Water Acres is family-owned and managed.

"One thing guests really love in our case is that our family runs it, and we ensure the guests have all the amenities and services they require."

To that end, your quest to find the right cottage resort should involve thorough research into whether the resort offers the type of vacation you want.

For instance, if you want a "sit back and let someone else do everything for you" kind of vacation, then seek out a cottage resort that offers things such as meal plans and constant programming for kids.

Cottage living is increasingly going hand-in-hand with golfing, so if you're a club swinger, be sure your cottage is not too far from some striking greens.

"Muskoka is becoming one of the top golf destinations in Canada," Van Gelder says.

"There's at least 15 good courses, ranging from family friendly to some of the top-ranked courses in the country."

As with any major consumer purchase, read the fine print before signing on the dotted line to rent or own a cottage. There are many legal documents with a large number of financial details, and you'll want to ensure you're getting exactly what you pay for.

Speaking of price, cottage resorts of varying qualities are available, so be sure to get the best bang for your buck.

Blue Water Acres' cottages will be on the market this month.

For more information, visit www.bwacres.ca.

To inquire about renting, phone 1-800-461-4279. For ownership details, call 1-866-396-BLUE.

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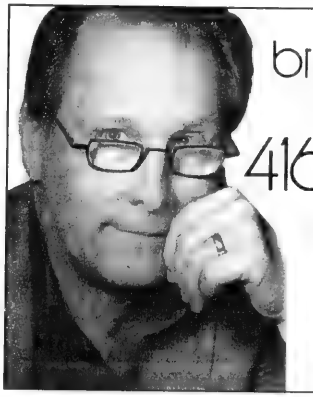
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Before reno

After reno

Too many cooks spoil the kitchen reno

By ELLA BURAKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

It all started with a surprise party I made for my husband. He was so impressed that he thought he would reciprocate by getting me a dream gift – a brand new kitchen.

Sounds great, right? In theory, it's wonderful, but living through it was a whole other story.

Of course, we wanted the best finishes, appliances, gadgets, cabinetry and flooring – and all at economical prices. That meant something had to give. We started talking in July 2006, ended up ordering the cabinetry in December that year, and finally had a finished product 10 months after the project began.

Marshall, my husband, thought we could use our friend Rob to do all the preliminary work – demolish the old kitchen, replace electrical and plumbing fixures, etc. – and save a bundle. And Marshall would be Rob's apprentice.

Naturally, Rob was only available from January to April, and only on weekends. Also, Rob happens to live about 3½ hours away from us.

We thought it was a good idea to keep the whole thing in the family. Marshall's brother Eric works for a kitchen company, so we placed our order through him.

As there were literally too many cooks in the kitchen, the disagreements reached dangerously high levels, because everyone had an opinion on just about every aspect of the work. The decisions that need to be made during a kitchen renovation are numerous, and, lucky me, I am blessed with a husband who has an opinion on everything, including colours, styles, finishes, appliances, sink, taps and anything else that might come up. We even disagreed on the colour of the electrical sockets.

Then there was the question of how to empty the existing kitchen. Where are you supposed to keep everything inside all the kitchen cupboards, for months and months? In the living and dining room, of course. The refrigerator found a new home in our dining room as well.

As the stove was removed early in the renovation, pizza became the perfect food, since it required no dishes or utensils, just a couple of paper towels.

If I ever see another slice of pizza, I just may hurl. And dining out, which used to be a treat, became an aggravation.

I was actually managing until I lost the use of my sink. It's amazing how much you rely on a kitchen sink. The powder room took on a dual purpose and was used as both a bathroom and a kitchen.

Finally, the day arrived when they stopped ripping things out of the kitchen and started building it back up. First came the floor. We chose hardwood, against the advice of every hardwood dealer. Apparently hardwood is too delicate to use in a kitchen. But we figured everyone else was doing it, so we would do it, too.

Continued on page B11

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After ten months and lots of pizza- **a dream kitchen**

Cont'd from page B10

Then came the cupboards – a few at a time. The company could not deliver all the cupboards at once because I had nowhere to keep them until they were all installed.

So where did we store them? You guessed it – in the living and dining room. We called it "the staging area," right on top of my Oriental rugs. The furniture in the living room was removed to make room for the kitchen.

Each cupboard took forever to install, as the walls, ceiling and floor were not level. But exactly six weeks after we started putting them in, the kitchen cupboards were finally installed and all the excess wood was removed from the living room.

Once the bottom set of cabinets was in place, the granite company came in to measure for the counter. Another three-week wait for a counter, which again meant no sink.

Then the appliances arrived, and a whole new learning curve began. You need a technology degree to figure out our new range. Nothing like my old turn-it-on-and-off stove, this one has features that even Martha Stewart wouldn't use.

Now we had to put everything back. It didn't fit the way it used to, and we had to rethink the entire kitchen. As the cupboards and drawers were filled, the living room and dining room slowly reverted back to their original condition, and the dust stopped accumulating in every nook and cranny.

Now, 10 months later, 25 per cent over budget and 10 pounds heavier, we are all still speaking to each other, and I finally have my dream kitchen.

I love it!

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Furnish the outdoors in contemporary style

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
Special to The CJN

Your backyard is "an additional living room – it has to reflect the value of your home," says Dave Reburn of Deck & Dock (416-781-4887, www.deckanddock.ca).

But if you think you're stuck with off-the-shelf dining suites and chaises, think again.

"There are as many options for the outdoors as there are in the indoors," Reburn says.

Outdoor furniture is more exciting than ever, he adds. New long-lasting surfaces, look-alike synthetics that look just like natural materials, and a wider range of high-end choices make this a great time to shop and buy, whether it's for one piece or a complete set.

That includes upholstery choices, a pleasant surprise if you're used to the limited selection in hardware or mass-market stores. "In some cases here, we might have over a thousand different fabrics to choose from."

Although the retail customer is the biggest part of his business, many designers approach Deck & Dock for middle- to high-end quality products for their clients, which have included some of the top hotels and golf courses across Canada.

"We deliver anywhere – we've shipped to Florida and the Caribbean," says Reburn. He's even shipped to Africa, after the wife of former Kenyan prime minister Jomo Kenyatta shopped in person at the store's location in the heart of the Design District, at 1280 Castlefield Ave., near Caledonia Road and Eglinton Avenue, ordering some 65 pieces to be shipped to her Mombasa coastal home.

Throughout the season, Deck & Dock delivers twice weekly to cottage country. They also take care of setup, meaning you'll get your furniture right away, not a bunch of boxes to open and loose pieces to assemble.

This is not the lawn furniture of 20 years ago.

"The evolution of outdoor product has been quite dramatic." That's thanks to a shift in attitude of the general public. "It was a change of lifestyle… the outdoors became more important."

Today's outdoor furniture is as likely to be made of durable resin as anything that ever came from a tree, but you might not even be able to tell the difference at first.

> Take your livingroom outdoors

"People look at the arm of a chair and ask, 'What kind of wood is it?'" Yet it's just as likely to be resin, finished in a mahogany pattern and shade.

Many customers come in asking, "Can it stay outside?" Increasingly, the answer is yes, in almost any weather. Until recently, the only durable all-weather materials were cast metal and tempered glass. These days, updated materials and finishes are sturdy enough to withstand the elements, but beautiful enough to want to show off.

Keeping real wicker outdoors is a risky proposition, with peeling, fading and warping a hazard if the furniture is unattended in bright sun or heavy rains. The newest wicker-look vinyl keeps its shape and colour. Built over a sturdy aluminum frame, "the material is not going to deteriorate in any way," says Reburn.

One of the biggest differences in purchasing high-quality outdoor furniture is warranty – high-end manufacturers stand behind their products. Many of Deck & Dock's pieces carry a five- or 10-year warranty, but Reburn says the pieces will probably outlast even that.

"You'll be tired of it before you have to throw it away."

He also specializes in exclusive pieces you won't find elsewhere – like the newest cantilevered and remote-control umbrellas to provide shade and convenience. With a cantilever, you get all the shade of a traditional umbrella, often in a much larger size, but the "pole" of the umbrella is off to the side so it doesn't interfere with conversation or mobility.

Adjustable-length dining tables are another important item, and there have been other big changes recently in outdoor tables, Reburn says.

Standard tables are just not long enough for outdoor entertaining. "People have gone from 48" and 72" perhaps now to 100 [inches]."

While a 72-inch table seats six, many people are realizing their family alone needs that much space. For adding guests and greater comfort, they're looking for ways to seat eight, 10 or even 12 at a single table.

The table itself is increasingly becoming a focal point, Reburn says, as more options become available, such as different tabletop finishes.

"It used to be the table was glass and the chair was the big concern. You'd sit in it – that's comfortable, that's a lovely looking chair… and you'd arbitrarily take the table."

Today's outdoor table can be a dramatic statement in itself, not just an accessory to a beautiful chair, with finishes ranging from traditional tempered glass to teak, cast aluminum or even an all-weather mosaic.

Showcasing high-quality manufacturers such as Brown Jordan, Gloster, Lloyd Flanders, Summer Classics and others in its airy, 8,000-square-foot store, Deck & Dock is an eye-opening experience.

"It's a unique shopping environment," says Reburn, noting the presence of trees, bridges and even skylights that let in natural light for fabric and colour selection.

Deck & Dock's five full-time staff bring an accumulation of many years' knowledge and experience to help customers select furniture that truly reflects their lifestyle. You can choose pieces – entire suites or a few items at a time – that will proudly accentuate one of the most important "rooms" of your home.

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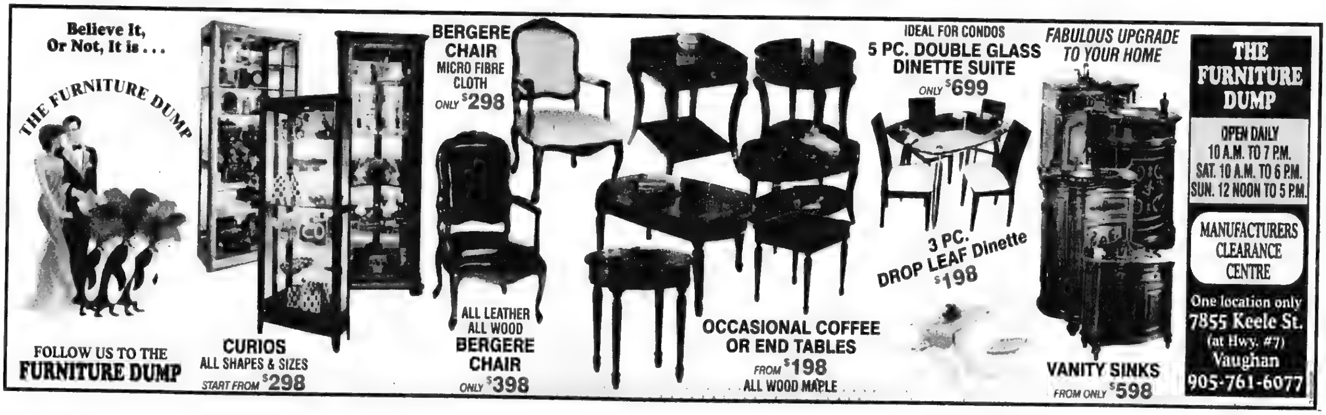
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Furniture choices to **create dream spaces**

By **JENNIFER M. MACLEOD**
Special to the CJN

Mickey Zworth has been in the business since 1949, starting as a humble sweeper at Laskin's Furniture in Thunder Bay, owned by (former Supreme Court justice) Bora Laskin's father and brother.

His gift with words – he speaks eight languages – earned him rapid advancement. His boss eventually took the sweeper right out of his hands, saying, "I'll sweep the floor – you talk to the customers."

Almost 60 years later, Zworth is still talking to the customers, for the last six of those years from his own 20,000- square-foot location at 7855 Keele St., near Keele and Highway 7, where he has not one but two stores under one roof: 18th Century Furniture Galleries (905-760-1518) and the more humbly named The Furniture Dump (905-761-6077).

Mickey Zworth

"The Furniture Dump was named by my suppliers, manufacturers who said, 'We have so many samples, we want to get rid of them – we want to dump them out to you.'" While both stores feature name-brand products from quality manufacturers, The Furniture Dump is the place to go for new designers, samples and discontinued items at "give-away prices."

"I buy them at a ridiculously low price," says Zworth, "and kick them out at a ridiculous low price." While new stock comes in all week long, on Saturday and Sunday, "there's a lineup outside for people to get in."

Zworth "kicks out furniture at ridiculously low prices"

On the other side of the store, in 18th Century, customers can find unique pieces by Stanley, American Drew, Lea Industries, Jessica McClintock, Bob Mackie, Michael Amini Designs and others.

"For customers who say, 'I like this product, I like this style, but I don't like the colours,'" the store's three interior designers – including Zworth's wife, Judy, and daughter-in-law, Ellen, can customize upholstery. They'll even go into customers' homes to help plan a complete living space.

Why does he still love furniture, even after 60 years? "It's in my blood! I don't know anything else… I don't like anything else except furniture." Helping customers is "a very, very big challenge… and we meet the challenge head-on."

From "traditional to transitional," there's something in one store or the other for every taste, from dining rooms to spare bedrooms, from established homes to student furniture.

"Just come and browse… the coffee is always on. People browse in both areas." Both 18th Century and Furniture Dump offer six-month no-interest credit, as well as full delivery and setup. "Customers always phone to say, 'You have such courteous drivers.' The service is just beautiful… they take their shoes off…bring empty cardboard cartons back with us."

Lane Home Furnishings (905-907-3473) may be a relative newcomer to the Toronto furniture scene, but they've been around in the United States for a hundred years, building their reputation on quality cedar chests and recliners. Of the store's four-year-old Vaughan Mills location, co-owner Clive Hall says, "There's a big wow factor… it's a bit of a fantasy."

The 20,000-square-foot store offers more than a single furniture-buying experience, with complete rooms outfitted in several carefully planned brands and themes.

The National Geographic collection offers "the type of furniture you'd expect to see from exotic places around the world." Walking through an archway, visitors pass through the National Geographic bedroom, dining room, living room, enjoying rich wood tones and vibrant fabric motifs that reflect "the creativity and traditions of the world's cultures"

Other brand collections are Eddie Bauer – "mature, rustic; kind of like a cottage or lodge getaway" – and Country Living, "the type of furniture you'd find in a French country home." These brands are exclusive to Lane, Hall says, and are updated with new pieces every three months, so there's always something fresh in store.

"Everything in our store is for sale," says Hall. "The carpet, pictures… you can go in and buy a room, and have it delivered and set up exactly as you see it on the floor." While some shoppers do just that, others prefer to purchase one or two items at a time – looking forward to a return trip to buy a few more items.

"What Lane offers is affordable luxury," says Hall. That's reflected in yet another area of the store, Veronica's Interiors, where his partner, co-owner Rick Duggan, brings his experience as a furniture builder to offer custom pieces tailored to perfectly co-ordinate with the store's collections.

Customers often mix and match – pairing Lane pieces with custom pieces tailored to their tastes. "If they don't love the colour of the table, but they love the style, they can custom build it… We can design anything they'd like if they can't find it in the Lane collection."

Although the store itself is new on the scene, Hall says staff members such as Rachelle Frankel, formerly of Frankel's Fine Furniture on Doncaster, are all experts. "Everybody has over 15 years experience… they come from some of the top furniture names."

With five Canadian locations (there are 60 in the United States) and plans to expand across the country, Lane has also recently acquired a Canadian warehouse and service department, with all staff trained directly by Lane at its Tupelo, Miss., headquarters.

From exclusive collections to custom furniture and even space design and colour consultation, Hall says Lane is all about pricing and quality, but also about making fantasies come true. "We want to help them create a dream space."

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Boutique-style condo offers a neighbourhood feel

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

In an era of towering structures filled with tiny suites and legions of tenants, it's getting harder to find affordable condominiums that are spacious and neighbourly.

But that is precisely what Alvear Palace aims to do.

Located near Bathurst Street and Steeles Avenue in Thornhill, the boutique-style building rises a modest eight storeys, with 40-plus units ranging in size from 1,000 to 2,800 square feet.

"If you go to these new condominiums, they are 20 to 25 floors and the tenants don't know each other," says the sales manager.

"Because we have 44 units, it's very cozy and there's a sense of being part of a neighbourhood."

Coziness inside the suites themselves is something condo enthusiasts of all stripes generally seek out.

Such features as custom kitchen cabinetry and wood flooring in the living and dining areas are alluring features to buyers and renters.

"People also want top-of-the-line appliances and high ceilings," says the sales manager, adding that suites in Alvear Palace come with a balcony or terrace for scenic views and the windows are stylishly tinted.

Some important points to consider in your condo hunt is how the building is monitored and the often painful issue of parking.

For instance, you may want patrol staff keeping a watchful eye on the premises and a concierge either at a welcome gate or the front door.

As for parking, you'll need to ensure that not only do you have a parking space that you either own or rent, but also that when friends and family come to visit, they have a place to park close by.

"Parking and a locker are standard at Alvear Palace," the sales manager notes.

Amenities in condos can be quite alluring. Many people like luxuries such as tennis courts and swimming pools, but they must bear in mind that these accoutrements often come at a steep price.

"Sometimes, many amenities means higher maintenance fees," says the sales manager. "We try to go with amenities for the mainstream."

To that end, the sales manager says Alvear Palace has a number of convenient accessories, such as an exercise room and multipurpose lounge/party room with a kitchen, bar and dance floor.

But the building hasn't gone over the top with pricey extra features, which helps keep maintenance fees reasonable.

Deluxe and penthouse suites at Alvear Palace are available to buy or rent.

For more information, visit www.alvearpalace.ca or phone 905-709-1800. You can also get in touch by e-mail at greatspaces@alvearpalace.ca.

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Customize your vacation home at Sophie's Landing in Orillia

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

The Sophie's Landing housing development north of Toronto is focusing on customization to offer unique homes, said Eric Kerzner, president of the Signature Carleton building firm.

"With no two homes alike, we are creating a French Village setting, not a subdivision," Kerzner said.

Sophie's Landing is located in Orillia on the north shore of Lake Simcoe. The development is being billed as a "four-season resort community" that pairs the amenities of the city with "country charm."

The sold-out Phase I of the project included 49 homes. Phase II went on sale in mid-April and 40 per cent of the 36 custom bungalows are already sold, said project manager Craig Crane.

Homes vary in size from about 1,000 to 3,000 square feet. They feature full basements, optional lofts, open kitchens and attached garages. On-site amenities in the gated community include nature trails, a pool, clubhouse, spa and a private marina.

Prices range from the low $300,000s to the low $600,000s.

The development also has a customization program that allows purchasers to tailor their homes to suit their needs.

Crane said customization options are numerous and include anything from changes to the basement, loft and design of the interior to the colours and shingles on the exterior.

"Purchasers have added 300, 400 and 500 square feet to a loft, and built decks that overlook the water," Crane said.

The most attractive element of Sophie's Landing is the atmosphere of the neighbourhood, said Crane, which he described as "close-knit, friendly and pedestrian."

"It is near the water and there are lots of amenities," he said. Outside of what the development offers, downtown Orillia is a five-minute drive away, and skiing, golfing and Casino Rama are also nearby.

For more information about Phase II of the Sophie's Landing development, visit www.sophieslanding.ca or call 705-329-7710.

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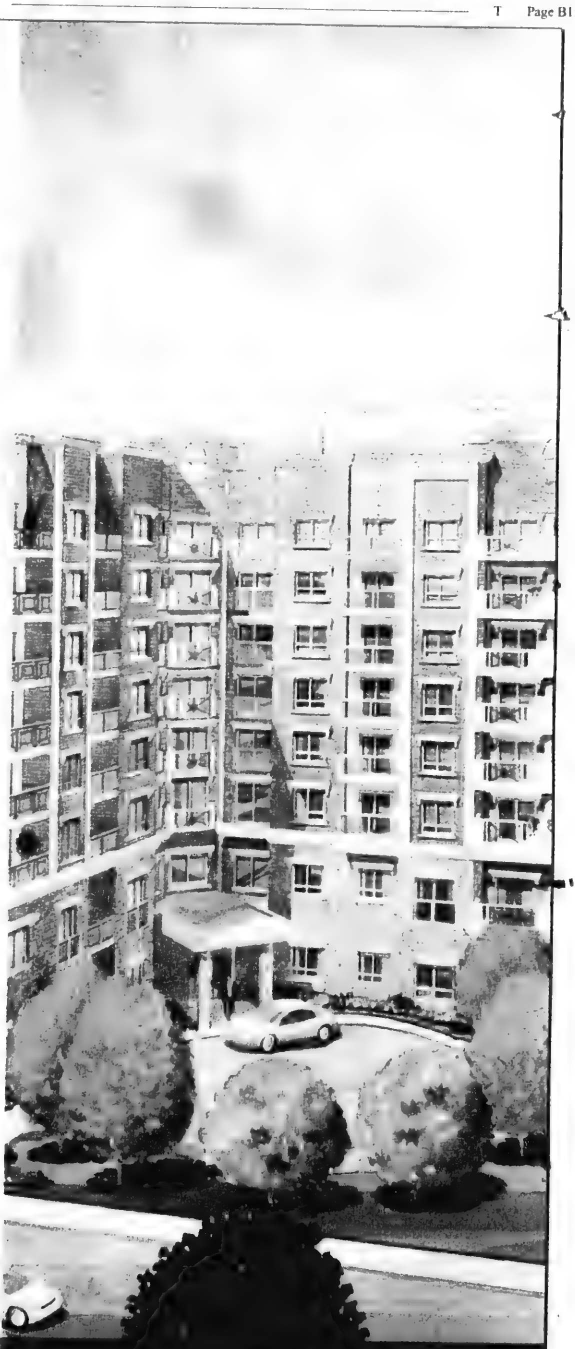

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Electronic and security expertise available for the homeower

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Whether you need help installing your new home security system with its complicated wiring or you want someone to do other electronic work, you may need an electronics expert to save you.

INTO Electronics (http://www.into-electronics.com, 416-445-8274) offers security system installation and monitoring at the most sophisticated level. Simultaneously serving the commercial and residential markets, INTO Electronics offers 24/7 system management, including building and property management and off-site security watch services.

The company was launched in 1990, when founder Rod Wechsler wanted to "give clients a very service-oriented approach to security."

The company, which is based in Toronto, has expanded to the point where it now offers its services to some of the largest corporations across North America. It is also responsible for securing some of Toronto's major Jewish buildings, including the Holy Blossom Temple and Bialik Hebrew Day School.

INTO Electronics offers 24/7 remote assistance as well as a fully computerized response centre waiting to help its clients.

A major feature of Into Electronics' large-scale projects is that doors can be monitored remotely and locked at any moment if necessary. Moreover, as many as 120 security cameras can be installed in a single building or area. Though this tends to be a manifestation of a larger security system, any of INTO Electronics' services can be adapted for your home.

"Even some corner stores utilize Into Electronics systems," Wechsler says.

The Into Electronics experts are highly trained and solution driven. Aiming to remove the stress from the busy schedules of property managers and homeowners alike, the company offers a superior approach to security.

For another option in home security and electrician services, try SB Electric (416-834-4312). Established eight years ago, the company will repair any electronic problem, from re-wiring to installing light fixtures, and has recently expanded into the area of security system cameras, selling wireless security cameras for both home and business use.

The cameras can be installed directly onto existing motion detectors. While requiring very little installation labour and maintenance, the wireless cameras offer superb quality with a reach of up 30 metres from the eye of a single camera. SB provides software, and the footage from the camera is easily recorded onto a VCR, computer or other devices.

Working in both the commercial and the residential markets, SB electric brings professionalism to every project.

"The quality of my work is superb, yet I am always fair in my pricing," says SB founder Serge Roytman. Known for his overriding honesty and excellent work ethic, Roytman has developed a strong and growing clientele in the city.

"We have so many customers that have been with us for years because they trust the way we work," he says.

Operating on an appointment basis, Roytman will assess an individual project and quote his price for free. While a more design- or renovation-based project may take longer to complete, Roytman can attend to emergency situations as soon as they happen. "If it's a serious problem, I try to get to it is as soon as I can," he says. "Overall, clients appreciate our efficient and honest work."

Whether your security project is large or small, business or home-based, Into Electronics and SB Electric are both on the cutting edge of the newest technologies. Make sure you do everything possible to protect your property from unwanted intruders – ask for help from the experts.

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Creating a cohesive look for your home

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Decorating your home seems like fun, right? Matching your couch to your carpet is all fun and games – but try matching that couch with the rest of your house and you've got quite the daunting task ahead of you. There's a big difference between simply decorating a room and creating a cohesive look for your home.

That's where Laura M. Stein Interiors (www.lauramstein.com, 416-659-2504) comes in. A maven in everything from interior décor and styling to graphic design, Stein has been in the design industry in one form or another over the course of her entire career. Homing in on her love for interior décor, Stein launched her company last summer and has been working with clients across the city to create completely personalized living spaces ever since. A natural multi-tasker, this one-woman-show offers a variety of home décor services as well as staging, which is the process of beautifying your home for selling.

"I always strive to create something new – engaging, inviting, esthetically beautiful, yet easily functional spaces that reflect a unique lifestyle and personality," she says.

Since every customer is different, Stein forms her design ideas around the needs and desires of the client. "So often, my clients tell me that the last designer they worked with shot down every idea they had," says Stein. "It's extremely important to me to make my clients' ideas work because at the end of the day, it's their home and they have to love it."

Working by appointment, Stein first meets with her clients to get a feel for their lifestyle and needs for the specific project. "People know what they want – they just don't know how to put it together," says Stein. Once a general concept is decided on, Stein develops a detailed budget as well as a few different plans for the clients to choose from. "It's really an organic design process," she says.

While preferring a clean and bright esthetic, Stein works completely from the ideas of the client, mixing in small elements of colour, texture and trend. "Trends present a nice guideline to pull ideas from, but they should always be used sparingly," says Stein. "Just like your wardrobe, if a room is too trendy you will hate it by next season."

Stein cites bright citruses such as orange and lime as well as fuchsia and turquoise as hot colours for spring, but again to be used sparingly! "Bright colours really pop on accent pieces such as a couch, a single wall or when paired with a more classic black and white motif," she says.

Design trends should be used sparingly

Patterns, layering and reflective surfaces as well as a modern take on shabby chic are other major trends for the year.

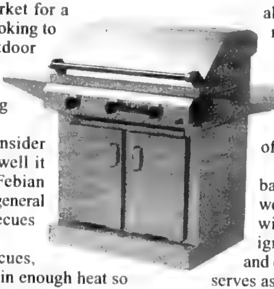
"Overall, we are seeing a much more casual approach to living," Stein says. Reflecting this more modern approach to home décor, she strives to combine beautiful design with functionality. "I rarely see those 'non-touch' rooms anymore, that's a thing of the past", says Stein.

Whether you have young children, enjoy entertaining or combine your living with a working space, Stein's philosophy is that your home should reflect what you use it for.

What to look for in a **good barbecue**

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

With the hot days of summer on the horizon, barbecue season is here.



So if you're in the market for a brand new barbecue or looking to spruce up your older outdoor cooking machine, always remember that its heating capabilities count in a big way.

"The first thing to consider with a barbecue is how well it retains heat," explains Febian Frempong, president and general manager of Sobie's Barbecues Ltd. in North York.

"With high-end barbecues, you should be able to retain enough heat so that you can even barbecue when it's as low as – 40 degrees."

Sobie's specializes in high-end barbecues, including gas and propane, built-in, portable and charcoal models.

The company also offers full servicing to fix and maintain barbecues.

Another key component of a barbecue's heating prowess is the number of burners it has.

Frempong notes four burners is the popular amount these days, particularly because it allows people to cook a full meal in a variety of ways.

"Four burners is most common largely because it lets people do indirect cooking like a convection oven," he offers.

"For example, if you're barbecuing chicken, you would put it on two burners with the fire off, and then ignite the other two burners and close the hood. That way, it serves as a convection oven, allowing the meat to cook slowly and retain all of its juices."

In addition to the burners, a barbecue's briquettes or bars and its cooking grills are also important.

With respect to the briquettes, better quality ones are made of durable ceramic that can withstand intense heat and dripping. Good bars are made of stainless steel.

Frempong warns that with porcelain coated bars, "within a year or two, they may start to crack and rot, so you'll have to replace them."

Stainless steel cooking grills or solid cast iron grills with a heavy porcelain coating are considered top of the line.

While all these ingredients combine to cook the tastiest meal, keeping your barbecue in good condition will ensure you can enjoy those delicious meals for a long time.

"Every time you use the barbecue, you must make it a point to clean the bars and also the inside of the hood, because it collects carbon," Frempong says.

"With the cooking grill, I always advise people to turn the barbecue on high and close the hood for about 15 to 20 minutes to burn off whatever is left on the hood. And while it's still hot, use your brush to clean the rest off."

Frempong adds that with a cast iron grill, spreading vegetable oil on it before and after cooking is a good way to keep it clean and season the food.

A smart way of knowing how confident a manufacturer is in its product is by its warranty.

If the warranty for the burners is only a year, then the barbecue may not be worth your time.

Sobie's advises that burner warranties should be at least five years and the warranty for the body should be at least 10 years.

Now that you have all that information, it's time to fire up your burners!

To find out more about Sobie's, visit www.sobies.com or call 416-224-2526.

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Fitness straight from the source

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

To gym or not to gym? – with the help of Fitness Source, that never has to be the question.

Fitness Source carries all the equipment and accessories necessary to make exercising in the comfort of your own home as easy as pie… well maybe not pie.

With more than 15 years of industry experience, Fitness Source (905-660-9114) boasts nine retail locations across Ontario, including Toronto, Thornhill and Markham. Catering to residential and commercial clientele, Fitness Source carries everything from treadmills and elliptical trainers to yoga and Pilates accessories. The Fitness Source catalogue can also downloaded at www.fitnesssource.ca.

"Our stores are very large, yet they have a boutique feel," says Mitchell Melnick, vice-president of sales and marketing at Fitness Source. "We are one of the very few places to carry such specialized goods as the yoga and Pilates accessories, and we really go out of our way to understand which products will serve the customer best." And because of the large-scale nature of the company, Fitness Source is able to offer this range of different products at the lowest prices possible.

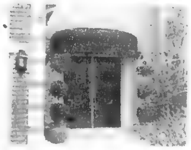
Fitness Source carries only the best names in fitness equipment and accessories such as Life Fitness, Horizon and Bowflex. "Since these names are very familiar to the clients, they know that they are getting the best quality products," says Melnick.

Along with this superb selection of fitness products, Fitness Source is staffed with friendly, accessible and, most importantly, knowledgeable employees. Well versed in everything from installation to usage, the Fitness Source staff will match your needs with the right product and make sure that you understand how to use it correctly.

"Our customers always tell us that they can always find what they're looking for, even if they weren't sure exactly what it was when they came into the store," says Melnick. Moreover, the warranty and delivery and set-up services offered by Fitness Source ensure that you will be satisfied with your product well after you have made the purchase.

Fitness Source strives to cater to a healthy lifestyle rather than simply selling fitness merchandise. "We know there are many reasons for exercising – from losing weight to improving performance in your favourite activity or simply improving your overall quality of daily life," states the website.

Whether you are a marathon runner or just beginning yoga, Fitness Source is the place to find the right products for your fitness needs.



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Specialty shops feature **kids' furnishings**

By **RANDI BERGMAN**
Special to The CJN

Whether it be your first-born or number 2, 3, 4 or 5 – adding that new bundle of joy into your life is just about as good as it gets. Adding that bundle to your home, however, can prove to be considerably less easy. From sourcing the best price for a high chair to getting the cutest pillows for the crib, visiting a specialty baby-children's shop is your best bet.

With the perfect blend of personal touch and large-scale selection, Dear-Born Baby (www.dearbornbaby.com, 905-881-3334) offers any and everything for babies from cribs to dressers and linens to car seats.

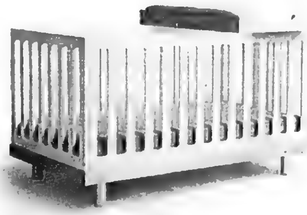
The Thornhill store was founded by Cathy Scott 28 years ago and has been serving moms and tots (newborn to age two) ever since. Boasting a 25-person staff as well as an on-site professional photography studio, the store caters to every facet of a baby's life.

"We can start as far in advance as six months before the baby's birth to order everything that the parents may want," says Scott.

Dear-Born features one of the largest in-store inventories of baby products in the city, and customized products can be ordered. Offering layaway services as well as baby registries, the store will make sure that the perfect room awaits the newborn.

Picking and choosing at international trade shows, Scott carries only the highest of quality products. Dear-Born is the largest dealer of Peg Pérego, the trusted Italian brand of strollers, high chairs and other accessories.

"I must have every stroller known to man," Scott says, laughing.



Among her favourite stroller products are the Mutsy and Stokke lines from Holland and Norway respectively. "Strollers are becoming very high-tech," says Scott. "The European strollers in particular are so unique and edgy looking. Nowadays people are getting more adventurous."

She cites the organic trend as having a huge impact on the baby industry. Carrying babies in sling carriers has become increasingly commonplace, as well as making baby food at home. "Eco-friendly furniture is just starting to appear as well," says Scott.

Dear-Born is almost set to launch its online boutique, where customers will be able to set up baby registries as well as purchase directly. "Today's clients have friends all over the world who want to take part in the baby's life," says Scott.

If furniture for children of all ages is what you are looking for, look no further than Kiddiesworld of Furniture (www.kiddiesworld.ca, 905-624-9092). Carrying furniture from "tot to teen," the 13,000-square-foot showroom is located in Mississauga. A family-owned business, Jerry White and son Shawn work together to "give you the professional knowledge and personalized service you need when making your very important selections."

"We carry all the furniture to outfit a nursery, but we don't leave it there," says Jerry White. Kiddiesworld carries up to queen-sized beds for teenagers. As well, many of the nursery pieces are fully adaptable for a child and into teenage years.

Featuring all the most trusted names in furniture and accessories such as Bugaboo, Natart and Pali, Kiddiesworld carries the brand-new line of Rockstar strollers. Created by members of Bon Jovi, the stroller is among the hottest items on the market. "The Rockstar stroller is very unique, and that is what we always strive for," says White. Another unique piece offered by Kiddiesworld is a Natart bedroom set that is designed to look like a house, complete with a roof, mirror, chalk board and hangers.

The extensive and unique inventory at Kiddiesworld is matched only by the knowledgeable and friendly staff. "We are into our second generation of customers because of how much the original customers enjoyed their experience with us," says White. "Our best advertiser is word of mouth."

Whether preparing for a new child or adjusting to that child's growth, a trip to either Dear-Born or Kiddiesworld will help simplify the process.

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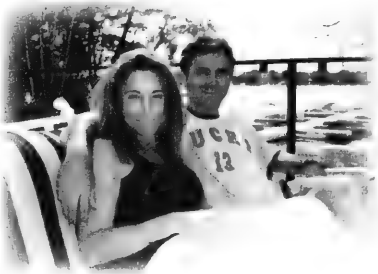
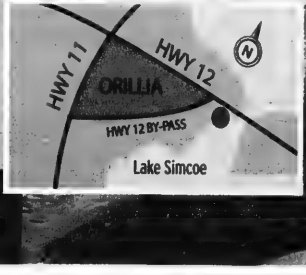


We Caught The Vision

As a personal friend as well as the builder of our Toronto home, Eric presented us with an idea he had for this interesting French Village inspired community in a very hot location in Orillia. We weren't really looking for a summer place at the time and may have considered the Muskokas' had we been thinking about it, but it all sounded so good we jumped in, so to speak. Our kids are young and active, with lots going on at home so if we have to go into the city it's just an hours drive and we can shoot right back after if we want to. We're definitely what you'd call 'city-folks', but now that we've got this amazing customized home with our backyard on Lake Simcoe, we really appreciate quality family time together and are feeling more like locals all the time. It's fantastic!

A really nice group of people live here and it shows by how friendly they are. We've even had our driveway shoveled by some of our neighbours when we were away! As a family we are enjoying many activities we never really did before, like fishing and swimming off our docks, hiking, roller-blading and curling . . . we love the freedom and outdoor lifestyle and are extremely happy with our decision to purchase here at Sophie's Landing.



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Flooring experts help you update your home

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Whether you are looking to update part of your home or planning a large-scale renovation, a new look always includes a new floor. And since deciding which trends and techniques best suit your project can prove to be difficult, consulting a professional will help you make the right decision for your home.

Since 1949, Selyan's Oriental Rugs Ltd. has been catering to all your flooring needs. But don't be fooled by the name! Selyan's offers everything from area and Oriental rugs to hardwood and laminate. With two locations in Toronto at 1783 Avenue Rd. (416-781-2030) and 112 Oakdale Rd. (416-741-5990), Selyan's is a "store where shopping for flooring can be a relaxing and enjoyable experience."

In addition to carrying the top names in carpets and flooring, Selyan's imports Oriental rugs from as far away as Turkey, Pakistan, India and Iran. To ensure that you are confident in your purchase, the company offers free estimates, insurance and appraisals, as well as cleaning and repair services.

And satisfied customers keep coming back. "We have served generations of families because we've been in the business for so long," says co-owner Annie Selyan.

Riviera Flooring, at 8111 Jane St. Unit #6 in Concord (905-738-4588), is another excellent place to look for flooring options. Offering the best quality and selection in flooring at "down and dirty prices" for over 25 years, the combination showroom and warehouse acts as a one-stop-shop for hardwood, laminate and carpeting.

And to personalized the experience, owner Joe Rivietz meets with all his customers, making sure to share his expert and honest advice on their flooring choices.

As well as offering superior quality flooring, Riviera has full installation services. The highly professional installers come with over 50 combined years of carpet and hardwood servicing.

"We'll lift and dispose of existing floors and fully install the new one," Rivietz says. Furthermore, all service is bonded and guaranteed.

As well as showcasing a huge selection of flooring options, Riviera's installers can also re-stain your existing hardwood. And if re-staining your existing flooring is not for you, Riviera offers click-hardwood, which consists of pieces of real wood that snap together like laminate. Good for covering small areas, click-hardwood offers a beautifully finished and affordable choice for your floor.

Amcan Hardwood Floors (www.amcanhardwood.com, 416-784-0064) is another excellent, specialized source of flooring in the city. Located at 1120 Caledonia Rd., Amcan boasts more than 40 years of hardwood and installation expertise.

Working with more than 200 hardwood samples, the Amcan staff help customers choose the wood that best suits their design idea in a straightforward, honest fashion. The comfortable atmosphere will also put you at ease and help you focus on the choices at hand.

"We can match any piece of furniture," says Lina, an Amcan representative. When working with different shades of hardwood, Lina suggests mixing a combination of light and dark woods to brighten the effect.

"Dark wood is huge for the kitchen right now, but when it's mixed with a lighter wood, it looks much fresher," she says.

"Hardwood floor gives your house character and reveals both the spirit and creativity of those who live there. A symbol of warmth and welcome, a hardwood floor brings a room to life, creating an inviting, tranquil atmosphere for any room, on any occasion," the Amcan website says.

If your floors are in need of an update, look no further than Selyan's Oriental Rugs Ltd., Riviera Flooring and Amcan Hardwood Floors. Offering superb quality flooring at affordable prices, the three showrooms provide an accessible, extensive selection and will ensure that you make the best decision for sprucing up your home.

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Custom interior trends: kitchen and beyond

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
Special to the CJN

From his 40 years' experience creating custom furniture, Sal DiMeglio of Regency Interiors 2000 Inc. (416-661-9100, www.regencyinteriors.ca) sees many exciting new trends for 2007. And whether it's in the home office, kitchen or bathroom, and even smaller jobs like walk-in closets, DiMeglio sees every job as a privilege: "I feel very proud and honoured."

It's an incredible responsibility, he says, transforming clients' concepts into high-quality, lasting designs. "Most of them have done their homework," he says of today's customers. "They've done research, they're much more aware."

The home office is becoming, in many ways, more home than office. "The home office has become a working environment and an entertainment environment," in the last 20 years, he says. Instead of being all business, today's home office must be "comfortable enough to do work," but also "nice enough for them to entertain friends," with TV, music, and comfortable seating.

DiMeglio also sees kitchens becoming a real social setting – "an area where you can have a cup of coffee; you don't have to go into the living room or family room," he says. Most new kitchens also feature televisions. But even more than in the past, they're all about food preparation. "Cooking has become much more important socially."

Some new considerations are practical, "like that double-bin recycle container in order for them to recycle and look after the environment… without having to go out to the recycle box in the garage all the time," he says. Lighting offers many exciting new choices: "You can control the light – it's not just a bright blaring dance floor or a dim cave anymore."

"We do the granite, the plumbing, the whole concept," he says. "I do have to say that Regency does not just rely on myself… we have a group of designers and architects who have been very loyal."

While kitchens and bathrooms generally become a permanent part of the home, there's no reason other custom furnishings can't move with you to a new house or condo.

"Most past customers do take furniture which we have built for them," DiMeglio says. To fit the new setting, Regency can make updates to the tone or colour. "It always looks built-in, but it will look built-in again once they move… nothing is left behind unless they decide to."

From those who do leave them behind, DiMeglio says he often hears that custom kitchens, bathrooms and built-in furnishings are a big reason for the home's sale. "Most do get paid back."

Usually, several areas of the home need work, but it's prioritized to minimize disruption. "There's no need to get everything done in one shot," he says. And there's huge satisfaction when the work finally is all done. "The customers make you feel amazing once the job is finished."

For a hands-on experience in custom kitchen cabinetry, LogArt Inc. (905-709-2722, www.logart.ca) offers a showroom with sample kitchens on display, including a full range of door styles. Offering everything from design consultation to full renovation service, LogArt combines the latest computer software with more than 30 years' professional experience to make kitchen renovations an exciting experience.

"People are amazed after we finish," says co-owner Manny. "They wonder if that's their kitchen, or if they've moved to a new house." The key to satisfaction is being open to the space's potential and "willing to change the walls, demolish walls and really give us the freedom to change the area."

Manny also sees exciting options today in newer appliances, such as built-in ovens and super-sized or counter-depth refrigerators. "It's a little bit wider than normal, but it's less deep so it's going to line up with the base cabinet" for a designer built-in look.

For the counter, beyond the basics, there are some great man-made stone and laminate finishes now. Manny says the company has a special now on granite counters. "We're working with the manufacturer… instead of paying $2, they might pay $1.20."

One of LogArt's specialties is kosher kitchens, creatively meeting space requirements like an extra sink by fitting one on each wall, or one on an island. "Sometimes, there are two dishwashers as well…even sometimes, two ranges, two ovens; it depends how big the house is," Manny says. The company is also closed on Shabbat.

While it's great to have a big kitchen, he says size is what you make of it. "You can move to a house of 3,000 square feet and it looks very tiny because the layout is not designed from the beginning the proper way." Even a small condo kitchen can become a spacious open-concept area with a little imagination. "We take advantage of every inch."

Within its range of services, LogArt will work with customers' existing contractors or provide its own reliable contractors.

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Newest **Liberty condos** are red-hot... and green

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
Special to The CJN

These days, many condo developments say they're red-hot... but far fewer can say they're green. With its newest condos at Bathurst and Centre streets – in the heart of Thornhill's Jewish community – Liberty Development Corporation is definitely thinking green.

It helps that the Centre Park Condos are located in a five-acre city park (to be shared with the local community). And there's also a rooftop terrace, with planned barbecue and lounge areas, which – for many residents – may help ease the transition from living in a house to the convenience and ease of condo living.

Centre Park has many other great features going for it. Close to shopping and synagogues, it will also find itself in the heart of an established, planned community: Liberty already has three buildings open and a fourth under construction within its 24-acre Thornhill City Centre development.

"Somewhere around 1,300 residents already call this neighbourhood home," says Lori Nusbaum, Liberty's sales and marketing manager. "And about 500 more will be moving in this year."

Part of Liberty's appeal is its indoor amenities. Each building offers more than the comforts of home, with indoor pools, workout rooms, his and her saunas and lovely party facilities.

Because of its location, many visit the sales office asking about Shabbat elevators, which are already found in other Thornhill City Centre buildings. Nusbaum anticipates that they will be provided in Centre Park as well.

Starting from about $170,000, Nusbaum says Liberty is committed to extras you often can't find even at higher prices. "We listen to what our prospective purchasers are telling us... we truly offer the best value standard features," such as six appliances, upgraded baseboards, porcelain tile and granite countertops.

But Liberty's community-based approach is perhaps what sets it furthest apart. Where another developer might envision and plan a single building, Liberty has created a master-planned community, a condo neighbourhood where even small details make a big difference.

Fred Darvish, Liberty's president, is also an architect, says Nusbaum, and "when planning this community, took into account the fact that it was such an amazing area, with such great views. He put a lot of thought... into giving as many suites as possible unobstructed views as he could."

The Thornhill City Centre buildings are "not on top of each other, not each facing each other... the views that you get [from] a good part of the suites are unobstructed city and park views."

Nusbaum believes the community appreciates this thoughtful approach, and has seen many families with "repeat" purchasers. "One person in the family buys, then someone else in the next building. People bought condos for all their kids in each of the buildings," Nusbaum says. Keeping families together is just another reason for the ongoing success of Thornhill City Centre.

There are options for everybody at Centre Park, from one-bedroom to two-bedroom plus den. "There are 35 different floor plans," says Nusbaum. A two-bedroom model suite is on display at the sales office at 7890 Bathurst St. (just north of Centre), and it's recently been redecorated. "Even if you've come in previously," says Nusbaum, "there's something new to see."

The Centre Park sales office (905-731-8302) is open Monday to Thursday from noon until 7 p.m., closed Fridays, and open weekends and holidays from noon until 6 p.m. More information is available at www.centreparkcondo.com or at Liberty's main website at www.libertydevelopment.ca.

While most of Liberty's developments have been in York Region, Nusbaum says they are just branching out with a new development, Metro Place Condos, to be built near the Allen Road and Sheppard Avenue.

Like Centre Park, the four-building Metro Place will emphasize "green" space combined with a subway location and the superlative Liberty features that will certainly make it a red-hot success as well. More information is available by calling 416-630-5374 or visiting www.metroplacecondo.com.

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Lighting can change a house dramatically

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Royal Lighting, a landmark at Avenue Road and Lawrence Avenue (416-782-1129) for 25 years, has everything you need to light up your home both inside and out.

Michael Gladstone, general manager of the 10,000-square-foot store for 16 years, says that with lighting at every price and for every room of the house, "it's hard to estimate how much stock we actually carry."

Lighting, he says, can change a house dramatically. "It can be the focal point of a room, it can light up what's in the room, or it can be purely functional. It can do whatever you want it to do."

New shades are a great way to change the look of a lamp while saving money, he says. "You can make it more modern, more traditional, or merely change the colour. It's a simple change, but it can be a big change."

Ceiling fans are another economical way to change the look of a room, he says. "Fans look and feel great, but more than that, they are functional. They help save energy in the summer by lowering the temperature so the air conditioner can be set higher, and in the winter by bringing the warm air down to the first floor.

"Fans cost anywhere from $70 to $2,000, but the lower-priced ones work well."

Sales staff, some of whom have been at Royal Lighting for 15 to 20 years, are available to help customers decide what is best for their home, says Gladstone, who travels to Dallas, Tex., twice a year to attend the biggest lighting show in North America.

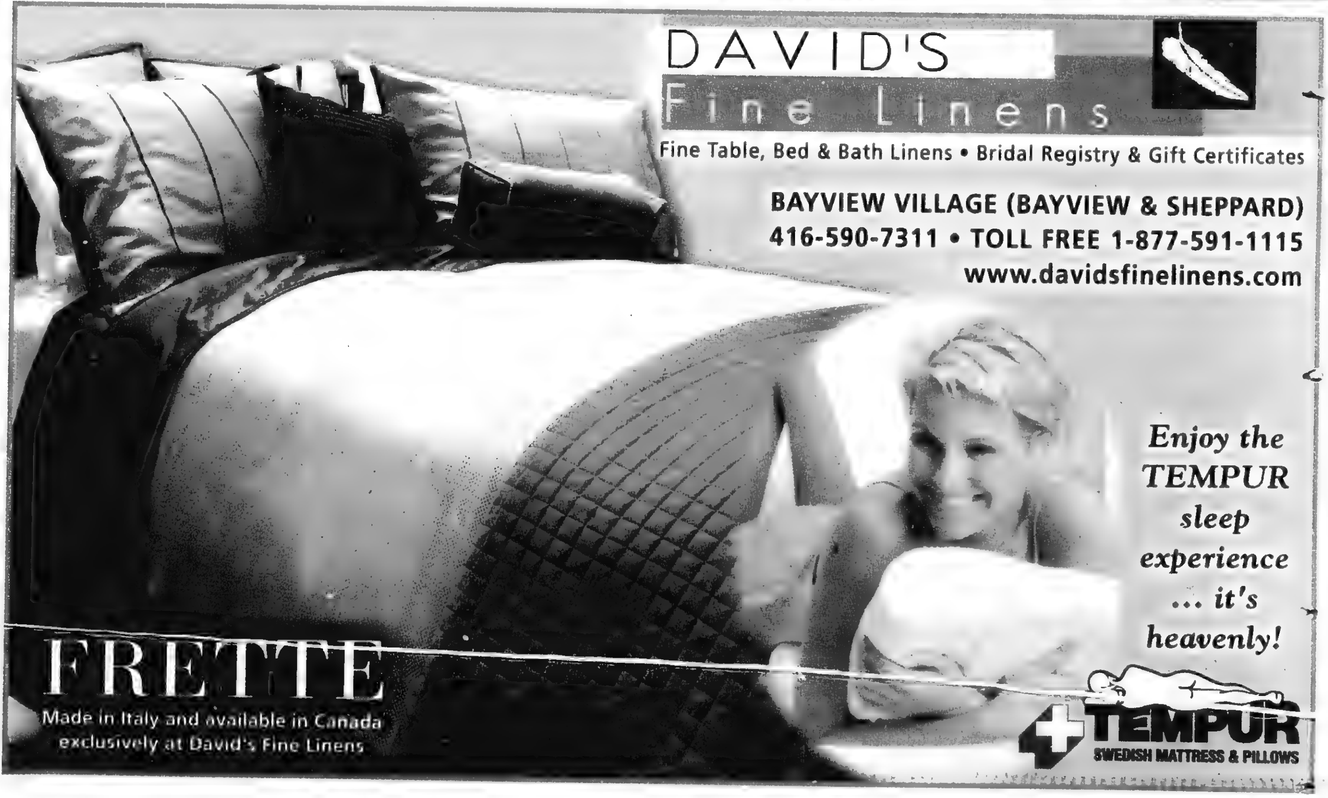
"We carry a huge selection, but with the proper guidance it's not difficult to choose what you need. If you're looking for lighting for the bathroom, tell us the size, the colour and whether it's a powder room or traditional bathroom. We can help you out."

They usually recommend halogen or strong incandescent vanity lights over the mirror in the main bathroom, he says, because people need strong light to shave or apply makeup. "These are things that people may not think of on their own."

Traditional crystal chandeliers are still important, says Gladstone, and even those who are downsizing can purchase one that fits in beautifully, he says.

"We have chandeliers in different sizes and colours, and for every taste from modern to traditional. New stock comes in constantly, so if you don't see what you like, you can come back in two weeks. You're certain to find something."

For the outdoors, he says, post lights offer security and beauty. "You want your house to look good, and you want your guests to be safe. You don't want anyone falling in the dark."



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Lake Joseph resort offers affordable Muskoka retreats

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Owning a cottage is a dream for many of us, but with soaring real estate prices, it often isn't feasible for the dream to come true.

But what if you could own a cottage and only pay for the time you use it?

That is the concept behind the Muskokan Resort Club on Lake Joseph.

The sprawling 42-acre development of lavish villas offers fractional or shared ownership, whereby people can acquire a minimum one-tenth equity share (five weeks) of their vacation home and a proportionate share of the property's amenities.

"You choose your cottage location and design and then a maximum of 10 owners per cottage split the investment 10 ways," says the development's president, Walter Prychidny.

"We're trying to provide a solution to the real estate market where people can have a carefree investment that is proportionate to the time they use it."

Prychidny notes that fractional ownership is becoming increasingly popular, particularly because many cottage-goers want to have a fun-filled vacation without having to pay exorbitant prices and worry about upkeep and maintenance.

"When our owners come up, they bring their vacation clothes and we take care of the rest," he says, noting property maintenance, housekeeping and even pre-arrival grocery shopping are available at The Muskokan.

For cottage seekers in the market for shared and/or fractional properties, location and amenities are always key priorities.

To that end, Prychidny advises purchasing a lakefront property that has enough room for several family members and a host of amenities.

"In terms of amenities, it depends on what the consumer is looking for," he says.

"Because cottages tend to be a focal point for families, our villas have three bedrooms that can sleep eight. They are also fully furnished, have a private barbecue and fireplaces, and are on the lakefront."

The Muskokan offers a variety of hotel-style amenities on site, such as a spa, tennis courts, a swimming pool, children's playground and a multi-purpose sports court that accommodates such sports as basketball, volleyball, badminton and roller hockey.

A cottage's proximity to entertainment and recreation is another major factor to consider.

For instance, many people like to venture off-site to explore nearby towns for their restaurants and shops, or local golf courses.

"We have a pontoon boat that shuttles owners to nearby golf courses and restaurants," Prychidny says.

"We're also near Camp Aguda and Port Carling, as well as close to the town of Bala, which has a Cranberry Festival, Indian reservation and various artisan and crafts shops."

Phase 1 of The Muskokan is complete and Phase 2 construction is underway.

For information and viewing opportunities, call 1-866-960-9016 or visit www.muskokanclub.com.

Love your stone again with Marble Rescue

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
Special to The CJN

It's not enough just to love your marble floors – you've got to show them love or they're going to lose their lustre.

In nature, we think of stone for its permanence and impenetrability. At home, though, it's a different story. Stone surfaces that are abused – not just on the floor but on countertops, tables and walls – can begin to show wear with chips, cracks or stains. That's where George Pettos and his company, Marble Rescue – 416-782-2833 (782-BUFF) – come in.

Pettos says surfaces are often damaged by well-intentioned household help. "A lot of people have cleaning ladies or nannies who use Windex and vinegar … that's the worst you can use for stone."

Stone floors can usually last about three to five years between "rescues," depending on traffic, but using a harsh household cleanser, it might only last one year before it needed touch-ups.

Whether your floors have been abused or well-maintained, or whether you're looking for a quick post-renovation clean-up, Pettos will come out and offer a free estimate. The work itself is usually scheduled within two weeks.

"We come in, grind the floor down, and after we grind it, we bring the natural polish back up, restoring the shine of the stone," Pettos says.

"When the floor is starting to deteriorate you can't see your reflection from the stone," Pettos adds. When Marble Rescue is finished, "you'll be able to see your reflection."

Even new floors and surfaces such as countertops need attention every few years. Marble, in particular, is a softer material that needs work more often than a harder stone, such as granite.

Pettos recommends granite over marble in the kitchen, where countertops will see not only wear and tear but potentially damaging spills and stains. "A spill of oil discolours the stone, makes it dark."

But never fear – Marble Rescue has the cure even for ugly stains. "We come in and put on a poultice. It sucks the stain out."

Pettos offers some a few important preventative measures you can take with countertops.

"It's very crucial to have it sealed." He also recommends a "honed" finish, which gives a matte surface that shows damage, stains and marks less easily than a semi- or high-polished finish. "A honed finish doesn't show as much as the polished look."

And, of course, make sure that all household help are aware of which cleansers to use on all stone surfaces, throughout your home. In the bathroom, for example, marble shower stalls can get the same soap scum buildup that other surfaces are susceptible to.

To maintain the stone after it's been polished and sealed, Pettos recommends that "the customer just needs to use water and a little bit of original dish soap." Choose an unscented brand, since lemon-scented ones may contain natural acids.

Marble Rescue's four full-time technicians have more than 15 years' experience and Pettos says his partner, Griffin Wolfe, has 30 years' experience, and personally oversees every job site. All workers are fully bonded and insured.

Beyond residential jobs, Marble Rescue has refinished many of the finest stone surfaces in southern Ontario, including at the Fallsview Casino, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, and many glittering condominiums throughout the Toronto area.

Even with the best maintenance, stone can also be damaged beyond just regular wear and tear. But whether it's a floor, wall, coffee table or vanity top, Marble Rescue invisibly fills in chips and cracks.

"We use marble filler, play with colour" before resealing the surface to restore its lustre, Pettos says.

Marble Rescue can also fix grout problems and even clean and restore glazed or unglazed ceramic and porcelain tile.

Whether it's a small job or a big job, restoring stone with a loving touch is work best left to the professionals, Pettos says.

"People cannot do it themselves… anybody that has stone should have it cleaned and sealed every three to five years."

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Carpets, hardwood, laminate – how do you choose?

By **RANDI BERGMAN**
Special to The CJN

Carpets, hardwood, laminate! So many rooms, so many choices – but how do you make the right one? One thing is for sure – choosing from among different looks, trends and functions is a lot easier with the help of knowledgeable professionals.

With 12 showroom locations across Ontario, Giant Carpet and Flooring (www.giantcarpet.com, 416-636-6464) is one of the premier sources of flooring for homes. Vowing to always provide the customer with the best for less, Giant Carpet has been carrying quality carpeting, area rugs, hardwood, laminate, tile and decorative ceramics for more than 40 years.

Not only do the Giant Carpet showrooms have extensive selections, they are quite beautiful as well.

"Our customers are always wowed by our showrooms," says Claudia Wetzel, director of advertising and sales. If, however, choosing from the showroom is not your style, Giant Carpet now offers a shop-at-home option for customers who prefer to design their flooring from the comfort of their own home. Samples can be shipped directly to your home and decisions can be made from there.

In addition, if money is tight, you can use Giant Carpet's financing program, which includes interest-free options that let you enjoy your new flooring without paying the full cost in advance. Giant Carpet also guarantees installation within seven days of purchase. Their experienced installers will even move existing furniture and clean up after the installation!

Giant Carpet carries trusted names in carpeting and flooring, including Stainmaster and Beaulieu, as well as imported designer rugs from all over the world. In addition, Giant Carpet is on the cutting edge of flooring techniques.

"Flooring is now looked at more as fashion for the home, rather than just to walk on," Wetzel says. "Bamboo and cork are the new growing trends for floors, since they are extremely durable and environmentally friendly.

"We are featuring a new laminate product called Formica, which is available in many terrific patterns and colours," he says, adding that among other new options, "fibre floor from Tarkett is a vinyl product that is not like the vinyl flooring you remember from grandma's house."

While offering such a varied selection of carpet and flooring products, the Giant Carpet staff will ensure that you have chosen the right one for your home.

"We specialize in the flooring business and we truly care about our customers," Wetzel says. "Our customers' satisfaction is always 100 per cent guaranteed!"

If luxurious quality carpeting and rugs are what you are looking for, another great place to visit is Dominion Rug (www.dominionrug.com, 416-485-9488). Located at 3420 Yonge St., Dominion Rug celebrates its 60th year of serving the Greater Toronto Area this year. Dealing with both a residential and a commercial clientele, Dominion Rug offers a specialized selection of unique carpeting and exotic area rugs.

The staff work closely with the design trade, and Dominion Rug is affiliated with such reputable associations as the International Design Guild and Wools of New Zealand.

"Our certified installers have attended specialized training and courses to make them the best technicians, in order to handle the most difficult custom work and installations," says Ben Baum, the company's owner.

From installers to consultants, Dominion Rugs has an experienced and friendly staff. "Some members of our staff have been with us for over 45 years," Baum says.

Offering the most unique and intricate designs, Dominion Rug carries a large selection of exclusive collections from the likes of Frank Lloyd Wright, Barbara Barry and David Hicks, as well as a large selection of Tibetan rugs.

Dominion also manufactures custom designed carpets and rugs on an individual client basis. Whether it is for a living room or a company office, Dominion Rug is equipped with a certified in-house staff of experts who translate your design into carpet.

"We always make sure that you purchase the right product for the right purpose and that you are satisfied long after that purchase," says Baum.

To help ensure this satisfaction, Dominion Rug offers a one-year, free, unlimited spot-cleaning service, as well as on-call service managers to attend to any problems you may have. "The best advertising is a happy customer," Baum says.

To choose the right carpets or rugs for your home, Baum suggests that you consider their function. "People tend to be caught up in buying by the weight of a carpet," Baum says. "Just stick to the general rule of thumb that a higher density carpet keeps its appearance for longer. If you know that the area where the rug will be placed is a high-traffic area, make sure it's lightweight."

Whatever your carpeting needs may be, you can be sure that you will get the right advice at Dominion Rug.

"Our knowledge is unmatchable," Baum says. With such a large selection of samples (over 15,000) and such a highly qualified staff, you can also be sure that you'll be thrilled with your carpet for many years to come!

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Downsizing seniors count on Marsha's Helping Hands

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

When Marsha Silverberg began her career staging houses for real estate agents, she noticed that many of the elderly clients listing their homes were distressed about moving.

"It became extremely apparent that these fragile people needed a lot more than having their homes staged for resale. Through conversation I noticed a common thread," she says.

"They felt they were losing control of their lives and losing their identity by moving from a larger to a smaller space. Selling their homes was like they were letting go of their security blanket."

These observations led Silverberg to set up Marsha's Helping Hands (647-886-5437), which is geared specifically to helping seniors make the physical transition from their old to their new home, she explains.

"I jumped into a new business because I could see people overwhelmed by the changes. They were very anxious about where their possessions would go, where their heirloom furniture would end up."

Silverberg can help a senior move through all the stages of downsizing and relocating, from sorting and packing up their belonging to unpacking and setting up the new home.

"I'm super organized and very compassionate," she says.

"I work with distressed older adults whose families may not be available to participate in their transition to a new home. I provide a friendly, reliable and efficient service.

"What sets me apart from other packers is my empathy. I do this job with my heart and soul, as if I was packing up my own mother."

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Marsha Silverberg

She notes that sometimes adult children initiate the contact with Marsha's Helping Hands. "Many children hire me because packing up their elderly parents can be an emotionally and physically draining endeavour."

The service starts with a consultation. Then Silverberg, who usually works on an hourly rate with an assistant, will get down "on her "hands and knees and go through the house layer by layer," to physically sort and organize a client's belongings. She dispenses with items that must be discarded, given away or sold, and packs up the rest for the move.

"I go through their possessions and organize their lives. I try to help them decide which things to keep or let go. You have to be very sensitive. Rather than say, 'You won't be needing the frying pan,' I say, 'You can let this go. You've done enough cooking for your family. Now it's time for someone to cook for you.'"

Silverberg can call a vintage furniture company or run garage and content sales to help the elderly person sell their valuables.

She notes that on the cover of her brochure is a picture of her parents because she created Marsha's Helping Hands as a way of honouring them. "My parents were Holocaust survivors. They were always there for me."

At the retirement home or new condo, her skills as a professional house stager also come in handy if she is asked to unpack and set up the new residence.

Although most seniors move because of personal losses, usually in health and mobility, or the death of a spouse, Silverberg aims to bolster her clients' confidence about making the transition to the new home. "I try to inspire them about looking forward to the next stage in their lives," she says.

"I make a scrapbook of the hand-chosen pictures that reflect their life history. We go through their pictures together as I am sorting. I present them with a beautiful photo album for their new home which they can put by their bedside."

Marsha's Helping Hands makes the difficult task of downsizing and relocating as positive as possible for clients, says Silverberg, adding that she find the work very rewarding.

"It's fulfilling for me. I have made a bond with the elderly client through our time spent together," she says.

"I've also helped a family that was very overwhelmed to pack up their loved one."

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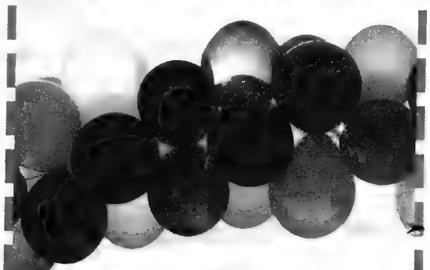

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This Week

National

CHAT boosts fees to more than $17,000. **Page 3**

Scholarship students succeed despite having diabetes **Page 15**

Canada and Israel hold talks in Ottawa. **Page 26**

Health & Lifestyles

Amy Sky tells of her battle with depression. **Page 32**

Heebonics

Tikkun olam resonates with 32-year-old firefighter. **Page 37**

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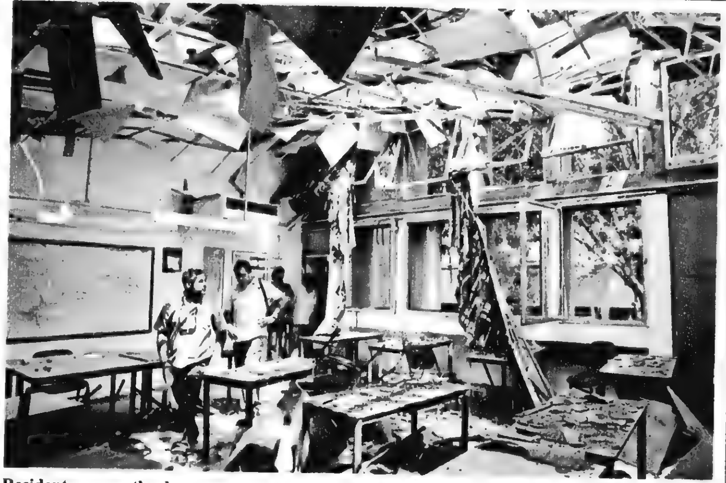

Residents survey the damage caused by a Qassam rocket that devastated a classroom in one of the schools in Sderot. *[Israel Sun photo]*

UIAFC sends $2 million to embattled Sderot

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

As Qassam rockets continued to rain down on the citizens of Sderot, halfway across the world, the United Israel Appeal Federations Canada (UIAFC) was in talks with the Jewish Agency to arrange for the allocation of $2 million to the town, which sits on the Gaza-Israel border.

"All of Canada stands behind the $2 million. It is a national decision made by the UIAFC… in recognition and response to the urgency of the developing situation in Sderot," said Linda Kislowicz, the UIAFC executive vice-president, last week.

The decision was made on May 17, just hours after Howard English, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's vice-president of corporate communications, announced that the federation was sending $1 million to Sderot.

"There were already conversations going on behind the scenes with leadership of the Jewish Agency and ourselves and our professionals in our Israel office. Things kind of converged a couple of hours ago and an agreement was made that we would, on a national basis, commit an additional million to the million that Toronto was already committing," Kislowicz said.

English said that the federation was originally planning to send $500,000 as part of a Canadian fundraising program they'd been working on over the past few months.

But when the federation decided to bump up the funds to $1 million and fast-track the initiative to send the funds to Sderot as soon as possible due to the escalation of the attacks, UIAFC jumped on board and doubled the gift.

"We had committed $500,000 as part of a Canadian fundraising program. It was a $1-million

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Please see related stories on page 33

Congress headed for joint presidency

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

For the first time in its history, Canadian Jewish Congress will be led by two presidents.

Sylvain Abitbol, the candidate put forward by Congress' nominations committee, and Rabbi Reuven Bulka, a competing candidate who claims grassroots appeal, will share the presidency over a two-year term. Negotiations to create a joint presidency were under way when *The CJN* went to press and were not completely finalized.

However, Abitbol and Rabbi Bulka issued a joint release late last week announcing that the co-presidency "makes sense at the current time of transition at CJC and given the advocacy challenges we face as a community. This alliance will productively unite our own partisans through a renewed Canadian Jewish Congress in support of the larger Jewish agenda upon which we both agree."

Abitbol and Rabbi Bulka agreed they would recommend to the plenary "the establishment of three national regional vice-presidents to ensure that the unique interests of the Jewish community across Canada

Continued on page 23

Rabbi Reuven Bulka

Sylvain Abitbol

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Most Israelis want U.S. to deal with Iran — please see page 34

The News in Brief

CANADA

Manor Blames Lawyer

TORONTO — Boaz Manor, the co-founder of Portus Alternative Asset Management Inc., blames a Portus lawyer for the hedge fund's 2005 collapse, according to a report presented to a court last week by the fund's trustee, which rejected Manor's story. The accounting firm KPMG said that Manor blamed Anthony Malcolm for the collapse, but it found Manor's account "not credible." Manor and Portus co-founder Michael Mendelson were charged by the Ontario Securities Commission last year with a number of offences related to Portus. They each face $5 million in fines and up to five years in jail. Manor fled to Israel in 2005, before the OSC seized Portus's assets. KPMG spoke to him in Israel.

Basketball Coach Dies

MONTREAL — Harvey Liverman, a fixture on the Montreal basketball scene who was active in the sport with Maccabi Canada and as a longtime assistant coach with the Concordia Stingers, died May 10 at age 58 following a recurrence of melanoma. Liverman played basketball at Loyola College in Montreal and once served as athletics director at Pripstein's summer camp. At Concordia University, he was assistant coach for the Stingers' 1989-90 Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union national championship team. His previous bout of melanoma was 20 years ago.

Smichah For Smiley

TORONTO — Mark Smiley, director of education at Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto, was the lone Canadian out of 18 men and women who were ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary's rabbinical school at JTS' commencement exercises May 17 in New York. More than 160 degrees were conferred.

Iran Petition Tabled

OTTAWA — Ontario Tory MP Pierre Lemieux tabled a petition in Parliament last week, initiated by the Calgary Jewish Community Council, urging Ottawa to act against Iran for threats to "wipe Israel off the map." The petition calls on Ottawa "to take all possible measures to prevent the leadership of Iran from developing nuclear weapons or inciting or carrying out genocide." The petition, with more than 300 names, also urges Ottawa to "join international efforts to prosecute [Iranian President] Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for incitement to commit genocide, in violation of the UN Genocide Convention."

Firebombings Suspect Denied Bail

MONTREAL — The second of two men charged with setting off home-made explosives at a Jewish school in September and a Jewish community centre in April, as well as a series of other crimes, was denied bail last week.

Quebec Court judge Celine Lamontagne denied bail to Omar Bulphred, 21, on May 14. She also refused to grant bail to his alleged accomplice Azim Ibragimov, 23, last month. She said Bulphred should remain in custody until his trial is done because of the seriousness of the charges.

Omar Bulphred

The pair were arrested April 12 and face nine counts each. In addition to charges related to attacks on the chassidic Skver community's Toldos Yakov Yosef school in Outremont and the Snowdon YM-YWHA-Ben Weider Jewish Community Centre, they are both charged with setting a car on fire, conspiracy to commit a kidnapping and an armed robbery, and threats against a person's life and to damage property.

Crown attorney Gianni Cuffaro has called their alleged crimes hate-motivated.

Ibragimov was due back in court this week, while Bulphred is scheduled to make his next appearance June 1. He was studying at a trade school before his arrest.

Groups Seek Standing

REGINA — Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith have applied for intervenor status in the Crown's appeal in the hate crimes case against native leader David Ahenakew. The former Assembly of First Nations head was convicted in in 2005 of wilfully promoting hatred against Jews for admiring remarks he made about Hitler to a reporter in 2002. A judge overturned the ruling on appeal, saying the trial judge didn't consider if Ahenakew intended to promote hatred. The appeal judge ordered a new trial. The Crown is appealing that decision, and the overturning of Ahenakew's original conviction, the *Regina Leader-Post* reported.

WORLD

Envoy Advises Sarkozy

PARIS — New French President Nicolas Sarkozy named France's ambassador to Washington, Jean-David Levitte, who is Jewish, as his senior diplomatic adviser. Levitte, who has reached out to U.S. Jewish groups since taking up his post in 2002, will step down as envoy next month.

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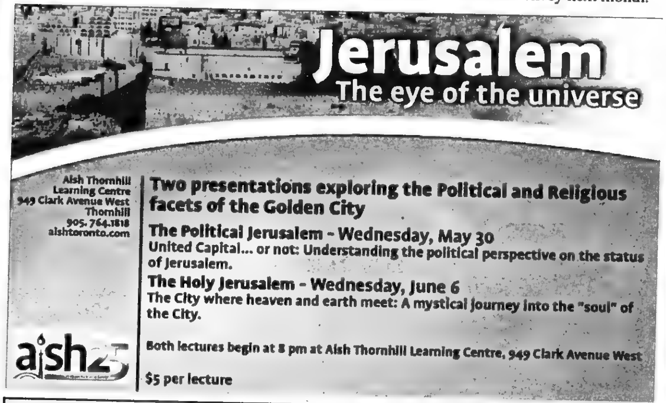

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Parents get 'sticker shock' as CHAT boosts fees

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Tuition at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto has risen almost 10 per cent to $17,150 for next fall, an increase the school attributes mainly to higher pension contributions and operating costs at its northern branch's new Vaughan home.

The increase is $1,500 more than this year's tuition of $15,650, and more than triple the magnitude of last year's increase, when tuition rose three per cent from $15,150 for the previous school year.

This year's percentage increase is higher than average for Toronto's Jewish day school system, but not unprecedented. Last year, fees at Jewish schools in the GTA rose between three and eight per cent. However, in 2003, tuition at Associated Hebrew Schools rose 12 per cent, sparking a protest at the time among some parents.

This year, following the announcement of next year's tuition at TanenbaumCHAT, board president Lori Disenhouse said she has not received any phone calls or e-mails complaining about the increase.

Informally, however, people have approached her to discuss it. She has been hearing two things, she said. The first is "almost sticker shock… but they understand. And the second category is an expression that this is just very difficult financially, to which I can only say it is, and we're very concerned."

Randall Craig, who has a son in Grade 9 at the school and two daughters in grades 5 and 7 at Associated, told *The CJN* that he and his wife have already made sacrifices in other areas to send their children to Jewish schools.

Tuition set at $17,150

An author who runs his own consulting company, Craig said his family is not eligible for financial assistance. "Without a question, our contributions [to Jewish charities] will be cut, and I make no apologies for us… Jewish education is critically important."

In an April 25 letter to parents, Disenhouse and Paul Shaviv, the school's director of education, attributed the increase to two main factors: new Ontario guidelines for pension plans that mandate "significantly higher employer contribution rates" and the move of the school's northern campus to the new Jewish community campus at the corner of Bathurst Street and Weldrick Avenue in Vaughan.

Also, "normal increases in teacher salaries, about four per cent a year" contributed to the increase, Shaviv told *The CJN*.

The decision to raise tuition was necessary but "very, very painful and difficult," said Disenhouse, who explained that the amount is reached through "zero-based budgeting. That means that every year we start from scratch, looking at our expenses and classroom allocations. The budget we get [more than $23 million for the coming year] is an actual reflection of the cost of running the school."

Parents are involved in every stage of the budgeting process, Disenhouse noted. "Every effort is made to minimize the cost. We scrutinize line by line, but you have to ensure the quality of the education, and that is the bottom line."

Both Shaviv and Disenhouse stressed in separate interviews that the school has benefited from relatively low operating costs at its current rented premises on Wright Street in Richmond Hill, where it has been since the northern branch opened in 2000 and where its lease is up this year. "No matter where we would have moved, we were looking at a huge increase in operating costs," Disenhouse said.

Operating costs at the new school are expected to be similar to those at Tanenbaum-CHAT's Wilmington Avenue location, the letter said.

Shaviv added that the tuition increase "has nothing to do with the capital costs of the new campus." The new 110,000-square-foot school has been designed to run as a "high-efficiency, low-cost, low-maintenance" building, he said.

Enrolment does not appear to have been affected by the tuition increase, according to Shaviv. "Next year we have a record enrolment," he said. Applications for Grade 9 students entering the northern campus have increased "more than 30 per cent – I think nearer 40 per cent," he said.

Continued on page 18

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Transitions underway

From the editor's desk

In this week's issue we carry an article written by Ari Kelman (see page 34). He and Steven M. Cohen are the co-authors of a newly published study commissioned by the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies called *The Continuity of Discontinuity*.

The study explores the various ways in which young Jews in the age group 18 to 35 are expressing their need to "do Jewish."

The authors studied four different initiatives of young Jews in four cities in North America, one of the initiatives being a discussion salon that meets regularly in downtown Toronto, the brainchild of writer Mireille Silcoff.

As Kelman writes, each of the initiatives represents a uniquely different response to institutional Jewish life.

This age grouping of young Jews is "inventing new communal outlets and projects that reflect their individuality and commitment to living meaningful Jewish lives.

"In cities across the country, they are creating their own minyanim instead of joining synagogues; they are writing and publishing their own journals instead of just subscribing to existing ones; they are playing their own music, putting out records and producing their own concerts. They are hosting salons and movie screenings. They are involved in the creation of Jewish life that is thoughtful, popular and exists largely on the margins of mainstream Jewish organizational life."

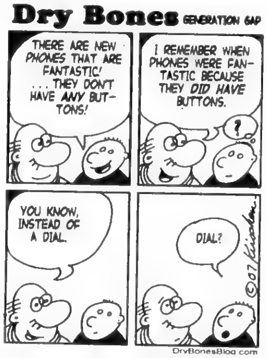
Among the many observations in the study, this is the key one: the younger generation is rejecting – it is not too strong a term – joining the institutions that their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents established as the main denominators of Jewish communal life in North America.

"These new endeavours do not look like their predecessors," Kelman writes, "because they are responding to the perception that the offerings of synagogues, federations and JCCs are simply too narrow and do not adequately address the diverse needs of American Jews."

The study is profoundly important for us – especially, we who are the parents of the 18 to 35 cohort. It teaches us a great deal about the Jewish inclinations of our children. It is part of a growing library of information regarding how the younger generation relates to their Judaism.

The Continuity of Discontinuity is the latest in a series of studies commissioned by the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies specifically aimed at ascertaining the "Jewish" behaviour of the younger, college-age and up, generation.

In 2005, the foundation published *OMG! How Generation Y Is Redefining Faith in the iPod Era.*


Dry Bones GENERATION GAP
THERE ARE NEW PHONES THAT ARE FANTASTIC! ... THEY DON'T HAVE ANY BUTTONS!
I REMEMBER WHEN PHONES WERE FANTASTIC BECAUSE THEY DID HAVE BUTTONS.
?
YOU KNOW, INSTEAD OF A DIAL.
DIAL?
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That study looked at religious identity, practice and civic engagement among 18- to 25-year-old Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and Jews. The authors noted that the "majority of the Jewish group was largely positive about their Jewish identities but unsure as to how their religious identities played out in their daily lives."

The study that followed was called *Grande Soy Vanilla Latte with Cinnamon, No Foam: Jewish Identity and Community in a Time of Unlimited Choices.*

Its executive summary identifies the study's main finding. "For American Jews in Generation Y, being Jewish is not their sole identity… Today's young Jews have multiple identities shaped by many factors, including intermarriage in their families, diverse social networks and dynamic boundaries around geography and other identity characteristics such as gender and sexual orientation. Being Jewish is part of a larger identity mosaic for today's Jews."

That study was followed by *Israel in the Age of Eminem.*

Its conclusions were rather stark and sobering: "Most traditional communications and marketing strategies [regarding Israel and support for the Jewish state] are not reaching the vast majority of young Jews [18 to 35]."

And it foreshadowed the findings in the Kelman-Cohen report regarding the diverse manners of Jewish expression and commitment among the younger generation. "Culture has replaced tradition and spirituality has replaced religion. Their [the 18-to-35 age group] association with Israel is frighteningly weak and ill-defined despite its near daily appearance in the news headlines."

Every institution of organized Jewish life, even *The CJN*, one of the older "institutions" of Jewish Canada, must take note of the information and cumulative knowledge that the Bronfman studies provide concerning the evolving preferences, practices and needs of the younger generation. Are they a temporary, interim stop along a longer path of life? Or are they suggestions of more permanent developments?

Where we can, where our own Jewish sensibilities allow, we must adapt. Where we cannot, however, we must try, nevertheless, to understand the transformations under way below us.

We must use the rich, eye-opening information from the Bronfman studies at least as a bridge connecting the generations that must always know and want to call themselves Jews.

– MBD

SeeJN

CANADIAN GIFT CHANGES LIVES

Bar Ilan University's School of Social Work, established in 1966, was recently dedicated in the name of Louis and Gabi Weisfeld. Torontonian Gabi Weisfeld, president of the Canadian Friends of Bar Ilan University, donated $3 million (US) to the school in Ramat Gan, Israel, in memory of her late husband, Louis Weisfeld, who died in 1996. At the dedication ceremony, Weisfeld said she chose the school because it trains people who will help improve society in Israel and around the world. University president Moshe Kaveh, spoke of the importance of the Jewish value of chesed at the school, which helps members of the community who need social services. The gift will help fill faculty positions and establish more scholarships. Seen at the dedication ceremony are, from left, Canadian Ambassador to Israel John Allen, Gabi Weisfeld and Bar Ilan University president Moshe Kaveh. **[Isranet photo by Edgar Asher]**

Black Panther leader not allowed into Canada

By **PAUL LUNGEN**
Staff Reporter

The U.S. head of the New Black Panther Party was barred from Canada last week, and the two Jewish advocacy organizations that pushed for his exclusion are anything but apologetic about it.

Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada say Malik Zulu Shabazz is an anti-Semite and hatemonger and should be ineligible to enter Canada to address anyone, let alone a black group concerned with issues of racism and violence.

Referring to suggestions from Nkem Anizor, president of New Black Youth Taking Action, the group that sponsored Shabazz's proposed Toronto visit, that the Jewish community should not have interfered with his trip, Congress spokesperson Len Rudner said "that's a rather foolish point of view. When you look at the man's public record… it stretches credulity that this group did not know Mr. Shabazz's public record before they invited him. It's clearly anti-Semitic and murderous anti-Zionism."

Anita Bromberg, director of legal affairs for B'nai Brith, said Shabbaz has "repeated anti-Semitic messages, advocated violence and that black youth do not co-operate with police. That's very troubling to the human rights community."

Shabbaz, a lawyer, had been invited to address a rally at Queen's Park, as well as a meeting at Ryerson University. Anizor told a news conference that the "Jewish lobby" prevented Shabazz from entering Canada from the United States.

"What's to blame is the power of the Jewish lobby to influence politicians, to influence media, to influence whatever it took. Because it took one letter, one press release from B'nai Brith and the firestorm began," she said. "They've injected themselves, trying to dictate who the black community can and cannot hear."

She said she wanted to draw attention to Ontario's Safe Schools Act, to black-focused curricula and schools and a superjail for youth in Brampton.

Shabazz was turned away at Pearson International Airport and later tried to enter Canada overland by car, but was turned back again. He told the *National Post* that his views have been "grossly mischaracterized" and that he is anti-Zionist, not anti-Semitic.

However, the U.S.-based Anti-Defamation League has compiled a two-page dossier of quotations attributed to Shabazz that show he shifts readily between attacks on Jews and Zionists. In a 2001 address at the National Press Club in Washington, he is quoted as saying, "we have to make it plain that Zionists control America, lock, stock and barrel, the European Jews have America under control, lock, stock and barrel, the media, foreign policy."

At a protest in front of the B'nai Brith building in Washington, D.C., in 2002, he is quoted as leading chants saying: "death to Israel," "the white man is the devil," and "jihad." He also said, "Kill every goddamn Zionist in Israel. Goddamn little babies, goddamn old ladies. Blow up Zionist supermarkets."

Speaking of police violence, he reportedly said that "the only solution any time there is a funeral in the black community is a funeral in the police community."

Rudner, Congress' director of community relations, said that when he learned of Shabazz's proposed appearance in Canada, Congress contacted Ryerson University, Queen's Park, and federal government officials, informing them of Shabazz's record.

Anger at Congress for the cancellations is misplaced, Rudner said, suggesting Shabazz's hosts brought the controversy on themselves.

"It is the job of Congress, it is our communal responsibility, to advocate on behalf of our community. For this group to believe they can bring in a speaker with a 10-year history of anti-Semitic comments and have Congress remain silent, that is naivete of the highest order."

Bromberg said B'nai Brith was sensitive to the ostensible goals of Shabazz's Toronto hosts – addressing issues of concern to young blacks. But she added: "You don't counter hate with hate. You don't counter racism with racism. You don't counter violence with advocacy for violence."

She rejected suggestions that B'nai Brith's opposition gave Shabazz unwarranted publicity. "We also believe you can't stay silent and be a bystander to racism," she said.

B'nai Brith will continue to work with leaders in the local black community to address issues of violence and poverty, Bromberg added.

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CJC, federation favour public solution to funding issue

By MARK ANSHAN and STEVEN SHULMAN

Ontario is home to more than 40 Jewish day schools educating 13,000 students in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton and London. Because these schools benefit both the Jewish community and, more importantly, society at large, Ontario's Jewish day schools deserve a sustainable public funding solution.

Guest Voice

The objective of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Canadian Jewish Congress is the extension of public funding to Ontario Jewish day schools and other faith-based schools by incorporating these schools into public education, based on adherence to government standards.

Ontario meets its constitutional obligations by funding Catholic schools, which provide excellent education to one-third of this province's publicly funded students. However, Ontario is the only jurisdiction in the western democratic world to fund one faith-based school system to the exclusion of all others. Other faith-based schools merit the same opportunity to be brought under the umbrella of public education.

That is a message we have been vigorously articulating, and we believe that decision-makers are listening to what many perceive as good public policy.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario region, in co-operation with Jewish federations in Ottawa, Hamilton and London, have built consensus among day-school education stakeholders to support the following core principles for public funding of faith-based schools:

- Education is a core Jewish value and Jewish education is essential to transmit our heritage. Jewish day schools deliver high quality education that ensures our community's significant contribution to society.
- Jewish day school education, like public school education, is part of the public trust. Jewish day schools should be within Ontario's public sphere of education.
- Ontario's faith-based schools should be treated equitably, regardless of religious affiliation.
- Just as other schools in the public sphere follow Ministry of Education criteria, Jewish day schools would also meet appropriate approved provincial criteria and accountability requirements.

These principles are not theoretical. Publicly funded faith-based education has found ways to remain unique and embrace public accountability in other parts of Canada and the world.

In our pursuit of a solution anchored in these principles, we are meeting regularly with officials from all parties, and we have developed a solid working relationship with many of them. Our respectful, responsible and effective approach to advocacy has supporters.

On April 26, Liberal MPP Peter Fonseca attempted to introduce an unfair resolution that opposed in principle funding schools currently outside the public system. The resolution, staunchly opposed by Conservative MPPs Frank Klees and Tim Hudak, failed on a voice vote in the legislature when Liberal MPPs of conscience refused to support it.

We are encouraged by this result, and recognize that regardless of who wins the next election, positive relationships with political decision-makers from all parties, based on constructive and reasonable dialogue, is critical to winning this struggle.

We also understand that success requires co-operation with other faith communities. We have built working relationships with representatives of Armenian, Sikh, Muslim and other communities, all of whom appreciate the need for principled, responsible and effective advocacy for faith-based school funding.

Within Ontario's Jewish community, we keep close contact with day schools in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton and London. As key stakeholders, these schools have helped formulate our core principles and will be essential to implementation if we are able to realize political success. We are also enhancing our dialogue with day school parents and are pleased to meet with any school group to discuss our approach.

However, your participation is vital to success. With the provincial election approaching, candidates of all parties need to hear how important this issue is to you and our community. We also need to hear directly from you, whether you are a past or present day school parent, a school board member, a school official or just concerned about fair funding as a means to strengthen education in Ontario.

Please let us know your thoughts and your experiences so we can incorporate them into our advocacy efforts and post them on our website, www.fundingfairness.ca. Contact Jonathan Schwartz, our education policy advisor, at 416-635-2883, ext. 265, or jschwartz@on.cjc.ca.

By working together to expand public education, we can help create the best conditions to sustain and strengthen Jewish day schools for generations to come, and help our children continue to make significant and unique contributions to Ontario, Canada and the Jewish world. •

Mark Anshan is general counsel and director of public affairs at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Steven Shulman is Ontario regional director and national general counsel of Canadian Jewish Congress.

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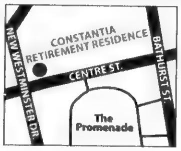

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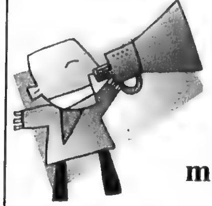

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Funds to help send kids to summer camp

Continued from page 1

program from across the country, and our portion was $500,000," English said. "But now, since Sderot has been bombarded in the most severe way over the past few days, we decided that we're going to send $1 million right away… We made that decision because it would be unconscionable not to do so. The city of Sderot is in both a terrifying and horrifying position right now and we have to help. We're responsible."

Since Israel's disengagement from Gaza in 2005, more than 4,000 rockets have struck Sderot, and since last week, it has reportedly been struck by about 70 rockets.

Among the injured are a 70-year-old woman who was seriously wounded when her house was hit by a rocket and two students who were lightly wounded when a high school was directly hit. A mother and her nine-year-old daughter were two of the many who have been treated for shock since last week.

"They're dealing with 24 hours of tension, they're dealing with sleeplessness, with depression in some cases, with frequent absences from work and school. They're dealing with the inability to concentrate on anything but when the next attack is going to take place. They're dealing with insecurity every second of their lives, and I don't think anyone here can appreciate what that means because there is no comparable situation that we have faced in Toronto to educate us about what the people of Sderot are going through," English said.

Danyael Cantor, executive vice-president of FEDERATION CJA in Montreal, said that his federation was very involved in this initiative and advocated that Sderot be approached as a project that was deserving of attention by all the Canadian communities.

He said that this initiative is particularly important to his community, because Montreal is a twin community of Be'er Sheva, where several hundred people from Sderot relocated last week.

"Montreal is in daily contact with Be'er Sheva and is intimately involved in addressing this challenge because we're partners with that community," Cantor said.

English said that they'd been in close touch with Ze'ev Bielsky, chair of the Jewish Agency, about what needs to be done for the citizens in Sderot.

"One of the main uses for the funds we'll be sending is a program to send the children of Sderot to summer camps in safer parts of the country. A large chunk of the funding will give kids respite from the constant rocket attacks," English said.

"Some of the money will go towards trauma counselling and some of the money will go toward educational enrichment for school children, because even when school is open, many children are incapable of going to school. They just can't concentrate enough to go to school."

He added that the Jewish Agency is already planning summer camp getaways based on the Canadian commitment.

"I would say they're planning with the certainty that the money will come because we've demonstrated during the [Second Lebanon] War that when we say the money is going to come, it's going to come," English said.

"This is going to happen fast. We're going to fast-track this, and they're already making decisions based on their knowledge that the funds are coming. Ze'ev Bielsky actually joined our executive committee call briefly to thank us and assure us that this would be in the system very quickly," Kislowicz said.

English said he hopes this initiative will inspire other communities to help Israelis in need.

"It is our objective to be among the first in the world to provide assistance … We really want to be a catalyst for tremendous global generosity towards Sderot and any other communities that are experiencing the same kind of difficulty," English said.

"We don't need to wait to be invited in. We know what our role and our responsibility is, and that is to be with our partners every step of the way," Cantor said.

A relief fund has also been established for the community to contribute to Sderot. Donations are being accepted at www.ujadonations.com/sderot or by phone at 416-631-5705.

Moveathon marks 10 years

The Zareinu Moveathon is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a children's festival at Downsview Park on June 10, as well as 50- and 100-kilometre bike rides along the Niagara Escarpment on June 24.

Both events are in support of the Zareinu Educational Centre, a treatment facility and school for children with a wide range of physical and developmental challenges.

At the June 10 festival, children of all ages and abilities can take part in such activities as laser tag, paintball, pony rides, mechanical and inflatable rides, musical performances and bike rides.

For the first time, the event is partnering with Special Olympics Ontario, Toronto region, which will run a sports clinic for children of all abilities.

Two weeks later, bike riders 16 years and older are invited to take part in a police-monitored "pro tour," which starts and ends at the Milton Sports Centre and features pre- and post-ride massages.

Minimum sponsorship for the pro tour is $1,000, and $500 for riders under 18.

Also for the first time, 33 students enrolled in the new leadership program at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) south campus have taken on the moveathon as their final class project.

The Grade 12 course requires students to take on a collective project in which they can apply the program's interdisciplinary physical education and biblical Jewish studies.

The practicum is based on the concept of leadership in sports: captaining, coaching, teamwork, and the theoretical study of traditional Jewish values from biblical events.

Tamara Rebick, co-director of student activities at CHAT and co-founder of the program, said the curriculum "allows students to participate in real life situations and apply traditional Jewish values to modern day experiences."

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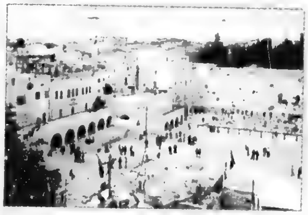

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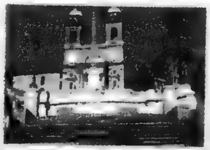

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Has Abbas learned?

It was all so predictable. It was clear to everyone but Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas that Hamas would not coexist alongside Fatah. That's because Hamas will not coexist alongside Israel, and Fatah has committed to the entire world that coexistence is an unbreakable promise.

The vicious fighting that erupted last week in Gaza between Hamas and Fatah is merely the latest act in the seething, violent drama for control between the two contending Palestinian factions. As of this writing, 44 Palestinians had been killed in the five days of fighting since it began a week ago Sunday.

Most observers concluded that Hamas had gained the upper hand in the current round of inter-factional fighting as the majority of the slain fighters had been from Abbas' Fatah forces.

However, they also concluded that the Hamas leaders had overplayed their hand by deliberately targeting Israelis in Sderot and further to the north, in Ashkelon.

As of Friday morning, some 70 Qassam rockets had been fired into Israel, striking schools, synagogues, homes and places of work. Israel retaliated with precision attacks against Hamas military cells and their confederates. But the galvanization of collective Palestinian anger against the Israelis that Hamas had anticipated as a result of the retaliation did not materialize. Indeed, Fatah fighters and much of non-combatant Palestinian society seem to have understood that in defending their own people, Israel was also helping to rescue them as well.

Abbas has been frequently counselled about the impossibility of sharing power with Hamas, about the fundamentalist party's destabilizing influence. And the warnings were not always from Israeli officials.

Last week, *Ha'aretz* reported that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak voiced great concern to visiting officials about the increasing strength of Hamas. He is reported to have said that "Hamas will never sign a peace agreement with Israel if it stays in power."

The Egyptian leader has good cause to be concerned about Hamas, in light of its growing ties with the radical Muslim Brotherhood, Mubarak's main opposition. He has even begun barring senior Hamas leaders from entering Egypt as a way of preventing contacts with the Muslim Brotherhood, *Ha'aretz* reported.

Hamas' ties with the Brotherhood are of a piece with its ties to the Muslim radicals in Iran. Both are intent on erecting Islamic societies upon the rubble and waste of the existing Israeli one, as well as upon secular Muslim societies that offend their rigorous Islamic sensibilities. Mubarak and other rulers in the area, such as Jordan's King Abdullah, understand this threat to their respective countries very well.

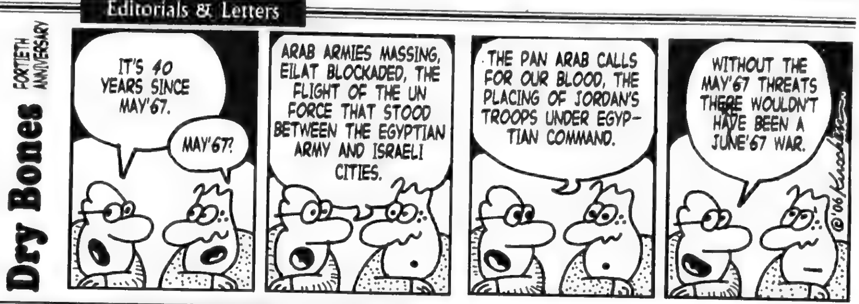
"With Hamas no way," Mubarak is reported to have said last week about the prospects for peace.

Would Mahmoud Abbas now say the same thing?

The enterprise of Palestinian statehood requires that he must.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Judy Feld Carr was installed as president of Toronto's Beth Tzedec Congregation. She is believed to have been the first woman in Canada, and perhaps North America, to be elected president of a Conservative synagogue.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FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY
IT'S 40 YEARS SINCE MAY'67.
MAY'67?
ARAB ARMIES MASSING, EILAT BLOCKADED, THE FLIGHT OF THE UN FORCE THAT STOOD BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN ARMY AND ISRAELI CITIES.
THE PAN ARAB CALLS FOR OUR BLOOD, THE PLACING OF JORDAN'S TROOPS UNDER EGYPTIAN COMMAND.
WITHOUT THE MAY'67 THREATS THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A JUNE'67 WAR.
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Assault on student is a hate crime

A 16-year-old chassidic student was assaulted outside the Skvèr's community Toldos Yakov Yosef yeshiva in Montreal on May 10 ("Man arrested for punching chassidic teen," *CJN*, May 17). The very same school that was firebombed in September 2, 2006. Coincidence?

The accused assailant told police that he thought the beating victim was "somebody else." Chassidic children attending such schools are easily distinguishable by their appearance. How could one even come close to making such an identity error?

Police say there is no evidence that this is a hate crime. Considering the victim's attire, a simple conclusion would be that they are wrong.

Harry Grunstein
Hampstead, Que.

YOU CAN'T GET EXCITED ABOUT MY CHOLENT?
I CAN'T HELP IT- I HAVE A NONCHALANT PERSONALITY
KRON

* * *

Human rights in Lebanon, West Bank

The Israeli Human Rights Group, B'Tselem, and the Centre for the Defence of the Individual have reported, based on affidavits of 73 Palestinians detained by Israel between July 2005 and January 2006, that Israeli interrogators frequently beat Palestinian suspects, shackled them in painful positions and deprived them of sleep in defiance of a 1999 court ruling outlawing torture. If these reports are true, the actions cannot be condoned and the interrogators should be brought to justice.

It is worth noting in passing that the three Israeli soldiers held captive by Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the West Bank have not been seen by the Red Cross or the Red Crescent to ascertain if they are being treated humanely or not. It also goes without saying that there are probably no human rights agencies in either Lebanon or the West Bank to complain about the treatment of prisoners.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

* * *

Passover food drives

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has been supporting Cuban Jewry for many years. Why suddenly is there a separate and more aggressive campaign in recent years? Federations's launch of yet another fundraising campaign diverts much-needed funds away from local efforts ("Passover Cuba food drive attracts record number of donors," federation insert, *CJN*, April 26). The timing and duration of this specific Passover campaign seriously competes with not only National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section's community-wide Passover food drive, but also the efforts of many others to ensure that local needs are met.

Federation's priority should be to generously support local community efforts. Charity begins at home.

Debbie Wasserman
President
National Council of Jewish Women of Canada
Toronto Section

LET THEM GO...

Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Ehud Goldwasser, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz, Eldad Regev, Gilad Shalit

* * *

Judaism and modernity

Neal Winokur in his letter "Jewish law and conversion" (*CJN*, May 3) provides us with the same attitude that we constantly hear from the Orthodox, namely that we can't change anything that tradition has handed down in the Talmud and the *Shulchan Aruch*.

However, what he does not apparently understand is that we no longer live in the world of Hillel and Shammai, of Johanan ben Zakkai, of Judah HaNasi, of Maimonides, or Joseph Caro. Instead we live in the world of Baruch Spinoza, who dared to base belief on reason, causing his excommunication from the Jewish community, but leading to modernity and our secular world. Many Jews are driven away from their heritage because they find Orthodoxy doesn't fit a 21st-century lifestyle. If the Orthodox wish to retain their loyalty to the past, that is up to them, but those who wish to live in today's world should not be rejected as heretics or apostates.

Peter Gilbert
Toronto

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Wallenberg didn't die in 1947

We were very surprised to learn a stamp to honour Raoul Wallenberg is suggested to commemorate the anniversary of his "death" on July 12, 1947 ("Push for Wallenberg stamp may be too late," *CJN*, May 10). In fact, there is no evidence that Raoul Wallenberg died on that date. We, as well as academic researchers, Wallenberg's family and many others, cannot accept the Soviet uncorroborated version stating "circumstantial evidence" of his death in 1947 as fact. Far from it. There is mounting evidence that Wallenberg was alive well into the 1970s, if not longer.

Baruch Tenembaum
The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation
New York

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Fundraising for day schools must be a priority

By JONATHAN S. TOBIN

Grade 1 and 2 students at Associated Hebrew Schools' Posluns campus enjoyed storytime with author Sharon Jennings during the school's day-long Festival of Canadian Writing earlier in the year.

For those who have been promoting the idea that Jewish communities must cease talking about the importance of day school education and start funding it adequately, the news late last month out of New Jersey was long overdue.

Jonathan S. Tobin

The United Jewish Communities of Metrowest New Jersey announced the launch on April 29 of a $50-million (US) campaign that will seek to increase enrollment and academic excellence at the three Jewish day schools that serve their northern New Jersey region.

According to the *New Jersey Jewish News*, 11 local families are already putting up $13.5 million toward the campaign, whose purpose will be to supplement current inadequate levels of funding for scholarships to the schools.

The plan is specifically aimed at helping middle-class families who may be too well off to qualify for current scholarship programs whose function is to help only those on the bottom of the economic ladder.

Past experiments, such as one in the 1990s in Seattle and the experience of one of the participating New Jersey schools, have shown that if tuitions are offered at a significant discount from the $10,000 to $25,000 that is routinely charged at schools around the country, then enrollment increases.

In that sense, New Jersey is no different from that of any other community. The exorbitant tuition fees charged by day schools can create a situation where quality Jewish education is the province of only the very well off, who can afford any price, and the relatively poor, who are eligible for scholarships. Everybody who doesn't fit into either category has to shoulder the burden of paying sky-high prices.

In particular, families with two, or three, or more kids in the system are asked to make enormous sacrifices.

While studies show that most Orthodox families will choose day schools no matter what the price, the vast majority of American Jews who are not Orthodox must be wooed by the day school movement. Unfortunately, the sticker shock created by the school's price tags are often enough to deter many parents.

The losers in that transaction are not just the children who will not get the immersion in Jewish heritage, values and Hebrew that only day schools can give them. An even bigger loser is the community as a whole.

That's because it has been proven over and over again that day schools do the best job in producing adult Jews who consider themselves part of the Jewish people. Such people stand out from the vast majority of American Jews, most of whom are functional illiterates when it comes to the vast treasure that makes up Jewish identity.

Day schools are not the only possible positive factor. Being raised in a home where Judaism is a priority and not a marginal burden is obviously a prerequisite. Summer camps and trips to Israel are also influential. Nor should we discount the effect of a really good supplemental synagogue school.

But excellent Hebrew schools are still the exception, not the rule.

There's no doubt that day schools remain the best investment that American Jewry can make and that their students will form the core of the community of the future.

But after we sing the praises of the New Jersey plan, observers must still wonder if it will succeed. Elsewhere, such efforts have been announced before, only to fall short of their goals because of the lack of public support.

Most troubling is the fact that a large portion of American Jewry is still uninterested in day schools at any price. As essays in an interesting collection edited by Jack Wertheimer on the question, *Family Matters: Jewish Education in an Age of Choice*, published by Brandeis University Press, point out, those of us who are more concerned with being "ghettoized" and cut off from the rest of society are unlikely to choose a day school.

> *Who will step up to help reduce fees?*

That is a largely unfounded fear. Outside of tiny haredi enclaves, it is impossible to isolate Jewish kids from mainstream secular culture. A far greater danger is the fact that most Jewish baby boomers are Jewishly ignorant and are raising children who know little more than their parents.

This widespread lack of acceptance of the importance of day schools is one reason why the decision of the Metrowest federation to make them a priority is crucial.

For generations, fundraising groups such as federations have given Jewish education short shrift. It is only in the last couple of decades that this has begun to change. As such, one of the prime virtues of the New Jersey effort is the symbolic effect of having a federation and its leading funders say that day schools aren't merely a good thing that deserve funding along with other worthy causes, but are the community's No. 1 priority.

The example of local leaders and federations making such a statement can have a double effect.

On the one hand, it can set an example for philanthropists who have hitherto not directed their efforts toward education or often even sent their own children to day schools. But as crucial as it is that we create a system in which the best Jewish education is readily affordable for everyone rather than just the rich or the poor, it is also vital to send a message to the public that these schools aren't merely the preserve of the most religious among us, but are a lifeline to a Jewish future and are literally for everyone.

While it is obvious that the New Jersey initiative ought to be replicated around the country, the question of whether it can or will be is open to debate.

For example, here in Philadelphia, discussions about a similar sort of plan, which would have as its goal the creation of an endowment that would effectively lower local day school tuitions across the board, have been underway for some time. But it is, at this moment, far from clear that such an announcement would be followed by sufficient donations that would transform it from a much needed dream into reality. What is lacking is not the plan but the money.

There have been some recent signs of progress on this front. Earlier this spring, Leonard Barrack, a local attorney and the man nominated to lead the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia starting in September of this year, announced a $5-million gift from his family to the Akiba Hebrew Academy (which will be renamed after Barrack's late brother), a non-denominational middle and high school, to increase scholarships and academic excellence.

But if this act is to have a community-wide impact, it must be followed by similar efforts by others for all the local day schools. A commitment on the part of a broad coalition of philanthropists to a community-wide plan similar to that announced in New Jersey isn't an option; it's an imperative.

The question here, as is the case throughout the country, is who will step up and set such a campaign in motion? The answer to that is to be found not only among the wealthy but in whether American Jews in general begin to lift their voices to make it clear that the time for delay is long past.

Jonathan S. Tobin is executive editor of the Jewish Exponent *in Philadelphia. He can be contacted at jtobin@jewishexponent.com.*

Home movies vs. home cooking

Technology is so wonderful, it manages to mess everything up.

The camera allows us to perfectly record events. My wedding of 15 years ago is ready to be relived at a moment's notice. My 11-year-old twins are still celluloid toddlers, swaddled in diapers and playing on the floor. My life has been preserved in megabytes and videotape.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

But all this photography can be too much of a good thing. People can be so absorbed in taking pictures that they forget to experience life itself. Perhaps the photographic class could gain something by occasionally putting their cameras down.

Dana Chidekel, "a memory-card-carrying member" of the photographic class, wrote in *Newsweek* about the time she forgot to bring her video camera to her daughter's recital: "She sang in a high, clear soprano voice that stunned me. I don't recall taking a breath… At the conclusion, I was crying… I could have kicked myself for not bringing the video camera, but… not filming was what allowed me to have the unadulterated joy of this experience. Freed from the demand to document what was happening, I could live it."

In the end, home movies are two dimensional. The Zohar says, "God desires the heart." This is true not only of our relationship with God, but of any interpersonal experience. Ultimately, what touches the heart is more memorable than images or sounds. While a movie may be a slice of life, standing behind the camera can cut you off from reality.

Our interest in photography distorts something fundamental about life as well. While "quality time" events such as school recitals are important life moments, the fabric of love is primarily woven in simpler settings. Indeed, the experiences that touch the heart the most don't always translate into good cinema.

Some critics get annoyed when I mention food at funerals. "What difference does it make," they tell me, "if she made good blintzes and chicken soup?" I understand the sentiment. To them, talking about Bubbie's Friday night menu trivializes the real depths of her love.

But home cooking is one of those trivial things that is so important. Home cooking is about love. Each bite is a symbol of how Bubbie poured her heart into nourishing, caring for and loving her family.

This is love you can taste and remember. An ounce of affection is in every spoon of chicken soup.

People don't take home movies of family meals, because they're boring. But that doesn't matter. You can't take a movie of a person's heart. And good home cooking is filled with love.

The difference between home cooking and home movies is in the heart. A photograph may capture the moment, but chicken soup can capture someone's heart.

And all that matters is the heart.

Israelis take stock of their middle-aged state

Like vigorous baby boomers who wonder whether their current good health or inevitable decline is the more defining reality, Israelis celebrated their country's 59th anniversary uncertain about the state of their state.

Gil Troy in Montreal

From the outside, Iranians' and Palestinians' genocidal threats – reinforced by a relentless assault on Israel's politics, history and ideology – makes the Jewish national project appear precarious. From within, post-Lebanon-war recriminations, political corruption, ideological drift, and social tensions intensify the pessimism.

Yet, this supposedly dysfunctional society is remarkably functional. Palestinian terrorism has been reduced, with the improved security restoring Israel's characteristically vibrant normalcy. The stock market is booming as Israelis continue their friendly competition with Americans for the title of world's most charitable citizens, based on donations per capita. Even the summertime war produced a bomb-shelter-induced baby boom this spring. Never underestimate a country whose citizens can transform being bombed into making babies.

The magic numbers four billion, 3,186,739, 257,000, 9.2 and 2.7 quantify Israel's everyday miracles.

- Billionaire Warren Buffett spent $4 billion buying Iscar, part of foreigners' $23.7 billion investment in Israel's economy, which grew 4.5 per cent in 2006.
- In a country of seven million people, 3,186,739 Israelis voted in the 2006 election, the Middle East's 17th free election, uniquely involving Muslims, Christian and Jews.
- Israel's marvellous universities teach 257,000 students cutting-edge and traditional skills.
- The percentage of the Israeli economy devoted to the non-profit sector – 9.2 per cent, ranking the county fourth worldwide – illustrates Israelis' exceptional commitment to charity, volunteering, and tikkun olam, fixing the world.
- Finally, the Israeli Jewish birthrate of 2.7 children per woman represents the highest rate among developed countries. More than 100,000 new babies last year joined a future-oriented, family-friendly, community-building, values-rich society.

Still, the country faces serious problems, many of which are Israel's version of broader western dilemmas. While Israel's quest for peace with its hostile neighbours is unique, the underlying dilemma is familiar to post-9/11 westerners. Many Israelis have lost faith in diplomacy. The failure of the Oslo peace process to yield peace despite major Israeli concessions, along with the exterminationist culture feeding Islamist terrorism, has made many peaceniks skeptics. Diplomacy requires certain common rules and limits. Just as Cold War liberals wondered whether it was possible to negotiate with Communists, most Israelis and westerners doubt diplomacy can work with jihadists.

While Israel's neighbours need to restore Israeli faith in diplomacy, Israel's leaders need to re-establish their people's trust. The scale of corruption is outrageous. Israelis wonder whether their leaders are a particularly bad bunch, whether society is experiencing a deeper values crisis, or whether the investigative scrutiny magnifies misdeeds into major crimes. Amid the modern media magnifying glass, Israel desperately needs worthy successors to David Ben-Gurion and Menachem Begin, founding fathers of the country who despised each other ideologically while both leading simple, modest lives.

Whatever explanation people offer for the corruption contagion, Israel's material success has triggered a broader cultural crisis that all westerners will recognize. The new generation of Israelis – especially the secular majority – tends to be wealthier, more individualistic, more self-confident and more selfish than the founders' generation of only decades ago.

Modern Israelis, like so many of us, are the children of modern consumerism, with television-compressed attention spans and iPod-induced self-involvement that's balanced out by computer-fed creativity and connectivity. Israelis have to develop a communal ethos that cultivates modern individualism and ingenuity without abandoning a sense of national mission and idealism.

For a people battered recently and historically, the ability to be normal is quite exceptional. Living well truly is the best revenge, a repudiation of Nazi exterminationism as well as Palestinian terrorism. Israelis do and should delight in sharing their modern dilemmas with fellow westerners. At the same time, this celebration of normalcy and the powerful realities of daily living should not eclipse the special dimensions of Israeli life or the country's unique challenges, even though they appear to Israelis living through them as quite normal, or at least familiar.

The Zionist revolution built on Jews' exceptional history and sense of togetherness while promoting a vision of national normalcy. Modern Israel dances on the head of a similar pin, hoping, like the traditional fiddler on the roof, not just to keep balance but to live a life filled with meaning and joy.

Science, literature, and revelation

In the community where I grew up, adults expressed great pride in the community's young people as they progressed through their schooling and remained connected with Jewish practice. There was a special pride for those who pursued studies – and ultimately careers – in science. So-and-so is a physicist, you would hear people say, and he still goes to shul on Shabbat. So-and-so is a biochemist, and he still wears a kippah. These remarks bespeak a centuries-old conflict that western culture perceives between science and religion. Once you know of the existence of subatomic particles, so goes the thinking, belief in God flies out the window.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

This attitude always surprised me. Judaism has never made a fetish of opposing spirit and matter, belief and science, faith and logic. Among my friends who went into the sciences, rarely did work in the lab inspire a crisis of belief. Indeed, some – those, I like to think, with souls of poets – went so far as to explain that what they learned of quarks, black holes, and gamma rays magnified their awe of creation. One friend even prefaced his PhD dissertation in microbiology with a treatise on the resemblance between the behaviour of subatomic particles and the Lurianic concept of *tsimtsum* – the contraction of God in the process of creation. Interestingly, my friend's dissertation advisor, a Nobel-prize winner, could trace his lineage to the 16th-century kabbalist Rabbi Isaac Luria.

I felt that the real challenge to Judaism was to be found not in the sciences but in the humanities – in the study of other systems of thought, perhaps most strongly in literature, with its call to imagine wildly and widely, its invitation to experience life through others intensely different from oneself, its demand to suspend disbelief, its imperative to let go of one's own habits and culture long enough to enter sympathetically into other possibilities.

Science could be answered on its own terms, duelled with logic and ultimately, bested. Or it could be kept in its place, compartmentalized, relegated to the lab but not taken home.

But literature seduces. It finds the places of our most secret desires and shadows us wherever we go. A phrase from a poem, a moment from a novel, insidious and subversive, haunts us when we sleep and as we rise, when we are at home and when we wander.

Literature gives us schemers and nihilists, rogues and pirates, and demands that we acknowledge that we are – to use Joseph Conrad's words – their secret sharers. That is, we harbour much the same sentiments, urges, desires as those we read about.

And yet, I am struck by something fundamentally Jewish about the enterprise of literature, and its demand that we inhabit, at least momentarily, another's mind and heart. This ability to imagine lays the groundwork for empathy and for compassion, so integral to our proper treatment of the stranger, the orphan, the powerless.

Like other forms of writing, literature utilizes language. But literature has a special way of using language to express concepts that go beyond the boundaries of language. The tools of literature – symbols, parables, images, allusions – help point us to things that cannot be easily (or at all) expressed.

The idea of the Divine, for instance, defies our ability to contain it in language. But through literature, people have always found ways to approach and approximate it, and at the same time, retain a sense of its illusiveness. This is what happens, for example, in *Shir Hakavod*, the medieval piyyut, or liturgical poem, sung on Shabbat, known commonly by its opening words, *Anim zmirot*. The poet seeks metaphors to describe God, acknowledging repeatedly that he cannot really know God.

The festival of Shavuot celebrates the revelation at Sinai, a central moment for Jewish consciousness. Yet traditional biblical commentators belabour the difficulty of our ancestors with that encounter. One midrash, or interpretive commentary, imagines the impact as so fearsome that at God's first utterance, the souls of the Israelites fled their bodies. God's word returns, complaining that it has been sent to a dead people. God then sweetens the word for the Israelites, so that each hears the Divine word according to his or her capacity. I like to think of that sweetening as the literary element, an invitation to approach what cannot be fully known.

The Kirshner File

Barak on the cusp of winning back his old job

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Soon we will know whether Ehud Barak, Israel's former prime minister, can rise from the dead, metaphorically at least.

The May 28 Labor party primary will not only determine whether Barak is a better candidate than the tarnished incumbent, Defence Minister Amir Peretz, but whether he can convince the party's power brokers and delegates that he has mended his ways.

Barak, the current front-runner in the hotly disputed contest, announced his candidacy in the first week of January after what appeared to be a sincere display of contriteness.

Without delving into gritty details, he humbly admitted that he made "many mistakes" during his tenure as prime minister from 1999 to 2001, presumably referring to his abject failure to forge peace agreements with Syria and the Palestinians when these opportunities seemed so ripe for the picking.

In a slightly more expansive fashion, he conceded that his "lack of experience" as a politician had worked to his detriment, acknowledging that "there are no short cuts" in public life and that leadership is "a shared burden, not a solo mission." Barak was doubtless alluding to his widely decried arrogant style, his reluctance to consult and take good advice and his less than stellar interpersonal skills.

Barak's shortcomings notwithstanding, even his detractors admit that he is a formidably intelligent and courageous figure.

The most decorated soldier in the annals of the Israel Defence Forces, he earned a degree in physics and mathematics from Hebrew University and a post-graduate degree in engineering/economic systems from Stanford University. Chief of staff in the early 1990s, he then plunged into politics, serving as minister of interior and foreign minister. After wresting the Labor party leadership from Shimon Peres, he became prime minister, defeating Benjamin Netanyahu.

Barak promised to settle Israel's conflicts with the Palestinians and Syria, but fell short. Israel and Syria reached a consensus on some thorny issues, but talks eventually broke down in a welter of mutual acrimony, and a peace treaty eluded them. With the Syrian option having vanished, Barak ordered the unilateral withdrawal of the Israeli army from southern Lebanon, then turned in earnest to negotiations with the Palestinians.

At the Camp David summit in July 2000, organized and stage managed by the United States, Barak and then-Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat grappled with final status issues ranging from borders and Jewish settlements to the status of eastern Jerusalem and the problem of Palestinian refugees displaced by the 1948 and 1967 wars.

Barak offered sweeping territorial concessions within the context of a two-state solution, but his proposals, which were basically rejected by Arafat, caused the implosion of his precarious government. Barak's foreign minister resigned and his right-wing coalition partners deserted him. Within two months of the collapse of the summit, the second Palestinian uprising erupted, undermining what remained of the Oslo peace process.

In a last ditch effort to salvage Oslo, Israel conducted talks with the Palestinians at Taba. But Sharon abandoned these negotiations after his landslide victory over Barak in 2001. Benjamin Ben-Eliezer replaced Barak as party leader and Barak went into business, spending substantial time in the United States. While Barak was abroad, Ben-Eliezer was supplanted by Amram Mitzna, a former army general who was ridiculed for his advocacy of a unilateral pullout from the Gaza Strip.

When Mitzna stepped down, Peres took his place. Shortly afterward, Barak announced his intention to regain the party's leadership. Barak's initiative was scorned by many of his former colleagues, including Ben-Eliezer. As a result, Barak dropped out of the race and left the field to Peres. In rapid succession, he turned his attention to the private sector once again, divorced his wife, Nava, and took up with a new woman.

Peres lost his position to Peretz, the trade union leader, in 2005. Peretz joined Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's coalition as a junior partner, while Peres defected to Olmert's centre-right Kadima party.

When Peretz's popularity rating crashed following last summer's inconclusive war in Lebanon, Barak launched a bid to recapture the Labor party leadership. Several important party members endorsed Barak, notably Matan Vilnai (a general who was once passed over for chief of staff), Ben-Eliezer, Shalom Simhon (a former cabinet minister) and Isaac Herzog, a current minister.

Barak initially justified his candidacy on the grounds that the IDF, in the wake of the second war in Lebanon, was in dire need of reform, and that he had the "experience" and "maturity" to implement these changes in the capacity as the next defence minister. Peretz, having essentially failed in that pivotal job, said recently that he now aspires to be finance minister in Olmert's government.

Ehud Barak *[Mickey Gutstein photo]*

But since the release of the Winograd Commission report, which castigated the performance of Olmert and his colleagues during the war, Barak has switched course.

Bowing to the dictates of public opinion and common sense, he declared that he would not serve in a government headed by Olmert. Two of Barak's leadership rivals, Ami Ayalon, a former Shin Bet director and navy commander, and Ophir Pines-Paz, a onetime minister, had already urged the party to leave Olmert's government. Labor party Secretary-General Eitan Cabel voiced an identical message after the Winograd Commission findings were released, tendering his resignation as a minister in Olmert's cabinet.

Now that it seems clear that Barak's short-term objective is to remain in opposition, should he win the party leadership next week, all eyes will focus on his policy positions.

At the Camp David summit, whose collapse he squarely blamed on Arafat, Barak was reasonably flexible and even visionary.

He was ready for a groundbreaking deal in which Israel would relinquish about 92 per cent of the West Bank and all of the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians would then establish a demilitarized state. In exchange for annexing eight per cent of the West Bank, containing three major settlement blocs and 80 per cent of the settlers, Barak would compensate the Palestinians through land swaps.

Barak was prepared to allow the Palestinians to set up a capital in Arab neighbourhoods of eastern Jerusalem. Conversely, Israel would retain areas where Jews formed a majority of the population. As for the Old City, sovereignty would be shared.

The Palestinian refugee issue would be resolved through the patriation of Palestinians to the new Palestinian state. There would be no "right of return," though family reunions would be permitted within certain limitations.

Seven years on, Barak hews to the same principles, believing that what was proposed at Camp David is still valid today. "You will need a magnifying glass to identify the differences between what was on the table in 2000 and what will ultimately happen," he told an American journalist two years ago.

Barak, like Sharon after him, is of the view that Israel must disengage from the Palestinians and finish the security barrier so that two separates states – Israel and Palestine – can emerge. Without a two-state solution, he argues, Israel will be unable to sustain itself as a Jewish and democratic state. Barak's rivals, Peretz, Ayalon and Pines-Paz, hold very similar views.

The days are gone when the Labor party could have its cake and eat it – retain the bulk of the territories and maintain Israel's Jewish identity.

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Sheldon Esbin and Arthur Resnick manage the Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund

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UJA Federation sets lofty goals for the years ahead

New thinking presented to leading supporters

By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA FEDERATION

Dramatically different programs based on big ideas. That's the objective of UJA Federation this year – a goal articulated last week to the organization's leading donors attending UJA's Top Gifts Dinner, by 2008 annual campaign chairs, Morris Perlis and Lesley Binstock Offman.

Perlis categorized Toronto's Jewish community as "large, caring and growing" but a community facing serious issues in a dangerous world – issues that cannot be tackled through "healthy, yet limited yearly growth."

Among the concerns flagged by Perlis are the alienation of young people toward Jewish life, intermarriage and nurturing future Jewish leaders.

"As a community, we have no reason to believe that we will be shielded from the decline many American Jewish communities are already experiencing, but unlike many of them we are in a position to do something about it," said Perlis. "We are in the process of designing dramatically different programs, based on big ideas, in order to deal with some of our most fundamental issues."

Specifically, Perlis cited the need for new programs to capture the "incredible passion and exuberance" of birthright israel participants once they return home; increased Jewish school enrolment and a first-time initiative to guarantee every Jewish child the opportunity to attend a Jewish summer camp.

Lesley Binstock Offman, reflecting on a recent mission to Israel reported that, "because of last summer's war, social programs [in Israel] are yet again going through dramatic reductions," as security costs climb. UJA Federation, she added, has to help fill the social welfare void.

"We learned that we are not doing this alone," she said. "More and more, we are identifying partners in Israel – successful Israeli philanthropists and other not-for-profit organizations - that believe in what we are accomplishing and want to partner with us."

UJA Federation, noted Binstock Offman, is concentrating its assistance to Israel on "those who are living in the most peripheral areas of the country," such as the northern border, communities close to Gaza and the southern Eilat-Eilot region.

She spoke enthusiastically about post-army youth volunteers, belonging to the Ayalim program, who volunteer with underprivileged children. She also sadly described her visit to Sderot, on the Gaza border, which has been bombarded by 4,000 rockets since the Israel disengagement from Gaza in 2005.

"Imagine driving through a town of 24,000 people and barely seeing one lone soul in the streets because children and families are living in a state of ongoing terror," she said.

UJA Federation Women's Campaign and Advocacy chair Liora Yakubowicz noted the growth of women's gifts from $2.5 million ten years ago to $9.3 million last year, which represented more than 11% of the campaign total.

Last year's UJA Federation campaign, chaired by Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks, raised $81 million, which included $20 million for Israel's emergency needs, following and during last summer's war with Hezbollah. Harvey Frisch is returning as the vice-chair for the upcoming Campaign 2008.

The Top Gifts dinner, sponsored by CIBC World Markets, was chaired by Shanitha Kachan and Alan Menkes.

(Top Gift Dinner photos by Jen Arron)

Enjoying last week's UJA Federation Top Gifts Dinner at Toronto's Four Seasons Hotel are: (l-r) Harvey Frisch, vice chair, UJA Federation Campaign 2008; Liora Yakubowicz, chair, Women's Campaign & Advocacy; Campaign 2008 chairs Lesley Binstock Offman and Morris Perlis.

Chairs of the Top Gifts Dinner, Shanitha Kachan & Alan Menkes

UJA Federation chair, David Engel

Brian Shaw, chairman and CEO, CIBC World Markets

Weiss family inspires Torontonians with their story

By SHOSHANA POZNANSKY
UJA FEDERATION

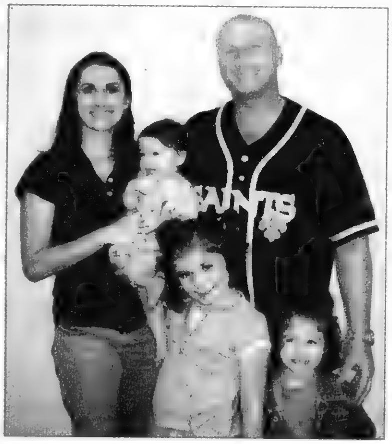
Surviving Hurricane Katrina in 2005 taught the Weiss family about what really matters in life. Brooke and Brian Weiss from New Orleans, who recently briefed UJA Federation on their experiences, travelled to Toronto with their three young daughters to be honoured by Hillel of Greater Toronto for the work they are doing to help others rebuild their lives.

Over this past winter break, approximately twenty Toronto Hillel students travelled to New Orleans where they volunteered with the Weiss family, rebuilding the homes of other victims.

Before Hurricane Katrina struck, the Weiss family had already evacuated twice due to hurricane warnings. "This was the third evacuation of the summer," says Brooke. "I packed the car with two days worth of clothing as I had done before, as well as a box full of photos and my *ketuba* (Jewish marriage contract)."

The family relocated to Jackson, Mississippi, while Brian - a New Orleans police officer - stayed behind.

When Brooke and her daughters reached Jackson, she realized that her bank card did not work. With no access to money and a husband working under dangerous conditions, Brooke needed help. Jackson's Jewish community was the first to come through. Within days, New Orleans' Jews were each given $700 cash, collected by United Jewish Communities (UJC), the umbrella organization of North American Jewish Federations. With this money, Brooke was able to rent a one-bedroom apartment and put a deposit down on furniture for her family.



Brooke and Brian Weiss pose with their three daughters (l-r) Eve, 7 months; Hannah, 7; and Sarah, 3.

"Growing up in the Jewish community, we learn how to give tzedaka, but we don't learn how to accept it," says Brooke. "I made a promise to myself that when my family got back on its feet, we would find a way to repay the community."

Brian continued to work in New Orleans for six months, seeing his family only for a few days at a time. Six months after Katrina, the family reunited and is currently living in a two bedroom apartment back in New Orleans.

Of the 12,000 Jews living in New Orleans before the hurricane, only 5,000 have returned. Since the hurricane, Brooke and Brian have welcomed another addition into their family.

"When I found out Brooke was pregnant, I felt we were doing our part to help repopulate the Jewish community in New Orleans," says Brian.

To help others, Brooke and Brian have started a non-profit organization - Project Starfish - which is working to help clean up Jewish homes affected by the hurricane and raise money to support the police department.

"No matter how difficult things are, we would not go back to pre-Katrina days, because now we really know what is important in life, our family, friends and community," notes Brooke. "There is something unique about feeling supported by Jewish communities everywhere, helping both Jews and non-Jews alike."

Toronto's own Jewish community – through UJA Federation raised over $260,000 for relief to victims of Katrina, a portion of which was allocated to IsraAid, an Israeli relief and humanitarian organization which sent Israeli workers to help evacuate citizens. More information on the Weiss family and Project Starfish is available at: www.nolastarfish.com

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Heart-felt story stirs leading UJA Federation supporters

Lebanese-born Brigitte Gabriel keynote speaker at organization dinner

By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA FEDERATION

Calling Islamic radicalism "today's greatest great threat to Western civilization," author and lecturer Brigitte Gabriel called on the world to stand together against "Islamo-fascism." As the founder of a non-profit organization, American Congress for Truth.org, dedicated to exposing the dangers of Islamic extremism, Gabriel practices what she preaches.

Of all active Islamic terrorist organizations, Hamas "has the largest infrastructure on American soil," she told UJA Federation's leading donors last week.

Gabriel, a Lebanese Christian, who lived in Israel before moving to the United States, described her childhood as a victim of a Muslim bombing campaign. After a bomb left her buried underneath her demolished south Lebanese home, she was hospitalized, she said, for two and a half months and then spent seven years inside a bomb shelter.

"I learned how to peel thorns with my tender young fingers in order to eat the plants underneath," she said.

During that perilous period of her life, Gabriel credits Israel for keeping her family alive by entering south Lebanon to protect its Christian population.

After her mother was seriously wounded, Gabriel dodged danger to get her mom across the border to an Israeli hospital, where she eventually spent 22 days.

"To my mother it was a life saving experience. To me, it was a life-changing experience," said Gabriel. "The doctors treated everyone. They did not see religion…they did not see political affiliation."

Gabriel described September 11, 2001 –when terrorists attacked New York's World Trade Centre – as the day on which "the world woke up" to "connect the dots" between the danger faced by Israel and the danger faced by the entire world.

Proclaiming herself as someone who wears Zionism as a "badge of honour on her forehead," Gabriel urged her listeners to focus their attention on Israel, which, she said, should be "our number one goal."

Brigitte Gabriel (Photo by Jen Arron).

Gift ensures a musical future for TanenbaumCHAT

By JONATHAN AIN
UJA FEDERATION

When Sharon and Howard Meyer were first sending their children to CHAT (Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto) in the late 1990s, they were struck by the school's impressive record in math, science and Bible studies. One area they felt was missing was a significant music program.

Now a decade later, the Meyers have stepped up with an extremely generous gift to what is now TanenbaumCHAT, ensuring that all students in our community – especially those with an interest in the arts - will be able to benefit from the school's respected academic curriculum without sacrificing their dedication to music.

"We realized there were actually kids choosing not to go to CHAT because they were very musically oriented," explains Sharon. "The parents had to say, 'look, as much as I love the day school system, I have to find a place where my son or daughter can continue to develop their musical talents.' That was one of the main drives for this gift."

A portion of the gift is going towards building the new, state-of-the-art music room at the Kimel Family Education Centre on the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan. There, the northern branch of TanenbaumCHAT, is set to open this September.

The Lebovic Jewish Community Campus is an initiative of UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign, chaired by Gerald Schwartz and Lawrence Tanenbaum.

The bulk of the money is going towards endowing the music program at both the Lebovic site as well as the existing TanenbaumCHAT branch on Wilmington Avenue.

"Music is a very expensive program to run," says TanenbaumCHAT director of education Paul Shaviv. "Over the last ten years we've radically expanded the drama and fine arts programs, but music could not be fit in either in terms of space or budget. Now, Sharon, Howard, and Sharon's father, the late Michael Finkelstein, have really enabled us to have an incredible music program as well, and one that is truly sustainable into the future."

Although the Meyers hope that their generosity will inspire others to step up and contribute too, they both say the inspiration for giving must come from within.

"My father, Michael, was the person who instilled it in us," says Sharon. Howard agrees and adds, "Sharon's father really was our inspiration in endowing the programs at both Wilmington and Lebovic. He was always looking for different ways to give back to the community, and children and education were two things he always championed. But he was a quiet man, and gave from a distance. He was always focused on how he could help others, and that taught us to always look for different ways to give back."

TanenbaumCHAT students play their musical instruments for donors Sharon and Howard Meyer in front of the new building on the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan.

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JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Ve'ahavta volunteers tutor Regent Park kids

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The Newcomers Homework Club, an after-school program for immigrant children living in Regent Park, helps students get better grades and integrate into a new land.

Most of the program's volunteers are from Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, with some from Frontier College, a national volunteer literacy organization.

The club's volunteers come from all walks of life, ranging in age from 12 to 80.

Last week, *The CJN* attended a session of the homework club at Regent Park Duke of York Public School.

Volunteer Vivian Rakoff, 79, former director of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (formerly the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry), was tutoring his eager 12-year-old Somali charge, Ayub Mohamed.

> ***'It's amazing we can bring so many cultures together'***

Rakoff, the picture of patience and grandfatherly tolerance, walked Mohamed through a series of mathematical problems. At first shy and retreating, Mohamed's voice soon got steadier and more confident as Rakoff praised him with each correct answer.

"You're really very good at this," Rakoff offered.

"Oh yeah?" Mohamed asked in disbelief, traces of a proud smile on his lips.

"Yeah," countered Rakoff, sporting a huge grin.

Similar scenes played out across four classrooms, with tutors and students not only learning from textbooks but also from each other.

Sarah Zelcer and Ambaro Gouled, Regent Park Community Health Centre representative.

The Newcomers Homework Club, which runs twice a week for two hours, accepts students aged six to 17, accommodating upward of 50 participants. And demand has grown so much that there is a perpetual waiting list.

Ken Martin and Stephen Hong, volunteers from Frontier College, said they both learned as much as, or more than the kids they help.

"I think it's amazing we can bring so many cultures together to make this happen," Martin said, pointing to the diversity of participants in his bright classroom, filled with books, pictures and learning tools.

Amina Ware has two sons who are enrolled in the homework club. Ware, 39, immigrated to Canada from Ethiopia in the mid-'90s.

"We ran, travelling from country to country to here," she said. "And when you talk to people here you get help and you feel comfortable.

"In my children I see them... get good help and they're excited to be here."

Sarah Zelcer, Ve'ahavta's director of international programs, said the club, started by the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) 13 years ago, originally served Regent Park's predominantly immigrant Somali community. However, it's morphed over the years to accommodate the changing face of Regent Park and now serves a variety of cultures.

"The interfaith component happens through interaction," said Zelcer. "But there are a number of ways we try to engage both the tutors and the learners with each other's cultures."

Zelcer noted that specific, yearly cultural exchanges in the Newcomers Homework Club include acknowledging and celebrating holidays like Eid, the Islamic holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, and Chanukah.

"And at the end of the year, we have a big Somali feast," she said.

The club is supported by donations from individuals and organizations and receives funding from the TDSB and the Regent Park Community Health Centre, which helps to pay for the rental of classroom space.

For more information, visit www.veahavta.org/homeworkclub.asp.

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Diabetes fails to hold scholarship students back

By **FRANCES KRAFT**
Staff Reporter

Jody Grundman, Elizabeth Kagedan and Frances Sher are among 36 Ontario teens who were awarded $2,500 scholarships last week from the Diabetes Hope Foundation at a ceremony held at the University of Toronto.

Jody Grundman

The foundation, which has given out 181 scholarships, was established in 1999 by Barbara Pasternak, a mother of three sons, two of whom have diabetes. In addition to providing financial assistance to offset medical costs for needy families, the organization provides scholarships to students graduating from high school who have excelled at managing their diabetes, shown academic achievement and participated in sports and their communities.

Grundman, 18, says diabetes has never kept her from doing anything, although it was "definitely hard at the beginning."

However, within a month of her diagnosis at age nine, she was giving herself insulin shots, and just a few months later, she attended sleepover camp as planned. She has written for her school newspaper at the Anne & Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and played on its volleyball, basketball and rugby teams. She has also taught swimming, tennis and skiing and played on local Toronto softball and hockey teams.

Elizabeth Kagedan

Now she is planning to go away to university and study science, with the goal of becoming a doctor.

Probably the most challenging part of having diabetes is that "you can never really stop taking care of it," Grundman said. Her teammates and coaches have been very understanding, she added.

"I'm very open about it… If I have to leave the practice and go get a juice [because of low blood sugar], they're very understanding."

Frances Sher

For her, the scholarship underscores the fact that "diabetes isn't all that I am. I'm an athlete. I'm a student. I'm involved in student government."

Kagedan, a 17-year-old native of Ottawa who has been diabetic for more than 10 years, is excited about entering university and hopes to major in economics and political science before pursuing a graduate degree in journalism.

In addition to looking after her diabetes – "I'm so used to it," she said matter-of-factly – Kagedan, a student at Lisgar Collegiate Institute, has undergone "really intense surgery" for an unrelated condition called osteofibrous dysplasia that manifested in her case as tumours in the bone of one leg. The surgery included the insertion of a steel plate and screws, and was followed by "lots" of physiotherapy.

"It really puts things in perspective," said Kagedan, referring not only to the condition, but also to the experience of seeing other patients in the hospital who have worse problems.

Now, she bikes to school and has taken up yoga. She is at the top of her class, and is also involved with her school's drama program.

For young people who are newly diagnosed with diabetes, Kagedan advises that "it's really easy to be scared – and rightfully – but it's important to remember, especially if you're young, that you're not in it by yourself. Other people are there, and they're willing to help."

Technology, including the insulin pump she uses, means that "you don't need to sacrifice the normal lifestyle too, too much."

In fact, Kagedan likes to think she would be incorporating many of the aspects of a diabetic lifestyle even if she didn't have to, such as exercising and watching her diet.

Sher, like Grundman, wants to become a doctor. Since the fall, the Thornhill Secondary School student has been volunteering at York Central Hospital in the pharmacy, maternity and surgery units. She hopes to specialize in pediatrics, and plans to study science or health science next year.

The 17-year-old, who was diagnosed during her first week of high school, recalls that it was challenging to have to focus on her diet, insulin and blood sugar levels at a time when she and her fellow students were just starting to make new friends.

But her new friends were very supportive, she said. She is used to being asked a lot of questions about diabetes and said she is happy to educate people about it.

"Knowing that there's [the Diabetes Hope Foundation] scholarship gave me motivation that… I'm on the right track," said Sher, who teaches swimming and was part of her school's track and field team, fashion show and nutrition action committee.

Having diabetes can be hard in the beginning, she said, but "it really becomes a part of your life… It doesn't restrict me from anything."

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We must look within ourselves

By RABBI TINA GRIMBERG

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

Pirkei Avot, one of the most beloved Jewish collections of writing, is traditionally read in synagogues between Passover and Shavuot. The book poses provoking and timeless questions, and assists us with valuable ideas about human ambitions.

In order to teach us, the text uses questions and answers, including the following: Who is wise? The one who learns from everyone… Who is powerful? The one who masters his desires… Who is rich? The one who is content with his lot, who respects other people.

A thirst for power, wealth and respect has continued to plague humanity throughout centuries of human experience, and the dilemmas resulting from these desires have transcended historical periods and cultures.

A short story called *The Necklace*, written by Guy De Maupassant as a criticism of 19th-century French society, tells of a beautiful young woman from a poor family who wishes to be someone she is not. The wealth and comforts of aristocracy lure Matilda to dream of a fantasy world where, among plush cushions and expensive china, she entertains important guests. When she returns to reality – her shabby apartment, modest dress and middle class husband – she feels sadness and resentment.

The story rises to a climax when the couple is offered a chance to attend an elegant ball. They spend their modest savings on a beautiful dress for Matilda, and as a final touch, she borrows a diamond necklace from a wealthy friend. Delirious from her success in creating the perfect image for herself, she dances and celebrates throughout the night. However, upon their return home, she discovers that the borrowed diamond necklace has been lost. In order to replace it, the couple sell their belongings, borrow money from their modest family and work for years to pay off their debts. Years later, a tired and aged Matilda encounters the old friend from whom she borrowed the necklace. In a frank exchange that often takes place among people who have nothing to lose, Matilda discloses the saga of replacing that diamond necklace, only to learn from her friend that the original was fake.

Maupassant points the reader to the timeless lessons that our Jewish tradition has captured in its ancient ethical teachings, written ages before his time. Matilda, though physically beautiful on the outside, is greedy, selfish and, like her diamonds, a fake. It is not enough that her family savings are spent on a beautiful dress for the ball, but jewelry her friend originally offers her does not satisfy Matilda, and from among a more impressive selection, she chooses the fatal, fake diamond necklace. She is not capable of controlling her hunger for riches and reaches for the impossible. Matilda wants to be honoured by society, but at the same time, she scorns her hard-working husband for earning a modest salary.

The heroine of the story is not really poor in her middle class financial situation, but because she perceives herself as inferior to others, she overlooks the many gifts that lie all around her: she is healthy, her husband is devoted and loving to her, she can actually afford to have the assistance of a maid and therefore has the luxury of free time, and she can even attend the theatre.

Matilda is not alone in her world, yet she chooses the solitary path of dreaming her life away. Her gaze is never turned to examine the world within her or the world beyond material things.

Pirkei Avot teaches us to respond to the eternal human quest for power, wealth and honour by acting with self-control, appreciation of others and the ability to listen and learn. Taken to heart, its message leads us towards life filled with meaning and genuine joy.

Rabbi Tina Grimberg is the spiritual leader of Congregation Darchei Noam in Toronto.

A parental partnership with God

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

In an upcoming Torah portion, God instructs Moses to have Aaron bless the people of Israel with the words that will become known as the Priestly Blessing. The translation that we are most familiar with states the blessing as: "May God bless you and keep you. May God shine His Countenance upon you and grant you mercy. May God lift His Countenance onto you and grant you peace."

They are beautiful and powerful words whose impact is felt much more strongly in the Hebrew when these words could equally be translated without the word "may." In other words, these blessings are an invocation of what God will do rather than what God might do.

Certainly, only a kohen, a priest, or a High Priest could speak so forcefully about God. Only someone of high religious authority could invoke God's blessing and protection in such a demanding way.

And yet, these are the very words Jewish parents have used to bless their children every Shabbat. With the hands of the parent upon the head of each child, these strong statements are made of how God will bless, guard, interact with and bring peace to our children. How can a parent speak in so demanding a way? Perhaps we are better off saying "May God" do these things rather than insinuating the statements without the "may."

But the Talmud and many parallel documents within Jewish texts empower each parent to speak forcefully and demandingly when blessing our children. The Talmud states that every person has three parents responsible for their creation. The mother and the father provide the body, and God provides the soul. To complete any baby, any person, there must be an intimate relationship of parenting between the mother, the father and God.

There are several places within the Talmud and midrash that speak of God's pain, as it were, when there is human suffering. It is the description of a parent suffering along with the child. A midrash explains why God appears to Moses from a burning thornbush. It's the image of the thorns that the midrash stresses. While Israel is suffering in Egypt, God will communicate through images that speak of pain, thorns. A talmudic section in Brachot describes God's tears and the impact of those tears on the world. The universe itself feels the impact of two Divine tears.

Another midrash describes how the parent does not want to share their pain with the child. The midrash quotes a verse from Jeremiah that states: "So that you will not hear it, My Soul shall weep in secret."

Every parent understands that few things can affect us in the most secret places of our soul the way that a child can.

We ourselves acknowledge this strong parenting relationship God has with us when we sing *Avinu Malkeinu*, "our Parent, our Ruler." We are forever the child in that relationship, until we ourselves create a child together with God. Now we parent along with God and we are empowered to speak the words of the High Priest.

Every Friday night, with our hands upon the heads of our children, we speak to them as parents and invoke the third parent, God, into the sphere of protecting our children. We speak forcefully with the words of the Torah. "*Yivarechecha…*" I do not say "may God bless you," but rather "I, as a parent, am now speaking with God, as a parent, and I am clearly stating that I need You to do this. It is not a request, it is a clear communication."

We speak the words of the Priestly Blessing from the Torah portion as we draw our children to us, and, in essence, we say to God: "When I cannot be there to protect them, You must shield them. When I cannot soften the world for them, You must extend Divine Mercy. When I cannot be with them, You must draw near to them and bring them peace. I say this to You as one parent to another, for we created this child together."

A treasure trove of Jewish history

By ALEX GROPPER

Past
Forward

The Cairo Genizah was one of those little-known discoveries of important manuscripts that have had a major impact on Jewish studies and scholarship.

Discovered a little more than 100 years ago, its contents have been overshadowed by the more spectacular Dead Sea Scrolls, which have captivated the popular imagination for 60 years. The scrolls have a more widespread appeal because they cast light on the period, from the second century BCE to the first century CE, that gave birth to Christianity as well as to normative Judaism, whereas the documents from the Cairo Genizah date from 1,000 years later. (Interestingly, the genizah contained a document known as the *Damascus Covenant*, which turned up among the manuscripts found at Qumran, the home of the scrolls, more than 50 years later.)

As with other major discoveries discussed in this column, it was locals who first brought the material to the attention of the outside world. At first, Europeans noticed something new in the Cairo antiquities market. It was thanks primarily to the efforts of two sisters, Agnes Smith Lewis and Margaret Dunlop Gibson, residents of Cambridge, that the renowned university there obtained the bulk of the collection.

This was indeed quite fortuitous, since they brought the material to the attention of the man who would be forever associated with the Genizah documents, the redoubtable and legendary Rabbi Solomon Schecter, who at that time was the reader in talmudic and rabbinic literature and keeper of the collection of Hebrew manuscripts at Cambridge.

Fortunately, Rabbi Schecter was probably the one man in the world who would be able to fully appreciate and analyze the material. One of the first documents he came across was the *Wisdom of Ben Sira*, popularly known as *Ecclesiasticus*, which he published. His study of the material is still a landmark of scholarship.

But Rabbi Schecter realized he would have to go to the source, to the genizah of the Ben Ezra synagogue itself. What he found there astounded both him and the world. It contained more than 100,000 documents, which have since given us a unique and unparalleled look into a prominent Jewish community of 1,000 years ago.

It turned out that the Genizah included not only sacred material, but also letters, some of a very personal nature. As well, the documents have given us an unprecedented view of the dealings of the Jewish community with its neighbours, who were predominantly Arab and Muslim, but it also shows that Jews there had contacts as far afield as Spain. In fact, among the documents found was a handwritten draft of the famous *Guide to the Perplexed* from the author himself, the great Maimonides, who by this time resided in Cairo.

The Cairo Genizah has received a strong Canadian connection in the last few decades. The documents were found in the genizah, or book repository, of the Ben Ezra Synagogue in the Fostat district of what is now Old Cairo in 1896. The Canadian Centre for Architecture of Montreal and its director, Phyllis Lambert, was recently responsible for the restoration of the synagogue. In 1999, the Albert Friedberg Genizah Project, made possible by a generous grant from the Toronto philanthropist and businessman Albert Friedberg, has undertaken the major task of cataloguing and digitizing the collection so that it will be instantly available to scholars around the world.

Prof. Jim Diamond, chair of Jewish studies at the University of Waterloo, heads the project. Diamond is an outstanding scholar and a man of many talents. Prior to his present position, he was a practising lawyer who decided to devote himself to his love of scholarship and went back to university to get his PhD. Waterloo was quick to recognize his ability and appointed him to chair its newly created Jewish studies department. Diamond and I, in my capacity as president of the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies, have been discussing the possibility of organizing a major international conference in Toronto on the Cairo Genizah that would bring some of the top genizah scholars in the world to the city and would be open to the public.

The Six Day War, Part 3

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish Highway

Golan. Gaza. Sinai. The West Bank. The redrawing of the map after those Six Days in June has stirred passions and challenges that have lasted for four decades. But none have been as deeply felt and far-reaching as the unification of Jerusalem in 1967.

Back then, Yossi Ronen was a rookie reporter for Israel army radio. While veteran journalists found themselves covering the south during the war, it was left to Ronen to get to Jerusalem to follow the Israeli forces as they made their way through the narrow streets of the Old City. Ronen describes the moment as he and Rabbi Shlomo Goren, then chief rabbi of the Israel Defence Forces, neared the Kotel. "Goren did not stop blowing the shofar and reciting prayers. His enthusiasm infected the soldiers, and from every direction came cries of 'amen!' The paratroopers burst out into song, and I forgot my role as 'objective reporter' and joined them in *Jerusalem of Gold*." **[http://tinyurl.com/2a8lhq]** You can listen to Ronen's report online in Hebrew. The IsraCast website also supplies a full English transcript of the broadcast so that you can follow along. **[http://tinyurl.com/23a4ej]**

Abraham Rabinovitch, now a veteran *Jerusalem Post* reporter, had just arrived in Israel and was covering the crisis for an American paper. He recalls "the day he walked past deserted Israeli and Jordanian checkpoints to enter the Old City for the first time." **[http://tinyurl.com/2gx65v]**

Paratrooper Avraham Schechter writes: "Was I dreaming?… I woke up and saw the Kotel. I came close, and starting praying… I felt someone was listening to my prayer up there… Friends told me I cried like a child. I wrote home on a piece of scrap paper that I envied no one – I was in the unit that broke into the Old City and got to the Kotel." **[http://tinyurl.com/2bswqh]**

When he was interviewed on the 36th anniversary of the war, Teddy Kollek wasn't rhapsodic about the war and its legacy. In 1967, Kollek had been mayor of Jerusalem for just more than a year and was concerned about what he saw. "I felt this was too big a victory. I had very nebulous ideas about it, but it was clear this kind of victory wouldn't bring us only good… I think the '67 was a disaster because it changed our ego – it made us so certain of everything, so absolutely…" Arrogant, Kollek is asked. "Yes." **[http://tinyurl.com/25lhrk]**

Recently, the *Guardian* spoke to nine people – soldiers, students and journalists, Jews and Arabs – who had witnessed the Six Day War. Nazmi Al Jubeh was a 12-year-old Palestinian schoolboy living in the Old City at the time. "After four days of curfew our family set off for home. We walked down the steps towards the Maghrebi Quarter [the community that abutted the Western Wall] and there was nothing there. Just piles of rubble and bulldozers at work with Israeli soldiers dancing on the ruins. I just wanted to know where all my friends had gone." (The *Guardian* also has fascinating wartime recollections of Yael Dayan and Uri Geller – yes that Uri Geller.) **[http://tinyurl.com/3788oa]**

Some images of the war have been seared into our collective memory: Rabbi Goren blowing the shofar at the Kotel; Moshe Dayan, Yitzhak Rabin and Uzi Narkiss entering the Old City with the Lion's Gate behind them. You can view those pictures online **[http://tinyurl.com/2eqfzh]** as well as many other lesser-known photos of the war. **[http://tinyurl.com/243hwq]**

But I would venture to say that *the* iconic photograph of the Six Day War, taken by David Rubinger, is the one of three IDF paratroopers gazing upward – the middle one with his helmet cradled in his hands – dwarfed by the Western Wall. There is a site where you can listen to Rubinger talk about events surrounding that photo. Most of the recording focuses on how it became so famous through an accident of fate. Shortly after Rubinger took the shot, the photo was widely distributed and used without his permission. Rubinger saw his photo in an unauthorized book and used by news services – sometimes with a mistaken credit. At first Rubinger was furious, but then he had a change of heart. "Because it was so widely stolen and used, I have to be eternally grateful to all those thieves. They made it famous," he said. **[http://tinyurl.com/235pf2]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Record enrolment expected for next year

Continued from page 3

In all, the school expects to have about 1,520 students next year, of whom about 600 will be at the northern branch. There will be a combined enrolment of more than 450 incoming Grade 9 students at the two branches.

It's too early to know whether there will be an increase in applications for tuition assistance, Shaviv said.

Gila Martow, a mother of four and an activist for government funding of faith-based schools, said she was "shocked" by the increase. "People have to realize tuition is going up much higher than the cost of living… I'm afraid the bubble's going to burst and we're going to start to see schools closing," said the optometrist, who receives no tuition subsidies and has one child at CHAT and two younger children in day school.

"If I had a kid today starting out in first grade, I would think twice about starting at such a high rate, knowing the increases are so tremendously large," said Karen Bookman, whose daughter Rebeca will enter her final year at Tanenbaum-CHAT next fall. Bookman said she is unhappy about the increase, but "it's just one more year."

At Ulpanat Orot and Yeshivat Or Chaim – respectively the girls' and boys' branches of the Bnei Akiva High Schools – tuition has not yet been set for next year. However, under a funding agreement with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the school, which charged the same tuition as CHAT for the 2006-07 year has "no option but to charge whatever CHAT fees are, unless we can demonstrate that our per capita costs are lower than CHAT," said principal Frank Samuels.

Private high school fees in Toronto can run as high as $26,175 per year for the final two years for day students at Upper Canada College, although tuition at University of Toronto Schools is less, at $15,000, plus a yearly percentage increase, according to the schools' websites. Tuition at Bishop Strachan School is $22,450 (plus a laptop fee of more than $2,500), and $19,515 at Havergal College.

RECESS SCRABBLE

Bialik Hebrew Day School has introduced a Recess Scrabble Club for students in grades 3 to 5. Robin Pollock Daniel, a Scrabble champion and Bialik parent, taught the students how to play the game and created such excitement that the school is going to extend the program to grades 6 and 7. With their Scrabble boards, clockwise from left, are Jaron Szpindel, Abbey Kalan, Noah Chapnick, Adam Levin and Josh Finkelstein.

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1. **Wednesday May 30th at 8 p.m.**
"Today's Israel: Ideal Vision vs. Sober Reality"
From Moses to Herzl, the Jewish people have always had a vision of an ideal Zionist state. Has the reality of the last 59 years compromised that vision? How does the State of Israel cope with ongoing external threats and internal social and political crises without losing its visionary ideas?

2. **Thursday May 31st at 8 p.m.**
"Lear and David: A Tale of Two Kings"
Shakespeare's King Lear and the Bible's King David are both heads of state as well as fathers with tragic relationships with their adult children. Contrasting their modes of behaviour regarding these children provides an illuminating laboratory for the study of all parent-adult child relationships.

3. **Monday June 4th at 8 p.m.**
"From Jerusalem and Back"
Join Rabbi Feder in a memorable evening of song, accompanied by Moshe Goldhammer. Priority seating for members of Beth Tikvah Synagogue, with membership cards at 7 p.m.

**The Community is invited to attend; doors open at 7:30 p.m.
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YEAR'S END: Senior kindergarten students at Netivot HaTorah Day School – from left, Atara, Haviva, Eitan, Noa and Daniel sing about love and respect for Israel, *Eretz Yisrael Sheli Yaffa*, in their end-of-year production. This year's theme was *kavod* (respect).

[Rebecca Ansel photo]

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BB lodge celebrates 40 years

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The song *We Are Family* appropriately describes the members of B'nai Brith Canada's Forestdale Heights Lodge.

Known for their warmth and caring for each other, and for their mission to serve the community wherever help is needed, the members have kept their lodge full of enthusiasm for four decades.

On Sunday, May 27, Forestdale Heights Lodge will celebrate its 40th anniversary with members and friends at a gala dinner at Beth Radom Synagogue.

Forestdale Heights Lodge was founded in 1967 as a men's service lodge. Some 20 years ago, members recognized the need to attract more volunteers and opened its membership to women. It now has about 70 members.

Bonnie Kates, president of Forestdale Heights

Bonnie Kates, who teaches medical courses in the health care industry, is the lodge's 31st president and the first woman to hold the position.

"We have lived up to our motto, 'People Helping People,'" she told *The CJN*.

She said that although there are more men than women in the lodge, "we are anxious to attract more couples and we are pleased to welcome people who have moved to Toronto."

In a joint interview, Bonnie, her husband Michael Kates, and Nate Salter, both past presidents, reflected on the lodge's many accomplishments and activities.

"Whenever we were asked to take part in any community volunteer project, our lodge was there with people power to execute an event, and often, with a cheque for funds," Bonnie said.

"We did our fair share of burger flipping, marshalling walkers, sprinters and runners on behalf of Terry Fox, Rick Hanson, and the United Jewish Appeal. We took kids in wheelchairs to hockey games, basketball, baseball, bowling and events at the zoo," she added.

"We purchased a handicapped equipped bus for a children's residence, been involved with telethons and the Jerusalem Pavilion at Caravan, and we continue to pride ourselves on being hands-on volunteers in the multicultural fabric of the greater Toronto community."

Said Salter, "You can make a difference and change the world by just getting involved."

He spoke of programs such as Purim parties and megillah readings for seniors, taking Reena clients to Toronto Blue Jays games, helping Zareinu, and numerous other services to the community.

Michael said that along with Forestdale's primary focus on volunteer services, there are many social aspects to the lodge and an opportunity to make and meet new friends.

"There are so many innovative services our lodge participates in," Bonnie said. "As an example, we provided tutors for some developmentally challenged young men and made them a bar mitzvah with a Sunday brunch for their guests."

The lodge holds monthly dinner meetings with a variety of topical speakers.

"All our meetings are under kashrut supervision," she said, "because we want to keep it open for everyone."

She added that the members range in age from the late 40s "and up."

Salter, who was the lodge's president in 1977-78, says that if people want to get involved, "there is plenty to keep them busy."

"Our lodge was revitalized five years ago when another lodge wanted to amalgamate with Forestdale Heights. We found that the other lodge was much more focused on social. So the shidduch didn't work out," Bonnie said.

"But it gave us an opportunity to re-examine and rediscover ourselves and to recognize our strengths and our focus on volunteer community services along with our extended family social activities. It strengthened us."

For more information on Forestdale Heights Lodge, visit www.kolechad.info, or to inquire about the 40th anniversary dinner, call 905-669-2408.

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Seniors Scene

Centenarian a physical fitness buff

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

For 100 years, Ruth (Rivka) Unger lived her life as many women of her generation did.

She came to Canada early in the century, worked in a factory on a sewing machine, married, had children and coped with the tragedies that life meted out.

Ruth Unger

At her 100th birthday party, surrounded by family and friends, Unger was feted as a woman of outstanding strength and courage. She is known for her joie de vivre and her love of life and people.

With amazing clarity for every detail, the centenarian recalled her life at an interview at Forest Hill Place, where she has lived for three years.

"She is my hero," says Unger's niece, Joan Kirsh. "She's endured much sadness in her life, and yet she still experiences great joy in little everyday things, like a tiny new shoot on a plant or a smile on a baby's face."

Ruth Krakauer was born in Klimintov, Poland on May 20, 1907. At 21, she was brought to Toronto by her father's brother, Louis Krakauer, and she lived on Henry Street with her aunts and uncles.

"I went to work at Line Shirts," recalls Unger. "I made collars and sewed them into the shirts."

Six weeks after arriving in Canada, she met Morris Unger, who had come from Stashov, Poland. Two years later, they married and moved into two rooms on Robert Street. Morris worked as a driver for a laundry company. They had two daughters, Anne and Bernice.

When World War II ended, Ruth found out that her mother had died of a natural cause, but her younger sister and father, along with many other members of her family, had perished in the Holocaust.

While raising her family, she helped her husband, who owned a shvitz (steambath) at Spadina Avenue and Nassau Street and later a movie house called The Gay at Parliament and Dundas streets.

Speaking of the sadness in her life, she noted that her husband died in 1991, the same day her brother died. One of her daughters, Bernice (Bunny) Friedman, died of cancer and her other daughter, Anne Chapman, has Parkinson's disease.

But despite the sadness in her life, Ruth is known for her glowing smile and her positive outlook on life. A physical fitness buff, she continues to take an exercise class each morning and says that she goes down to the gym to work out in the afternoon.

"I love to walk. I walk every day but I don't have as much strength as I had last year," she jests, "but I am OK. I use a walker when I go outside and I still go shopping."

When asked what were the most important events in her life, she replied, "Firstly, all my family – children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren – when Israel became an independent state in 1948, and the end of the Second World War."

Kirsh says, "I was always impressed with Auntie Rivka's ability to cook, bake, sew, knit, crochet, garden, and she did everything so well.

"She really blew me away one day many years ago when we were driving in her car and the muffler fell off. Undeterred, there was Auntie Rivka, under the car, refastening the muffler with bits of string and a nylon stocking. And off we went.

"Resourceful and self-reliant, finding practical ways to fix, adjust and improve things around her – she finds a use for everything."

The secret to Unger's bright outlook on life, despite so many losses, is her ability to be satisfied with everything. "If it's not 100 per cent," Unger says, "I say it will be better the next time. And I was lucky that I never felt jealous of what anyone else had.

"I never really had time to feel sorry for myself because it was never important to me what someone else had – I was grateful and satisfied with what I had."

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Palestinian infighting could ensnare Israel

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

As of this writing, renewed factional fighting in Gaza from May 13 to 16, had claimed two dozen Palestinian lives, and wounded many more. Much media attention focused on the violent events and weakening political situation.

On May 14, Palestinian Authority Interior Minister Hani al-Qawasneh resigned, saying that he had not been given the authority to stop the infighting. This made an already difficult situation even more uncertain and chaotic.

On May 15, Hamas launched a mortar and rocket attack on a Fatah-controlled base near the Karni crossing into Israel, killing eight members of the Presidential Guard, loyal to PA President Mahmoud Abbas. Hamas claimed that an Israeli tank shell was responsible – a charge even Fatah ignored, while Israel issued an official denial.

Indeed, Israel has been trying to steer clear of involvement in the internal Palestinian strife, but it found itself closer to responding after Qassam rockets again struck the town of Sderot, injuring four people, one seriously.

As CTV's Janice Mackey Frayer said in her May 15 report, the violent instability "threatens to pull Israel into the latest Palestinian infighting at a time when the Israeli government has avoided its own military operation. And so the stakes are rising."

Meanwhile, there is still no word on the fate of the BBC's Gaza-based correspondent Alan Johnston, abducted two months ago. Although journalists have been frequently snatched off Gaza streets, prior to Johnston, all were released within hours. Now, foreign correspondents have abandoned Gaza, meaning a dearth of information is coming directly from the area.

BBC correspondent Aleem Maqbool is reporting from Ramallah, in the West Bank. On May 15, he said many experts believe the continued fighting could cause the unity Palestinian government to fall. However, Maqbool said, "ordinary Palestinians are questioning whether the government's collapse will necessarily make the situation worse." He concluded: "For now, talk of a unity government and ceasefires seems empty – it is guns and bullets that are doing the talking."

Several Middle East analysts noted that Israel can take no comfort from the fighting and chaos. If the PA collapses, in the absence of a peace agreement between the Palestinians and Israel, international law (according to several experts) requires Israel to take responsibility for the well-being of the Palestinians in the territories. So even after unilaterally withdrawing from Gaza in August 2005, Israel might be required to police Gaza – something it obviously wants to avoid.

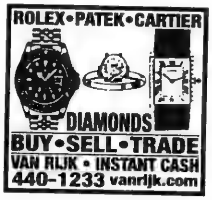
Some Israelis believe the continued infighting in Gaza is part of Hamas's grand strategy. In "Reality Overtakes the Illusion of Unity in Gaza" (*New York Times*, May 16), Steven Erlanger quotes Gidi Grinstein of the Reut Institute, an independent research group in Tel Aviv, "who argues that [f]or Hamas… peace is a disaster because it solidifies and recognizes Israel, so the key is to prolong the occupation." And the way to bring this about is to make it as difficult as possible for Israel to extricate itself from the territories so that a two-state solution might ultimately emerge – precisely what Hamas violently opposes.

Erlanger also analyses reports that, in an effort to forestall the turmoil from Gaza spreading to the West Bank and farther east, destabilizing the Hashemite Kingdom, Jordan might consider a form of "stewardship, but not sovereignty, over the West Bank."

Erlanger writes: "King Abdullah II [of Jordan] has been calling for talks to solve the Israeli-Palestinian problem in the face of the Islamist challenge. But he also appears to believe that Israel has no reason to withdraw from the West Bank, let alone make peace, unless the Palestinians put their house in order."

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

SHABBAT QUEENS: At a recent kindergarten Shabbat ceremony at USDS's Beth Tikvah campus, three excited *eemas* – from left Jeri Spilberg, Molly Foxman and Alyssa Green – show their parents and grandparents how they prepare for Shabbat.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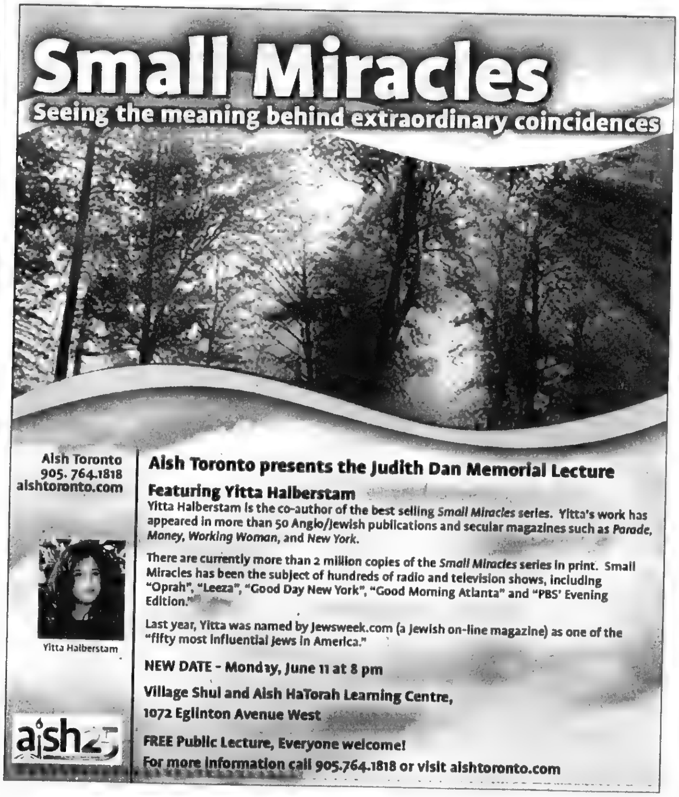
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Last year, Yitta was named by Jewsweek.com (a Jewish on-line magazine) as one of the "fifty most influential Jews in America."

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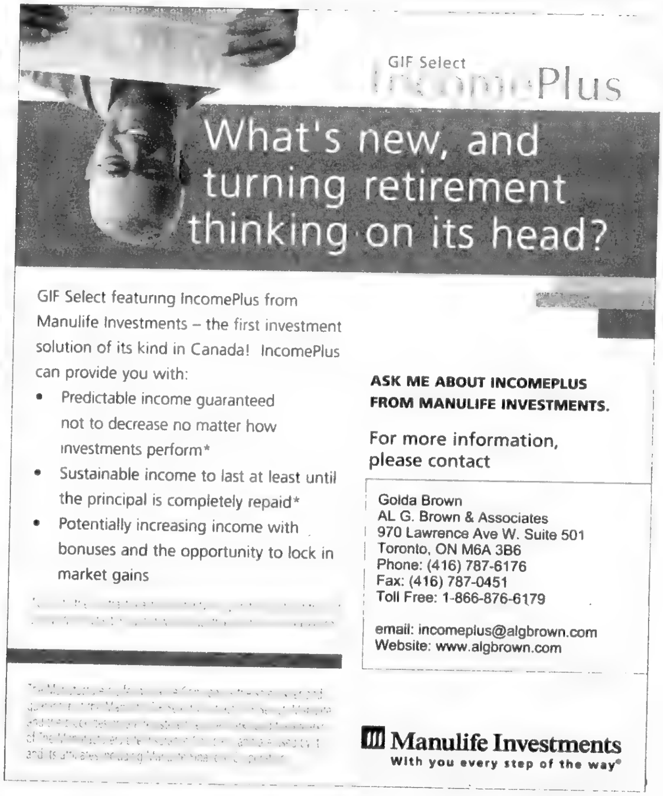
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Demand for Israeli arms on the rise

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israeli arms sales are expected to increase over the next few years, says Yair Shamir, the chair of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel's largest manufacturer of military equipment.

Demand for sophisticated Israeli weaponry is growing because it is reliable and has been battle tested, said Shamir in an interview during a brief visit to Toronto.

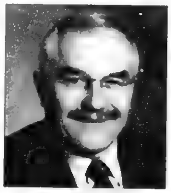
A former Israeli Air Force pilot and an electrical engineer by profession, he said that sales would be 10 times higher if the Arab-Israeli conflict could be resolved.

Even so, IAI, which was known as Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd. until recently, is riding the crest of a boom. Sales last year hit $2.8 billion (US), of which $1.8 billion was in defence-related products, while the rest was in commercial aerospace technology. Fifteen per cent of its sales are to the Israel Defence Force.

Sales in 2007 will top the $3 billion mark, disclosed Shamir, who bears a strong resemblance to his father, Yitzhak Shamir, who served as both Israel's prime minister and foreign minister.

IAI, with 16,000 employees, sells to more than 80 countries, including India, Turkey and Canada, and accounts for about half of Israel's defence exports. Shamir, however, declined to discuss further details, saying, "I don't want to embarrass our customers."

By all accounts, Israel's defence exports reached almost $4 billion in 2005, making Israel one of the leaders in the field. Israel's exports reportedly account for at least 10 per cent of the global trade in military goods. In 2004, Amos Yaron, the then director general of the ministry of defence, told a Knesset committee that 80 per cent of Israel's military production is exported.


Yair Shamir

IAI, which is 100 per cent government-owned, manufactures a wide array of systems for military and civilian use.

Its military products run the gamut from the Arrow missile and the Phalcon air surveillance system to the Green Pine radar system and the Ofek spy satellite. Also rolling off IAI assembly lines are the Barak sea-to-sea missile and unmanned aerial vehicles such as the Harpy, Scout and Searcher.

Canada has purchased unmanned vehicles, or drones, but Shamir said, "Canada is not a big market for us."

As well, IAI produces command, control, communication and intelligence systems, telemetry and airborne instrumentation equipment and patrol boats. In addition, it refurbishes and upgrades combat aircraft and helicopters.

On the civilian side, IAI manufactures business jets, notably the Astra and Westwind series.

In Israel, IAI's chief competitors are Elbit, Rafael and Israel Military Industries.

Shamir said that IAI sales must be approved by the Israeli government. IAI must seek the approval of the U.S. government when IAI systems contain American components. Nor can IAI sell to countries classified by the Americans as enemies.

Several years ago, Washington forced Israel to scrap the sale of a Phalcon system to China after the United States expressed concerns that it might be used against its Asian ally, Taiwan, which is claimed by China.

Shamir regrets that that his company had to cancel the Lavi jet fighter program in 1987. "I thought it was a mistake," Ironically, the project was abandoned by his father, who cited budgetary constraints.

In theory, Shamir thinks that Israel should not be dependent on overseas military suppliers. But he doubts whether Israel can afford to be totally independent and still provide for the educational and social welfare needs of its population.

He also voiced regret that the Nautilus anti-rocket system, for which IAI provided components, was scrapped due to soaring costs. If the Nautilus had been properly deployed, it might have positively affected the outcome of last summer's war in Lebanon, during which Hezbollah fired thousands of missiles at Israel.

Asked whether Israel can defend itself against the threat of short-range missiles, he replied, "Israel has the capability of stopping such missiles." The question is whether such a system would be cost effective, he noted.

According to Shamir, the current barrage of Qassam missiles fired from the Gaza Strip by Palestinian militants presents Israel with a more difficult challenge. "The problem is that these rockets are in the air less than a minute. There is a technical solution, but it may not be cost effective. You'll go bankrupt in no time."

Nevertheless, IAI and Rafael are currently working to develop a missile shield to deter Qassams. He does not know when it will be ready.

He claimed that the Arrow, which has been repeatedly tested and refined, is fully operational and could intercept a shower of Iranian surface-to-surface Shihab-3 missiles.

At present, the Arrow is manufactured in the United States under licence. Pending approval by Israel and the United States, Shamir hopes to sell the technology to other foreign buyers.

Shamir described Iran as a "strategic threat" whose budding nuclear program can be dealt with through espionage and a combination of military, diplomatic and economic means. "There is no insoluble problem," he said, adding that European and American pressure on Iran could be helpful to Israel.

He is convinced that Israel and Hezbollah will fight a second round. "But the end result will be different. We've learned from our mistakes. It will be a different battlefield."

A hawk whose political sympathies lie with the Likud, Shamir opposes the resumption of talks with Syria, claiming that the Syrians are not really interested in peace. "They're playing games." Nor would he be willing to to pay the price of a peace treaty with Syria: a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Shamir, too, would oppose further Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank or Palestinian statehood. "The Jewish people are the owners of Judea and Samaria." Besides, the Palestinians have not reconciled themselves to Israel's existence and seek its destruction by piecemeal means, he said. Yet Shamir suggested that Palestinian statehood may be a foregone conclusion. As he put it, "The train has left the station."

Shamir, who headed El Al Airlines from 2004 to 2005, arrived in Toronto from the United States to raise funds for Catalyst Investments, which develops high-performance video conferencing systems.

Shamir, who is Catalyst's chair and managing partner, said that Israel's high-tech sector is thriving once again, though in leaner form, after the bubble burst six years ago.

High-tech products nowadays comprise nearly 50 per cent of Israel's exports, he observed, saying that the future looks exceedingly bright.

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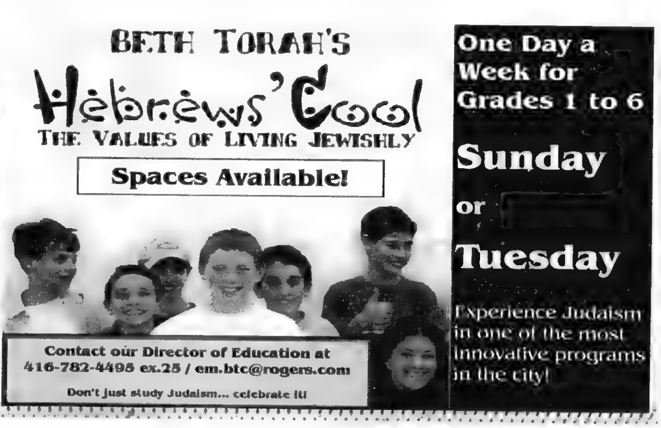
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Bylaw to make CJC 'dynamic, new institution'

Continued from page 1

would be reflected at the highest councils of the CJC. Resolutions to achieve these ends would be proposed at the plenary."

The joint presidency is a compromise and will likely avert a heated plenary in Ottawa on June 17, when delegates are to meet to elect officers and consider a contentious bylaw that is designed to update Congress' governance and structure.

Bylaw 67 is designed to improve Congress in areas such as organization of the executive and boards, setting the budget and implementing policy. The proposed structure would put an end to national CJC elections and see the president and senior officers appointed by a board consisting of nominees from the the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA), which will appoint one-quarter of the board, and from federations in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, and appointees from Congress' regional offices.

Speaking prior to the talks over the joint presidency, Rabbi Bulka said the bylaw does include "representational strength, but for the people down in the trenches, the *amcha*, you can't be the voice of the Jewish people if there is no election."

He said one of his concerns was that the slate of candidates advanced by the nominations committee "had no Congress roots."

At the time he suggested the plenary could see counter-amendments "to allow for an election process" or conditional acceptance of the bylaw.

Negotiations to address Rabbi Bulka's concerns were ongoing last week. The talks appeared to bear fruit with the agreement on the joint presidency and the move to establish three new vice-presidents.

Rabbi Bulka, a longstanding Congress activist, announced he now supported Bylaw 67, saying it provides "the governance bridge to a dynamic new institution that will allow us to have maximum flexibility in addressing advocacy challenges of the 21st century facing the Jewish community."

Abitbol was unavailable for comment last week, but prior to the suggestion of a joint presidency, he told *The CJN* concerns about a lack of democracy in the proposed new structure were overblown, particularly when you consider how the bylaws, if implemented, will make Congress more efficient and effective.

The former head of Federation CJA in Montreal, Abitbol welcomed Bylaw 67. It is similar to bylaws employed by other Jewish organizations and would give the leadership the best tools to achieve goals, he said.

The current organizational structure of Congress is inefficient and poorly designed, he said in a telephone interview.

Congress, he pointed out, is "many years old, so some of the bylaws and governance may not be adequate for today's organization."

(A summary of the draft bylaw made available by Congress states that in its current configuration, the organization has "too many layers of governance in [an] antiquated model.")

Abitbol said, "We have to look at it in terms of measuring success and to be successful, you need the proper structure."

Opposition to the change is "the natural reaction of people reluctant to change. You can't manage by having committees of 75 people or when people come once in a while," he said, referring to the current Congress structure.

The Montreal federation was successful only when its bylaws permitted it to put in place the right people, set priorities, make the right decisions and implement them, he said.

The draft bylaw has been widely circulated and comments welcomed, said Steven Shulman, regional director for Congress' Ontario wing and national general counsel.

The bylaw is intended to "assure better clarity, accountability, effectiveness of Congress' governance," he said. Congress wanted "buy-in from the key constituencies and it not be polarizing."

However, one close observer of Congress had a contrary view and said he believes the bylaw is designed to centralize control of the organization in the hands of large Jewish organizations.

"CIJA is stacking the deck," the observer said. Its goal is to "take over Congress and get Congress' name and rid it of the democratic process to keep out people.

"I believe this bylaw is a further attempt to have Congress become more accountable to the federations and for the centralization of power than it is to be a spokesman for *amcha*, the everyman Jew," the observer, who asked to remain anonymous, said.

The observer said the suggestion of a joint presidency occurred when it became clear Rabbi Bulka and an alternate slate of candidates might win at the plenary. However, he suggested a joint presidency would be "unwieldy. How do you serve two masters, particularly on issues that need to be dealt with quickly?"

The insider suggested if anybody can make it work, it would be Rabbi Bulka. "He'll build bridges and seek consensus."

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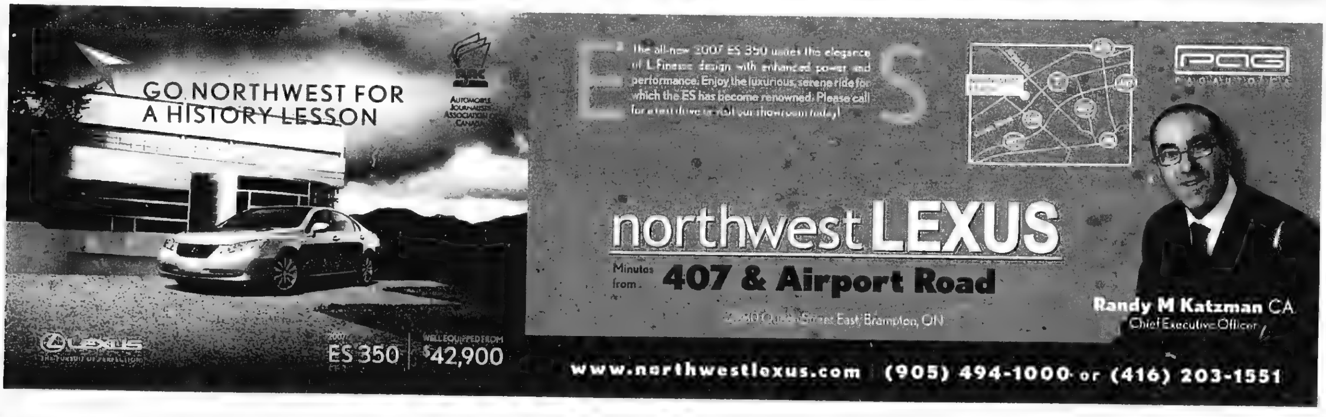
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Canada, Israel hold talks in Ottawa

By **PAUL LUNGEN**
Staff Reporter

Senior officials of Israel's and Canada's foreign affairs branches met in Ottawa last week to discuss political, economic, security and defence matters.

Israeli embassy spokesperson Ofir Gendelman declined to reveal details of the 2½ days of meetings, saying only that the contacts were "cordial and warm" and touched on many areas of mutual interest.

Aaron Abromovich, director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, and Leonard Edwards, Canada's deputy foreign minister, led the talks, which are held annually.

"The aim was to strengthen bilateral ties and expand them," Gendelman said. "The idea was to bring about bilateral relations to a new level, to reflect the close relationship between the two countries.

"The situation in the broader Middle East was discussed, [along with] the Palestinians and the Iranian nuclear threat and other security issues."

Gendelman said there was "a keen interest on both sides to promote research and development," particularly in the field of technology, as well as to create a bilateral business council. Expansion of trade was also discussed, and "we talked about the possibility of allowing Israeli and Canadian youth to work in both countries for one year."

In addition, the talks addressed joint aid projects that would assist developing African countries.

Gendelman acknowledged that representatives from each country's defence and public security establishments participated in the talks, but he gave no details. "Some of the topics were sensitive," he said.

Next year's meeting will be in Jerusalem.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING: At a recent visit to Reena's Toby and Henry Battle Development Centre, Madeleine Meilleur, right, Ontario's minister of community and social services announced the government's commitment of more than $200 million in funding over four years to developmental service agencies. In addition, agencies will get $20 million for targeted wage gap funding for the lowest paid employees in the sector. Shown is Reena client Fred Thornhill presenting Meilleur with a gift he helped make in Reena's creative arts program.

[Barry Shainbam Photography]

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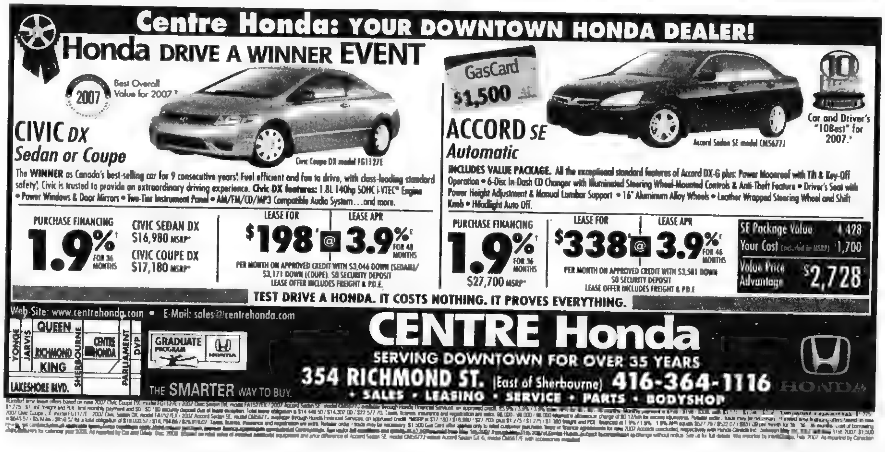

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Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

אַ מעשׂהלע לכבוד שבועות

ווען די צייטונג וועט אייך דערגרייכן, וועט נאָך אפשר זיין שבועות אָדער איין טאָג נאָך שבועות. איך האָף, אַז איר זענט נאָך אין אַ יום־טובדיקער שטימונג. שבועות איז דאָך אַ פריילעכער, קאָלירפולער יום־טוב מיט געשמאַקע מאכלים. יידן האָבן זיך געפרייט מיט דער תורה. די באַלעבאָסטעס האָבן געבאַקן קעז־קוכנס און אַנדערע מילכיקע עסנוואַרג. די משפחה האָט זיך צוזאַמענגעטראָפן און עס איז געווען פריילעך.

אָנשטאָט די געוויינלעכע שבועות מחשבות, וואָס מיר דרוקן יעדן יאָר, האָבן מיר באַשלאָסן איבערצודרוקן אַ מעשׂהלע (נישט מיינס), וואָס מיר האָבן געלייענט אין דער ענגלישער שפּראַך מיט אַ צאָל יאָרן צוריק. צום באַדויערן געדענקען מיר נישט דעם נאָמען פון דעם מחבר און אויך נישט די צייטונג, ווו עס איז געווען געדרוקט. בעטן מיר מחילה ביי ביידע. און איצט דאָס מעשׂהלע:

נאָך דעם ווי משה האָט צעבראָכן די ערשטע לוחות מיט די עשׂרת הדברות, זיינען די צעבראָקלטע שטיקלעך שטיינער געקומען זיך באַקלאָגן פאַר גאָט. „רבונו של עולם!”, האָבן זיי געזאָגט. „פאַר לאַנגע הונדערטער יאָרן האָבן מיר געוואַרט, אַז משה זאָל קומען. מיר האָבן פאַרנומען דעם ווויעדיקן ווינט, די שאַרפע בליצן, די ברענענדיקע זון און געוואַרט. פאַר וואָס קומט אונדז אַזאַ שווערע שטראָף?! עס איז נישט אונדזער שולד, אַז די בני ישׂראל האָבן געמאַכט אַ גאָלדענע קאַלב און זי פאַרגעטערט”.

אַ שטילקייט האָט געשוועבט איבער די זאַמדיקע פלאַכן, איבער די ישׂראלדיקע געצעלטן און איבערן באַרג סיני. און עס האָט זיך דערהערט די שטימע פון אַלמעכטיקן: „אָ, שטיקלעך שטיינער, איר זענט ביי מיר נאָך טייערער ווי ווען עס איז פריִער. עס איז נישט געווען צוליב אייער זינד, וואָס איר זענט צעבראָכן געוואָרן. איך זאָג אייך צו, אַז איר וועט נאָך האָבן אַ וויכטיקע עבודה אויסצופילן”.

אַ שטאַרקער ווינט האָט אָנגעהויבן צו בלאָזן. עס האָט צוזאַמענגעקליבן אַלע שטיקלעך שטיינער און דאָס אַוועקגעטראָגן אין דער ריכטונג פון ירושלים אין כּנען. אַלע שטיקלעך שטיינער, אַחוץ איינס מיט שאַרפע עקן, זיינען אַראָפּגעפאַלן אויפן הר מוריה, אין ירושלים. דאָס שאַרפע שטיקל שטיין איז דורכן ווינט אַוועקגעטראָגן געוואָרן צו מערב אין עמק האֵלָה.

עס זיינען אַדורך הונדערטער יאָרן. אין אַ געוויסן טאָג האָט אַ מוטיקער פּאַסטעך מיטן נאָמען דוד אויפהויבן דאָס שאַרפע שטיינדל, עס אַריינגעלייגט אין זיין וואַרפלקע (sling) און מיטן גאַנצן כּוח עס געצילט צום פּלישתּי ריז גָלִית. דאָס שאַרפע שטיינדל האָט אויסגעפילט זיין מיסיע. אין יענעם טאָג האָט אונדזער פאָלק געהאַט אַ גרויסן נצחון און דער בראַוער פּאַסטעך דוד האָט אָנגעהויבן זיין אויפשטייג צו מלכות.

אַן אַנדערן גורל האָט דערוואַרט די אַנדערע צעבראָכענע שטיינדלעך אויפן הר מוריה. זיי זיינען געלעגן אומעטיקע און געוואַרט אויף גאָטס צוזאָג. ווען דוד המלך האָט פאַרנומען ירושלים זיינען זיי געוואָרן מער פריילעך. אַ ביסל שפּעטער אין דער געשיכטע האָט דער זון פון דודן, שלמה המלך, אַרויסגעגעבן אַ באַפעל צו בויען דעם בית המקדש אין ירושלים. צו יענער צייט זיינען די צעבראָכענע שטיקלעך שטיינער פון די לוחות געוואָרן צוזאַמענגעשמאָלצן דורך צייט, רעגן און זון, אין איין גרויסן שטיין, וועלכער איז געניצט געוואָרן ווי איין ווינקלשטיין פאַר גאָטס הויז.

אַזוי האָבן די אַלע צעבראָכענע שטיקלעך שטיינער פון די לוחות ענדלעך אויסגעפילט זייער מיסיע, ווי גאָט האָט זיי פאַראויסגעזאָגט.

V-E Day event honours Jewish WWII vets

By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

VICTORIA — On May 8, the 62nd anniversary of the end of the war in Europe, some 200 people gathered at Victoria's Congregation Emanu-El to honour Jewish veterans of World War II living on Vancouver Island.

Among them were 80 high school students, at least 20 veterans and members of the Jewish community. They came for a VE-Day program that included a musical presentation, an address by B.C. Lieut.-Gov. Iona Campagnolo and by one of the Jewish veterans, as well as an opportunity to see an exhibit of wartime memorabilia donated by the Jewish veterans and their families.

The event was the result of the tireless work of Janna Ginsberg, one of the congregation members.

Two years ago, she happened to be visiting Calgary at the time that the Jewish Veterans' Lounge was opening, and her eye fell on a volume titled *Book of Remembrance*, which listed the names of the Jewish veterans who fought in wars of the 20th century.

"I looked for my father's name and found his and those of my uncles," Ginsberg recalled. "I realized that this was a very important book, and I thought that people in Victoria should see it."

From that realization, the idea of honouring Jewish veterans of the war living on Vancouver Island germinated, along with *Valour & Duty*, a book that pays tribute to their heroism.

Ginsberg began by placing postings in local papers seeking Jewish veterans, and she made contact with several. She raised $6,000 from local donations, found a publisher and set to work.

"This may be the last opportunity for people to connect to these veterans, who are in their 80s and 90s now," she said.

Ginsberg connected with the University of Victoria's Oral History Project and was able to record interviews with Jewish veterans, 14 of which were included in the book, each one highlighted on a double page with images.

Creating *Valour & Duty* was an exercise in co-operation, one in which all the puzzle pieces fitted together naturally.

For example, Ginsberg located a graphic designer who agreed to do the graphics, logo and design work for the book free of charge.

"His name is Joe Hedges and though he's in his 30s, he has a love of World War II. He gave up his fee for the graphic design work and did this for us on the house," she said.

Five hundred copies of *Valour & Duty* were printed, and many of them were handed out at the May 8 ceremony.

Additional copies of *Valour & Duty* are available, by donation, online at www.congregation-emanu-el.org.

Also in attendance at the VE-Day event was Victoria Mayor Alan Lowe, who declared May 8 to be "Honouring Jewish Veterans of World War II Day" in Victoria.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT: Kitty Cohen, 94, who dances with the Bubbies and Zaidies, a singing, dancing and comedy troupe for seniors, shows off some of her moves. For the past 20 years, the Bubbies and Zaidies, directed by Arye Rothman, has entertained at local nursing and retirement homes in the Toronto area. Musical director Tom Weiss says members range in age from 65 to 94, and the troupe welcomes new members. They serve as role models to their audiences, Weiss says, "because people see it's never too late to start a 'show-business career.' " Aspiring members willing to practise weekly at Earl Bales Community Centre and perform twice a month can call Weiss at 416-663-7085 or Rothman at 647-218-2468. [Carolyn Blackman photos]

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

MAYMAN/SEROTA

Sloane is delighted to announce the birth of her little sister,
Tanys Jade Harper Mayman, a.k.a. Sweetie Weetie
on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Her Hebrew name is **Talia Yafit Hadas**, in loving memory of Alana's maternal great-great Aunty Thelma Mandel and David's grandfather Joseph Mayman. Parents Alana and David are over the moon. Overjoyed grandparents are Evette and Ken Serota and Marion and Shlomo Mayman. Four time great-grandparents are Rena and Max Fronenberg and Belle and Alex Serota. Aunty Mere and Uncle Alex have reached new heights of spoiling. Aunty Phoebe will reserve judgement until she finds out how generous Tanys is with her food.

The Shefa and Oziel families are thrilled to announce the recent engagement of Sheri & Isaac. Mazel tov and all the best to the happy couple!

Happy 65th Anniversary Shija & Janet Berger. Love from your children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren.

Mazel tov to Danielle & Adam on their engagement. Love, Shirley & Joseph Moussa, Carolyn & Stephen Feldman. Grandparents, Sara & Saul Marmurek, Irene Moussa, Gerry Goldstein.

Mazel Tov Jaimie Gabrielle Herzog on the occasion of your bat mitzvah. With love, Mom, Dad, Lauren and Jesse, Bubbie Marilyn & Zaidy Al Foreman.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return.
Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments,
1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205,
North York, ON. M3B 3K4.
or email: cblackman@cjnews.com

JNF
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416-638-7200

What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

CJN DATING
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JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New deadlines: Monday, May 28, is the deadline for the June 7 issue and Monday, June 4, is the deadline for the June 14 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, May 24

DOING JEWISH

Solel Congregation of Mississauga continues "Doing Jewish" through June 14 for anyone interested in learning about Jewish holidays, life cycles, Shabbat or High Holy Days. To register and for information and directions, call **Carol** at 905-820-5915.

Saturday, May 26

B'NAI SHALOM SERVICES

Join B'Nai Shalom, an egalitarian Conservative synagogue in the Mississauga/Oakville/Burlington area, for our monthly Shabbat service followed by kiddush and conversation. 10 a.m. For location, e-mail info@bnaishalom.ca or call **Judi** at 905-469-4344.

SUNNYBROOK SHABBAT

Join the Beth Emeth Brotherhood for Sunnybrook Shabbat, honouring Jewish War Veterans. Services 9 a.m. in the Sunnybrook Chapel. 416-633-3838

Sunday, May 27

WALK WITH D.A.N.I.

D.A.N.I., Developing And Nurturing Independence, invites individuals with special needs in the Jewish community, families and supporters to walk with them on the UJA Federation Walk With Israel. Meet under the D.A.N.I. banner at 9:30 a.m. at Coronation Park, partial shuttle option available. 905-731-6606

WINGATE MEETING

The Wingate Branch Royal Canadian Legion all-members breakfast meeting will be held at 9:15 a.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. 416-782-5024

SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Join Walk and Talk Etc., a walking club for Jewish singles 50+, to discover Colonel Samuel Smith Park. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Power Plant, 1 Col. Sam Smith Park Dr., Lakeshore Blvd. W. and Kipling Ave. walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

JOY FIELDING

Club Tamar Na'amat hosts "Breakfast with **Joy Fielding**," 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre. $36. Reserve, 416-636-5425.

YARD AND ART SALE

Support SickKids at a sale of original art, boutique items, children's clothing, toys and more. 196 Lisa Cres. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

SINGLES MIX & MINGLE

Jewish singles 50+ are invited to meet and socialize. 5:30 p.m. Call **David**, 416-781-7947 for info.

Tuesday, May 29

BORCHIVER MEMORIAL

Join JVS Toronto and pay homage to **Dr. Ruth Borchiver** at a memorial service. 7 p.m. at Bialik Hebrew Day School. To say a few words of tribute, contact **Silvana Adair**, at 416-787-1151, ext. 263, or sadair@jvstoronto.org.

SAR-EL INFO MEETING

Find out about the Sar-El program, civilian volunteers working on Israeli army supply/maintenance bases. 7:30 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089 or www.sarelcanada.org

STUDY W/ RABBI STROH

Rabbi Michael Stroh begins a four-week spring course tonight and every Tuesday through June 19, 7:30 p.m. at Temple Har Zion. Non-members $5. 905-889-2252

Wednesday, May 30

CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW

Temple Emanu-El begins a six-week conversational Hebrew class, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Members $180, non-members $240. To register, call 416-449-3880.

Continued on page 29

Feeling depressed or low?
Age 60 or over?

Doctors at the Research Centre for Aging and the Brain at Baycrest are conducting depression studies, and are looking for participants who are:
- age 60 or over
- currently depressed with symptoms such as:
  - low mood
  - lack of motivation or interest
  - memory problems
  - poor appetite, sleep or energy

Eligible participants will receive a thorough mood assessment and compensation for time and travel expenses.

For more information,
call 416-785-2500 ext 3082.

Baycrest
Enriching Care
Enhancing Knowledge
Enlightening Minds

Research Centre for Aging and the Brain

JNF
Jewish National Fund
Of Toronto
is pleased to present
The Singing Soldiers
of the Israel Defense Forces
Tuesday, June 19, 7:30 p.m.
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue
(Sanctuary)
100 Elder Street
Admission: Students $18 Adults $36
For tickets, please call: Sheila 416-638-7200 ext. 30
e-mail: sheila.krone@jnf-canada.org

Continued from page 28

NCJW 50TH REUNION

The Study and Service Branch of National Council of Jewish Women invite members past and present to share memories and enjoy one another's company at a 50th anniversary reunion. 7:30 p.m. at 5444 Yonge St. For info, call 416-789-5973.

GENEALOGICAL MEETING

Stanley Diamond speaks on "JRI-Poland: What's New in Jewish Records Indexing," an online searchable database at a Jewish Genealogical Society meeting. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Non-members $5. www.jgstoronto.ca

MUSIC OF CHARLES HELLER

Beth Emeth Synagogue will honour their choir director **Charles Heller** upon his retirement with an evening of Jewish music with **Cantor Aaron Bensoussan** as MC. 7:30 p.m. Reception following. Tickets, $36 and $20. Call 416-633-3838 to reserve.

FILM: *EVER AGAIN*

National Council of Jewish Women presents *Ever Again*, a film examining the resurgence of anti-Semitism and terrorism. 8 p.m. at 4700 Bathurst St. $10, non-members $15. 416-633-5100 or info@ncjwc-ts.org

Other News

STUDY WITH ILANA SOBER

Mekorot offers "The Splitting of David's Kingdom," with **Ilana Sober**. The course will use biblical texts to explore the events and personalities that led to the splitting of David and Solomon's kingdom into two, Israel and Judah. Men and women welcome. Mondays, May 28 to June 11, 8-9:30 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation and Thursdays, May 31 to June 14, 10-11:30 a.m. at Ulpanat Orot High School. Info and registration, 416-877-2050.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The Chai Folk Ensemble, North America's oldest and largest folk dance ensemble, performs "A Celebration of Life" concert in support of Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada. Thursday, May 31, 7:30 p.m. at Toronto Centre for the Arts. Ticket $50, call 905-695-0611.

SHABBAT CELEBRATION

Single young professionals ages 24-35, celebrate Shabbat, Friday, June 1, 8 p.m. Free. For location and to reserve, contact 416-835-5899 or nuritmosko@hotmail.com.

ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL

Join Canadian Zionist Federation for an all-day outdoor festival celebrating the sights, sounds, tastes and spirit of Israel. Sunday, June 3, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Earl Bales Park. 416-633-3988

WOMEN AND JUDAISM

Join Kolel for the "National Conference on Women and Judaism" featuring speakers and workshops. June 3-4 at the BJCC. $265, students $159. For info and registration, 416-636-1880, ext. 385 or www.kolel.org.

GOLF TOURNAMENTS

Temple Har Zion holds its 10th annual Mixed Golf Classic on Monday, June 4, at the Wooden Sticks Golf Club. Info, **Karen Grimm**, 905-889-2252, ext. 4.

Beth Emeth Synagogue's second annual golf tournament takes place at the Sleepy Hollow Golf Club on Tuesday, June 5. Contact 416-633-3838 for info or aviva@beby.org to register.

LECTURE SERIES

Temple Sinai Social Club presents the Food for Thought lecture series beginning Monday, June 4, 2 p.m., with **Ian Scott** on "How to Become an Opera Buff in 45 Minutes"; Monday, June 11, 7:30 p.m, **Dov Altman** moderates a discussion after screening the film *Obsession*; Monday, June 18, 2 p.m. **Jeffery Kopstein** on "Growing Apart? America and Europe in 21st Century"; Tuesday, June 26, 1 p.m. **Dr. Marcel Danesi** on "Body Language." Members $20, guests $30, Individual sessions $7 and $10. Registration, 416-487-3281.

IMAGINE FINDING A CURE

Come out to the second annual "Imagine a Cure for Leukemia" event, Thursday, June 7, 8 p.m. at the Capitol Event Theatre. Tickets, $50 in advance, $60 at the door. Visit www.imagineacureforleukemia.com.

BAYCREST CLINIC DAY

Baycrest hosts Clinical and Ethical Issues in Geriatric and Long-Term Care, a clinic day of lectures and workshops on geriatric practice for family physicians and allied care professionals. Friday, June 8, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. For info and registration call, 416-785-4215.

VENDORS WANTED

The 11th annual Festival On Bloor co-sponsored by the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, on Sunday, June 10, 12-6 p.m., has space for additional vendors. For information, contact **Suzanne**, 416-924-6211, ext. 121, or suzannel@mnjcc.org.

EXHIBIT AND AUCTION

Support the Hospital for Sick Children at the Petroff Gallery's Tea Four Two Exhibition and Celebrity Auction. Teapots created by artists and celebrities. Through June 10. Visit gallery or online at www.sickkidsauction.com.

THEATRE AUDITIONS

Teatron Jewish Theatre is seeking actors for *Conversations With My Father* by **Herb Gardner**, Nov. 21 to Dec. 2, and *Chaim's Love Song* by **Marvin Chernoff**, Feb. 27 to March 9, 2008. Auditions for both plays take place May 29 and 31; callbacks June 5 and 7. For an audition, contact teatron@sympatico.ca or 416-781-5527.

Medina Theatre Ensemble are holding auditions for actors 40 to 75 years old for a staged reading performance of *Social Security* by Andrew Bergman. Monday, June 4, 7 p.m. at Earl Bales Community Centre. RSVP, **Roselle**, 416-633-2057 or **Lois**, 416-781-8076.

EATING DISORDERS SUPPORT

Eating Disorders of York Region provides services, education, support groups for families and friends of individuals who are affected by eating disorders. Join them Thursday evenings 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Thornhill Square Mall, 300 John St., Suite 271. For information, contact 416-576-0457 or visit www.edoyr.com.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna**, ext. 215.

One Family, Two Homes: A three-session series for families experiencing separation and divorce. Children participate in separate age-appropriate groups. Begins Thursday. May 31, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

When You're About to Separate – What to Tell The Kids: A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation on how to best meet your child's needs. Tuesday, June 5, 9:30 a.m.-noon.

High Conflict Divorce: A workshop for parents who wish to lessen the impact of divorce on their children. Tuesday, June 5, 6:30-9 p.m.

All programs at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Temple Sinai Social Club hosts the North Toronto Community Band playing concert band music, including Souza, Webber and Berlin. Sunday, May 27, 7:30 p.m. $5, guests $7. RSVP **Marcie**, 416-487-3281.

Chai Shalom Social Club invite all paid-up membership to an evening with violinist **Michael Ziskind** and singer/guitarist **Igor Bouts**. Tuesday, May 29, 7:30 p.m. New members welcome. For info, call 416-633-3838.

Holy Blossom Lunch and Learn presents From Bowery to Broadway, with **Gordon Bean**, Wednesday, May 30, 12:30 p.m. $2. Bring dairy lunch, drinks provided. RSVP, 416-789-3291, ext. 233.

Earl Bales Seniors Club In The Park. Sunday Dance, June 3, non-members welcome. Fallsview Casino Niagara, Thursday, May 31, and June 28. Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 13. Scrabble, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Mah-jong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Bingo, Tuesdays, 12-3 p.m. Woodcarving, call **Dave Viner**, 416-398-1834. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Smile Theatre presents *Queen of the Mist* on Tuesday, May 29, 7 p.m. in the assembly room. No charge. Info, ext. 2297.

Wellness Lecture, "Sing Along for Your Health" with **Perry Foster, Alex Korn, Dorry Korn, Annette Till** and featuring **Kitty Cohen**. Wednesday, May 30, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Members free, guests $2.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Health Fair, Wednesday, May 30, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free.

Spend Thursday, May 31 at Betel: noon, Stories from the Heart; 1 p.m. Komedy Kabaret; 2 p.m. Classic Movies, $2.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Between Stages Playwright's Reading Series presents the 2006 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition winner, *Guess Who's Coming to Shabbat Dinner* by **Phil Pivnik,** Sunday, June 3, 2 p.m. Pay what you can. Info contact **Esther Arbeid** at ext. 606 or esthera@mnjcc.org.

Intensive Hebrew Grammar: Learn the Hebrew verb system – structures, types, to conjugate verbs in all tenses – and pronouns in four days while improving your vocabulary, June 4-7, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. or Aug. 13-16, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For info and registration, call ext. 0.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 26

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notice, please call
at least 15 DAYS
prior to the date of
the unveiling

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

To place any other family
related notice, please call
at least 10 DAYS
prior to the issue date

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
AHARON BARZILAY ז"ל
beloved Husband, Aba, Saba & Brother
will take place
Sunday, June 3rd at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section, Phase IV cccc
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ZELDA WOLFSON ז"ל
Beloved wife, mother, bubbie & sister,
will take place
Sunday, June 3rd, at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section, Section JJJJJ
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

Subscribe to The Canadian Jewish news

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late
NICHOLAS (MIKI) BARTON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 27th,
12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section CCC
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
honouring the memory of
FAY & JOSEPH GOLD ז"ל
beloved parents & grandparents
will take place
Sunday, May 27th,
10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Pultusker Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
to the loving memory of
ADELINE GAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 27th,
10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late
ALAN SLIWOWICZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 27th,
12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section, Phase IV
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

SOL KANEE ז"ל - OBITUARY NOTICE

Sol Kanee died peacefully at his home in Winnipeg on April 22, 2007 at the age of 97. Dubbed "Citizen Kanee" in a tribute article by the Winnipeg Free Press and "An Exemplary Citizen" by Ernest Sirluck, President of the University of Manitoba upon conferring an Honorary Doctorate, Sol Kanee led a remarkable life and left an extraordinary legacy that will touch generations to come.

He was born Soloman, the eldest of four siblings on June 1, 1909 in Melville, Saskatchewan to Sam and Rose Kanee. Moving with his family to Winnipeg in 1914, Sol graduated from St. John's High School, received a BA from the University of Manitoba in 1929 and entered the Manitoba Law School that same year. While at university he became a passionate and skilled member of the University Honor Society and the A.ZA. debating team and won many local, national and international contests with his two closest colleagues, Max Cohen and Sam Freedman. In addition he commenced a lifelong activity in Liberal Party politics and Jewish organizations.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Law from the University of Saskatchewan in 1932, he opened a practice in Melville and rejoined his family who had moved back earlier. On April 9, 1935 he married his lifelong love, Florence Barish.

At the outbreak of World War II he enlisted in an officer's training program, was promoted to Captain in 1942, stationed in England, and promoted to Major in 1943. He served as Artillery Battalion Commander at Canadian Military Headquarters in London until the end of the war. Invited to continue his military service at a higher rank he decided to return to Winnipeg and resume his law practice with Shinbane, Dorfman and Kanee.

With the death of his father in 1951, he left the practice to take over the Soo Line Milling Company founded by his father in 1939. In 1955 he converted the mill from conveyer belt to pneumatic drive, the first mill in the hemisphere to do so and to this day the standard for the industry.

Among his innumerable public service accomplishments are 17 years on the Board of Governors of the Bank of Canada, the longest sitting member in the bank's history, and Chairman of the Federal Business Development Bank from 1975 to 1978. For the city of Winnipeg he was Chairman of the Community Welfare Planning Council, the Society for Crippled Children and Adults, the United Way, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, for which he was instrumental in gaining its international reputation, the Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba (of which he was chair) and the Sharon Home where he followed in the footsteps of his father and brother Abe.

Sol Kanee's involvement with Jewish affairs spanned the local, national and international spheres. Under the mentorship of Samuel Bronfman, Sol rose through the ranks of the Canadian Jewish Congress to become president from 1971 to 1974. Under the mentorship of Nahum Goldman he assumed executive positions with the World Jewish Congress.

A passionate friend to and advocate for the state of Israel, in 1951 he persuaded C. D. Howe to not only sell arms but at reduced prices to Israel and later procured planes and cargo to supply relief to the young country. On the international scene, his was an important voice in securing reparations from Germany and in persuading the Russian government to ease its restriction on Russian Jews emigrating to Israel.

The recipient of countless honours, Sol Kanee was awarded the Centennial of Canada Medal in 1967, an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Manitoba in 1974, Officer of the Order of Canada in 1977, Companion of the Order, 1982, Canadian Jewish Congress Samuel Bronfman Medal in 1978, the International B'nai Brith Humanitarian Award in 1979, the Nahum Goldman Medal in 1995 and the Order of Manitoba in 2000.

The Winnipeg Jewish Community Council created the Sol Kanee Distinguished Service Medal in 1994, his long time friend Arthur Mauro founded the Sol Kanee Lecture on International Peace and Justice in 2002, and the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada created the Sol & Florence Kanee Distinguished Lecture Series in 2004.

Sol Kanee fully embraced his father's principle that all the good that is taken from the community must be paid back in kind. Sol Kanee repaid his city, his country, and the world far in excess of his fair share. His family, his fellow citizens and Jews everywhere will always be grateful.

He will be mourned by his sister Dr. Ricky Schachter of Toronto, his son Stephen and daughter-in-law MaryAnn Kanee, of Minneapolis, nieces Bonny Druxerman (Peter) of Toronto and Susan Reeker (Merle) of St. Louis, nephews Dr. Daniel Schachter (Anya) and Robert Kanee (Judy) of Toronto, Brian Kanee of Winnipeg, and countless friends.

Sol Kanee was laid to rest at Sharrey Zedek Cemetery in Winnipeg on April 25, 2007. Pallbearers were James Carr, Sydney Halpern, Norman Humby, Robert Kanee, Hon. Richard Kroft, and Mr. Justice Guy Kroft. Honourary Pallbearers were Sheldon and Penny Bowles, Edgar Bronfman, Charles Bronfman, Harold Buchwald, Hon. Saul Cherniak, Bryan Klien, Arthur Mauro, Sister Gerarda Pura, Kathleen Richardson, Hon. Duff Roblin, Rabbi Israel Singer and W. Terry Wright.

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OBITUARIES and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Goldstein, Teddy	May 2/07	5935 Bathurst St
Abramovitch, Lillian	May 4/07	755 Steeles Ave W
Mittelman, Desideriu	May 4/07	1 Geddes Crt
Klein, Israel Chaim	May 5/07	Private
Shapiro, Allen	May 6/07	15 Canyon Ave
Akoka, Farha	May 6/07	
Greenspan, Aron	May 7/07	33 Wilmington Ave
Guziker, Lillian	May 7/07	5935 Bathurst St
Brecher, Etti	May 8/07	Private
Deutsch, Jordana Malca	May 8/07	
Blumer, David Stanley	May 9/07	16 Donisi Ave
Katzberg, Susan	May 10/07	89 Hendel Dr
Odes, Darryl Lee	May 10/07	48 Lyndhurst Dr
Bossin, Rose	May 10/07	10250 Kennedy Rd

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Alan Elias	Apr 27/07	37 Tranby Ave
Bertha Lewis	Apr 27/07	155 Balmoral Ave
Sam Richmond	Apr 28/07	3560 Bathurst St
Mary Shull	Apr 28/07	3423 Rittenhouse Rd
Muriel Sversky	Apr 29/07	89 Apricot St
Elizabeth Deutch	Apr 29/07	3705 Bathurst St
Harold Freilick	Apr 29/07	43 Fontainbleau Dr
Reta Mann	Apr 29/07	2 Feldbar Ct
Lucy Markin	Apr 29/07	86 Brookview Dr
Olga Honig	Apr 29/07	355 St. Clair Av W #1404
Leon Weiss	Apr 30/07	31 Tichester Rd #206
Saul Reznick	May 1/07	7905 Bayview Av #520
Pearl Caplan	May 1/07	3560 Bathurst St
Max Szweras	May 1/07	1 Rean Dr, #2602
Belle Keystone	May 2/07	355 St Clair Av W #701
Lester Kurtzman	May 2/07	85 Skymark Dr #2301
Belle Weisberg	May 4/07	3560 Bathurst St, A746
Elizabeth Sykora	May 4/07	3560 Bathurst St
Ruth Cherns	May 5/07	42 Coldwater Crt
Fay Stolero	May 5/07	1085 Steeles Ave W #508
Manny Wrock	May 6/07	6 Marsh Harbour
Mark Polan	May 6/07	58 Timberlane Dr
Karol Altschuler	May 6/07	1 Benvenuto Pl #421
Jack Young	May 6/07	2075 Bayview (Vets Wing)
Batya Hebdon	May 7/07	354 St. Hubert St
Jack Halberstadt	May 7/07	7 Barristers Ct
Charles Fremes	May 7/07	38 Castlefield Av
Max Weinstein	May 8/07	3 Concord Pl, #605
Helen Skrobacky	May 8/07	550 Cummer Av
Barbara Tinianov	May 8/07	38 Crystal Dr
Lottie Goldenberg	May 9/07	10 Senlac Rd
Adele Rogow	May 9/07	80 Alexander St
Harry Rubenstein	May 9/07	55 Ameer Av
Leah Cohen	May 10/07	16 Kingsmere Rd
Charlotte Miller	May 12/07	86 Windsor Court Rd
Emma Allen	May 12/07	205 Cummer Ave E

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Manny Pinsky	Apr 27/07	2 Covington Rd, #1110
George Gordon	May 7/07	3560 Bathurst St (Apotex)
Archie Pearson	May 9/07	7 Concorde Pl, #2307

On Campus

Hillel students honoured at awards ceremony

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

More than 75 students were honoured for their contributions to Jewish student life at Hillel of Greater Toronto's annual awards night on May 10.

"From Jewish a cappella to Israel advocacy, to tzedakah work in developing nations, to high quality Jewish educational social programs, our students' passion for Jewish life shines through," said Rebecca Woods Baum, Hillel's Israel advocacy and education program co-ordinator.

Baum and program director Daniel Abramson organized and hosted the event.

"It's our annual night to honour students and their accomplishments," Abramson said. "It's pretty cool."

Usually, one student who made a significant impact in the last year receives the founding friend of campus award, said Abramson. This year, it was replaced with an award to honour the entire Tzedek Hillel program, a group that has done a significant amount of social justice work.

Members of the Hillel@York hockey team receive the Paisley Manor Insurance Brokers Award for Special Involvement in Jewish Campus Life. Pictured from left are Shawn Groyeski, Brian Gerskup and Daniel Mandelbaum.

Tzedek Hillel's trip to New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina was highlighted at the awards night.

Awards night organizers Rebecca Woods Baum and Daniel Abramson

Michelle Lackie, director of the Weinberg Tzedek Hillel program under Hillel International, came from Washington, D.C., to speak. Lackie has taken 1,600 Jewish college students to New Orleans to help rebuild the city.

"What's so important is getting your hands dirty, because by getting your hands dirty, you actually internalize what it means," she said.

The Weiss family, whose home was destroyed in the hurricane, came from New Orleans and spoke at the awards evening, thanking Hillel students for their contribution.

Brooke Weiss

"We've really turned our Katrina experience into a positive experience," said Brooke Weiss, who was there with her husband Brian and three daughters. "As much as you love your things, they are just things."

After receiving generous help and support that enabled the Weiss' to rebuild their lives, Brooke founded Project Starfish to help restore the city, because she felt she had to give back.

She spoke about how the idea of tzedakah and giving is taught to Jewish children at a young age, but that being on the other side of the issue is very different.

"You're not taught how to receive," she said. She and her husband shared their story and spoke about the need for support that is still pressing.

Zac Kaye, Hillel of Greater Toronto's executive director, said that a main goal for next year is to connect with more Jewish students. Currently, Hillel reaches 6,000 of the 18,000 Jewish students in Toronto, he said.

The awards evening took place at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life on the University of Toronto campus.

Outgoing Hillel of Greater Toronto presidents, from left, Kim Guigi, Jon Vandersluis, Adam Hummel, Noam Gilboard and Tom Yahel receive the Hillel of Greater Toronto Hadracha Award. **[Abigail Bimman photos]**

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Singer shares her journey with depression

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

If mental illness is a taboo, post-partum depression is a greater taboo, says singer-songwriter Amy Sky.

"It is embarrassing for a radiant mother to be depressed," says Sky, who suffered from post-partum depression after the birth of her two children, now teenagers.

Sky was awarded the 2006 Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) Courage to Come Back Award for her efforts in raising awareness about the infliction.

She has been spreading the word about post-partum depression, a biochemical hormonal upheaval that causes the brain to function in a distorted way, since revealing her struggles while performing at an Ontario Association of Mood Disorders function last year called Mad About You.

"If I was having trouble bringing information to the public, what could a private person do about it? I am a professional communicator, so I decided to jump in," said Sky at a recent lecture sponsored by the Lodzer Congregation adult education committee, chaired by Rabbi Matthew Kaufman.

The reaction from people has been one of overwhelming support and gratitude, she said. "One in five people suffer from mood disorders, but less than half present themselves for treatment. That figure is too low. Mental health issues are way more prevalent than professionals understand."

She thinks of mental health as a bike wheel, she said. "The more spokes that get knocked out, the more chance we have of being unbalanced."

When her daughter Zoe was born, she said, "I was exhausted, and I began having hallucinations and anxiety attacks. I became conscious of all the wires in my house, and I had an irrational fear that I would be electrocuted.

"My brain had split in two. One part was invested in my daughter's well-being and the other part wanted to check out."

In addition, she said, she was in constant physical discomfort. "Walking, standing and sitting was painful. The spokes in my wheel were [all] being knocked out."

This behaviour was out of keeping with her personality, she said. "I knew something was wrong, and my mother-in-law was the first person to suggest post-partum depression, but I thought 'me depressed?'"

She did consult a doctor, however, who confirmed that she had post-partum depression.

"I did not want to take anti-depressants because I was nursing, so I went back to bed and waited to feel normal again. Eventually I had more good days than bad, and life began to resume a normal rhythm."

When her son was born two years later, she said, she had a mild relapse of post-partum depression, and in 2000 she had a third bout of depression for which she did take anti-depressants. "They were like a magic bullet. Along with a complementary course of anxiety management and cognitive therapy, I was lifted out of my depression, and I was anxiety free. I was amazed. I realized that there is a whole other way of living day to day.

"Even after weaning myself off the anti-depressants, I continue to use the strategies I learned. Good nutrition, nutrition supplements and exercise have been my greatest allies.

"Once a person has a depressive episode, they are always a candidate for a relapse. Depression is a cancer of the soul – it needs to be treated with care."

It is essential for new mothers to have non-judgmental and informed support in the delicate period following birth, said Sky.

"The post-partum period is complemented by hormonal changes and lifestyle changes, and every woman is at risk."

Sky played her song *I Will Take Care of You* that came out before she went public with her depression. "I made a veiled reference to my depression in the first verse when the mother said to her child, "I'm just as scared as you."

She dreams of the day, she said, when it will not be distasteful to talk about a mood disorder. "I hope that by sharing my journey [I will motivate] anyone to seek help as they would seek help for a physical condition."

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ICRF fundraiser planned for May 29

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Philanthropist and businessman Andrew Faas, noted Hospital for Sick Children leukemia researcher Dr. Melvin Freedman and longtime Israel Cancer Research Fund supporters Vera and Larry Finkelstein will be the honorees at the ICRF's Gala 2007.

The event will be held May 29 at the Sheraton Centre, and popular singer Chantal Kreviazuk will give a special guest performance.

Both Faas and Freedman were humble about receiving the awards, but they said they recognize their significance.

"While I am uncomfortable with this [the award and all the publicity around it], what gives me comfort is the knowledge that my story may inspire others to do what they can to help others," Faas said.

In 2005, he was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia. He survived because of Eli Canaani, an Israeli molecular biologist who was instrumental in discovering the "Philadelphia chromosome," which is responsible for activating a cancer-causing protein.

Canaani's research was sponsored by the ICRF.

Subsequent scientific research resulted in the development of the drug Gleevec, which specifically blocks the Philadelphia chromosome on a molecular level.

Freedman, who confessed to feeling "grateful and very, very flattered" about receiving the award, said that "the support of Israeli cancer researchers is pivotal to advances in leukemia treatment."

For instance, he said, "In the late 1960s, lymphoblastic leukemia was a fatal disease. In 2007, up to 90 per cent of children are cured."

This could only have happened, because of "sustained, productive research year after year, decade after decade," added Freedman, a professor emeritus in SickKids' department of pediatrics.

The ICRF was founded in Montreal in 1975. In 1979, the Finkelsteins began the Toronto chapter.

Both Larry and Vera Finkelstein have been on the board ever since and have remained very active: Larry built the financial and electronic infrastructure of the organization, and Vera has served on many committees, both locally and internationally.

The ICRF describes itself as a major "source of private funds for innovative cancer research in Israel."

It has contributed more than $33 million (US) to more than 1,600 research grants involving major hospitals, universities and cancer research projects.

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Police prepare for possible Qassam strike on Ashkelon

By **HAIM BIOR** and **MIJAL GRINBERG**
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ASHKELON — The southern district police commander said last Friday that police were taking steps to prepare for a Qassam strike on the southern city of Ashkelon.

Commander Uri Bar-Lev said police have been placed on high alert in Ashkelon and have expanded their presence in the city and in communities near the Gaza Strip.

Three Sderot residents were lightly wounded and several people were treated for shock Friday morning when a Qassam rocket fired by Palestinian militants in Gaza hit a residential building in the Negev town.

The rocket was one of at least nine to hit the western Negev on Friday. Another rocket caused a fire in a field in Sha'ar Hanegev.

The rocket fire intensified last week, sparking an Israel Defense Forces operation in the Gaza Strip that began Thursday.

Palestinians fired some 30 rockets against Israel last Thursday, and about the same number on Tuesday. One of the rockets fired on Thursday slammed into a high school on the outskirts of Sderot, lightly wounding two people. Two others were wounded Tuesday, with one left in moderate to serious condition.

Hamas' military wing announced that it would execute anyone who tries to interfere with the rocket fire on Israel, Israel Radio reported Friday.

Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday that Israel's government has a duty to protect the town and evacuate its citizens.

Residents of Sderot observe some of the damage to their community caused by the barrage of Qassam rockets launched at them last week by Hamas. [Israel Sun photo]

Netanyahu said the evacuation of Sderot's citizens is the job of the government, not of a tycoon. He was referring to Russian-born Israeli businessman Arcadi Gaydamak, who privately funded the evacuation of 1,600 citizens on Wednesday and their accommodation in hotels.

Netanyahu reiterated that only military measures will end the rocket attacks.

He said comprehensive military action is required to gain control of the areas in Gaza where the Qassams are being fired from, but that the government has no such long-term plan.

Asked whether he believes a ground operation in Gaza would require a continued military presence in Gaza, he said this was not a concern for him.

"There would be no reason for the IDF to stay in Gaza, just as they didn't stay in south Lebanon after the Second Lebanon War," Netanyahu said.

"More pressure needs to be put on the Palestinians," he added.

The Ministry for Immigrant Absorption and local municipalities have cooperated to arrange hotel rooms for hundreds of evacuees from Sderot across the country, from Tiberias on the shores of Lake Kinneret in the north to Israel's southernmost town, Eilat.

Ten busloads of residents left Sderot on Friday and another 20 buses were scheduled to depart on Saturday evening.

Ministry director, Erez Halfon, said, "We are implementing a range of activities for Sderot residents and will provide financial aid and holidays for families and victims of shock."

Qassam fire last week caused an estimated $17 million (US) in damage to industry in Sderot and the western Negev, the Manufacturers Association of Israel said last Thursday.

Some 85 per cent of the 40 large factories operating in the western Negev are suffering from employee absences since last week's increased hostilities, according to Yehuda Segev, director general of the association.

He added that according to an association survey, 92 per cent of industrial factories in the area have reported that they are unable to hire temporary employees to replace their regular workers who have left. Twenty-five per cent of the industries have moved their offices to safer regions, and 25 per cent have also said that they have seen a drop in local orders.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert visited Sderot on Thursday and told residents that the government will stand firm and work to reduce the rocket attacks.

Olmert's spokesperson Miri Eisin said the prime minister told Sderot residents during a visit lasting several hours that "we have to stand strong" and pledged government help.

Western officials ask Israel to help Abbas fight Hamas

By **ALUF BENN**
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Western security officials have asked Israel to give Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas the tools he needs to fight Hamas – first and foremost, the ability to pay his security services' salaries.

The request came after the security officials said forces loyal to Abbas fought well in a battle against Hamas men near the Karni crossing on May 15, contrary to reports in the Israeli media.

The officials said Abbas' loyalists showed courage and resolution in thwarting an attack by a larger, better-armed and better-trained Hamas force. They said two different forces of Abbas loyalists had co-operated to ward off the attack, despite heavy losses.

"The soldiers did as they had been trained and overcame a larger, better-equipped force, although they were from two different units, and despite the fact that the commander of one unit had been killed and the commander of the other was not in the area," one of the western officials said.

Israel's security establishment, however, is still divided over whether to help Abbas fight Hamas, with opponents arguing that Fatah has already lost in any case.

Though several Arab states have promised Abbas money, only the United Arab Emirates has delivered.

JNF

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We are pleased to welcome the following new Board members: Ruth Freeman, Ira Kuchinsky, Robin Mader, Marion Mayman, Brian Pearl, Mitchell Shnier, and Wendy Spatzner.

Immediate Past-Presidents: Sandra Posluns, Naomi Frankenburg, Sid Halpern, Allan I. Posluns.

We extend our grateful appreciation to those who have served on the **National Board in 2006**: Myrna Yazer *(Halifax)*, Josie Finestone *(Ottawa)*, Marilyn Berg, Ziona Cowan, Susan Stronell, *(Toronto)*, Allan Richman *(London)*, Jerry Adler *(Vancouver)*.

Israel Briefs

IAF strikes Hamas

A senior Israel Defence Forces official said May 18 that the military would continue attacking Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip for as long as necessary, but expressed reservations regarding an extensive ground operation at this time. At least 10 Palestinians, most of them Hamas operatives, had been killed in Israeli air strikes as of last Friday. Palestinian militants fired some 70 Qassam rockets at the western Negev last week, causing several injuries. Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni told dozens of diplomats at a briefing in Tel Aviv that Israel is not prepared to tolerate continued Qassam fire on the Negev. She said Israel attempted to advance peace by withdrawing from Gaza in 2005, but must now exert pressure on the extremists there.

OECD invites Israel

Israel is in talks to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The OECD, which fosters free-market democracies, said it had invited Israel and several other countries to enter membership talks. Israel hailed the overture as a nod to its recent economic progress. "This is a step that expresses confidence in the Israeli economy, in its strength and in its ability to develop," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said in a statement. Negotiations are expected to take about 18 months, during which time Israel will need to bring its economic regulations in line with those of the OECD.

Plot to kill Olmert

A Palestinian employee of Doctors Without Borders is suspected of planning to assassinate Ehud Olmert. Jerusalem District Court charged the 25-year-old Gaza man with hatching a plot on the Israeli prime minister's life in collaboration with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terrorist group.

Israel warns Ukraine

Israel's ambassador in Kiev said the activities of a Ukrainian university with a history of anti-Semitism could damage Ukrainian-Israeli relations. Zina Kalai-Kleitman urged Ukraine to curb the anti-Semitic activities of MAUP, a private business-type school that in recent years has become the major source of anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli activity and publications in Ukraine."We want only positive dynamics in Israeli-Ukrainian relations, but this unhealthy issue can have a negative influence" on relations, Kalai-Kleitman told a news conference in Kiev.

- JTA and Ha'aretz

Young people 'do Jewish' their way

By ARI Y. KELMAN
JTA

Opinion

For many younger American Jews, American Jewry looks like this:

- Synagogues are for people with children. And they're generally uninspiring.
- JCCs are for people with children. And they don't have great gyms, either.
- Federations only want my money. Then they want me to be quiet.
- This Jewish organization wants to tell me how I ought to be Jewish.
- That Jewish organization wants to tell me I should be having children sooner rather than later (and with whom I should be having them).
- I can't even talk about Israel.

Whether or not this impression of American Jewry is accurate is, of course, a matter of opinion. What is not up for debate is that young American Jews who remain single later in life are responding to these perceptions with a wave of cultural and organizational creativity that American Jewry has not experienced since the early part of the 20th century. They are inventing new communal outlets and projects that reflect their individuality and commitment to living meaningful Jewish lives.

In Los Angeles, hundreds of young Jews belong to IKAR, a "community" that blends spirituality with social justice. Out of New York, Reboot publishes the quarterly literary magazine *Guilt & Pleasure*, building communities of readers who use articles as the basis for salons. Across North America, the music label JDub Records has built communities of fans who are drawn to the "Jewish sensibilities" of its artists.

These are just three notable examples of a movement that has been quietly gaining momentum for more than a decade.

Many traditionalists and Jews from older generations view this phenomenon as a disintegration of American Jewish life because they believe these new efforts are not serious enough to foster meaningful Jewish life.

"The music is fine," they say, "but is it enough to shoulder the burden of identity?"

Rather than concluding that these new endeavours are weak or competing versions of existing institutions, we would do better to understand them as expressing an alternative vision of what Jewish communities can look like and how they can serve the needs of their members.

A hundred years ago, young immigrants built the American Jewish infrastructure that we have today – from American Jewish centres to landsmanshaften to nightclubs and shuls. Now we are seeing smaller, more localized but no less provocative efforts by people younger than 40 to rejuvenate, engage, practise and live Jewish lives organized on their own terms.

In cities across the country, they are creating their own minyanim instead of joining synagogues. They are writing and publishing their own journals instead of just subscribing to existing ones. They are playing their own music, putting out records and producing their own concerts. They are hosting salons and movie screenings. They are involved in the creation of Jewish life that is thoughtful, popular and exists largely on the margins of mainstream Jewish organizational life.

These new endeavours do not look like their predecessors because they are responding to the perception that the offerings of synagogues, federations and JCCs are simply too narrow and do not adequately address the diverse needs of American Jews.

This translates also into practice, as the organizations typically resist anything hierarchical, denominational, exclusionary or judgmental. This resistance is partially a critique of mainstream Jewish organizations and partially an expression of deeply held beliefs in pluralism, as well as an understanding of the fluidity of identity in general.

These are some of the lessons that Steven M. Cohen and I address in *The Continuity of Discontinuity*, our newly published study on this phenomenon. In the study, we explore the ways in which these new organizations represent a response to institutional Jewish life by offering a variety of responses to it.

The organizations we highlight – and there are many more across the country – are the result of creative, thoughtful, dissatisfied people who had no desire to join committees, take over sisterhoods or participate in the young leadership branch of local or national communal organizations. But they understood that the landscape of Jewish life could sustain a greater diversity of organizations and experiences.

Today there is much communal anxiety over the behaviours, attitudes and activities of American Jews between 18 and 35. Members of that age cohort are not following their elders into the halls of existing institutions, a situation that could threaten these institutions.

But what we are seeing is not the loss of Jewish practice in North America. We are seeing young people who want to build something new that follows a different vision of what an institution can be and that will cater in a different way to the needs of American Jews for meaningful Jewish engagement.

In so doing they are not simply mimicking extant communal structures. They are building on the margins where people may think it strange to support ritual theatre or a salon or a record label, but where the future of Jewish life is being built.

Ari Y. Kelman is an assistant professor of American studies at the University of California at Davis. The Continuity of Discontinuity, *by Kelman and Steven M. Cohen, was commissioned by the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies and can be downloaded at: http://acbp.net/pub/Continuity%20of%20Discontinuity.pdf.*

Poll: 71% of Israelis want U.S. to strike Iran if talks fail

By ALUF BENN
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JERUSALEM — Fully 71 per cent of Israelis believe that the United States should launch a military attack on Iran if diplomatic efforts fail to halt Tehran's nuclear program, according to a new poll.

The survey, commissioned by Bar-Ilan University's BESA Center and the Anti-Defamation League, found that 59 per cent of Israelis still believe the war in Iraq was justified, while 36 per cent take the opposite view.

Some 65 per cent believe that the United States is a loyal ally of Israel, with only 11 per cent saying the opposite. A slightly higher proportion, 73 per cent, described U.S. President George W. Bush as friendly. Forty-eight per cent attributed U.S. support for Israel to strategic considerations, while 30 per cent credited American Jewry and 17 per cent cited shared values and a shared democratic tradition.

Regarding America's importance to Israel, there was near consensus: 91 per cent said that close relations with the United States are vital to Israel's security. Some 51 per cent of respondents predicted that the United States will ultimately impose an agreement on Israel and the Palestinians, while 43 per cent disagreed.

Meanwhile, UN weapons inspectors say Iran has the knowledge necessary to enrich uranium.

"We believe they pretty much have the knowledge about how to enrich," Mohamed El Baradei, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told the *New York Times* last week. "From now on it is simply a question of perfecting that knowledge. People will not like to hear it, but that's a fact."

Inspectors found 1,300 centrifuges in use after a short-notice inspection at the Natanz nuclear facility on May 13. Iran insists its program is peaceful, but weapons inspectors say it's geared toward manufacturing a bomb.

Israel has long insisted that the time for international action is not when Iran actually builds a bomb, but when it masters the technology to enrich uranium that could be used to build one. The United States and others say the danger point is when Iran is close to making a bomb, which could take several more years.

With files from JTA

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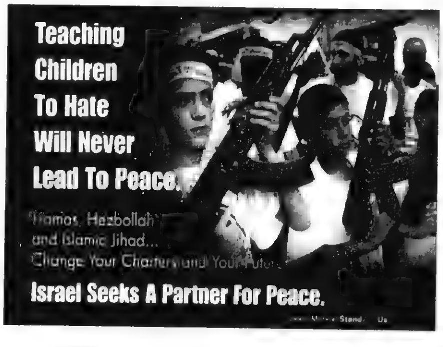
Pro-Israel group launches Washington, D.C., poster campaign

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter


Teaching Children To Hate Will Never Lead To Peace.
Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad...
Change Your Charters and Your Future
Israel Seeks A Partner For Peace.

A StandWithUs pro-Israel, Washington, D.C., subway poster.

A Washington, D.C. anti-Israel subway poster campaign launched earlier this month will not go unchallenged.

As reported in *The CJN* on April 26, a group called the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation (ETO) received permission from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to place posters in 20 of its subway stations.

The ETO posters advertise Israel as a "brutal military" occupier, financed by "U.S. taxpayers like you" and depict an imposing tank bearing down upon a child with a schoolbag, walking along a dirt road.

The ads started running on May 13 and last for four weeks, culminating in a June 10 rally to end "Israel's illegal military occupation" of Palestine.

In response, a Los Angeles-based, Pro-Israel advocacy group, Stand With Us (SWU), announced last week that it would run a counter-campaign using two posters "teaching Palestinian children peace instead of hate, and urging Palestinian extremists to reform."

Roz Rothstein, international director for SWU, told *The CJN* by phone from Los Angeles last week, "[ETO's posters] are all one-sided propaganda."

The SWU started running two counter-posters last week. They'll run concurrently in the same subway stations to "counter the misinformation" of the ETO campaign until June 11, Rothstein said.

The first poster depicts Palestinian children carrying machine guns and declares, "Teaching children to hate will never lead to peace. Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad… change your charters and your future. Israel seeks a partner for peace."

Rothstein said her organization was very concerned when they learned about the ETO campaign.

"[ETO's] intention is to demonize Israel and they're misinforming people… saying Israel is a hate- and warmonger," Rothstein said. "People don't really understand the backdrop. We wanted to make sure people understand that… Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad are training their children to kill."

SWU's second ad shows a Palestinian militant dressed in combat fatigues, carrying a gun in one hand and holding a gun-toting toddler dressed in military attire in the other.

The poster reads like a multiple choice questionnaire and asks readers to ponder whether the child will become a doctor, teacher or "terrorist," with a checkmark next to the terrorist option.

Stand With Us' website posts the charters of the PLO, Hamas and Hezbollah, highlighting each document's call for battle with Israel and lamenting their lack of peaceful content.

"Israel is not fighting children," Rothstein said in the SWU press release. "It is defending itself against extremists like Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad whose charters call for Israel's obliteration and whose terrorist attacks target civilians, including school children and toddlers."

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, president of Washington-based pro-Israel think tank, the Israel Project, told *The CJN* in April that her organization expected the ETO ads to have "minimum impact."

While the Israel Project did not launch a campaign of its own, last week Laszlo Mizrahi told *The CJN* via e-mail that her organization welcomed the SWU ads.

"While the [ETO] campaign was poorly done and did not require a response, it is always… [good] to do things to build support for Israel in America's capital," she wrote. "If we had done ads we would have focused fully on Israel's commitment to peace… [and] the StandWithUs ads do say that."

She added: "It is important to remind people around the world that Israel is dedicated to achieving peace. That's why Israel withdrew from land, such as the Sinai, Gaza and Lebanon, in the hope of achieving lasting peace."

CBS Outdoor, the New York-based firm that places in-station advertising for WMATA, at first refused to consider the ETO ad, citing them as inflammatory, but eventually relented to pressure from WMATA and the American Civil Liberties Union to comply with freedom of speech rights.

This time around, CBS Outdoor first sent the pro-Israel ads to WMATA for review before posting them in the subway.

"We had no problem getting our posters up," Rothstein said. "Whatever the problems were… they paved the way for us to put our ads up."

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Pamper yourself with a full-service spa treatment

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Spa Life

Since opening in February 2001, the Mandara Spa at Atlantis has become so popular that it quickly outgrew its original premises and recently opened a new facility in the popular resort Atlantis Paradise Island, in the Bahamas. The two-storey, 30,000-square-foot facility is adjacent to the hotel's Royal Towers.

The design is contemporary and Balinese in style and the décor highlights natural elements such as bamboo, wood and stone.

"Our goal here at the Mandara is to create a magnificent setting of lush gardens and mobile water that is peaceful and enjoyable," says Tammy Clarke, group supervisor for the Mandara Spa at Atlantis. "We have created this with flowing waterfalls at the entrance.

The Atlantis Paradise Island in the Bahamas

"The Mandara Spa itself originated in Bali. What we have done is bring traditions of exotic culture here to the Atlantis and with our traditional European spa therapies we have introduced natural spices, fruits and minerals indigenous to The Bahamas. We've melded them together to provide the ultimate rejuvenating experience for our guests."

The products used in the spa include Elem, the skin and body line from England; La Thérapie corrective products from France; and OPI for nails from California. For hair and barbering treatments, the stylists use Alternaits from Beverly Hills.

The Japanese Silk Booster Facial helps fine lines and wrinkles and improves elasticity. [K.Kates photos]

Services for men and women include facials, body treatments, massages, manicures, pedicures, hairstyling and barbering.

Signature treatments include the La Thérapie Hydralift Facial, an anti-aging corrective skin care treatment using galvanic stimuli and an anti-bacterial ozone wand. The Japanese Silk Booster Facial uses an actual mask made of silk impregnated with pro-collagen serums to help fine lines and wrinkles and to improve elasticity in the skin.

Packages include Cleito's Tropical Tryst, starting with the Elemis Exotic Coconut Rub and Milk Ritual Wrap, an Elemis Deep Tissue Muscle Massage, La Thérapie Hydralift Facial, and ending with the Deluxe Tropical Manicure and Pedicure.

"For the gentlemen, we have Poseidon's Awakening. It includes a Caribbean Coffee Body Scrub and a choice of the Sports Massage, Elemis Deep Tissue Muscle Massage or Swedish Massage. After the massage, we pamper the man with an Elemis Aromapure Facial and end with our Gentlemen's Manicure/Pedicure. About 25 per cent of our capture rate at the spa is men," Clarke says.

The Gentle Touch Tooth Whitening is gaining popularity at the Mandara. Clarke says it's the quickest and most cost-effective tooth whitening system available today. The treatment uses FDA approved non-toxic gel, and after the 45-minute session, your teeth can be up to four shades whiter.

"For our mature clients we have the Elemis Pro-Collagen Marine Facial. It helps with the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. It helps with the signs of premature aging because it includes a pro-collagen booster serum. It also includes an eye treatment," Clarke says.

There are 300 employees at the Mandara Spa. There are 12 manicure and pedicure stations, four hairstylists, one master stylist and one men's barber. The new facilities include 45 lounge seats, 31 single rooms, four couples' rooms, two spa suites and one boutique service room. There is a retail boutique and display area.

Both men and women will have a "taking the water" bathing experience. Each boasts of a sauna, steam, cold plunge, hot whirlpool, Asian showers and ultra-comfortable chaise lounges.

The spa is only open to adult guests of the Atlantis.

The Atlantis has 2,900 guest accommodations, 35 restaurants, bars and lounges, and a spacious, bustling casino. A big draw is the 20 million gallons of fresh and salt water pools, lagoons, amazing water adventures, cascading waterfalls and a marine habitat. There are 50,000 live water creatures staying at the Atlantis including barracudas, piranhas and sharks.

WestJet Vacations makes it easier to get to the Mandara Spa at Atlantis offering three flights per week directly from Toronto to Nassau.

Atlantis guests wanting spa reservations should call 242-363-2000, ext. 65900, or go online to Atlantis.com or MandaraSpa.com. To book an Atlantis/WestJet package go online to www.westjet.com. For online information on travel in the Bahamas, go to www.bahamas.com.

Kathryn Kates was a guest of WestJet Vacations.

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And now for something completely different: HEEBONICS

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A new site for 20- to 30-something Jews will report on emerging Jewish culture including: music, film, travel, business, social activism, and more.

Tikkun olam with a truck and a hose

By Abigail Bimman
CJN Intern

Adina Kaufman can honestly say she works 24 hours a day to heal the world.

The Toronto firefighter's shifts at Station 343 are 24 hours long. Off the clock, Kaufman volunteers in a number of different venues, from tutoring to giving blood platelets.

"I think that idea [of tikkun olam] factors into the way I live my life. I wouldn't say I wanted to be a firefighter with that in mind, I think that just factors into how I live and how I make my choices," Kaufman says.

The 32-year-old's choice to be a firefighter, in fact, was not always a given.

"When you're a kid you want to be a teacher, a doctor or a firefighter," says Kaufman. "These are the things you see and the things you know, and I just thought I was going to outgrow it."

Kaufman grew up in Ottawa with an older sister, two younger brothers and her parents, Gail and Ilia. The family moved to North York when she was 10.

Kaufman always excelled academically and thought that studying systems engineering and arts was a natural career path. But when she hadn't shaken the old dream midway through her studies at the University of Waterloo, she decided to pursue firefighting after graduation.

While she describes the hiring process as very competitive, with dozens of applicants being selected from thousands, Kaufman was working within two years of her initial application, though it was a bit of a nerve-racking journey.

"I felt this is really something I could fail at," Kaufman reminisces. "I'm five-foot-three with my shoes on. You don't see a lot of short women on fire trucks."

Kaufman says that most of the calls her Toronto station receives are medical calls. Fire-related calls are mainly electrical or car fires, accidental fires caused by trades like roofing and plumbing or fires caused by mistakes like leaving candles unattended, she says.

Kaufman's biggest fire was on her first-ever shift. At 1 a.m., a call came in for a fire in a semi-detached house. Kaufman vividly recalls being directed to hose the upper balcony of the house. After the captain who gave her this order left, embers started falling at her feet.

"I will always remember this moment," she says. "I was thinking I should direct this water at the embers and yet, I'd been told to spray water at this balcony. I had this entire internal struggle. It's so not my personality but during my training it was so drilled into me [to follow commands] that the last thing I wanted to do was disobey this order. And I'm standing there like an idiot with flames growing at my feet, but continuing to direct water up at the balcony."

Eventually someone noticed what was happening and told her to put out the flames, but the moment has stuck with her.

As an obvious minority member on two fronts, Kaufman says it is rarer to meet a Jewish firefighter than a female one. While the statistics are hard to pin down, she says that definitely less than five per cent of firefighters are female, and probably less than that are Jewish. She says her religion comes up in conversation regularly at work.

"Being Jewish is an important part of my identity, it's about belonging to a community that has been mine since birth and that helps to define who I am and where I fit in the greater community that I live in," she says.

"Concepts like tzedakah and tikkun olam really resonate with me. It's about believing that I am part of something greater than myself and that it is by giving of myself that I can truly live a full life."

Her outreach efforts begin at work, where she enjoys engaging in discussions about Judaism to help better people's understanding.

"I've worked with some people who have never had a close personal interaction with someone who is Jewish. Maybe they have seen a person in a dark hat walking down Bathurst Street and that's the extent of their knowledge."

But her outreach spreads far beyond the borders of the fire station. Before firefighting, she worked as a canoe trip guide with all types of youth, with programs like Outward Bound and Project Canoe, which takes at-risk youth on wilderness trips. She also tutors with the Newcomer Homework Club, volunteers with other youth programs and speaks to students about being a firefighter.

Kaufman has done impressive work with the David McAntony Gibson Foundation, a group of emergency services volunteers. She went on a mission to Cambodia with them in 2005.

"If I had a hundred Kaufmans, the world would be saved," says foundation director Rahul Singh.

Singh recalled the quick-thinking that Kaufman displayed when a little girl got run over by a truck in the chaotic, dangerous, no-man's-land between the border of Thailand and Cambodia.

He asked Kaufman to find a board to stabilize the girl, and within five minutes she managed to retrieve a plank from a crossing porter.

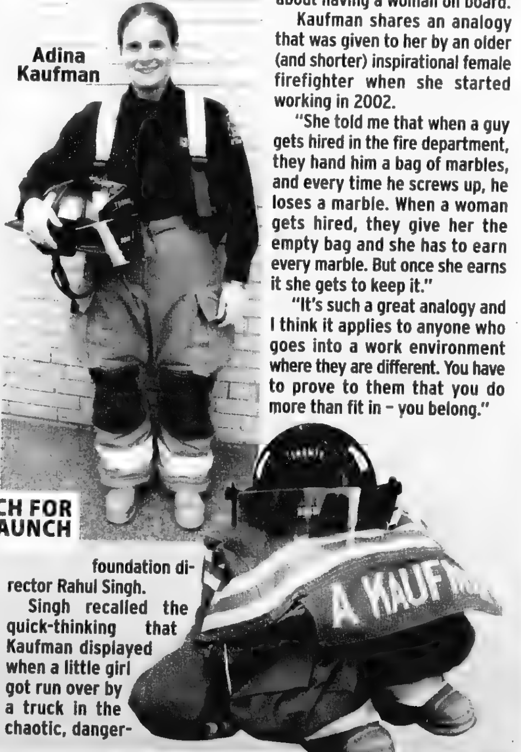
"That's ingenuity," he says.

In terms of her work at the Bathurst and St. Clair fire station, Kaufman says everyone is generally respectful and understanding about having a woman on board.

Kaufman shares an analogy that was given to her by an older (and shorter) inspirational female firefighter when she started working in 2002.

"She told me that when a guy gets hired in the fire department, they hand him a bag of marbles, and every time he screws up, he loses a marble. When a woman gets hired, they give her the empty bag and she has to earn every marble. But once she earns it she gets to keep it."

"It's such a great analogy and I think it applies to anyone who goes into a work environment where they are different. You have to prove to them that you do more than fit in – you belong."



Adina Kaufman

WATCH FOR
THE HEEBONICS LAUNCH

Chabon's new novel disappointing, though entertaining

The Yiddish Policemen's Union **by Michael Chabon, Harper Collins**

By SHLOMO SCHWARTZBERG
Special to The CJN

Michael Chabon's latest novel, an alternate history science fiction/detective tale, is a distinct and startling departure from his Pulitzer prize wining epic *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*.

And while it falls short of that masterpiece and likely will not please devoted fans of alternate history science fiction, it has its virtues nonetheless.

In Chabon's created universe, the Jewish state has been reborn, not in Israel, which was destroyed by its Arab enemies mere months after its 1948 establishment, but, in effect, in the United States, specifically in the forbidden wilds of Alaska, which was once actually proposed as a homeland for the Jews. That's where the Americans have settled millions of European Jews, rescuing them from the Holocaust, and where today, the semi-autonomous, Yiddish-speaking Federal District of Sitka is thriving.

However, Sitka is due to revert to American control by year's end, and once again Jews are facing an uncertain, possibly dangerous future. Meanwhile, hard-bitten cop Meyer Landsman is looking into the suspicious death of an Orthodox Jewish junkie whose body has been found in the same rundown hotel where Meyer lives.

He teams up with Berko Shemets, his half native-half Jewish partner and Landsman's ex-wife Bina Gelbfish, who is also his boss. The trio soon uncover a dire plot involving a secretive – and criminal – Orthodox Jewish sect and political machinations that threaten the political balance in the world.

The Yiddish Policemen's Union is, primarily, Chabon's homage to the classic 1930s and 1940s detective fiction of Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler, which in turn influenced the postwar American film noir genre, a world full of shady characters whose motives are never what they seem to be, where danger lurks around every corner, and where the flawed good guys are usually up against forces beyond their control.

In that light, Chabon excels at conjuring up the dark atmosphere and mood of those novels. The problem is that he does this so well that it's difficult to accept that *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* is set in 2008, despite the ubiquitous presence of computers and cellphones.

Michael Chabon

The book also never quite surmounts its detective fiction clichés – you can see the outlines of the conspiracy Landsman discovers before he does – and, essentially, boxes itself into a corner by the time it reaches its conclusion. Its ending is the only one possible for the story.

Landsman, too, is a bit of an obvious type, stubborn and self-destructive, nothing we haven't read before. But the other characters, notably Berko Shemets, whose religious Orthodoxy is, to say the least, quite conflicted, and the corpulent Rebbe Heskel Shpilman, mysterious head of the Verbover Chassidim, a kosher version of the Soprano clan, are fascinating. The book also utilizes quite clever slang: beat cops are called latkes; guns are sholems, a Yiddish pun on the words peace/piece. It's also unique, of course, to filter everything that goes on in the novel through a singularly wry and fatalistic Jewish prism.

It's as science fiction that Chabon's novel fails to engage. The book is so narrowly focused on Sitka and its inhabitants that Chabon only proffers a few tantalizing tidbits from the outside (alternate) world. He informs the reader that World War Two ended in 1946 when the A-bomb was dropped on Berlin and that Marilyn Monroe married a Kennedy (presumably Bobby) and became First Lady, but that's about it. Since the Sitka residents are an insular folk and not much interested in what's happening elsewhere, Chabon's decision makes thematic sense, but it also means that his detective tropes have to carry the novel, and they don't quite do that.

The Yiddish Policemen's Union isn't nearly as complex as *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, which successfully married a coming-of-age story, a detailed history of the early Jewish comic book creators, an elegy on the emotional ramifications of the Holocaust on European and American Jewry and even a fantasy involving the Golem. Nor does it have the subtle poignant power of *The Final Solution*, Chabon's touching, Holocaust-themed Sherlock Holmes tribute. It is, however, entertaining in its own modest light and, though disappointing, a timely reminder that Chabon is one writer who never repeats himself. I can't wait to see what he does next.

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Jews and Shoah key themes in alternate history genre

Along with the idea of the South winning the American Civil War, science fiction speculations on the Nazis emerging victorious in World War II dominate the literary genre that's come to be known as alternate history, "what if" examinations on how history might have turned out differently.

The idea of Nazi Germany ruling the world is horrific, of course, but considering how close that reality came to be, it makes sense that science fiction writers would be interested in that provocative subject and variations thereof.

One of the earliest and best alternate history novels is Philip K. Dick's elegiac 1962 book *The Man in The High Castle*, where a defeated United States has been partitioned between its German and Japanese masters and where a Jewish character, Frank Frink, plays a significant role in the proceedings.

Brad Lineweaver's *Moon of Ice* effectively portrays an altered world where Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels' daughter, Hilda, who in real life was murdered by her parents when the Nazis faced defeat, holds the key to exposing the reality of the Final Solution.

Hitler Victorious is a collection of diverse, mostly compelling short stories on the ramifications of a Nazi victory. Christopher Priest's *The Separation*, an overly dense but well-written novel in which World War II ends much earlier than it did, has an absorbing sub-plot about how England rescues Europe's Jews and places them in Madagascar, once proposed as the site of a Jewish state (a variation on Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, where Alaska becomes the de facto Jewish homeland).

Less successful is Harry Turtledove's flat *In The Presence of Mine Enemies*, which leaps forward into the 21st century, a world long ruled by the Nazi military machine, with the few surviving Jews living in secret as contemporary Marranos. The novel isn't as interesting as it sounds, nor as powerful as Turtledove's short story of the same name, which first played with the idea.

Much better are Jo Walton's recent murder mystery *Farthing*, where England makes peace with Nazi Germany in 1941, and Daniel J. Gidron's superb, award-winning *The Severed Wing*, in which neither the Russian Revolution nor the Holocaust nor World War II ever occurred, but where Jewish soldiers are routinely used as cannon fodder in endless skirmishes between Poland and Russia.

Oddly enough, when talented mainstream writers turn their pens to the subject, the novels – such as Philip Roth's *The Plot Against America*, wherein aviator Charles Lindbergh wins the presidency and turns the U.S. toward fascism, or Len Deighton's *SS-GB* and Robert Harris's *Fatherland*, both featuring a subjugated England – invariably tend to suffer from failures of the imagination.

Interestingly, both Roth's *The Plot Against America* and Walton's *Farthing* also postulate Canada as a haven for the Jews. Since we all know that Canada let in fewer Jews than almost any other country, that's a hard sell. Even in alternate history scenarios, speculative suppositions need to be convincingly backed up.

—S.S.

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Jews/Arabs yuk it up at Roy Thomson Hall

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

Three Jews and an Arab walk into Roy Thomson Hall.

No, it's not a corny joke, but that's a good guess, considering all four of them are comedians who will share the stage at Roy Thomson Hall on May 29.

Dubbed the Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour, the event features an entertaining mix of Middle East perspectives, in what is being billed as the first time Palestinian and Israeli comics have ever toured together.

"Our primary purpose is to put on a funny show," says American-born Charles Warady, on the phone from his home outside Jerusalem. "If we bring people together, if we offer a social statement, that's extra."

Warady, 51, doesn't want to turn the show into a Middle East peace mission, and he hopes audiences will enjoy certain jokes long after the show is over.

"How many people remember a politician's words after a speech? And how many people memorize a comedian's best lines?" He laughs. "I think our way is much better."

Joining Warady in Toronto – the only show they're staging in North America – are comedians Yisrael Campbell, an Orthodox Jew living in Israel; African-American convert Aaron Freeman; and Palestinian American Ray Hanania.

The blend of Jewish and non-Jewish performers has been a winning formula for a comedy group only six months old. After the success of early January shows in Jerusalem, the troupe has high hopes for North American exposure.

Pictured, from left, are Aaron Freeman, Ray Hanania, Charley Warady and Yisrael Campbell. [David Silverman, Getty Images photo]

So why book Toronto as the first and only gig?

"Our promoter believed in us," says Hanania, a Chicago resident. "It's a taboo show, so not every city wants to get involved. That problem is typical of the problems facing the Middle East. In Chicago, some people didn't like this Palestinian-Israeli alliance, because it might make them think, 'Oh no, this peace is contagious. We might realize those two warring sides don't hate each other as much as we thought.'"

Since he announced his partnership with Jewish comedians, Hanania has already faced five cancelled shows in Chicago.

He's not about to let those producers ruin his good vibes.

"I always believed humour is very powerful in showing how human we all can be," Hanania says. "If you laugh with other people, you bond with them."

The comedians admit some of their jokes might make sensitive audiences cringe, but in a way that says, "This joke pokes fun at Israeli-Arab relations, which should be laughed at sometimes."

Hanania offers one example of his biting comedy: "I married a Jewish woman, and at my wedding, the Arab and Jewish guests were mucking around at dinner. They were arguing over who invented hummus, flicking pita and matzah at each other. There were 38 casualties, one Jew, and 37 Arabs went to the hospital. An event like this attracts attention from the news media, so the next day, the headline read: 'One Jew injured at Arab terrorist meeting.'"

The other comics deal with similar topics, but with their own flair. Freeman, a black convert to Judaism, can get a big laugh with a line about his friends' reaction to his conversion: "You trying to give an extra merit badge to a KKK sniper?"

The Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour has earned international media attention, but in Toronto, the tour is also attracting one special celebrity. Maya Angelou, a well-known American poet and social activist, will open the evening with introductory remarks.

"I don't know what she'll be saying," Warady says, "but I insisted her opening shouldn't be funnier than any of our acts."

Hanania is optimistic about the gig and the future of where the tour will go. He hopes to bring the troupe to the Palestinian territories for an upcoming show, but for now, he'll settle for something in between.

"We want to do an open mike show in the West Bank to find new Palestinian and Israeli voices," he says. "We know people want to get on stage, but in this political climate, they're afraid to be seen as moderates. I think comedy can change that."

The Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour takes place May 29, 8 p.m., at Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St. Tickets range from $49 to $69 (including taxes) and can be purchased through www.roythomson.com or by calling 416-872-4255.

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Music returns to the Sharon Temple

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

An acoustically exquisite temple, built by a 19th-century breakaway Quaker community in Sharon, Ont., will play host to five Sunday afternoon concerts this summer, starting June 3.

Patterned after King Solomon's shrine, the three-tiered Sharon Temple was built in 1832 by a sect called the Children of Peace, who believed in a Jewish messiah.

The temple, a slice of Canadiana, has been called an essential piece of architecture by the *Toronto Star*.

Along with numerous Christian symbols, the temple also houses a replica of the Ark of the Covenant.

Stephen Cera, new artistic director for the revived Music at Sharon series, believes concertgoers will be impressed with the sounds to be heard.

A Winnipeg-born Jew and classically-trained pianist, Cera is a former CBC producer and was the director of the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts from 1991 to 2000.

Though he's no stranger to music, he's excited about this new gig.

"I'm privileged to work in this environment – the way [the Children of Peace] incorporated so many influences from the Bible," Cera told *The CJN* last week. "There's a very ecumenical spirit to the place."

Cera is also enamoured with the acoustical quality of the temple.

"Hearing music there… there's a tremendous sense of magical sound quality," he said. "The history envelops you and adds to the feeling. Even the smell of the place takes you back to the 19th century."

The temple's board of directors hope that music will draw more attention to the historic site to help fund repairs and maintenance.

It's not the first time the concert series has graced the small town north of Newmarket.

The first incarnation of the series started in 1981, to celebrate the temple's 150th anniversary, and ran until 1991.

Now that Music at Sharon is back for the temple's 175th anniversary, Cera has taken special care to program shows that reflect its Canadian heritage.

Concerts will feature Canadian soloists from across the country, as well as compositions by Glenn Gould and Quebec composers André Prévost and Maya Badian, among others.

Cera said he tried to include musical aspects that reflect the country's "cultural fabric" in his programming.

"There will be French, youth, new music, jazz and more," he said. "We also included [Canadian composer] John Beckwith's *Three Motets on Swan's 'China'*, which was played at the first Music at Sharon event in 1981."

When asked if Music at Sharon might some day feature concerts with a Jewish theme, Cera responded, "I wouldn't rule that out."

The final event on July 8, will feature the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, an ensemble dedicated to Afrocentric music and styles.

"People will be amazed when they come up to Sharon," Cera said. "It's like going back in time, yet it's still close to the city."

Tickets for the series are $45 each or $195 for all five concerts.

For more information, visit www.sharontemple.ca

Stephen Cera

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

MOSES LIVE IS NEW CD FROM CANTOR ERIC MOSES

To mark his 10th anniversary as a cantor, Eric Moses is launching a new CD, *Moses Live*, featuring a collection of live recordings.

Moses and family have much to be thankful for, since his wife, Melissa, recently celebrated her 36th birthday free of cancer. Three years ago, she was diagnosed with breast cancer while pregnant with the couple's twin daughters. Moses has dedicated the CD to her and plans to donate all proceeds from its sale to assist the Weekend to End Breast Cancer.

Besides promoting the CD, Moses intends to promote vigilance against cancer, particularly amongst the Ashkenazi Jewish population, at the launch. It's at the Beth Sholom Synagogue on June 12, 8 p.m.

* * *

Three Divas in Yiddish: Tapestry presents 3-Divas, a musical event in which performers mezzo-soprano **Patricia O'Callaghan**, soprano **Jean Stilwell** and **Theresa Tova**, the actor and Yiddish singer, experiment with new operatic work and showcase their best-loved tunes. Tova is slated to perform an operatic aria in Yiddish, joined by Stilwell and O'Callaghan. Ernest Balmer Studio, Distillery Historic District. May 26 and 27, 8 p.m. $25 (advance), $20, $5 (students). 416-537-6066, ext. 221. (May 26 show is sold out.)

* * *

Lichtenberg & Katz: Known for fusing Jewish with elements of world, classical and jazz music, **Lenka Lichtenberg** and **Brian Katz** have performed together around the world and on their acclaimed recent CD, *Pashtes*. Hear them in concert at the Trane Studio, 964 Bathurst St. Thursday, May 31, 9 p.m. Cover $7. They also perform at the Free Times Café, 320 College St., Tuesday, June 5, 8 p.m. Cover $7.

* * *

Yiddish Tearjerker: Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *The Living Orphan*, **Joseph Seiden**'s 1937 Yiddish tearjerker of the highest order. A dark look at the American immigrant experience; Yiddish with subtitles. Based on **Sholom Secunda**'s controversial play and utilizing rare footage of New York's Lower East Side, *The Living Orphan* tells the story of Benny, who is caught in the middle between his actor parents when his father orders his mother to give up the theatre to care for their son. **Shirley Kumove** is the featured speaker. $15-$10. Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre. Single tickets available 15 minutes before show time. Sunday, June 3, 7:30 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 606

* * *

Award-Winning Play: Between Stages Playwright's Reading Series presents a staged reading of *Guess Who's Coming to Sabbath Dinner* by **Phil Pivnik**, winner of the 2006 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition. The teaser? "They used to think it would be nice if their son came out for Sabbath dinner." Miles Nadal JCC, Sunday June 3, 2 p.m. Suggested donation $8 or PWYC.

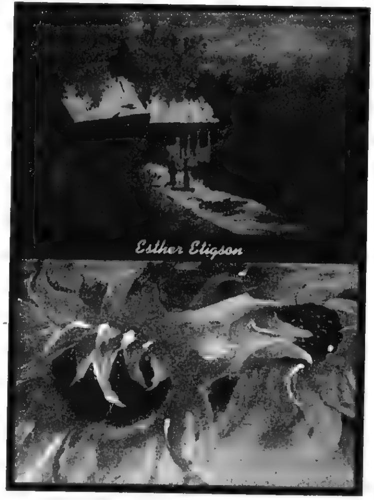
* * *

Secular Singles: The Jewish Cabaret Theatre presents a variety of music, dance, game show and other surprises encompassing a Jewish theme. Hosted by **Edward A. Fine** and featuring **Lori Sand**, **Bob Natanson**, **Janette Burke**, **Lance Cohen**, **Dr. Adolfo Cotter** and **Michelle** and **David Winter**, the event is geared for Jewish secular singles and couples in their 30s and 40s. 7 West Event Venue, 7600 Weston Rd, Unit 69, Woodbridge (beside Winners). June 2, 8 p.m.

* * *

At the Galleries

- The Willowdale Group of Artists' 60th anniversary show and sale takes place at the Papermill Gallery at Todmorden Mills, Pottery Road off Bayview Extension. Thursday, May 31 to Sunday, June 10. Closed Monday. Free admission and parking. www.willowdaleartists.com
- An exhibition of "extraordinary teapots" hand-crafted by professional artists and celebrities, is on view at Petroff Gallery, 1016 Eglinton Ave.W. Until June 10. 416-782-1696. www.petroffgallery.com
- Acrylics and watercolours by **Esther Etigson** are on view in an art show at 163 Gailcrest Circle, Thornhill. Sunday, June 3, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 905-886-8085



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Leonard Cohen Drawings: The Luminato Festival and Drabinsky Gallery of Toronto, and the Richard Goodall Gallery of Manchester, England, present the world première exhibition of works on paper and annotations by poet-songwriter Leonard Cohen.

"Drawn to Words" features more than 30 pigment prints on paper selected from Cohen's extensive private archive of drawings and sketches, stretching back some 40 years. Images include portraits, nudes, objects and landscapes, many annotated by Cohen. Some feature characters from his songs, while others reflect his changing moods through revealing self-portraits.

On view June 3 to 30. Drabinsky Gallery, 122 Scollard St. www.drabinskygallery.com

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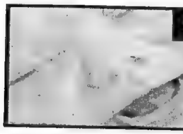

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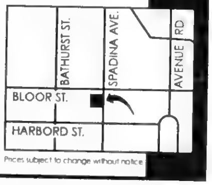

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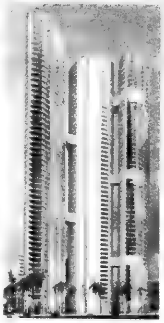

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Israel & the Jewish World

Jews will miss Blair

By NATHAN JEFFAY
Special to The CJN

Comment

After 10 years as prime minister of Britain, Tony Blair has announced that he will step down. For Anglo-Jewry, this means the end of a very stable period and a leap into the unknown.

Generations of U.K. Jews have grown up with a deep fear of rejection by mainstream society. Under Blair, Britain's Jews have become more like Canada's, with a strong self-confidence about their place in their country.

The outgoing prime minister has held up Jewish values as examples for Britain at large. He has also surrounded himself with Jewish advisers and allies like no other premier (even leading to accusations of a "Jewish cabal"), and made his a regular face at community functions.

Tony Blair and Ehud Olmert last December in Jerusalem.

Given that to more and more citizens in this country, Jews are seen as fair bait for venting anger against Israel, Blair's friendship has proved important. It has boosted morale inside the community and sent a message to the wider society that people should replicate his respect. Anti-Semitism has increased in the last decade, but there is a feeling among Jews that Blair's pro-Jewish gestures have kept it in check.

The community also feels that as a devout Christian, Blair has understood its religious needs. Despite pressure on the government from politicians in all parties to strip faith-based schools of funding, they have not lost a penny, and Jewish education has flourished – 14 new government-funded Jewish schools have opened under Blair.

He has also acted on requests from communal leaders. They felt that everyone should be educated about the Holocaust. His government made Holocaust education compulsory for all school pupils, and instituted the annual National Holocaust Memorial Day for the whole nation. The public purse has even funded a new scheme to take two pupils from every mainstream high school on a day-trip to Auschwitz.

He has not only worked for peace in the Middle East and been a friend of Israel, but also suffered for his friendship. Ever since the start of the second intifadah in 2000, the left – Labour's traditional fan base – has been vying for Israel's blood. By last summer, the Iraq conflict had really taken its toll on Blair, and his popularity among the left was at an all-time low. A few anti-Israel words during the controversial Lebanon conflict would have curried him some much-needed favour. But he stayed firm, a move that has none of the political benefits in the United Kingdom that it does in America – there are only 300,000 Jews in a population of 60 million.

Anglo-Jewry is a well-established community. There have just been celebrations for its 350th anniversary, calculated as 3½ centuries since Oliver Cromwell readmitted Jews following their expulsion in 1290. All emphasis was on the community's acceptance.

But reading between the lines, something was still present that is not found among most North American Jews. Part of the need to emphasize how accepted British Jews are is the deep-seated fear of being rejected or marginalized.

There is usually an undercurrent of this sentiment, but one thing brings it to the fore: uncertainty. It surfaced when Blair's government was first elected. Labour had been out of power for almost 20 years, and during that time, it acquired a reputation for rhetoric that verged on anti-Semitic. But things turned out well, and the fear went into hibernation for much of Blair's time in office, leaving just a few traces.

But once again, it's back. Synagogues resound with whispers about whether Blair's likely successor, longtime Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, will be "good for the Jews." The community doesn't fear drastic measures, but it does have concerns about life without the known quantity that it's come to depend upon.

Nathan Jeffay is a U.K. journalist who writes for the London Jewish Chronicle.

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Ducks' OT win caps unblemished season

By KYLE GORDON
Special to The CJN

When the Avenue Road Ducks hockey team scored in overtime in the third and final game of the North York Hockey League's (NYHL) championship series, they proved they were perfect.

On April 12, 2007, the Avenue Road Ducks, made up of 15 nine- and 10-year-old boys, defeated Victoria Village to win the tier one NYHL (house league) minor atom championship and finish the season with an unblemished 35-0-0 record.

"To go into overtime and win to keep a perfect season record was really exciting," said Mark Segal, manager of the Ducks.

The Ducks are located in the Avenue Road and Lawrence Avenue area. The team plays once a week, either on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, and practises every Sunday. To accommodate families who celebrate Shabbat, the league does not schedule games on Friday night or Saturday before sundown.

"This is a key factor in many parents' decision to let their children play at Avenue Road," said Segal about his own reason for having his son, Dan, play in the league.

Dan Segal, 10, has been the Ducks' goalie for the past three seasons. He has seen the Ducks progress from an unsuccessful tier three team in 2004-2005 to a middle of the pack club last year to this season's undefeated squad.

"It felt really good but it didn't feel real. It just didn't feel like we won every single thing," Dan said. "Everybody had a really good year. I think this was the best year in our history."

Not only did the Ducks beat the teams in their own division, but they also defeated teams from across Canada and the United States. In December 2006, the Ducks received a gold medal at the Gene Harrington Memorial tournament in Niagara Falls. They were awarded another gold in February at the Richmond Hill Stars tournament where they outmatched clubs from the Greater Toronto Area.

"We were challenged by teams that we didn't compete with during the regular season. We played against teams from America and Canada that we don't play against in the NYHL," said Jonathan Lechter, head coach of the Ducks for the past three seasons.

Lechter attributes a large part of this year's success to extended practice sessions that provided the players with an extra 40 minutes of ice time every Sunday.

"We were on the ice more, using our legs more and getting used to skating hard. I found that it helped us in our passing and moving the puck," said Adam Lechter, Jonathan's son.

We're no. 1! Avenue Road Ducks celebrate another win.

The consecutive wins presented challenges to Jonathan and the team's two assistant coaches. They found it difficult to improve the kids' hockey skills because the wins did not expose their weaknesses, Jonathan said.

"To keep them motivated and to keep developing them as players and getting them to work hard in practice was the biggest challenge," he added.

The coaches tried to do silly things in the dressing room before the games to keep the kids excited.

"We bum wiggled to keep our feet moving and get pumped up," Adam recalled.

With the hockey season now over, the Ducks are looking forward to the start of next season in October.

"The idea is to try and do it again next season. We are definitely the team to beat," said Jonathan who has retired from the Ducks to avoid conflict with his younger son's hockey games.

"It's going to be harder next year because the other teams are really going to try and beat us," Adam added.

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60,000-seat stadium to replace Ramat Gan facility

By MOSHE BOKER
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

RAMAT GAN — The National Stadium in Ramat Gan is to be replaced by a new, ultra-modern 60,000-seat facility, according to an announcement made last week by Gideon Brickman, head of the Sports Betting Council, and Ramat Gan Mayor Zvi Bar.

"The plans will be completed within eight months, after which the existing stadium will be demolished and a new 60,000-seat stadium will be built in its place," Brickman said. "The stadium will be one of the most magnificent in the world and will cost some NIS 800 million [$221 million US]."

The current stadium, which has 41,583 seats, is used to host the opening ceremonies of the Maccabiah Games every four years.

The Sports Betting Council will contribute some NIS 300 million ($83 million) toward the project. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is also expected to allocate some NIS 150 million ($42 million) in state funding to it, with the Israel Football Association and the Ramat Gan Municipality making up the remainder of the sum.

A delegation will travel to Germany to examine stadiums built for last summer's World Cup before deciding on the model for the new stadium.

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Avoid those fine Jewish whines

ALMOST FAMOUS
BY JACOB MEDJUCK

I once bought a book about stand-up comedy, and it said in the preface, "If you're Jewish, skip to Chapter 2."

We are very much a nation of sarcastic whiners. And as I make my way in the world, I'm finding it harder to sell a serious point. It seems the tone of my grievances amuses. The angrier I get, the heartier people laugh. I'm finding this reaction both frustrating and entirely rewarding. It's a troubling combination.

My parents are also complainers, but understandably so. It was not their fault, as they had difficult children (something they would often tell me). They also married ill-suited partners (something they would also often tell me). What troubles me is the feeling that I'm describing any pedestrian, loud and healthy traditional Jewish family.

So, when I was recently invited to join my parents in Israel for their 35th wedding anniversary, I promptly declined.

The rant I delivered began, "I will not celebrate an institution whose marital prisoners I have fought to see liberated from each other since the first broken glass. I have not seen people more deserving of new partners since the cast of L.A. Law." And somewhere in there, I dropped a clever barb about "soul mates" not "cell mates"– to which you can add your own adjectives and finish the joke.

But I'm just worn down by the complaining. Angered even.

From their example, I'd taken what I'd learned about marriage into the world and applied it to my own relationships – only to receive a sharp slap in the face. As it turns out, there might be a kinder way to treat others, and to be treated.

The lesson essentially is this: Jewish people – we're not all comics. We already receive enough hate from the planet. Compounding that in our homes by serving it to our families offers no benefit.

Perhaps your family's love is actual, but is it actualized? Would you notice how often you're actually behaving hatefully though whining and sarcasm? I don't mean to rob anyone of their emotional drugs, but I'm appreciating now that such behaviour, when unchecked, is a non-productive, passive aggressive form of disrespect. So please monitor how and how much of it you offer. Though wildly hilarious at times, it's usually just an easy out.

If you find yourself fighting in front of your children, the rule isn't "Don't do it." Instead, sit with you kids afterward and let them know that you've made up. Show them both sides. Earn the right to argue by also showing them the apology. Create a better pattern for them to emulate – and don't make them discover this process on their own. They'll eat up youthful years until they mature, die lonely, or marry lonely – and it's more than likely that they'll write about all of this when they're older, possibly humiliating you.

As my father would often say, "You kids didn't come with a manual."

And so, of my parents, I offer this: With sincerity, I admire the work that they've done raising me, my sister, and each other in couplehood. Congratulations to them on this happy 35th. I will see them in Israel for that celebration, and I'll quietly remind them that they're still on strict probation until their 36th anniversary, the celebration for which I'll insist be held at Disneyland. (I've decided we should pick at least one childhood trip to get right – and I'm making my preference known.)

For the rest of us, if you find yourself getting set to hang dirty laundry on your children, tell an airplane joke instead. I'm told there's something funny about the peanut bags – though I don't know what, as I was told to skip the chapter in the book that explained it.

SPRINGTIME ASAPARAGUS SOUP

1 lg leek, incl. 3" of green	6 cups vegetable broth
2 tblsp unsalted butter	3 tblsp chopped fresh tarragon
2 tblsp olive oil	2 lbs. fresh asparagus, cut into pieces
1 onion, chopped	1/3-1/2 cup milk or cream
1 parsnip, peeled, cut into small pieces	1/3 cup sour cream

Trim root off leek; remove tough outer leaves. Cut in half lengthwise; rinse out sand very well; pat dry with paper towels; cut into 1/4" dice. Melt butter and oil in pot over low heat. Add leek, onion, parsnip; cook, stirring, over low heat, 10 min.

Add broth & tarragon; bring to boil. Add asparagus, reduce heat to low; cover & simmer 30 min. Uncover; cool to room temperature. Puree soup with immersion blender or in regular blender. (If it seems stringy, pass it through a strainer.) If using regular blender, return to pot and stir in milk/cream; warm over low heat (do not boil). Serve soup, dolloped with sour cream.

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THRONGS CELEBRATE THEIR CAPITAL CITY
Thousands of marchers clogged the streets of Jerusalem last week in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. [Israel Sun photo]

Change is a comin'

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

If you are the type who studies people, places and things, you may be noticing the Toronto Jewish community is morphing in character. We are loosening our tie and becoming a tad more creative and soulful.

Our town has been a very conservative place since I can remember. We've focused our resources and developed our community ideology around making money, crisis-driven tzedakah, repetitive Holocaust education, anti-Semitism and the swamp-draining, sexy, sabra-picking-oranges perception of our beloved State of Israel.

Our Jewish community buildings were simple, often decorated with lacklustre antique memorabilia and black and white pictures of past presidents, chairpeople and founders. Now, this is not meant to offend those individuals who have worked arduously to ensure a strong community, but let's face it, there is little inspiring about being stared at by the president of a 1950s organization, in a black suit, and thin grey tie, with a protective smile and a small brimmed fedora propped on his very proud head.

I took a tour of the Jewish Federation building in Montreal a few years ago. They had decorated with drawings and paintings by local Jewish adults and children, essentially bringing life to the walls and a spirited essence to their Jewishness. They exhibited life. L'chaim to it.

That was not the case, however, here in Toronto.

Things are a changin', however. A new generation of leadership is a ridin' over them there Bathurst Street hills intent upon adding colours and shapes to our digs and the very soul of the community.

Today, when we enter places of prayer and organizational headquarters, we frequently come face to face with art and sculptures from local artisans. While we still draw on the old, there seems to be something more compelling about the archival material displayed in our halls; perhaps it is how the exhibits are presented and/or how the the documents and photographs are framed – or maybe the message is modern (i.e., this is the way it was, but no longer) while the pictures have remained the same. Not sure.

Now, take a look at the programming we're creating in Toronto. Baycrest just held its second hockey tournament, using NHL alumnae to raise funds ($2 million for Alzheimer's). I've noticed articles and advertisements in *The CJN* seeking volunteers for an organization's curling program (quite a departure from a volunteer appreciation night with guest lecturer Rachel "Middle East" Pundit).

Recently, Toronto's Jewish federation advertised a formidable all-day business event with high-profile businesspeople speaking about a multitude of ideas. It was a fancy-shmanzy day of financially successful people sharing their real gifts, as opposed to telling us party-line Jewish and Israel rhetoric that has become boring and mind-numbing.

The Toronto Jewish community has passed a very important threshold. We are far less insulated than ever before. We recognize that creativity and soul is a good thing, and that "leaving home" and joining the rest of the world has its benefits.

In that light, the progressive Out of the Cold project, a synagogue-based outreach program assisting the homeless, has now become mainstream. Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee; Young Judea; Hillel and other organizations have opened our eyes to the real meaning of "never again" and to the Jewish promise of helping others, whether they be Catholics in Argentina, Muslims in Sri Lanka or the Shona tribe in Zimbabwe.

The Toronto Jewish community is much more compelling than ever before.

We are now where the New York Jewish community was about 15 years ago. We have a ways to go to becoming a full-blown metropolitan and big-thinking city, but we're moving... and that is exciting and fortunate. It was getting quite boring here for awhile.

Comment on my blog at avrumrosensweigideas.blogspot.com.

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This Week

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'Mr. Wizard' and the magic of chemistry. **Page 18**

Simcha Jacobovici says he didn't intend to attack Christian faith. **Page 20**

Arts & Travel

Films deal with Arab-Israeli coexistence. **Page 34**

Sports

Adam Braz soaks up the pressure on Toronto FC's defensive line. **Page 42**

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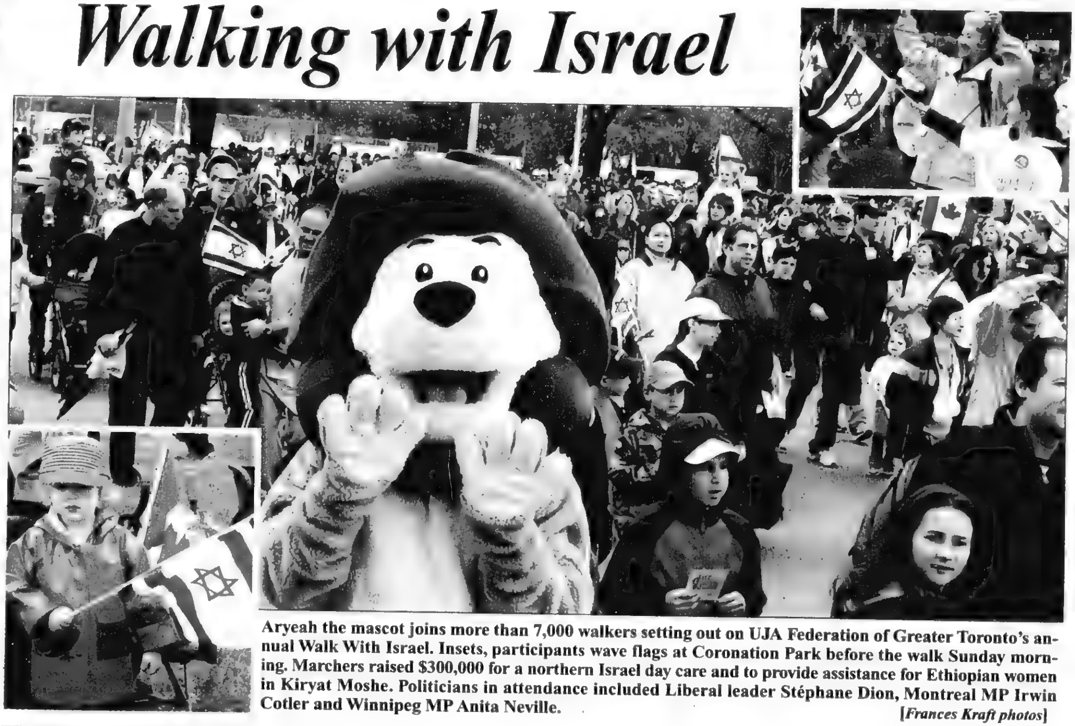
Walking with Israel



Aryeah the mascot joins more than 7,000 walkers setting out on UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's annual Walk With Israel. Insets, participants wave flags at Coronation Park before the walk Sunday morning. Marchers raised $300,000 for a northern Israel day care and to provide assistance for Ethiopian women in Kiryat Moshe. Politicians in attendance included Liberal leader Stéphane Dion, Montreal MP Irwin Cotler and Winnipeg MP Anita Neville.

[Frances Kraft photos]

Nazi collaborators lose citizenship

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The federal cabinet has revoked the citizenship of Nazi collaborators Helmut Oberlander and Jacob Fast, opening the door for their possible removal from Canada. However, one of the lawyers representing Oberlander said last week he would seek a judicial review of the cabinet decision, and promised his client will never be forced out of Canada.

The Oberlander and Fast cases have been before the cabinet for years. Both men were alleged to have served in German units during World War II and lied about their wartime activities when they obtained Canadian citizenship.

Oberlander's citizenship had been removed by the cabinet once before in 2000, but a Federal Court review of that process in 2004 overturned the revocation and instructed the cabinet to reconsider. A Federal Court found in 2003 that Fast, too, had misrepresented his wartime role as a collaborator with a Nazi security police force in Ukraine, leaving open the possibility that his citizenship would be removed.

In announcing the two revocations last week, Justice Minister Rob Nicholson stated, "Canada's new government has been clear in its support of human rights and our international obligations: Canada will not become a safe haven for anyone who has been involved in war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide. We take these issues very seriously.

"These cases have been under consideration for a very long time. Due process was followed according to the laws of Canada; it is time to move forward," Nicholson added.

Eric Hafemann, a lawyer representing Oberlander, told the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* that the cabinet

Continued on page 18

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Second Israeli killed by Qassam rockets — please see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

Group Gets Standing

REGINA — A Saskatchewan Court of Appeal judge last week granted intervenor status to B'nai Brith Canada in the Crown's appeal next month in the hate crimes case against native leader David Ahenakew, but he turned down Canadian Jewish Congress' request for the same status, saying its legal argument echoes that of the Crown. Ahenakew, a former head of the Assembly of First Nations, was convicted in 2005 of wilfully promoting hatred against Jews for remarks he made about Hitler to a reporter in 2002. A judge overturned the ruling on appeal and ordered a new trial, saying the trial judge didn't consider if Ahenakew intended to promote hatred. The Crown is appealing the order for a new trial, and the overturning of his conviction. Both the Crown and Congress contend the remarks to a reporter were not private, and hence fall under the Criminal Code's hate provisions.

Cotler Gets Degree

OTTAWA — MP and former justice minister Irwin Cotler was in Waltham, Mass., May 20 to receive an honorary doctorate from Brandeis University. It was the ninth honorary doctorate for Cotler, a noted human rights advocate and law professor at McGill University. Also receiving degrees were author Joyce Carol Oates, biologist Jonah Folkman and architect Daniel Libeskind.

WORLD

Rabbi Attends Funeral

CHICAGO — Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein represented the State of Israel at the May 22 funeral of U.S. televangelist Jerry Falwell. "I am honoured to represent the State of Israel at the farewell to this great man and important figure," said Rabbi Eckstein, president of the Chicago-based International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. He said Falwell was "a man that I was honoured to call a personal friend. He will be deeply missed." Falwell died May 15 at 73.

Aussie PM Honoured

MELBOURNE — Three Jewish groups honoured Australian Prime Minister John Howard for his friendship with Israel. At a May 20 dinner in Melbourne, the State Zionist Council of Victoria, the Zionist Federation of Australia and the World Zionist Organization jointly awarded Howard the Jerusalem Prize, *The Age* reported. A forest will be named in his honour. Howard said he received the award as a "mark of the bonds that exist between our two nations," adding that it has "been a longstanding policy of my government to see a two-state solution to the challenges of Israel's relationship with its Arab neighbours."

Zara Shatnez Apology

MADRID — A Spanish retailer has apologized to haredi Jews for selling garments that violate the prohibition of mixing wool and linen. A spokesperson for the retail giant Zara said last week that it had removed the offending men's suits from its shelves, the *Guardian* reported. Jewish law prohibits wearing garments made from a blend of wool and linen, known as shatnez. About 40 or 50 Israeli clients complained about the shatnez suits. Zara is the leading fashion retail chain in Israel, with 15 stores, 900 employees and $340 million (US) in annual sales. The company placed advertisements in haredi media to apologize for what it said was a production error.

Canadian Loses Appeal In Looted Art Case

SAN FRANCISCO — A U.S. appeals court has ruled against an appeal by a Hamilton man and his three South African cousins, saying that actress Elizabeth Taylor can keep a Van Gogh painting that may have been illegally seized by the Nazis from one of their relatives.

Elizabeth Taylor

The court ruled May 18 that Andrew Orkin, a lawyer and great-grandson of the German Jewish woman who once owned the painting, and his cousins had waited too long to ask for it back, Reuters reported.

"This affirms my great belief in the American judicial process; I am very grateful," Taylor said in a statement. "It's wonderful to have Monsieur Vincent Van Gogh in my living room."

Taylor, 75, bought the 1889 painting *View of the Asylum and Chapel at Saint-Remy* at a Sotheby's auction in London in 1963 for 92,000 British pounds, or about $257,000 (US) at the time. Descendants of Margarete Mauthner, who fled Germany for South Africa, sued Taylor in 2004, claiming the Nazis had forced the sale of the painting under duress. It's now valued at between $10 million and $15 million (US).

Taylor has maintained she bought the work in good faith and that Mauthner sold it freely.

One of Orkin's lawyers told the *Globe and Mail* that he may try to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, based on the 1998 Holocaust Victims Redress Act.

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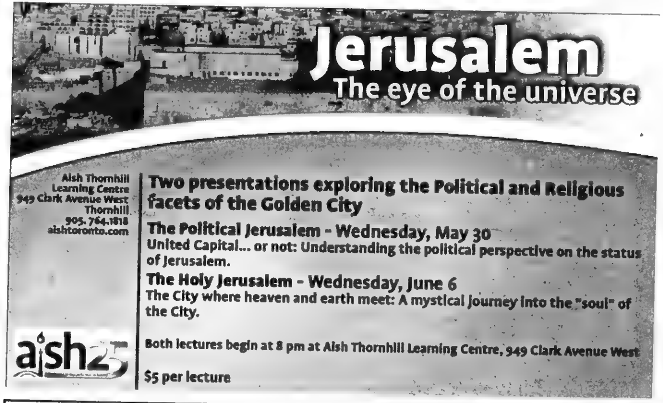
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Jewish Agency studying new ways to boost aliyah

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Oded Salomon is one tired guy. It's late in the day and he's been on the go for nearly a week, visiting Jewish population centres in North America. Toronto is his last stop and after flying in in the morning, he's got a plane to catch back to Israel where he'll try to figure out how to apply what he's learned about Jewish community life in New York, Chicago and Toronto to aliyah programs geared for those cities.

He's been on the job for six months as director general of the aliyah and integration department of the Jewish Agency for Israel. His North American visit was designed to get the lay of the land and learn first hand about the complicated community structure of federations and religious streams that is foreign to the average Israeli.

Oded Salomon

Toronto's reputation has preceded his visit and what he's seen confirms its distinction from nearby U.S. communities as one with "a great connection to Jewish life, Israel and Zionism," he said.

Last year, Canadians comprised more than 10 per cent of North American olim and Solomon believes "there is great potential here to increase the numbers."

Altogether 340 Canadians were among about 3,200 North Americans to move to Israel in 2006. It's a relatively small number when you consider other sources of aliyah. States of the former Soviet Union still provide the single largest number of olim, with 7,500 making the move in 2006. North America, considered as a unit, is next with 3,200 and France follows, with 3,000. About 1,400 came from all of Latin America and 750 Brits made the move – a 50 per cent jump from the year before.

Then, of course, there's the Ethiopian immigration which sees 300 Falash Mora fly to Israel each month. The Falash Mora are the Christian relatives of Ethiopian Jews already in Israel who are ineligible to immigrate under Israel's Law of Return. They are coming to Israel on family reunification programs. That aliyah is scheduled to end in 2008.

Aliyah – and devising a strategy to increase it – is a complex process, Salomon stated. In some locations, developing and enhancing a Jewish identity among the target population is the key component, though in Canada that connection already exists. Here the concern for the agency is to "know the community, its desires and needs," analyze this information "and then address messages with more focus [and be] targeted."

Once this phase is completed, "to whomever is ready and connected to Israel, we can then build programs fitted to their needs," he said.

It's a long term process for both the Jewish Agency, which is assessing its marketing efforts and to potential olim. Right now the Jewish Agency is building a strategic plan to entice potential olim. Employing terminology used in the business world, Salomon said it is expected to be "user friendly and customer-oriented rather than process-oriented." A new "interface" with olim is expected in 2008.

"Aliyah is one of the most important decisions people can make," Salomon said. "They are leaving their jobs, city and friends to go to another culture to build a new life."

Needless to say, potential olim all share a strong Jewish identity and attachment to Israel, but once a family has decided to make the move, the agency can assist greatly in integrating people to life in Israel. "People need a soft landing," he said.

Focus groups have shown that one of the biggest concerns potential olim have is finding work after they move. To address this, the agency is planning to launch in the coming months an employment centre to connect olim to employment specialists who help them find work in the areas they want, Salomon said.

Continued on page 5

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Inspired by Shavuot

From the editor's desk

The holiday of Shavuot inspired me to read, listen and write about the following two items.

* * *

The Garden of Ruth, by Eva Etzioni-Halevy (Plume Books, Penguin Group, 2007), is a bold telling of the imagined life of King David's forebear, the Moabite, Ruth, whose story we read on Shavuot.

This is Etzioni-Halevy's second work of fiction. It follows upon the wide acclaim and success of *The Song of Hannah*, which she published two years ago. Indeed, *The Garden of Ruth* follows very much in the literary footsteps of *Hannah*, adopting similar narrative techniques and descriptive devices to relate the story of Ruth's life.

As she did in *Hannah*, the emeritus Bar-Ilan University scholar puts her academic skills and intellectual abilities to good use. She provides rich historical detail as a contextual backdrop to the tale that she spins. And thus, the times of which she has written play nearly as compelling a role as the people about whom she has written.

The Garden of
Ruth

Ruth's life story, as fertilely imagined by Etzioni-Halevy, unfolds through two interwoven stories. The first is that of Osnath, who lived three generations after Ruth. Osnath discovers cryptic yet intriguing information concerning Ruth that inflames her imagination and motivates her to write about the famous Jewish woman.

The second story is a first-person autobiographical narrative written and hidden by Ruth herself.

The two stories mesh. In many respects, the two stories mirror each other, both in plot and in character.

The two main characters of the book, Osnath and Ruth, are both literate. They can read and write. They have piercing intellects and they are both headstrong.

Of course, depicting the character, strength and capabilities of the two women is the key purpose of Etzioni-Halevy's endeavour. She imagines them as real human beings, with all the weaknesses and frailties of the human condition. And she imagines them, much as she did the women in *Hannah*, as passionate and sensual.

Readers familiar with the story of Ruth and with the related events chronicled in the Bible, will immediately recognize Etzioni-Halevy's allusions to language, place and people.

But the boldness and daring with which Etzioni-Halevy imagines her characters and fills in the unknown details of their lives are an effort to bring contemporary readers closer to them.

Trying to understand our forebears' lives in terms of the feelings, pressures, convictions and dilemmas of modern life as well, the author is telling us, is simply another way of writing that the men and women of the Bible were great precisely because they, too, were imperfect human beings who were yet able to rise above their imperfections to leave the legacy that shaped our lives thousands of years later.

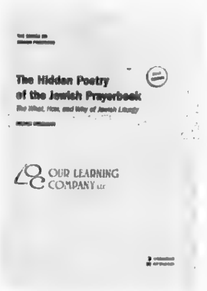
Readers who enjoyed *The Song of Hannah*, will enjoy *The Garden of Ruth*.

* * *

The Hidden Poetry of the Jewish Prayerbook: The What, How and Why of Jewish Liturgy, by Reuven Kimelman (Our Learning Company, Editor Sergiu S. Simmel, 2005), is a remarkable, goose-bumpy learning experience.

I write "experience" because the centrepieces of this three-pronged work are 18 audio CD lectures of approximately 30 minutes each. The other two prongs are a summary text of each lecture and what the editor refers to as mindmaps: a thematic, genome mapping-like visualization that captures the content and the flow of each of the lectures.

Kimelman has divided the lectures into four volumes: introductory blessings, the *Shema* liturgy, the *Amidah* liturgy, and the Shabbat and concluding prayers.



His approach is compelling and vastly informative. He brings countless references from the traditional repository of Jewish sources, yet inter-relates them in ways that are novel and intriguing, with fresh insight.

The work is aimed at anyone who is genuinely curious to learn about the Jewish prayerbook, the siddur, whether educator or layman.

Listening to Kimelman's explanations and following along on the mindmap of his presentation is an intense immersion into a university-level seminar about the siddur. But because it is also a seminar of discovery, we leave the immersion with feelings of exhilaration.

For further information about Kimelman's coursebook, visit the site at www.our-learning.com

–MBD

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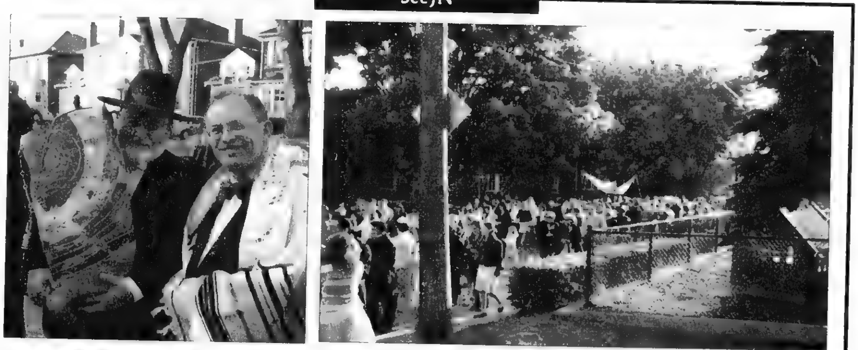

BAR MITZVAH CELEBRATION: Erev Shavuot, Beth Tzedec Congregation celebrated the writing of a sefer Torah in honour of Rabbi Frydman-Kohl's 13 years as its senior rabbi. Sofer Rabbi Avraham Kubayov, left, passed the Torah to Rabbi Frydman-Kohl and then throngs of congregants, guided by the lively tunes of a klezmer band, danced and sang as they brought the Torah through the streets and into the synagogue. [Joseph Steiner photos]

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Consul general addresses Yom Yerushalayim event

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Ya'acov Brosh, Israel's consul general for Toronto and Western Canada spoke earlier this month at Beit Rayim Synagogue and School in honour of Yom Yerushalayim, the holiday celebrating Jerusalem's reunification 40 years ago.

Some 70 people heard Brosh's speech, given May 17, a day after Yom Yerushalayim. It was titled, "Jerusalem: Past, Present and Future."

He opened by discussing Jerusalem's history, highlighting the painful 19 years and 10 days after the War of Independence, when Jews were barred from Jerusalem's holy sites.

"The truth is that in the last 40 years, it's the first time in decades that there is free access to any religion, and to any believer, to any holy site in Israel," Brosh said.

He recalled that in 1993, while he was serving in Cairo at Israel's embassy there, 200 Libyans were permitted to come to Jerusalem for a pilgrimage.

Ya'acov Brosh

"Even one of our worst enemies, the citizens of this country, were allowed to come into Israel," he said.

Brosh moved from Jerusalem's history to discuss the religious and political problems that continue to plague the city.

Brosh noted the Palestinian view that Jews have no right – religious, historical or otherwise – to the city.

Echoing the tagline of an Israeli car insurance ad, which implores that while driving, "Don't be right, be wise," Brosh said of the Palestinians: "If they want to be right, they will have zero. If they want to be wise, they might have for the first time in their history a state, even with a capital that they dream about."

Brosh concluded with some trivia and facts about Jerusalem and its development, and ended on a positive note about the future.

"Jerusalem has a lot to expect in the future," he said. "There are many challenges, there are many hopes, but there is a good reason to believe that 40 years from today, hopefully 3,000 years from today, another Israeli consul general will stand here and raise a toast for 6,000 years for Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

Brosh, a Haifa native, has been Israel's consul general in Toronto since 2003.

The evening also included a lively blend of Jerusalem songs performed by the Beit Rayim Choir.

"It was a wonderful evening. We wanted to get a lot of people from the community out, and I think we did that," said Chuck Ticker, chair of the event's planning committee.

"We've never had such a distinguished guest…it was a very impressive night."

Aliyah 'enhances quality of Israeli society'

Continued from page 3

Ultimately, the goal will be for olim to have a job waiting for them before they leave for Israel, he added.

The agency is developing information services and a contact centre with a 24-hour phone line to answer olim's queries on even the simplest questions, like how to open a bank account or register their children in school. Yet another program being developed is one of "communal absorption" which would see olim from a single diaspora community stay together once in Israel.

Salomon's role as the head of the aliyah and absorption department may well signal a shift in strategy at the agency. He was recruited after a 20-plus year career in the private sector where he worked for Gerber's Israel and East Mediterranean division and for Osem-Nestle, one of Israel's largest food producers and exporters.

He took the Jewish Agency job after something of a mid-life epiphany. "I was looking for some added value to society – to touch people," he said.

"It's a great challenge as I deeply believe in the importance of aliyah to the state of Israel." Accepting new immigrants not only strengthens Israel's demographic profile but it also "enhances the quality of Israeli society" with their human capital, he said.

Aliyah is changing, Salomon continued. In the 1990s, as the Soviet Union disintegrated and people saw an opportunity to leave, one million moved to Israel. "That time has passed." Immigrants today are "olim by choice and their needs must be addressed."

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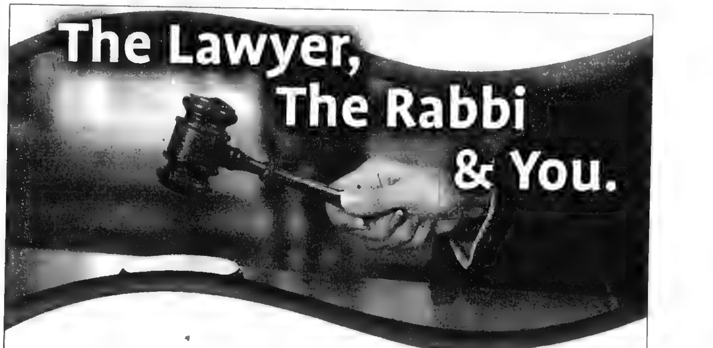

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Chabad raises over $40,000 for local Israelis

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

There's an old adage that says if you're going to host an event you should always "leave 'em laughing."

And on May 17, at the fourth annual Spirit of Community Dinner, a fundraising awards gala hosted by the Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre to benefit the growing Israeli community in the GTA, that's exactly what what they did.

More than 800 people attended the dinner hosted by Rabbi Yisroel Landa, Chabad's local spiritual leader. They were treated to an evening of speeches, auctions, food and song before the closing guest speaker, popular U.S. radio talk-show host Dennis Prager, took the podium and served up some yuks.

Organizers for the event called the $200-a-plate event the most successful they've had, raising nearly $40,000 from the auctions alone.

Sold were the rights to a street name in Vaughan, the use of a private plane for a day, a mini-motorbike, a health club membership for two, a pair of Maple Leafs tickets and catering for 100 people.

"Chabad provides assistance to immigrants in all aspects, creating a home away from home. You are all a part of this accomplishment," Rabbi Landa told the audience.

He then helped to lead a prayer for all the Israeli, Canadian and U.S. soldiers "who sacrifice daily to protect life."

Joyce Frustaglio, regional councillor for the city of Vaughan, received Chabad's community service award for her commitment to help her city's less fortunate. She thanked the audience for "sharing their hard-earned dollars" with Chabad.

Daniel Chai, a soft-spoken mechanical engineer and entrepreneur, accepted an award for his philanthropic efforts.

"I believe in Rabbi Landa's cause… he wants us to be part of a strong whole," Chai said.

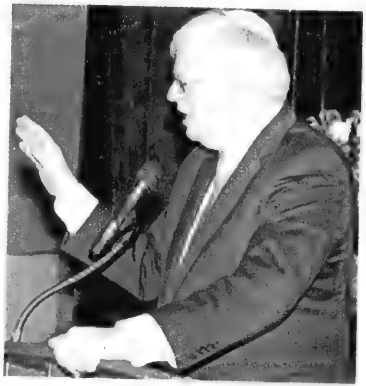
Pediatrician Gideon Koren received the humanitarian award for his tireless efforts in children's medicine at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children.

Koren, who also composes music, played guitar and led the audience in a sing-along to a song he composed for the event called *Ve'ahavta*.

"I believe each one of us has the ability to do good in our community," he told the crowd.

After all the awards were presented and the auctioneering was done, it was time for Prager.

In his booming, radio-friendly voice, the bombastic Prager told the audience he normally speaks about "serious" issues, such as war, religion, life and death, but decided instead to use the opportunity to opine about happiness.


Dennis Prager

"I support Chabad but I don't look like or am a Chabadnik, but I finally figured out why," he said. "Because Chabad's rabbis are happy. Worship God in joy, that's the motto of [Chabad], which is why it draws people to it."

Prager went on to give what amounted to an hour-long discourse-cum-stand-up routine on the perils of unhappiness and what he called everyone's moral obligation to "bring happiness" to the world.

"The older I get, the less sympathy I have for the unhappy," Prager said. "We who sympathize with the unhappy are enablers. Do you think the happiest among Muslims want to kill others and blow themselves up? No."

He exhorted the audience to examine their lives and choose to leave self-pity and bitterness behind.

Using a biblical analogy, Prager likened complaining to evil.

"God seems to have limitless patience for almost anything. But in the book of Numbers, why was God so angry at the Jews in the desert?" he asked rhetorically. "Not because of false idols and such… because they kept complaining."

The quip was met with uproarious laughter.

Prager then segued into his finale, a morality tale about the seduction of false satisfaction.

"God made us dissatisfied for a reason. Because satisfaction leads to no achievement," he said. "Why do we keep searching for a cure for cancer? Because we're dissatisfied. Only cows are completely satisfied. Don't be a cow, it does injustice to your humanity."

In closing, Prager praised Chabad again, calling its approach to religion and life something that increases people's happiness.

"And any organization that does that is doing something right."

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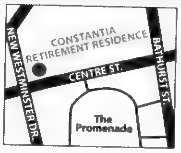

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Sela's goal to bring Israelis home

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

It hasn't even been a year since he arrived in Toronto to take over as the Israeli House director, but Nir Sela has hit the ground running as he works to help Israelis get back home.

The Israeli House, a component of the Israeli consulate, aims to help Israelis who have moved from the Holy Land keep their connection to Israel in hopes they'll eventually return.

Sela has been running the Israeli House since the former director, David Gidron, moved back to Israel with his wife Dina, who was also a shlichah working with the Jewish Agency as the regional director of the Israel Aliyah Centre. Sela's wife Liane replaced Dina.

Before he arrived in Toronto, Sela, a father of two little girls, was a businessman working in various areas of the business world, including positions as a CEO of a factory and a finance manager.

He said that having a background in business management has helped him in his role as the Israeli House director.

"I'm not afraid to speak to anyone here. I have no connection with them, but I speak eye to eye. Most of the people who run the [UJA] Federation, the Israeli Forum and the Israeli community are business related and they come from a financial point of view and it's easier to understand them on that level," Sela said.

"To run an event is to produce something, so there really isn't much of a change. As long as you are, in your heart, connected to it."

The Israeli House is an initiative that was created in the 1980s by the late Ofira Navon, the wife of former Israeli president Yitzchak Navon, to change the negative attitudes Israelis have towards those who decide to move away.

Sela said that Navon wanted to focus her efforts on building a community to connect former Israelis and their children – some of whom were born abroad – to Israel, rather than write them off as expatriates who abandoned their homeland.

"As long as there is a connection, they may be returning citizens. If there is no connection, they will never return. This was the idea and it was adopted by the Ministry of Immigration and Absorption in Israel, who decided to open Israeli Houses in about 15 communities around the world that have large Israeli populations."

Nir Sela

Sela said that he'd like to continue many of the projects that Gidron started, such as establishing a Toronto chapter of the Israeli Boy and Girl Scouts Federation (Hitachdut Hatsofim Ve Hatsofot Be Israel).

The Israeli House also co-ordinates events to celebrate Jewish holidays and national milestones such as Yom Ha'atzmaut.

Sela said that he helped organize the visit of the Israeli dancers from Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village in Rishon Lezion, who performed late last month at Queen's Park in Toronto during the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations.

Sela anticipates that the Schwartz/Reisman Centre in Thornhill, a part of the new Lebovic Community Centre at the corner of Bathurst Street and Weldrick Road, will be a benefit to the Israeli community in the Greater Toronto Area, most of whom reside in Thornhill.

The Blue and White school, which is an Israeli Sunday school at Leo Baeck Day School that is supported by the Israeli House, has a curriculum that focuses more on speaking Hebrew and learning about Israeli culture and traditions, rather than religion.

While Canadian Jews tend to connect to their community through their affiliation to their synagogue, Israelis tend to be more nationalistic and secular, Sela said.

He believes that the reason Israelis don't connect to Judaism the way Canadian Jews do, is because when they live in Israel, they feel Jewish by nature.

"You don't go to synagogue, you don't eat kosher, but you're Jewish. When you get here, you consider that it'll [either] cost you $1,100 a month to send your child to a Jewish school or you can send him to a public school in Thornhill, which will be half Israeli anyway. You'll go with the public school!"

He said a problem with that arises when the children hit the age of bar mitzvah and they don't speak, read or write Hebrew, adding that the programming offered by the Israeli House aims to address issues like this.

Sela also referred to the perceived notion that the Israeli community in Toronto is somewhat separate from the rest of the Jewish community.

He said when he first arrived in Canada, he got the impression from the Israeli community that the major Jewish groups in Canada don't do enough to reach out to Israelis.

"But as I see it now, the federation tries to communicate with the Israeli community and to bring Israelis into the federation. By bringing organizations like the Israeli Forum into the federation as an Israeli representative, they help the Israeli Forum establish itself and help them financially in order to provide Israeli events."

He said that the long-term goals of the Israeli Forum and the federation are completely different from those of the Israeli House because they want to build a strong Jewish community here and he wants to build a strong Jewish community in Israel.

"But the short-term goals are the same. It's building the connection here in order to bring the second generation either to experience Israel or to get to Israel," he said.

For more information, call 416-640-8509 or email israelihouse@toronto.mfa.gov.il.

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Taking a stand in Lebanon

It appears that the prime minister of Lebanon, Fouad Siniora, and his government have decided to try to save their country. Having last summer surrendered Lebanon's sovereignty to the bloodthirsty thuggery of Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah and his army of Shiite surrogates of Iran, they are now making a stand against the latest cadre of Islamic extremists to claim freedom of action on Lebanese soil: Shakir al-Abssi and his Sunni Palestinian surrogates of Al Qaeda called Fatah Al-Islam.

Siniora sent the Lebanese army to expel al-Abssi's group from the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp in northern Lebanon. In the ensuing fighting, some three dozen Lebanese soldiers were killed along with some two dozen Fatah al-Islamis and a number of innocent bystanders.

But Siniora called upon the international community to help him. The United States is spearheading an international military aid effort of restocking and resupplying the Lebanese Army. American planes arrived from Kuwait, flying with permission across Jordanian airspace. Moderate Arab leaders, such as King Abdullah of Jordan, well understand the dangers to their own rule posed by extremist groups such as Fatah al-Islam.

Al-Abssi is well known in the area. He is reported to have been an associate of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq who was killed last summer. Last Saturday, *Al-Jazeera* television broadcast a message from Al-Abssi in which he said: "We say to you, the guardians of the American project, the Sunni people will be leaders in fighting the Jews, the Americans and their loyalists, [a reference to Siniora and his government]."

Responding to the disparagement and taunts from Fatah al-Islam, Siniora described the group as a "terrorist organization that claims to be Islamic and to defend Palestine."

Al-Abssi's warning to the Lebanese government and its supporters was menacingly echoed late last week by Nasrallah, who accused Siniora of being too closely allied to Washington. Nasrallah advised against trying to root out the Al Qaeda confederates from their holes in Nahr al-Bared.

"We will not accept or provide cover or be partners in this [the Lebanese army's attack against Fatah Al-Islam]," he said. Nasrallah then declared that Hezbollah – and thus the Iranians and the Syrians with whom he is allied – should support the Al Qaeda-linked Palestinian group.

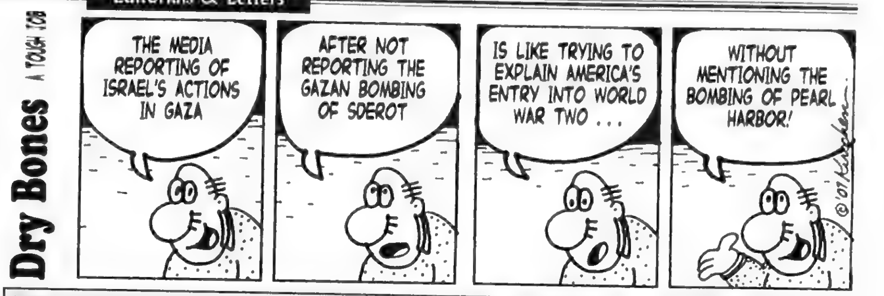
The implications of al-Abssi's and Nasrallah's declarations are far-reaching and deeply ominous: the Iranian-Syrian-Hezbollah axis is willing to join cause with the Al Qaeda extremists in Lebanon. If they are willing to take up arms for Al Qaeda's benefit in Lebanon, where else are they prepared to do so?

To be sure, the battleground in Gaza springs first to mind. Al Qaeda is attempting to get a foothold there and the Hamas government is happy to accommodate them in exchange for help in waging war against the Zionist enemy. After all, as Al-Abssi so sneeringly expressed on Al Jazeera, his group will be among the "leaders in fighting the Jews."

Siniora understands that the threat posed by Fatah al-Islam is not only to the independence and sovereignty of his country, but to its very existence. By lending support to his army, it appears that countries in the region other than Israel also understand that the threat is not to Lebanon alone. It appears they are also making a stand.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Against the backdrop of significant developments in the Iran-Iraq war and air clashes between Israeli and Syrian jets, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig pledged that the United States would involve itself heavily in stalemated Palestinian autonomy talks and the crisis in Lebanon.


Dry Bones
A TOUGH JOB
THE MEDIA REPORTING OF ISRAEL'S ACTIONS IN GAZA
AFTER NOT REPORTING THE GAZAN BOMBING OF SDEROT
IS LIKE TRYING TO EXPLAIN AMERICA'S ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR TWO . . .
WITHOUT MENTIONING THE BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR!
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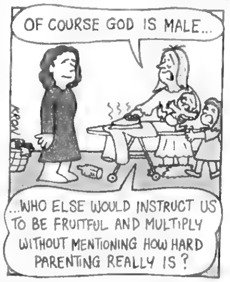
Violence in Gaza

On behalf of the Liberal caucus, I would like to express my dismay at the ongoing violence in the Gaza Strip. Too often we have seen that it is innocent victims in Israel and Gaza who have paid the price in the power struggle between rival Palestinian factions. I join with all Canadians in expressing my hope that an immediate and ultimately lasting ceasefire can be achieved between the parties.

I condemn those who are responsible for the Qassam rocket attacks on southern Israel, and I call for an immediate and unconditional end to the hostilities. I call on all parties in the region to respect international humanitarian law and avoid at all costs the targeting of innocent civilians and civilian infrastructure. Civilians must have unfettered access to humanitarian aid and I call on the parties to ensure that NGOs and relief organizations in the region have the ability to deliver needed aidto those in need to avoid a looming humanitarian disaster.

Israel must be allowed to live in peace and security, and we must continue to work toward an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state living peacefully alongside Israel.

Stéphane Dion
Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada


OF COURSE GOD IS MALE...
...WHO ELSE WOULD INSTRUCT US TO BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY WITHOUT MENTIONING HOW HARD PARENTING REALLY IS?
KROY

* * *

Short-term censorship gain

In the article "Black Panther leader not allowed into Canada," (*CJN* May 25), Len Rudner is quoted as saying that "it is the job of the [Canadian Jewish] Congress" and "our community responsibility, to advocate on behalf of our community."

But by what twisted logic does silencing another community leader from speaking to his own community become advocating for your community? No one is preventing Jews from speaking out against racism. Isn't it Jewish leaders who are doing the silencing and preventing others from speaking?

Censorship is a double-edged sword. Just ask academic Daniel Pipes about how he tried to freely speak to his community at York University, or when former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu tried to do the same at Concordia University. Short-term censorship gains come at the cost of long-term free-speech pain. Haven't we learned our lesson yet?

Stefan Braun
Thornhill, Ont.

Second time on the March

I am a survivor who went on the March of the Living last year for the first time, and I was asked to come again in April 2007.

The second time around, I felt it would be easier for me to see and live through the past. I was wrong. It was harder the second time. The first time, after some 60-odd years, you are numb. The second time, you are digesting and absorbing the experience in more detail.

Thanks to the organizers of the March of the Living and a few chaperons who helped me with some intense moments, I am happy I went and could contribute to the students' knowledge of our dark past.

Amek Adler
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Thank you from former IDF soldier

From 1973 to 1977 I served in a Nachal unit of the Israel Defence Forces. I had no family in Israel and knew no one in my unit. One day, my sergeant handed me a box that he said was for "lone" soldiers, and was sent from "some people" in Canada. I can't tell you the joy that receiving that package gave me! Thirty-four years later, I can still remember the thrill of receiving that little package. Keep doing what you're doing. These small acts move mountains.

David Berman
South Miami, Fla.

* * *

Falwell supported the Jewish people

The whole world, not just the Christian world, lost a giant with the passing of Rev. Jerry Falwell. Rev. Falwell's moral clarity and courage resonated with many Jews, who appreciated and admired his strength of character. His leadership in promoting responsible behaviour and defending the natural family was unmatched, as was his inflexible resolve to see his country support Israel and the Jewish people. In fact, the two were connected. Many ask me why men like Rev. Falwell are so supportive of Israel and the Jewish people. The answer is because men like him are the last repository in our culture of the belief that there is such a thing as right and wrong in this world, and that we ought to strive to do the right thing in all of our endeavours. Rev. Falwell will be truly missed.

Joseph Ben-Ami
Executive Director
Institute for Canadian Values

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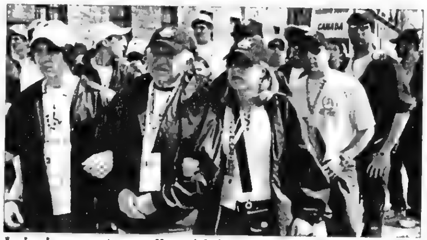
March of the Living

Three generations

By NATE LEIPCIGER



Leipciger, centre, walks with his grandchildren Josh and Arla Litwin.

I have been on the March of the Living many times throughout the years, and it never gets any easier. This year it was even more emotionally difficult and intense.

On Yom Hashoah, some 8,000 young people, their chaperons and a handful of survivors gathered in the yard of Auschwitz I for the march to Birkenau. We marched in silence and with pride, and with our thoughts of the 1.2 million Jews who travelled the same road to their death. We marched with arms linked, my grandson, Josh, on one of my arms and my daughter, Arla, on the other. A sea of blue jackets stretched out as far as we could see. Some people were draped in Israeli flags, and others had tzitzit dangling below their jackets. The Nazis gave us a one-way ticket to Auschwitz, and we come back with three generations of Jews.

Eight thousand young, dedicated, committed and bright Jews from around the world marched that road together. My thoughts went back to the day I first marched there, with my father. At that time, we did not know that it was the last road we would walk with our family.

I spoke of my experiences in one of the barracks in Birkenau to 200 students from Toronto. The entire block was filled with our young people, who had interrupted their studies to come to commemorate those who were murdered there. With their faces wet with tears, they sat on the mud floor and listened in silence as I recounted my arrival with my family on Aug. 2, 1943.

That day, we arrived on the rail siding somewhere between Auschwitz and Birkenau. There on the arrival platform our fate was decided with a flick of the wrist of a Nazi officer. Those sent to the left were young and had able bodies fit for work; the others were sent to the right. I was among those. Through my father's courageous intervention, I was allowed to change from this line and join my father's line. We were marched to a barracks, where we were disrobed, shaved and tattooed, and where we found out that those who went to the right went to their death by gassing.

On our recent arrival in Poland, we went to the Gensza Cemetery in Warsaw, where we saw thousands of headstones of a great variety, some simple and some ornate, attesting to a diverse and rich community that lived in Poland for 1,000 years. That evening, we welcomed Shabbat in the Nozik synagogue, filled to overflowing with people from around the globe, including some from the small but growing Jewish community in Poland, all singing in unison in our common language of prayer.

The days that followed were a virtual roller-coaster of emotions. We visited old synagogues and the death camps of Belzec, Majdanek and Treblinka, where various survivors spoke of their families that were murdered there. We mourned and remembered those who were murdered in forests at sites such as Tikoczyn, Jadwebno and others. We also rejoiced at the memory of our great sages in Krakow and Lublin, and the various accomplishments of today's vibrant Jewish communities in Poland. We ended the week with a candlelit vigil to commemorate the shooting death of members of a Toronto family.

Then we emerged from the depth of sadness in Poland to the joy of life in Israel. We arrived there on Friday and proceeded directly to the Kotel for prayers and thanksgiving.

We spent a solemn day remembering the soldiers who fell in Israel's wars and stood with all of Israel as the sirens wailed for two minutes to commemorate the dead. That evening, we participated in a moving national ceremony at Latrun, which took us from the solemn observance of Yom Hazikaron to a joyous celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, with song, dance and unbridled burst of energy and exuberance.

Th young men and women who participated on the March were focused, intelligent and articulate and will ensure our Jewish survival. The March of the Living has proved to be a life-changing event and an unequalled, unique educational experience.

Nate Leipciger, a survivor, lives in Toronto.

A journey of stories and images

By MARK S. ANSHAN

The experience of being on the March of the Living is one of sharing stories and witnessing images that pierce one's emotions. It is also one of striving to understand the horror that was the Holocaust and embracing the hope and promise that is Israel.

I had the privilege recently of attending the March of the Living, spending Yom Hashoah in Poland on the march. We had the opportunity to guide and teach some 180 young Jewish students about the Holocaust as we journeyed together and experienced what has clearly become an essential program in our informal Jewish education.

En route to Warsaw just as our students were about to drift off and take in what would be much-needed rest, I walked through the plane and asked students for their thoughts as they began this journey.

"I'm really nervous – I don't know what to expect," Ilana told me, then went on to say, "This is something you need to do. I feel responsible to the Jewish people, our history, our family, our future. I know this trip will be hard physically, emotionally and mentally" (and indeed it was), but she continued, "I hope it will be life changing and a learning experience."

Michael said, "It's inevitable I'll be sad, but I want to try and understand how was it possible that this happened and how is it that it could not be prevented."

Our week in Poland was a combination of visits to Polish towns and villages to see and learn first-hand of the incredible Jewish community that was a major force in Poland and, with the exception of a very few souls, completely eradicated in the death factories. We visited several of them – Auschwitz I and Birkenau (Auschwitz II), Belzec, Majdanek, Treblinka. These visits, together with memorial ceremonies at places of mass murder in beautiful forests and quaint towns, left us paralyzed in our thoughts, unable to fully understand how and why this tragedy of our people occurred. But as we are reminded, it's not for us to try and understand why but to remember, learn and teach – to remember our loved ones whom we never had the chance to meet and love and to teach all who must listen so that this will not happen again.

In Birkenau, we walk quietly and took our places in a clearing next to Gas Chamber/Crematorium II in front of the memorial tablets for our ceremony, remembering those who perished. As we began our remembrance, to our right on the selection ramp that transverses Birkenau from the entrance to the far end next the gas chambers, we saw hundreds of young Israeli soldiers in uniform who had also come to be part of the march.

Tears came to my eyes as I was struck by the irony and pride that we felt seeing Israeli soldiers – young people only a few years older than the students sitting there – who defend not only our beloved Jewish state but also all of us – our Diaspora Jewish community – and they are walking through a death facility intended to wipe all Jews from the earth that would make it unnecessary for the creation of Israel.

Anshan reads a story of Treblinka just before the group enters the camp.

While this image was taking hold before us, Cory – one of our students – came before the group and told the story of his grandfather – a survivor of Birkenau.

The next day – with 8,000 Jews from around the world – we marched together from Auschwitz I to Birkenau, holding Israeli flags high, and as we passed through the front gate of Birkenau, we joined together chanting "*Shma* Israel."

We assembled at the far end of Auschwitz I, where a memorial stands in front of the beautiful tall birch trees that line the far boundary of this evil place. During the time before the March of the Living ceremony began, I walked off on my own and went to Gas Chamber/Crematorium III. I thought about the Rally for Truth, Light and Freedom held by the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto last December – our loud and clear protest against the Iranian president who dares to deny that this happened – and wondered how anyone could possibly believe that this genocide did not happen.

On our way to Treblinka we stopped in Tikoczyn and learned how this small Jewish shetl – which looks and feels like Anatevka from *Fiddler on the Roof* – was destroyed; its Jewish community taken to the forest outside the town and massacred. We visited the site and offered our prayers. Finally, before coming to the memorial that is Treblinka, we visited Jedwabne and the site where on July 10, 1941, half of this small Polish town murdered the other half – 1,600 men, women and children – all but seven of the town's Jews.

We left Poland sad and disheartened – understanding a little better what happened but still not able to find the answer to "why?" We took some comfort in knowing that a small Jewish community is being rekindled in what was the centre of Jewish life in Europe.

We arrived in Israel in the early morning hours, and stopped to plant trees in the forest near Modi'in. We were privileged to participate in a Yom Hazikaron service at Kibbutz Amir with Israelis, remembering the more than 22,000 Israeli soldiers who fought in the wars since the day David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of Israel. The next night at Latrun our students danced and sang with Israeli soldiers in front of the memorial wall, marking the end of Yom Hazikaron and the beginning of Yom Ha'atzmaut, a memorable image of young Jews – the next generation of leaders in Israel and the Diaspora – celebrating together and forming the bonds that symbolize what it means to be Jewish.

This remarkable journey – life changing – ended with all of us having learned about the horrors that was the Holocaust and the hope and promise that is Israel. All of us returned to Canada with a strengthened identity of why we are Jewish and confirming all that we knew – that together we must live, protect and build our community for the generations that will follow us. In remembering and leading others, our challenge is to never forget the tragedy that befell so many of our people and share this learning with the rest of our community.

All of us – students and adults alike – learned about and experienced the sadness and disheartening stories and images of the Holocaust, followed by the hope for the future that Israel represents.

Mark Anshan is general counsel and director of public affairs at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Not just Mickey Mouse

Farfour, a rodent look-alike that resembles Mickey Mouse, made his debut on Al-Aqsa TV recently. Created by Hamas, the black-and-white replica appears in Friday-morning programming that targets young children. In a high-pitched squeak, he extols the "virtues" of world domination by Islamists, chanting in one episode, "We will return the Islamic community to its former greatness, and liberate Jerusalem, liberate Iraq, and liberate all the countries of the Muslims invaded by the murderers." He also teaches his impressionable young audience about "the oppressive Zionist occupation," which all children must "resist."

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

In breaks between Farfour's outbursts, viewers call the Hamas-run station, chanting anthems that attack Israel and reciting poems about war and destruction.

Called *Tomorrow's Pioneers*, the program has caused great concern both in Israel and elsewhere. Diane Disney Miller, the late Walt Disney's daughter, has described Hamas as "pure evil" for resorting to such reckless indoctrination of children.

But calls to cancel the show have fallen on deaf ears. According to a Hamas spokesperson, removing Farfour would be seen as "a political surrender to Israel." And in his response to mounting opposition to the program, Fathi Hamad, chairman of the Al-Aqsa television board in Gaza City, commented that "this campaign of criticism is part of a plan orchestrated by the West and the occupying power to attack Islam on the one hand and the Palestinian cause on the other. We have our own ways to educate our children, and any criticism of this approach is shocking interference in our internal affairs."

Sadly, this "education" goes way beyond the rants of a makeshift Mickey Mouse. In addition to other TV offerings and a variety of music videos that glorify suicide terrorism and preach jihad against Israel and the West, there is troubling evidence, as reported by the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that Palestinian Authority schools, summer camps, mosques and official media have all persisted in promoting a culture of hate, with children as their pawns of choice.

In a comprehensive document titled *From Nationalist Battle to Religious Conflict*, Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) describes the contents of newly published 12th grade textbooks, released into Palestinian schools last year. As stated by PMW researchers, "these schoolbooks make no attempt to educate for peace and coexistence with Israel." Rather, they continue, the "teachings repeatedly reject Israel's right to exist, present the conflict as a religious battle for Islam, teach Israel's founding as imperialism, and actively portray a picture of the Middle East, both verbally and visually, in which Israel does not exist at all."

With this systemic brainwashing of a whole new generation of Palestinians, it's little wonder the prospects for peace with Israel seem so elusive.

Will there be a war this summer?

With great fanfare, it was announced last week that the Israel Defence Forces were conducting a general command drill. The week before, it held an important war game. One would have to be naive to think the Arab camp is just sitting there and not conducting drills, manoeuvres and large-scale training exercises.

Ze'ev Schiff in Tel Aviv

The Syrians are talking about a major military exercise that will last more than a week. They say all preparations must be complete by June 1, in case Israel attacks. While Hezbollah continues to lick its wounds, it's trying to establish new defence lines, re-arm and step up training. One of its new approaches is to recruit Shiites who belonged to Amal, as well as Sunni volunteers. Hamas is continuing its efforts to build up a semi-regular army in the Gaza Strip. The organization's self-confidence is growing because it sees that Israel can't stop the barrage of Qassam rockets.

Reactions to the Winograd Committee report also tell us something about the Arabs' military preparations. The Syrians say the report's conclusions will increase Israel's frustration, and one must be wary of frustrated people who seek revenge and see war as an outlet.

Radical Arab organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas claim to have found a tactic to prevent Israeli military victories: continue the war of attrition. Moderate Arab countries such as Egypt and Jordan are worried about the Israeli government's weakness. A weak government will not be able to make political concessions, and this increases the danger of armed confrontation.

Many people say there will be war this summer. Are the pessimists right? The question that should be asked is whether one of the sides plans to declare war. Apart from Israel, there are four parties – Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas – who must be asked this question. Iran will determine whether Hezbollah launches a new war. Tehran is involved in large-scale military operations in a number of places: Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories, but its primary focus is nuclear development.

A major war today, initiated by Iran, could endanger its main objectives. For Iran, a steady stream of low-key military action combined with cash flow is preferable. Tehran has ordered Hezbollah to halt its efforts to topple the Lebanese government. Iran also knows that kidnapping more Israeli soldiers will set off a major conflagration.

Hezbollah will not embark on an all-out war if Iran is against it. If it could, Hezbollah would renew its war of attrition, but the organization's freedom of action in Lebanon is limited. Unusual circumstances would be needed for Hezbollah to go to war again today.

Another problem is Hamas; Hamas could ignite a war in the Gaza Strip. This organization's military arm is frustrated by the Palestinians' successes. The more serious leaders of Hamas know that a war this summer would be too early to serve their purposes.

A year from now, the Gaza Strip will pose a greater threat to Israel, especially if the government doesn't come up with better solutions to the conflict. What is happening today to Sderot could happen someday to Ashkelon. It's a mistake to think the IDF has any desire to reoccupy the Gaza Strip today. There is no need to "save" the government from extremist generals. There are greater extremists among the politicians.

The most complex problem is Syria. There is no question that Syria is readying for combat. Again, the question is whether it has plans to initiate a war, or suspects that Israel does. The military emphasis of the Syrian army is on firepower – various kinds of heavy artillery rockets, some of them new models, missiles and state-of-the-art anti-tank weapons. The Russians have also equipped Syria with sophisticated anti-aircraft missiles. Syria is capable of surprising Israel, mainly through hit-and-run attacks. But it knows there could be a heavy price to pay for a large-scale war, including the fall of the Alawite regime.

A cautious conclusion is that none of the parties today are interested in an all-out war. But war could erupt by mistake. For example, if the other side's intentions are incorrectly assessed, or if a local military campaign veers out of control and sparks a major showdown. For safety's sake, Israel needs to step up its vigilance in the sphere of intelligence, as well as to reinforce IDF troops on the Golan Heights and hone the army's quick-response capabilities.

When aid is exploited for terror

Many well-intentioned people around the world give generously to organizations such as Doctors without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières), Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, assuming that these groups are doing good deeds. So when officials and employees are found to be involved in terror, it's a profound shock. But the recent discovery of direct evidence of such terrorist links is too serious to ignore.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

In April, Mazab Bashir, a Palestinian from Gaza employed by Doctors Without Borders was arrested by Israel for planning terror attacks. Bashir was not a new recruit who had somehow infiltrated the ranks of this NGO – he had been working with the group for more than five years. But on the side, Bashir was also working closely with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), receiving "military" training, and practising to assassinate Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. The PFLP is designated as a terrorist organization by the United States, the European Union, and Canada.

Bashir, like other terrorists who abuse Israel's readiness to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, despite the terror campaigns, exploited his status as an NGO official to enter Jerusalem for surveillance and to prepare the plot. He was arrested in the process.

While this case might be dismissed as exceptional, others linked to Doctors without Borders have promoted incitement and hatred that justifies terror. Medical volunteers sent to Gaza are encircled by Palestinian "suffering" and kept away from the weapons smuggling and daily rocket attacks against Israel. In the process, some naively, and others willfully, become supporters of the Palestinian cause, while officials of this NGO remain passive.

In another case, three "well-respected" groups claiming to promote human rights came to the aid of another PFLP member. On May 2, Human Rights Watch, FIDH (based in France) and the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) published a joint press release condemning Israel for preventing Shawan Jabarin from traveling. Jabarin is the general director of Al-Haq, a radical Palestinian group that works closely with the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists. According to the NGOs' statement, the travel ban violated Jabarin's rights.

But this statement omitted the minor point that in 1985, Jabarin was convicted for recruiting members for the PFLP. After serving his sentence, he returned to his involvement with the PFLP, and Jordan also placed him on the list of Palestinians who are barred from entering that country.

These two blatant examples illustrate the cynical manipulation of moral principles such as human rights and humanitarian aid.

Recently, World Bank officials in the Middle East joined the process, perhaps taking advantage of the scandal at the top of that organization. A highly publicized report that repeated the themes of Palestinian suffering and Israeli responsibility was based entirely on unsubstantiated reports published by political NGOs and United Nations organizations. The World Bank "technical team" simply cut and pasted claims made by the UN's Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), B'tselem and Peace Now.

Hundreds of journalists around the world gave this report headline coverage, without bothering to ask whether the information was accurate. Few, if any, knew or cared that Peace Now had retracted its earlier claims, or that the OCHA's officials include Allegra Pacheco, an extremist anti-Israel activist.

Pacheco heads the OCHA's "Information and Advocacy" unit in Jerusalem and has often used terms such as "apartheid" to demonize Israel. In September 2000, she addressed a rally in Washington, D.C., calling for the abolition of Israel and the "complete and unrestricted return to Palestine, all of it from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea."

These examples of the exploitation of humanitarian and human rights principles and rhetoric in order to justify terror and demonization go beyond the attacks on Israel. Beyond the damage resulting from their obsessive and unjustified condemnations of Israel, the actions of the World Bank, Human Rights Watch, Doctors Without Borders and others who claim to speak in the name of social conscience and morality have all but destroyed these principles.

Donors and officials who provide their money and names to these organizations also have the responsibility to insure that this support is not abused.

The Kirshner File

Nathan Englander's circuitous route to fame

At 37, Nathan Englander is already one of the most celebrated short story writers and novelists in America. Not bad for a guy who was once a photographer's assistant.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Englander, whom critics have compared to Isaac Bashevis Singer and Cynthia Ozick, left an imprint eight years ago with the publication of a collection of short stories, *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges*, which was heralded and attained best-seller status.

Having achieved a measure of fame, he precipitously dropped out of sight, only to re-emerge when his first novel, *The Ministry of Special Cases*, was published in April.

So where had he been all these years?

"It was not a case of writer's block," said Englander, an approachable person of medium height, Mediterranean demeanour and curly black hair who was in Toronto recently to promote his historical novel. "I write endlessly. But for me, time is what this book demanded. I had to find a way through it. I didn't lose my nerve, but I lived with the terror that I might not finish it."

Described by one reviewer as Shakespearean in its tragic scope and power, *The Ministry of Special Cases* takes place in Argentina during the first year of the military government in 1976, unfolds against the backdrop of civil strife and revolves around a Jewish cemetery worker and his son, who suddenly disappears.

As Englander tells it, sitting in Random House's boardroom and happily munching on cookies and then a roast beef sandwich to ward off the hunger pangs of a missed lunch, the story had been germinating in his mind for more than a decade.

In 1989, when he was an exchange student at Hebrew University, he met a group of intriguing Argentine students who had been shaped by politics. "A fascination with the people became a fascination with the place."

Two years later, he went to Argentina to attend a friend's wedding. In terms of his development as a writer, it was an important step. As Englander wandered through Buenos Aires, stumbling into a neighbourhood built around a cemetery, he formed an obsession with bodies and bones and a fascination with the lionizing of the dead, the symbols and themes that permeate *The Ministry of Special Cases*.

After six weeks, he knew that a novel was welling up in him. "Argentina just seemed the place to set the novel," he noted.

Englander, who was born into a modern Orthodox family in West Hempstead, Long Island, began writing *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges* in 1994, when he attended the prestigious Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa.

But even before Iowa, he knew that writing was in his blood. "I've always been language oriented. My brain is always spinning, and I'm not very good at turning it off. There are a million things I want to write. My writing is an obligation to the world in my head, which is a wholly separate universe."

For Englander, literature was also an escape from the "closed" milieu in which he had been brought up. "I didn't feel right in the world I was raised," he said, his dark eyes glowering.

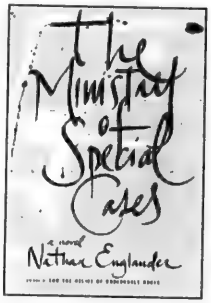
Nathan Englander

Educated in a yeshiva, he internalized the values of Orthodoxy: early marriage, a houseful of children and the necessity of leading a strict religious Jewish life. "I didn't meet anyone who was not exactly like me or who had differing opinions," he recalled. "I didn't even have Conservative or Reform Jewish friends. It was only our way."

נתן אנגלנדר
גלגול בפארק אווניו

Questioning that cramped shtetl lifestyle, Englander opted to study at secular Binghamton University rather than head off to an Israeli yeshiva like many of his friends. But even at Binghamton, he had one foot in Orthodoxy, hewing to the old ways by majoring in Judaic studies, but blazing a new path by taking a second major in creative writing.

At the urging of a roommate, he spent his junior semester at Hebrew University. "It was the year I grew up. I had never travelled anywhere before." In his first week in Jerusalem, which he adores, he gave up religion and became a secular Jew. By leaving Orthodoxy, he surprised even himself. "I wanted to be happy, and I would not have been happy as an Orthodox Jew. Not at all."



Having jettisoned the rituals of Judaism, Englander is irreligious today and regards his rejection of Orthodoxy as "a supreme act of rebellion." As he put it, "Now it's my life. There is no conflict anymore. This is the right world for me. My parents have been very supportive, though they want me to marry a nice Jewish girl."

Before settling down in Manhattan, where he currently lives, Englander embarked on a circuitous odyssey of self-discovery, during part of which he avoided writing altogether. "I didn't know people could become writers. I was probably afraid to dig in."

As this formative period unfolded, he worked in a photographer's studio in New York City, and never considered it as a waste of time. "I learned how to work hard and be focused." Parlaying his new-found knowledge, he went to Jerusalem to photograph new Anglo immigrants. What emerged from that summer in Israel was the realization that he really was hooked on writing.

He enrolled at at the University of Iowa for a master of fine arts degree, but the going was initially tough.

"I had no confidence in myself and had never been exposed to such people. Iowa was a pressure cooker, but I loved it. I learned discipline and craft."

In 1996, at the height of the Oslo peace process, he made aliyah. "I was dedicated to Israel and I loved Jerusalem." And as he pointed out, he personally hoped to witness the flowering of peace between Israel and the Palestinians. But after five years, he left Israel in disappointment. The second Palestinian uprising had broken out, dashing his dreams of peace, and the sensational success of *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges* heightened his writerly ambitions.

Turning another chapter in his life, he returned to New York in 2001. "It took me a long time to realize that New York was a better city for me. I thrive in Manhattan."

Englander reportedly received a considerable advance for his first book, and since then, he has been the recipient of various grants.

Yet he has not been coasting financially. At one juncture, he needed a loan just to cover his rent and pay for his groceries.

"It's a sad commentary on the speed at which I write," said Englander, who works virtually every day and has supplemented his income by teaching in Columbia University's MFA program.

Yet Englander, whose work has appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*, has no regrets whatsoever.

"I love to write and I've dedicated my life to writing. It's what I want to do. I really believe in it. I can't separate my life from writing and can't imagine anything else."

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Aaron's passion is a model for all Jews

By RABBI AVROHOM JACKS

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

My wife and I were recently browsing in a Jewish bookstore when we came across a book on humour. Our eye caught one anecdote that we both thought was funny, and it came to mind when I was preparing this column.

The comedian who wrote the book asks the following question: "Since the purpose of woman wearing perfume is to make themselves more attractive to menfolk, why do they wear flowery perfume? I mean men don't appreciate flowers. Why would woman think that making themselves smell like a rose would appeal to men? Rather, if they really wanted to attract the attention of a man, they should wear a 'new car smell' scent."

As a member of the male part of our species, I can attest to the fact that there is something exhilarating about the scent of a new car. I remember when I picked up my new car from the dealer. The "new car" smell enveloped me, and it was indeed more delectable than any French perfume.

I remember how the engine purred as I eased my way into traffic. "This car is great!" I thought to myself. "What a thrill to drive something so new!"

As the months passed, the novelty faded. Somehow, that new car smell slowly becomes less exciting as we begin the search for the next material object intended to momentarily satisfy our craving for the new. If familiarity doesn't exactly breed contempt, it at least fosters boredom and complacency.

Yet, in this week's parshah, Behalotch, we read about a man who was different. He never lost his eagerness for the daily routine that he followed for most of his life.

After the Torah describes how God instructed Aaron how to light the menorah that stood in the Temple, the Torah adds, "Aaron did so." This is a puzzling statement. Obviously, Aaron was ready to fulfil a direct command from God. Wouldn't you do God's bidding, if He specifically and directly asked you to perform a certain commandment?

The Sifri answers that it does not only mean that Aaron followed God's command, but it teaches us "the praise of Aaron – that he did not change." In other words, at the end of his life, Aaron was still lighting the menorah with exactly the same degree of enthusiasm that he lit it with on his first day. Aaron, therefore, is the model of consistency and stability. He teaches us by example that we must fulfil our duties with eagerness and passion.

One can be inspired by the notion of tikkun olam, of healing the world. One can become aflame with a burning passion toward the ideals of human dignity and world peace. One can be motivated to make a donation, to give a speech, to shed a tear, to attend a rally or to argue a point.

However, the real and ultimate power of Judaism is that it has always inspired its people to cultivate their relationship with God on a continuous basis, every day of their lives, with unwavering enthusiasm.

During exciting days as well as monotonous days, on bright days and bleak days, our commitment to our heritage must be maintained and constantly increased.

Judaism is not only about a moving Yom Kippur experience or about an emotional memorial ceremony. It's something a Jew lives every moment of his life.

May we all be blessed with the ability to appreciate the sparkle of a new day, the wonder of learning and the glory and meaningfulness in daily, ordinary acts.

Rabbi Avrohom Jacks is spiritual leader of Congregation Zichron Kedoshim in Montreal.

Taking on a huge responsibility

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

In a brilliant line from *The Believer*, Henry Bean's stirring film about a Jewish neo-Nazi, the title character, Daniel Balint, is confronted by his sister, who finds him in a T-shirt bearing a swastika. When she challenges him as to how he can betray his people in this way, he replies that Jews are "not my people." Tell that to Hitler, she retorts, and Daniel scoffs: "So Hitler is the chief rabbi now? He decides?"

Her argument: in the bowels of Auschwitz, all Jews were equal. Hitler's reduction of Jewishness to blood made everyone prone to extermination. But Daniel is right too: today, Jewishness is chosen, dropped, reconstituted, caustically rejected, re-embraced, ambivalently shouldered, ignorantly ignored, indifferently thrust aside, and yes, even turned upside down in a fit of racist self-loathing. And much of this is done with little real sense of what the legacy of Judaism actually entails.

Jewish education, because of its potential to provoke religious connection and social change, carries an enormous responsibility. It's an opportunity to defuse the myths of communal Jewish politics and denominational prejudices and keep the students' eyes on the prize – the meaning of meaning; the quest for God; the power of spirit; the redemptiveness of texts; the humanity of others.

It's not a simple proposition to imbue our children with the values and beliefs that are important to us and have them incorporate such values in an unswerving fashion, and yet still be humbly receptive to other ideas, to other ways of thinking and to determining the best Jewish path.

Most of us err on one side or the other: circumscribing avenues of knowledge except for the ones we rigidly believe are Torah-true, or we do the reverse, blindly absorbing everything in the culture and banishing Jewish particularism for what is envisioned, often unwisely, as the Promised Land of modern life and modern love.

I have a dream – that we focus less on the colour of our neigbour's kippah and more on the content of our own kavanah. Less on the architecture of our shuls and more on how our hearts are moulded. Less on preconceived dogmatic formulations and more on the shock of the true, the sting of the unexpected, the possibility of the previously intolerable. That we teach our children not to memorize acceptable "answers" but each day to raise new, unforeseen and even unanswerable questions, and that we listen to these questions with pride and joy and overwhelming gratitude for their originality and independence, even if they express sentiments that run counter to our religious checklist.

This art of fostering our children's inquiring minds begins when they are young. When a child comes home from Grade 1, 2 or 3 and can't understand what the Lord is doing in this week's parshah, or how life and death and soul and suffering and just plain Torah works, we have an opportunity to affirm their creativity and to start them on their own journey, or we can bottle them up and make them feel less for having asked.

Jewish faith, writes Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, "is the courage to see the world as it is" – and, one might add, as it could be.

America's relationship with the Mideast

***Power, Faith and Fantasy* by Michael B. Oren, W.W. Norton & Company.**

Books

Bernard Baskin

This 700-page book is concerned with America's many-sided 230-year relationship with the Middle East – from the time of George Washington to George W. Bush. A brief review can convey, only haltingly, the book's variety and richness.

Eleven years after the United States declared its independence from Britain, American political and diplomatic leaders realized that if the threat of the Mediterranean Barbary pirates was to be overcome, an effective national government was necessary.

As a result, delegates from 12 of the original states gathered in Philadelphia to write a constitution. Oren writes, "The constitution, officially adopted in 1789, empowered Congress to declare war and to provide and maintain a navy. A threat from the Middle East had played a concrete role in creating a truly 'United States,' a consolidated nation capable of defending not only its borders at home but also its vital interests overseas."

The Middle East always enchanted Americans, enthralling them with visions of minarets and pyramids, oases, camels and dunes. Eager tourists with high expectations were invariably disappointed. In 1867, the "hawk-nosed and mustachioed" Mark Twain visited Palestine. He described it as a "hopeless, dreary, heartbroken land." He found the Sea of Galilee so tiny that he refused to pay the boat fare across. He asked, "Is it any wonder that Christ walked?"

Herman Melville ridiculed the efforts or ability of missionaries to transform eastern Orthodox Arabs, much less the Muslims, into American-style Protestants. "Might as well attempt to convert bricks into bride-cake as the Orientals into Christians."

Nevertheless, assorted missionaries came in astonishing numbers. Oren describes them as guileless and patronizing, haughty and unaffected, yet thoroughly well-intentioned.

The Israeli author Hillel Halkin has written, "Apart from Jews, evangelical Christians provide the strongest source of popular support that Israel has in America, or for that matter anywhere in the world. When Jews debate about how to relate to such support and express the fear that it is untrustworthy, they might reflect that a point of view with strong roots that are hundreds of years old is not likely to prove a straw in the wind."

The Balfour Declaration of 1917, which declared Britain's support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, could not have been formulated without the tacit consent and approval of then-president Woodrow Wilson. The author indicates that when the declaration was announced, "a crowd of 100,000 Jews reportedly danced in gratitude outside the U.S. consulate in Odessa, with smaller demonstrations in front of U.S. legations in many countries. Telegrams of thanks billowed into the White House."

One of the great popularizers of the Middle East as a place of mystery and adventure was Lowell Thomas, an enterprising American reporter and photographer. He was unparallelled in his ability to manufacture legends.

In the 1920s, he turned the life of T.E. Lawrence into both a bestselling book and sensational sound and light show. In London alone, a million people saw the show, but it was in the United States that the Lawrence fad became a national frenzy. "Not since the belly dancers and camel rides at the Chicago exposition 30 years before had so many Americans been exposed to the gossamer charms of the Middle East," Oren writes.

Of all the myriad viewers of Thomas' act, only one was notably dissatisfied. "I saw your show last night and thank God the lights were out," Lawrence wrote to Thomas, rebuking him for his flagrant exaggerations and lies.

Oren is an eminent scholar and author of the recent bestselling book *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*. He concludes his massive volume in this way: "In the near future, Americans will have to cope with the threat of an expansionist Iran and with the dangers of Al Qaeda splinter groups. Above all, they will have to engage in brave introspection, re-examining their relationship to the Middle East and, through it, their relationship with the world."

The green Torah

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish Highway

You can hardly pick up a newspaper or turn on the television without finding out about some initiative to save the environment and care for the planet. Valuable advice but hardly new to our religion. Peek into a Torah and you can read what Judaism has known for thousands of years.

Here are some examples of that connection from the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL):

- *Bal tashchit* (do not waste) teaches us to conserve resources.
- *Shiluach ha-keyn* (chasing away the mother bird) teaches us to safeguard all species.
- *Shmita* (sabbatical year) teaches us that economic justice and ecological sustainability are intimately related.
- And Shabbat reminds us that we are but one strand in the web of creation.

The COEJL site suggests that finding God in nature is a deeply Jewish experience and not some "New Age fad… Jewish liturgy is infused with descriptions and images of nature as an expression and embodiment of the Divine. Yet for more than a thousand years, Jews – even Judaism itself – have been distant from nature." The site has many suggestions about creating a "reconciliation" between Jews and nature. **[www.coejl.org/jewviro.php]**

Jewish tradition has continued to value nature and the environment. Here are some post-biblical sources:

- Look at My creations! See how beautiful and perfect they are! For your sake I created them all. Do not desolate and corrupt My world, for if you corrupt it there is no one to set it right after you. (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:1)
- If a man kills a tree before its time, it is as though he has murdered a soul. (Nahman of Bratslav) **[http://tinyurl.com/2x8oqx]**
- This prohibition does not apply to trees only. Rather, anyone who breaks utensils, tears garments, destroys buildings, stops up a stream or ruins food with destructive intent transgresses the command, "Do not destroy." (Maimonides' Laws of Kings 6:10) **[http://tinyurl.com/yq5oum]**

Rabbi Binyomin Adilman explains that recycling has a basis in Jewish tradition. Rather than throw away articles that were used to perform mitzvot, Judaism has always encouraged their reuse. For example, a lulav isn't just thrown away but is kept to be used as fuel to burn the chametz for Passover. An etrog is poked full of cloves and used as the fragrance during the Saturday night havdalah service. The chupah from a wedding ceremony becomes the groom's tallit. Even leftover challah is used to make a kugel for the following Shabbat. Rabbi Adilman suggests that using yahrzeit glasses as drinking glasses should not be considered macabre. Rather, it would be a wonderful way to encourage us to use these objects for another mitzvah as we fill them with a drink and "thank the Creator with an appropriate blessing!" **[http://tinyurl.com/25ayes]**

I was impressed by MyJewishLearning.com's section on Nature & The Environment. To see how much you know, start off with the deceptively difficult quiz, and then read up on why the story of Genesis is "often blamed for the western world's rapacious attitude toward the natural world." The Guided Learning section takes you through traditional teachings on nature and the environment and then looks at contemporary concerns. **[http://tinyurl.com/2fbv6b]** Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb has suggestions for Living an Environmentally Conscious Jewish Life. **[http://tinyurl. com/2f7pet]**

For more stimulating readings, check out How Green Is Judaism? **[http://tinyurl.com/28lcan]** and Jewish Environmental Values: The Dynamic Tension Between Nature and Human Needs. **[http://tinyurl.com/yqfrbc]**

Rabbi Yossi Ives says that in the minds of many people environmentalism has been hijacked by "eco-fascists" and that animal welfare has been "discredited in the eyes of many Jews for its hostility to *shechita*… But these objections, while correct in my view, don't delegitimize the fundamental morality of environmental responsibility and compassion toward animals respectively." Some solutions: "Rabbis can raise the issue in sermons, communal organization could adopt environmentally friendly policies, Jewish charities can invest ethically and individual Jews can buy with a social and ecological conscience." **[http://tinyurl.com/2f2r9l]**

Next week, greening Israel.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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בית צדק

Bnei Akiva schools take part in philanthropy effort

From left, Melissa Factor, Tova Rosenzweig and Dina Weltman accept a cheque for $5,000 from Megan Tasker of the Toskan Casale Foundation on behalf of Zareinu. [Frances Kraft photo]

By **FRANCES KRAFT**
Staff Reporter

Three students at Ulpanat Orot won $5,000 for Zareinu Educational Centre through a project they undertook as part of their Grade 10 careers class, while a group of their counterparts at Yeshivat Or Chaim won $5,000 for Ve'ahavta the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee.

The schools – the boys and girls branches of Toronto's Bnei Akiva Schools – represent the only Jewish school to participate thus far in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) run by the Toskan Casale Foundation. The foundation was launched in 2001 by the founders of MAC cosmetics to support community-based grassroots organizations.

YPI dates back to 2002 and is geared to students in Grades 9 and 10. Schools are given a curriculum on philanthropy, and students are required to research a charity, complete a site visit, and prepare a proposal to request funding.

Other charities that Bnei Akiva students researched included rape crisis centres, women's shelters, and services for homeless youth.

"We're saying, 'Go out into the real world,' " said Frank Samuels, principal of the schools.

In terms of the Jewish community, the experience will help students who may "one day determine how federation gives its money," he said.

'They want to help children so badly'

Shari Weinberg, who teaches careers and is also Ulpana's assistant to the principal, introduced the program to the school in February. She told *The CJN* that students at the school have always been involved in chesed even before community service was mandatory, but the project brought a new dimension, allowing students to research and advocate for many more charities in the GTA.

Students voted on classroom presentations, and finalists made their case in front of a panel of teachers, students and parents at each school.

Melissa Factor, who researched Zareinu with Tova Rosenzweig and Dina Weltman, said she knew about the school before, but "we didn't know what happened behind the doors." What struck her, she said, was how much Zareinu staff accomplish in a limited amount of space. The girls noted in their presentation that therapy takes place in the halls, with privacy provided only by shower curtains.

"They want to help children so badly," said Rosenzweig.

"We were only supposed to spend a few hours, but we ended up staying all day," said Weltman. The girls pitched in to help feed students after a volunteer called the school to cancel.

Akiva Adler, who researched Ve'ahavta with Sean Cohen, Jeremy Segal and David Tradburks, said he realized that "homeless people are not what we think they are." Spending eight hours on the organization's van distributing bagels and coffee to homeless people in the Toronto area, Adler met people who were educated, had people they cared about, and were appreciative of the organization's efforts. "It was very uplifting to see how much Ve'ahavta helps them... Sometimes they just can't function in society."

The students "got a lot out of" researching individual charities, becoming passionate about helping them, and sharing that with their classmates, said Rosenzweig's mother Marcee.

Correction

In the article "Israeli centre helps heal victims of psychotrauma" (*CJN* May 17), an incorrect e-mail address was given for Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital. The correct address is herzoghosp@rogers.com. The CJN regrets the error.

בס"ד

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Kates brings love of sports and learning to class

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

"They are our teachers..."

Philip Kates, who has taught at Netivot Hatorah Day School since 1985 – a year after it opened – believes in listening to his students.

After a Grade 5 student told Kates that he and his friends didn't like the exercises they had to do in gym class, Kates who also provides curriculum support and leads Grade 5 students in davening – implemented some of their suggestions.

"I think part of being a teacher is being flexible," he said in a recent interview at the Orthodox school in Thornhill.

The 47-year-old father of two boys, who was born and raised in Toronto, knew from a young age that he wanted to be a teacher.

"I've always loved kids," he said.

In addition to his experience as a day camp counsellor and running junior congregation at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, Kates was influenced in his career choice by a fellow student who helped him with his Hebrew studies after he switched from public high school to the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto at the beginning of Grade 11. "She was so caring and patient, and I had a thirst for learning," he recalls.

> **A lesson from the teacher:** *"There's no such thing as a 'stupid' question. My philosophy is, 'Always ask.' We can all learn from each other's questions."*

Kates majored in religious studies at York University, then earned his B.Ed at the University of Toronto before heading to Israel for a year to study at Bar-Ilan University, in preparation for the career he wanted in Jewish education.

Although he was raised in a traditional Jewish home – he had his bar mitzvah at Beth Emeth – it wasn't until he was a teenager that Kates became shomer Shabbat.

He attributes the change in his observance level both to the influence of his home life and his experience at CHAT. As well, he credits Rabbi Joseph Kelman of Beth Emeth as a role model and influence both in his choice of Jewish lifestyle and career.

Teaching at Netivot has brought together Kates' love of Judaism, kids and sports. "I can't see myself doing anything else," he said.

Years ago, a friend – on learning that Kates planned to go into teaching – joked that he was going to spend his time "babysitting," but Kates was undeterred. "I may not make a lot of money," he said at the time, "but I'll be happy in what I do."

He still feels the same. "I've been blessed. I'm not going to be a millionaire, but I want to make a difference in a child's life."

His father, a retired electrician, and his late mother, a stay-at home mom for most of his growing-up years, were supportive of his choice.

Kates' main goal in remedial work is to allow his students to progress at their own individual levels, he said.

As a gym teacher, it's to get his students moving as much as possible. It's a constant challenge to try to provide the amount of physical activity students need, particularly when so much of their school day is not active, he explained.

"Physical fitness is an important part of my life, and I try to encourage the same in my students," he said. He also encourages them to bring healthy snacks and lunches.

Kates developed an interest in fitness after gaining some weight during his time in Israel as a student. More recently, he has come to enjoy cooking, tinkering with recipes to make them more healthful, with the input of his wife Debbie, a speech pathologist.

Now, with a 10-month-old and a 6-year-old at home, he squeezes in mini-workouts before they wake up.

Is he strict? Kates likes to think of himself as firm but fair – and caring. Over the years, feedback from students confirms that his message has gotten through.

Philip Kates

A boy that he once kicked out of class as a substitute teacher encountered him years later and told him, "Don't worry, I'm behaving myself now."

Another time, he recalls, told a Grade 8 gym class, "You boys have such a tough schedule. You're under such stress. You need your exercise."

"Finally," said one. "A teacher who understands."

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Safed musicians in town for fundraiser

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Safed, one of Israel's four holy cities along with Jerusalem, Tiberias and Hebron, needs help.

And organizers in Toronto are staging a fundraising concert to provide it.

A local grassroots assembly of Safed (also known as Tsfat) devotees have arranged for the musical group Simply Tsfat – a fervent trio of Safed-based, Breslev chassidim that includes two guitarists and a violinist – to perform June 6 at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation.

Safed's residents, businesses and tourism industry were devastated by last summer's Lebanon war, and town officials fear there may not be enough funding from the Israeli government to help them over the hump of rebuilding the town's infrastructure and their reputation.

All proceeds from the concert will go to the Nachal Novea Tsfat Fund, a New York-based charity that helps Safed's needy families with interest-free loans, helps stock food banks, maintains holy sites and provides supplemental funding for various rebuilding projects.

The fund is also championed worldwide by Safed's active Breslever Chassidic community.

With more than 27,000 residents, Safed is renowned and revered for its historic, spiritual connection to Jewish mysticism through the teachings of Rabbi Yitzchak Luria and Rabbi Yosef Karo, among others, and for its modern-day charm as a thriving centre for artists, poets and scholars high in the Galilee mountains.

Rhonda Newman, a Toronto nurse enamoured with Safed and its Breslever community, volunteered at Simply Tsfat's Toronto concert last year, and decided to get more involved with the fund as a spokesperson for this year's event.

"The money helps on different levels," Newman told the *CJN*. "For education, the environment, re-development, and support for entrepreneurs."

Newman added that all of the volunteers involved in this cause feel a great sense of tikkun olam and "a passion to strengthen Israel, our people and our spirit as well."

The charity is also heartily endorsed by Safed's mayor, Yishei Maimon.

"It gives me great pleasure to watch the dynamic energy that [the fund] brings to the city," Maimon wrote in a March 1 letter to Tsfat Fund President Samuel Solomon.

In the past, the fund has helped build nurseries, educational facilities, visitor centres and most recently, a refurbished mikvah that provides access for people with disabilities.

Speaking to *The CJN* from New York, Michael Landsberg, executive director of the fund, emphasized the extent of Safed's need.

"Tsfat suffered heavy damage [from the war]. The absorption centre for the area's immigrants and many businesses were forced to close," he said. "All the tourist income that was a resource was eliminated. Tens of millions of dollars were lost."

Landsberg also stressed that by helping Safed, people should understand that they're helping "one of the most strategic cities in the north," portraying it as a crucial bulkhead protecting Israel's perimeter in the Galilee.

He added that donors can choose to direct their donations to whatever charitable cause in Safed donors prefer to fund.

Based on her previous experience, Newman believes attendees at this year's concert are in for a treat.

"The essence of Breslev Chassidut is to help everyone," she said. "And Simply Tsfat are amazing. They have a joyful vibe… and you just get this charged feeling at their concerts."

According to Simply Tsfat's website, the group believes in the power of music to help heal their city and the world.

"Judaism is full of song. Even prayer is a song," group members declare in a video on their website.

This year, those songs will ring out once again to help heal Safed.

For concert information, call 416-787-163.

MITZVAH MANIA: Grade 2 student Yona Tugg helps her mother, Jennifer, sort and pack items for the food bank as part of the Toronto Heschel School's fifth annual Mitzvah Day. Some 250 students took part this year.

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Coverage of Gaza incursion lacks balance

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

As of early last week, most media reports about Israel's renewed but limited military operations in Gaza focused on the impact of the Israel Defence Forces' actions against the Palestinians. Only briefly did they note the reasons for Israel's limited strikes: to stop more Qassam fire on its southern communities.

However, some journalists attempted to provide a more balanced view.

In "Israeli air strike targets Palestinian leadership" (May 21), the *Globe and Mail*'s Mark Mackinnon noted that the IDF's May 20 action, which killed 11 Palestinians, was "in response to unrelenting Palestinian rocket fire targeting the nearby town of Sderot." Mackinnon continued, "Israel's security cabinet authorized intensified strikes on Gaza in an effort to curb the rocket fire."

If there is a sense of imbalance in general, it derives from the decision by many newspapers to accompany stories with prominent wire service photos of Palestinian reactions after Israeli air strikes.

The emotional impact of headlines and imagery cannot be underestimated. Even if an article attempts to provide balance in its text, photos create an overall impression that the Palestinians once again are victims of Israeli aggression. More than 10 per cent of Sderot's population has been forced to flee, while others are being forced to live under a state of siege. There were no photos of Israelis evacuating their homes.

In one week alone, before Israel renewed its military action, more than 150 rockets landed in or around the town, striking homes, schools, and factories. On May 21 a woman was killed when a rocket hit her car near the town centre. On May 22, the *Globe* reported this fatality under the headline, "One Israeli, five Palestinians killed in attacks," although, in fairness, it did carry a prominent photo of two Israeli women comforting each other.

Intimidation tactics, including kidnappings, mean that very few foreign correspondents are left in Gaza. On the other hand, there are hundreds of journalists free to roam throughout Israel, so they could report more about events in Israel's southern communities.

In the evening of May 21, CTV.ca ran a story about the Israeli fatality in Sderot under the heading "Palestinian rocket kills Israeli woman near Gaza." However, it omitted any account as to why Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other Palestinian groups backed by Hamas persist in their relentless rocket attacks.

Palestinian Authority prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh declared on May 22: "We will keep to the same path until we win one of two goals, victory or martyrdom." In Hamas' mind, victory means the destruction of Israel. If this means sacrificing Palestinians as "martyrs," as suicide bombers, so be it.

This is where the media might focus more attention. But sometimes even that attention can lead to a very one-sided interpretation of events.

On May 18, a BBC anchor interviewed Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies, a left-wing, Washington-based think tank. When Bennis criticized only Israel for the hostilities in Gaza, the anchor raised the key issue: since Israel withdrew unilaterally from Gaza in August 2005, all it has received in return has been rocket attacks.

Bennis showed no sympathy at all for Israel. She maintained that Israel had only redeployed its troops and settlers to maintain its "occupation" of Gaza from the outside, and she implied that only ending Israel's occupation of both Gaza and the West Bank, and allowing the free movement of Palestinians, would lead to tranquility.

Wholly absent was any reference to Hamas' declared aim to carry out its goal of eliminating Israel, because the mere presence of a Jewish state in the Middle East, within any boundaries, is intolerable to Hamas.

The naiveté and simple-mindedness of Bennis' views were dismaying. Unfortunately, her views seem to be shared quite widely in some right-wing and left-wing circles these days.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

SINGING IN YIDDISH: Students in grades 3 to 8 at Bialik Hebrew Day School have become recording artists with the completion of a CD of Yiddish songs. Lenka Lichtenberg, renowned singer and musician, produced the album with the help of Bialik Yiddish teachers Ana Berman, Ruth Gerlock and Marc Kates. The school plans to launch the CD in the fall.

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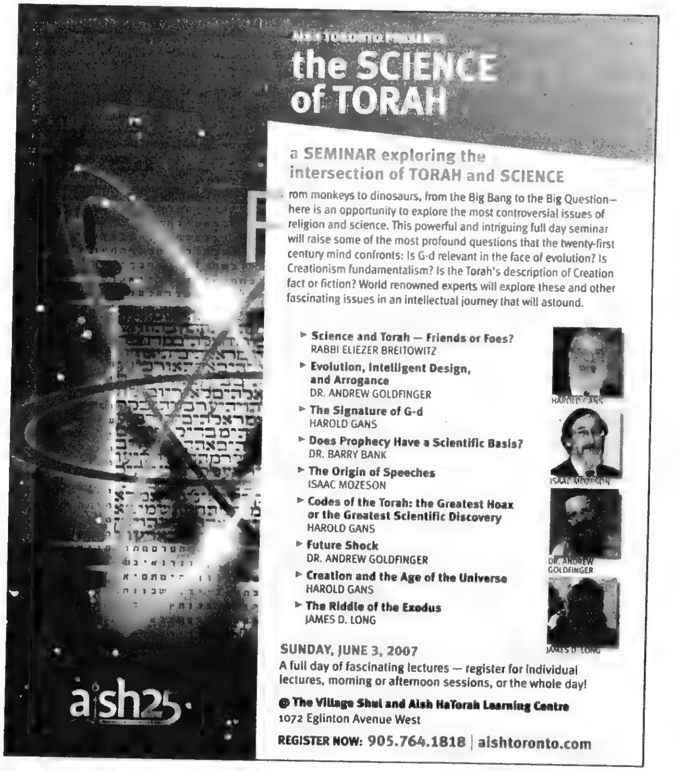

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Congress 'appreciates the government's efforts'

Continued from page 1

revoking his client's citizenship was flawed and he would ask for a judicial review.

"He's not going anywhere. He never will go anywhere," he told the *Record*.

"I am absolutely livid that the prime minister… of this country will, for political reasons and for political gain, harm a decent, innocent citizen like Oberlander," Hafemann is quoted as saying.

Tony Bergmeier, president of the German-Canadian Congress, said Oberlander "has been an immaculate citizen. Now, in his old age, to prosecute him is just outrageous."

Jewish groups disagreed strenuously.

Bernie Farber, CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress, rejected suggestions Oberlander was blameless. As a young man, Oberlander served as a translator for Einsatzkommando 10A, a unit that was part of the Einsatzgruppen, mobile killing squads whose only task was to murder Jews. It is estimated they killed more than one million Jews during the Holocaust.

"Everybody, from the cook to the translator to the shooters who participated in the Nazi killing units, bears equal responsibility," Farber said. "He's been here 50 years too long."

Referring to the position of the German-Canadian Congress, Farber said, "We're disappointed they would support a position that would not permit Canada to strip the citizenship of a person who clearly lied about his Nazi past."

Canadian Jewish Congress president Ed Morgan discounted Hafemann's suggestion that a judicial review might once again reverse the cabinet decision. "I'm assuming the cabinet [looked at] the Federal Court's decision [in the first revocation] and understands the way to do it properly now," he said.

Morgan, a law professor, said the procedures for deporting someone who obtained citizenship fraudulently are "long and unwieldy."

"The cabinet process is not unfair to the individuals. It's been unfair to the Crown," he said.

Congress "appreciates the government's efforts in making a statement of principle – that these people do not fit Canadian values and should not be among us."

B'nai Brith Canada's senior legal counsel David Matas applauded the government's "principled decision" and urged further action on cases involving Nazi collaborators Wasyl Odynsky, Vladimir Katriuk, Josef Furman and Jura Skomatchuk.

The *Globe and Mail* reported, however, that Odynsky's family received a two-line letter saying his citizenship would not be revoked and that he would be allowed to remain in Canada. A Canadian Justice Department spokesperson would not confirm this report, citing privacy issues.

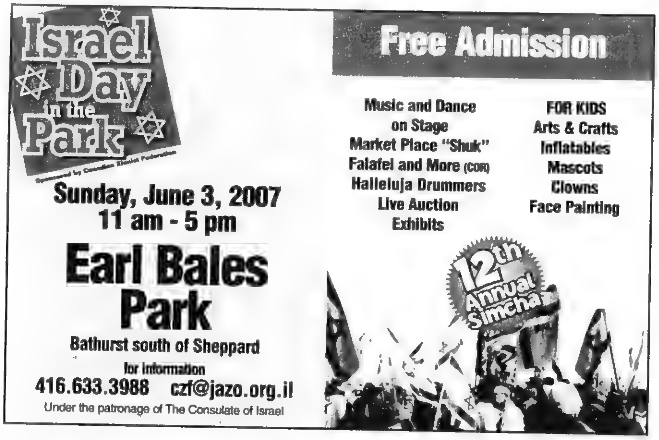
Matas called on the government to deport Oberlander and Fast and "to build on this forward momentum by applying the same determined consistency of principle to all Nazi-era cases and to move without further delay to strip the citizenship of the other accused war criminals that have already reached the cabinet stage for review."

Nazi hunter Efraim Zuroff, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Jerusalem office, applauded the revocations and said that "the question is whether or not they will succeed in deporting them from Canada. It's purely a question of political will."

Zuroff has been highly critical of Canada's failure to bring Nazi war criminals to justice, giving the country an "F" in the 2006 Wiesenthal Center's seventh Annual Status Report on the Worldwide Investigation and Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals.

"I am looking forward to the day, and I hope that day will come, that these people are actually deported from Canada," he said last week. "I call on Ottawa to… show there can still be justice at this point."

INTERFAITH WORKERS: **Canadian Jewish Congress CEO Bernie Farber, right, appeared on a panel May 20 at the Islamic Society of North America Canada's 33rd annual conference, held May 18 to 20 in Ottawa. With Farber is Abdul Rashid, a founding member of the National Capital Region Interfaith Council, and Sister Jean Goulet, a former director of the office of Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Dialogue for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.**



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Rabbi gives biblical perspective on anti-Semitism

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Jews are hated and resented not because of anything particular that they have done, but because their continued existence poses a threat to the faith of others.

It shows that God has not abandoned them, as Christian and Muslim theology believe He has – or should have, said Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, the former chief rabbi of Ireland and since 1996 the spiritual leader of the Kinloss Synagogue in London, England.

Rabbi Mirvis was speaking at Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue recently. His lecture, titled "Why the Jews? A Biblical Perspective on Anti-Semitism," was sponsored by the Miriam Alkin Memorial Fund, in association with Shaarei Tefillah and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

AT THE KOTEL: Grade 1 students at United Synagogue Day School's Beth Tikvah campus celebrate "at the Kotel" during their recent siddur ceremony. Pictured, from left, are Gabriella Ripstein, Samantha Bergman, Samantha Palter, Madeline Prosserman and Daniel Neumark.

He said that he has been approached by an Irish bishop who said that since the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948, his faith has not been the same. He had spent his whole life believing that the suffering of the Jewish people showed that they had been rejected by God for not accepting Jesus as the saviour, with the Holocaust as the final proof of that rejection.

How then, he anguished, can it be that Jews now have a state, that is flourishing?

Along with many others, Rabbi Mirvis said, he recognized that "just our continued existence as believing and practising Jews proves that they are not the chosen people."

This has been so since earliest times, he said. "The Haggadah says that in every generation enemies rise up against us, but God saves us."

The hatred happens regardless of the contribution Jews have made to the economy and well-being of their hosts.

The patriarch Isaac was thrown out of the land of the Philistines because the king was jealous of how successful he was. Later, when Jacob thrived while working for his father-in-law, Laban, Laban's sons accused him of stealing from them. After Jacob and his household fled, Laban chased them to kill them – even though they were already out of the way. "This goes beyond jealousy," Rabbi Mirvis said.

How could it be, he went on, that "in a country where Joseph saved the Egyptian economy during a famine, could a pharaoh arise who knew not Joseph, as the Chumash says?"

The pharaoh, who was in a position to influence the rest of the population, claimed that because the Jewish population was growing so fast, they would join the enemies of Egypt and try to rule the world.

"Echoes of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*," Rabbi Mirvis said dryly.

On the other hand, the rabbi said, the Japanese, with very little exposure to Jews, believed the anti-Semitic diatribes of their Nazi allies but decided they would welcome Jews, on the premise that they would use their wealth to contribute to the Japanese economy and society.

The result of that philosophy was that during World War II many Jewish refugees were allowed to settle in Japanese holdings such as Shanghai and Kobe.

Despite the centuries of persecution and oppression, the Jewish people have survived it all, Rabbi Mirvis said.

"I went to Babi Yar [the site of a massacre of Jews by Nazis and local cohorts in Ukraine]. When I said kaddish, I realized that both the Nazis and the Former Societ Union are dead and buried. But we live on, because HaShem keeps His covenant with us."

One of the things that most bothers the non-Jewish world is that Jerusalem is and always will be the eternal capital of the Jewish people. And the rest of the world can't stand that."

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Filmmaker takes heat for film on Jesus

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Though he may be a filmmaker and journalist, Simcha Jacobivici has had lots of practice lately honing his skills as a debater and advocate.

His latest film, *The Lost Tomb of Jesus*, has caused quite a stir among archeologists, historians and people of faith, and he has been called upon to justify the controversial proposition it sets out – that a first-century Jerusalem crypt discovered in 1980 held the remains of Jesus, his wife Mariamene, his mother and brother.

For Christians who hold as an article of faith that the body of Jesus was physically resurrected on the third day after his crucifixion and ascended to heaven, the documentary is an uncomfortable challenge to a long-cherished belief.

To archeologists, the suggestion that ossuaries – limestone boxes containing human remains – engraved with fairly common names such as Jesus and Joseph belong to the New Testament family, is a leap of logic that's unwarranted by the evidence.

Jacobivici, who also directed the controversial film *James, Brother of Jesus*, is no stranger to provocative new takes on ancient events. He knows his film is likely to raise the ire of people with settled beliefs. But like an investigator gathering clues, he believes he must follow the trail of evidence and "connect the dots," even if it upsets some people.

Stirring debate is what he's after – although his more unapologetic critics say that he and executive producer James Cameron (of *Titanic* fame) are after more mundane things, like publicity and cash.

Jacobivici is happy to address those critiques (Don't journalists get paid for what they do? he asks), but he's quite clear in asserting that "our film is very respectful of everybody's faith. I certainly didn't intend to attack anybody's faith.

"What I am doing is reporting objectively about an archeological discovery."

"I'm not a Christian and I'm not a theologian. So my job is not to set out theological issues. I'm a filmmaker and a journalist."

Using dramatizations with actors in period costumes, interviews and DNA and statistical evidence, *The Lost Tomb of Jesus* certainly makes an arguable case.

Simcha Jacobivici

It recounts the discovery of a tomb hewn out of rock in the Talpiot neighbourhood of south Jerusalem during construction of an apartment building. Archeologists are called in, examine the tomb and find ossuaries that contain the remains of a first-century Jerusalem family. The ossuaries are retrieved and put in storage at the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) warehouse while construction resumes on the residential building.

The ossuaries, it turns out, were inscribed with names, including Jesus son of Joseph, Mariamene e Mara, Judah son of Jesus, Maria, Matya and Yose, an fairly uncommon diminutive form of the name Yoseph. Archeologists see the ossuaries as merely typical first-century burial boxes that were in no way connected with historical figures.

A key element in the film is Jacobivici's interview with University of Toronto statistician Andrey Feuerverger, who indicates that while none of the names are unique in themselves, taken together, the odds against duplicating the names of Jesus' family in one tomb are quite remote, something like 600 to 1.

"My point is, it's useless to say names are common," Jacobivici stated. It's the fact they're "clustered" together that's persuasive. Yose is quite unusual, though it appears in a single New Testament passage in referring to Jesus's younger brother. Mariamene, meanwhile, is the Greek form of Mary Magdelene (Mary from Migdal or Magdala) and that's the name used in the Greek Orthodox church to refer to her to this day.

DNA evidence taken from bone fragments in the boxes show Jesus and Mariamene are not related, suggesting they were married. (Had the DNA indicated a blood connection, the premise of the film would have been negated.) And then there's the box of Judah, son of Jesus, suggesting Christianity's founding figure was married with at least one child.

Jacobivici believes the prototypical "reasonable man" of British jurisprudence must conclude that the evidence is overwhelming that the bones discovered in the tomb were those of Jesus and his family.

While many have taken Jacobivici to task for jumping to conclusions, the Toronto filmmaker said that "all in all, the reaction has been positive. There are always people who bring up personal issues, that we want money, publicity that [I'm] a Jew. But nothing bad."

"Millions of people have seen the film now and you always have people who say negative things. That's to be expected."

Feuerverger, for one, has distanced himself from the conclusion that the tomb site "is that of the New Testament family… I now believe that I should not assert any conclusion connecting this tomb with any hypothetical one of the New Testament family."

Amos Kloner, the archeologist who wrote the official report of the finding, has said that the Talpiot tomb is "a typical Jewish burial cave of a large size. The names on the ossuaries are very common names or derivatives of names."

Some of the critiques aimed at the filmmaker have been pretty biting.

Joe Zias, the IAA's senior curator for anthropology and archeology in Jerusalem, personally numbered the Talpiot ossuaries. In widely reported comments, he stated, "[Simcha] is pimping off the Bible… He got this guy Cameron, who made *Titanic* or something like that – what does this guy know about archeology? I am an archeologist, but if I were to write a book about brain surgery, you would say, 'Who is this guy?' People want signs and wonders. Projects like these make a mockery of the archeological profession."

When it comes to responding to the critics, Jacobivici gives as well as he gets. "I've noticed that archeology is not a science. It's a body of knowledge," he said.

Furthermore, archeologists generally aren't cross-examined on their assertions the way politicians might be. "I bring the skills of investigative journalism to archeology. My job is to connect the dots, like a detective, and solve a mystery," he said.

Clearly warming to the debate, Jacobivici said there's another element to the work he does.

"For 2,000 years, Jews were an oppressed people. Israel liberated Jews, but we haven't liberated our history. Other people wrote our history, sometimes anti-Semites, and airbrushed us out of history.

"Now, I use my skills to reclaim that history."

He refers to an interview on French radio in which the first question posed to him was, "Why is a Jew doing a Christian story?"

It was as though Jews had nothing to do with the birth of Christianity, he said.

"I'm delving into that part of history written over the last 2,000 years, written by people biased against the Jews and I don't think they reported accurately. So we have to re-examine historical assumptions. I use my skills to reconnect the dots."

The Lost Tomb of Jesus has aired on Vision Canada, the Discovery Channel and Channel 4 in Britain. A companion book, *The Jesus Family Tomb*, was co-written by Jacobivici and Charles Pellegrino.

Jacobivici, who has directed the documentaries *The Exodus Decoded* and *Falasha: Exile of the Black Jews*, is preparing 26 new episodes of the *The Naked Archeologist* for Vision TV.

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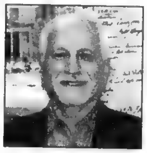
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Jewish AM radio station starts

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Sid Margles, who worked for 40 years in radio, has taken on in retirement one of the biggest challenges of his career: setting up an all-Jewish content radio station on the AM band in Montreal with virtually no budget and relying almost totally on volunteers.

Radio Shalom, known by the call letters CJRS, officially went on the air the evening of May 5, Lag b'Omer, traditionally the one joyous day between Passover and Shavuot, at 1650AM. The independent, not-for-profit station received CRTC approval in March 2006.

Broadcasting in 60 per cent French, 30 per cent English and 10 per cent Hebrew 24 hours a day, six days a week, Radio Shalom is the only station in North America whose entire programming mix can be described as Jewish.

The content is a blend of news and information, religious and cultural programs, talk shows and music, most of it local and the rest from Israel and France. Nothing is live, however.

The schedule is still being fine-tuned, and Margles continues to look for people who would like to host their own show and, most importantly, can make a firm time commitment – which is not easy when hosts are not being paid, at least not yet.

"We are transforming what was an amateur operation heard on the Internet into a professional operation on AM radio," said Margles, who is a volunteer consultant.

Margles began in radio in the late 1950s as a newsman on CJAD and rose to be general manager of the cross-Canada Standard Broadcast News. He set up and ran its Ottawa affiliate for 10 years.

Radio Shalom is a dream come true for its president, Robert Levy, a Casablanca native who lived in France, where Paris alone has four Jewish radio stations. He began the station in 1999 as a subcarrier of Radio Ville-Marie. Listeners needed a special radio to receive it.

Levy's first application in 2003 to the CRTC for an AM spot was turned down. After modifying the format, he finally received the federal regulatory body's OK last year.

Margles stressed that Radio Shalom is a commercial station and receives no funding or direction from the organized Jewish community. Levy was for many years executive director of the Rabbinat Sépharade du Québec, but the station is not affiliated with it.

The decidedly secular Stan Asher, a retired CEGEP teacher who has been with Radio Shalom since its inception, is in charge of English programming. He brings with him 35 years experience in community radio, plus 10 years as a CBC freelancer.

While the station is religious, as defined in its license, and is off the air on Shabbat and Jewish holidays, Margles said it is not Orthodox as such. He would like the station to have something that appeals to every member of the community and to promote cohesion.

During Shabbat, the station's air time is made available to other communities.

Negev Dinner set for June 12

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Businessman, philanthropist, community leader and Holocaust survivor Arnold Frieman is this year's Jewish National Fund Negev Gala honoree.

At last month's official launch party at the downtown Fairmont Hotel – the gala is scheduled for June 12 at the Centennial Concert Hall – Frieman thanked the JNF for the great honour.

"This is not my honour alone," he said. "I am accepting on behalf of my fellow Holocaust survivors and all those who didn't survive. To survive the Holocaust was miraculous."

Frieman was born in rural Hungary. He recalled in his remarks that he was 10 years old and living with his five brothers and sisters on the November evening in 1938 when the Nazis initiated Kristallnacht. He was 15 in mid-1944 when the Nazis came for his parents and siblings who were still at home. (A couple of older sisters had already left Hungary for Israel.)

"Almost all of my family perished in Auschwitz," he said. "I was a slave labourer until liberation."

Having no reason to stay in Hungary, the angry teenager left his native land after the war for Norway, where he enrolled in an electronics training program. In 1948, he interrupted his schooling to fight for Israel in the War of Independence.

"I was sick of war," he recalled, "but I wasn't going to stand by and let a second Holocaust take place."

After his service in Israel, he returned to Norway to finish his training, and then came to Canada and Winnipeg in 1951 in search of peace and opportunity.

After a few years working for someone else and studying at university, and with the encouragement of his wife and partner, Myra (whom he met at university), he went into business for himself.

He has since built Advance Electronics into one of the major independently owned electronics retailers in Canada.

Frieman is also a generous philanthropist who never says no to a charitable cause.

The national co-chairs of the 2007 gala are retired Canadian Armed Forces generals Alan MacKenzie and Ray Crabbe.

The funds raised at the gala will be used to send to Israel 500 children of Canadian military personnel who have served in Afghanistan. The children will be billeted with Israeli families. As well, 500 to 700 seats at the gala – about 2,000 people are expected to attend – are to be set aside for members of the Canadian military and their families.

In addition to Crabbe and MacKenzie, the local co-chairs working on the fundraising aspects of the gala are Gail Asper, Mel Lazareck, Brian Scharfstein and Larry Vickar.

The honoree and the JNF 2007 Negev Gala campaign team were introduced by Graham Dixon, JNF's president for the Prairie region and also a former Canadian Armed Forces officer.

The entertainment this year will be provided by Israeli singing sensation Rita.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION

Toronto-based fundraising foundation is seeking to fill a full-time Administrative position, reporting to the Executive Director. Responsibilities would include day-to-day office administration, donor data entry and database reporting. The chosen candidate will provide the frontline face of the office, which includes professional reception services and support at fundraising. The individual will have strong communication skills as he or she will communicate directly with all stakeholders. Central to the role would be clerical skills and a good working knowledge of Microsoft Office. Familiarity with database programs is an asset.

Interested individuals should send their resumé to:
foundationjob@rogers.com prior to June 6, 2007.

Please note that only suitable applicants will be contacted for an interview.

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Http://www.cjndating.com
Powered by: JMatch

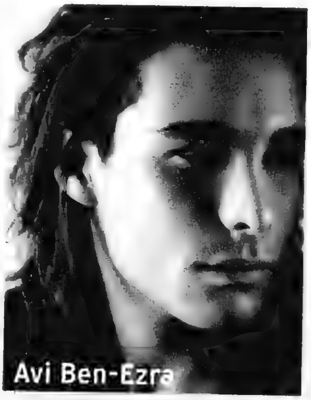
And now for something completely different: HEEBONICS

COMING SOON TO CJNEWS.COM

A new site for 20- to 30-something Jews will report on emerging Jewish culture including: music, film, travel, business, social activism, and more.

Dating guru helps others

By Abigail Bimman
CJN Intern



Avi Ben-Ezra

If you have trouble figuring out just what women want, Avi Ben-Ezra says he can help you.

He released his first book, ***Modern World Dating: How to Meet and Date Women***, a few months ago, and runs an accompanying website, www.modernworlddating.com.

Sure, skeptics can point out that he's only 22. But the dating coach has spent the last five years working on the skills he says are crucial to meeting and dating great women.

"It started out more with personal growth, getting over certain fears of approaching people and speaking to people," he says. "Personally, I wanted to get better at it."

First he read and learned everything he could get his hands on about dating, and then he put his education into action.

"I completely changed my life," he says. "I started dating many women; I started having girlfriends. The way I was acting changed, the way I was thinking changed – everything kept moving forward and I couldn't believe it."

Self-described as "made in Israel and born in Canada," Ben-Ezra grew up in Toronto. He studied fitness and health promotion at Humber College and worked as a personal trainer at the Jewish Community Centre for a year and a half. He's also had a full roster of odd jobs, from construction to window and door sales calls to modelling.

Ben-Ezra has modelled since the age of 19. He has done print jobs, commercials and runway shows. In Israel, he worked for Image Models and Elite, and in Canada, Stylus.

But he most enjoys helping others in what he calls the fast-paced, modern dating world.

"I know how it feels to need the help," he says.

Ben-Ezra spent his teenage years between Israel and Canada, as his mother lived in Toronto and his father outside of Haifa. While Ben-Ezra preferred Toronto, his mother Edie's death from cancer when he was 14 prompted his move to Israel to live with his father, Shlomi.

He says the death of his mother, the shock of living in a new country and being the new kid in school spun him into a "deep depression."

For the two years that he lived with his father, he says, he rarely left his basement bedroom and his computer. "It was like a little dungeon and I would never leave."

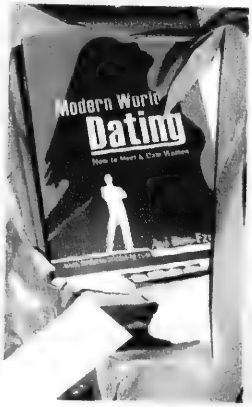
At 16, he decided to move back to Toronto and live with his aunt and uncle. While he was happier in Canada, he still wasn't a dating superstar.

"I thought I was different or I wasn't normal in the beginning. Because I'm better-than-average looking by society's standards, I thought that something must have been wrong with me. Even though I'm considered good looking, I still couldn't meet and date women," he says.

But eventually he was able to turn this trend around. The Internet is key to dating in the modern world, as well as to his own success.

"The Internet played a huge role in my learning and being able to meet so many women in such a short period of time," he says.

The first dating site he signed up to was ratemybody.com, and from there, he tried many more, both paid and unpaid.



WATCH FOR
THE HEEBONICS LAUNCH

"It just kind of became really easy and kind of like booking appointments."

He never planned to write a book or run a coaching service, he says, but he enjoyed helping other friends with their dating issues once he became more experienced. He is so confident in his services that he offers a lifetime, money-back guarantee, something he says his competitors will not do.

Ben-Ezra often gets asked for his "biggest secret," and says that dating answers aren't that simple.

"I could say, 'Be a real man,' but it's much more complicated than people think. I don't want to waste my time on giving people little tips, I'd rather just give them everything and get them to read my book," he says. "Everything's in there from A to Z."

Ben-Ezra says that, for the short term, he is focused on getting the word out about his book and promoting his website. Eventually, he wants to hold dating seminars. In five years, he says he can see himself writing another book about how to maintain a relationship.

He is done with the dating phase of his life, he says, and is looking to explore more serious relationships. For him, Judaism will play a role in that future.

"I definitely want to keep religion in my life, for my future and my kids when I get married. That's something important to me."

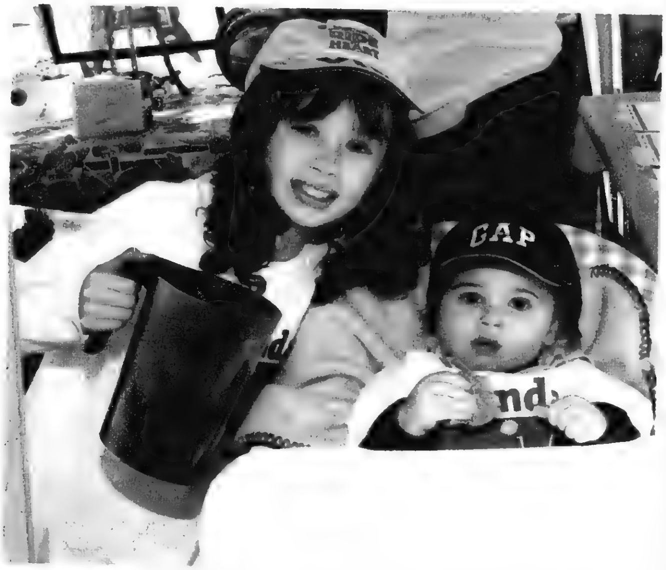
Having dated both non-Jewish and Jewish girls, Ben-Ezra says that deep down, everyone is ultimately similar.

"When you get down to the deep things of what women want, I think it doesn't matter what religion you are or what language you speak," he says. "It's kind of like a universal language of love."

Modern World Dating
MODERN WORLD
DATING

Coast to Coast

Lemonade for Heart



LEMONADE FOR HEART: Amanda Belzowski, 9, and her family recently held her ninth annual Lemonade & Hot Chocolate Stand in support of the Heart & Stroke Foundation, raising more than $17,000 for the foundation's 20th annual Becel Heart & Stroke Ride for Heart on June 3. Since 1999, Amanda's lemonade stand has raised $47,458.18 for the foundation. Amanda, who is pictured above with her 15-month-old brother Joshua, will be taking her new red 21-speed bicycle, which was given to her by the Becel Ride for Heart Team, on the ride. Joshua will be on his very first Becel Ride, on the back of his father's bike. Amanda is still hoping to raise $100,000 by ride day. For more information, visit Amanda's website at www.amandaslemonade4heart.org/.

Getting ready for Shavuot

Grade 3 students at Netivot HaTorah Day School sing in a production in honour of Kabbalat HaTorah in anticipation of Shavuot. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Happy Birthday Donia Brown

(nee Spiegel)

IMMIGRATION

In May 2006, while vacationing in Halifax N.S., our family (three generations) walked through PIER 21. With goose bumps and many emotions, we saw where our Mother arrived by ship from Poland and took her first steps on Canadian soil with her Mother and two siblings on May 29, 1936.

In our Mother's words, "It couldn't have been me, maybe someone else, as if I was looking in on someone else's life. I'm glad my children (Pia, Jeffrey, Brenda, Meera) and granddaughters (Shara, Alex) were there to share it with me..."

Mom, what courage you had when you were just six years old. We are grateful to you for your continuous strength and for passing it on to us, your children, so that we can in turn pass it on.

With love from your family

Mazel tov Baba Roza & Zeida Eugene on your 40th wedding anniversary! Wishing you much health and nachas! Hugs and kisses from your kids and grandkids!

Mazel tov to Rebecca Elgrichi upon graduating from jr. high! Now it's on to high school!! Your loving family.

Mazel tov to Michelle & Jonathan Schrieder on the birth of Brandon Matthew. Proud brother is Jacob and grandparents, Esther Schrieder and Ester & Joshua Sharetski.

Joanne, Michael, Adam, Jay, Rozie and T.Y. wish their daughter and sister, Kara Vogler, a long, happy, healthy and prosperous life as she becomes bat mitzvah!

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return.
Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments,
1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205,
North York, ON. M3B 3K4.
or email: cblackman@cjnews.com

JNF

Say it with Trees

"Mazel Tov on your Special Anniversary"

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

CJN DATING
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powered by JMATCH
JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New Deadlines: NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES. Monday, June 4 is the deadline for the June 14 issue and Monday, June 11 is the deadline for the June 21 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, May 31

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The Chai Folk Ensemble, North America's oldest and largest folk dance ensemble will perform A Celebration of Life concert in support of Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada. 7:30 p.m. at Toronto Centre for the Arts. Ticket $50, call 905-695-0611.

Sunday, June 3

HEART AND STROKE RIDE

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario holds the 20th annual Heart and Stroke Ride. To register, call 416-486-7433 or visit www.rideforheart.ca.

SIDEWALK JUDAICA SALE

Beth Emeth Synagogue Judaica Gift Shop holds a "Sidewalk Sale," 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the synagogue parking lot. Gifts are priced to go. 416-633-3838

TEMPLE OPEN HOUSE

Temple Kol Ami, a liberal congregation and school which serves North Toronto and York Region, hosts an open house from 10 a.m.-noon. Meet the rabbi, school staff and temple members. 8777 Dufferin St. Adults and children are welcome. RSVP, 905-709-2620.

ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL

Join Canadian Zionist Federation for an all day outdoor festival celebrating the sights, sounds, tastes and spirit of Israel. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Earl Bales Park. 416-633-3988

A HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Healing Project offers a healing service with **Rabbi Corey Weiss** and **Yehudit Shier Weisberg**. 3-4 p.m. at Lipa Green, room 421, 4600 Bathurst St. Wheelchair access. 416-944-3359..

CLUB SANDWICH

Temple Kol Ami Adult Education hosts a lecture, Club Sandwich: A Generation Squeezed Between Children and Aging Parents with **Paula David**, a senior social worker at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. 7:30 p.m. at The Israeli Source, 60 Doncaster Ave. #1. 905-709-2620

SPRING CONCERT

The Toronto Jewish Choir, Canada's oldest continuing Jewish choral group, celebrates its 81st annual spring concert at the Leah Posluns Theatre. **Alexander Veprinsky** will conduct the 30-voice choir. Tenor **David Wall** and pianist **Marilyn Lerner** join as guest artists. Tickets, $23, seniors and students, $19; children 12 and under free. Reservations, tjfolkchoir@sympatico.ca or call 416-636-0936 (evenings, weekends) or 416-665-7766, ext. 224 (daytime).

Monday, June 4

THEATRE AUDITIONS

Medina Theatre Ensemble is holding auditions for actors 40 to 75 years old for a staged reading performance of *Social Security* by **Andrew Bergman**. 7 p.m. at Earl Bales Community Centre. RSVP, **Roselle**, 416-633-2057 or **Lois**, 416-781-8076.

Tuesday, June 5

KADIMA LOUNGE NIGHT

Beth Tzedec Kadima, grades 6-8, Lounge Nights will enjoy an evening of Israeli music with **Cantor Simon Spiro**. 6-8 p.m. $10. RSVP, 416-781-3514, ext. 30.

Wednesday, June 6

GOT TALENT CONCERT

Beth David Synagogue presents their Got Talent Concert featuring The Michael Barber Quartet and The Tallmen. 8 p.m. Proceeds from

Continued on page 25

Feeling depressed or low?
Age 60 or over?

Doctors at the Research Centre for Aging and the Brain at Baycrest are conducting depression studies, and are looking for participants who are:

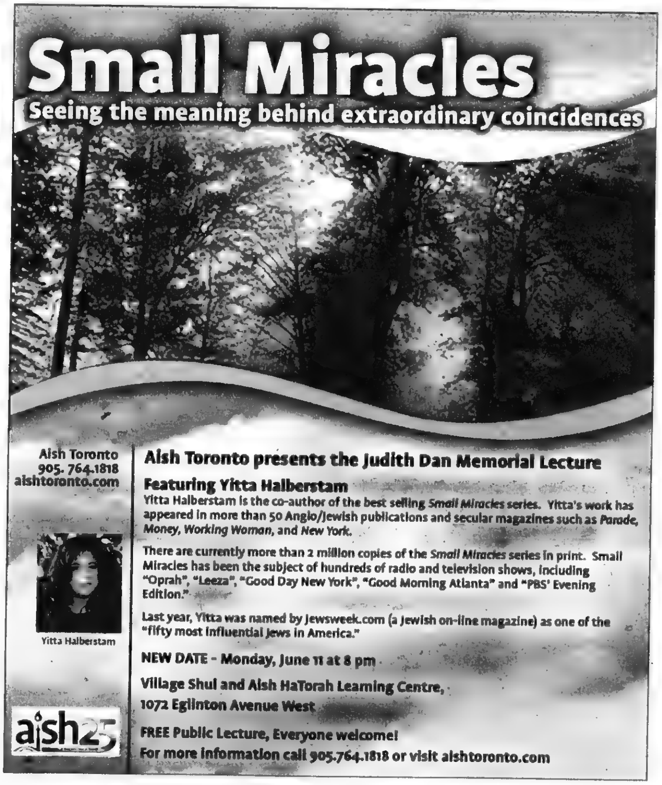
- age 60 or over
- currently depressed with symptoms such as:
  - low mood
  - lack of motivation or interest
  - memory problems
  - poor appetite, sleep or energy

Eligible participants will receive a thorough mood assessment and compensation for time and travel expenses.

For more information,
call 416-785-2500 ext 3082.

Baycrest
Enriching Care
Enhancing Knowledge
Enlightening Minds

Research Centre for Aging and the Brain



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Seeing the meaning behind extraordinary coincidences

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aishtoronto.com

Yitta Halberstam

aish25

Aish Toronto presents the Judith Dan Memorial Lecture

Featuring Yitta Halberstam

Yitta Halberstam is the co-author of the best selling *Small Miracles* series. Yitta's work has appeared in more than 50 Anglo/Jewish publications and secular magazines such as *Parade, Money, Working Woman*, and *New York*.

There are currently more than 2 million copies of the *Small Miracles* series in print. Small Miracles has been the subject of hundreds of radio and television shows, including "Oprah", "Leeza", "Good Day New York", "Good Morning Atlanta" and "PBS' Evening Edition."

Last year, Yitta was named by Jewsweek.com (a Jewish on-line magazine) as one of the "fifty most influential Jews in America."

NEW DATE - Monday, June 11 at 8 pm

Village Shul and Aish HaTorah Learning Centre,
1072 Eglinton Avenue West

FREE Public Lecture, Everyone welcome!
For more information call 905.764.1818 or visit aishtoronto.com

Continued from page 24

this evening will benefit Akim for the developmentally handicapped in Israel. Tickets $20, $10 for youth 14 and under. Reserved seating $40. 416-633-5500

SIMPLY TSFAT CONCERT

The band Simply Tsfat, from Tsfat, Israel will perform at Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue at 8 p.m. Tickets $18, $10 for students. To order call 416-787-1631.

Other News

TODDLER DROP-IN

The Village Shul invites children ages 9 months-2 years old and their caregivers to a Tuesday and Thursday program, 9:30-11 a.m. throughout the school year. Program includes sensory and dramatic play, arts and crafts, circle time, music, finger play, parachute and snack. $8/session. No reservation necessary. 416-785-1107

WOMEN AND JUDAISM

Join Kollel for its National Conference on Women and Judaism featuring speakers and workshops. June 3-4 at the BJCC. $265, students $159. For info and registration, 416-636-1880, ext. 385 or www.kolel.org

LECTURE SERIES

Temple Sinai Social Club presents Food for Thought lecture series beginning Monday, June 4, 2 p.m. with **Ian Scott** on How to Become an Opera Buff in 45 Minutes; Monday, June 11, 7:30 p.m. **Dov Altman** moderates a discussion after screening the film *Obsession*; Monday, June 18, 2 p.m. **Jeffrey Kopstein** on Growing Apart? America and Europe in 21st Century; Tuesday, June 26, 1 p.m. **Dr. Marcel Danesi** Body Language. Members $20, guests $30, Individual sessions $7 and $10. Registration, 416-487-3281.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

A Multi-faith Service of Remembrance will be held at North York General Hospital Thursday, June 7, 7 p.m.for anyone who has lost a loved between spring 2006 to spring 2007 at the hospital or at home with the support of the Freeman Centre for Palliative Care team. RSVP, 416-756-6444, ext. 3079. Info, call 416-756-6311.

ZAREINU MOVEATHONS

Join the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Zareinu Moveathon in support of the Zareinu Educational Centre, a treatment facility and school for children with a wide range of physical and developmental challenges. This year there are two opportunities to participate. On Sunday, June 10, join a 2-km walk, 10-km run or 20-km bike ride at Downsview Park. On Sunday, June 24 join the Zareinu Moveathon Pro Tour, a 50-km or 100-km bike ride at the Niagara Escarpment. For info and registration visit www.moveathon.com. Volunteer at the Zareinu Festival on line or call 416-661-1800.

SUMMER TOTS PROGRAMS

Adath Israel Congregation offers Special Time For Yeladim, a tots program for the summer. Program includes music, sports and creative programs. For info visit www.adathisrael.com and click on "tots" or call **Nilly**, 416-635-5340.

DON MILLS LODGE FETE

Don Mills Lodge B'nai Brith will be celebrating 50 years service to the community on October 7 at the Venetian Banquet Hall. Members past and present from the entire B'nai Brith family are invited to attend. For info and tickets, call 905-731-6604.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer, or for information on these programs call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafe, newcomers to Canada are invited to practice speaking English in a casual, friendly environment with JIAS volunteers Thursday evenings at the Bathurst JCC or Thursday afternoon location in Thornhill. Children are welcome.

Volunteers are needed for JIAS telephone language companion program. Call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

JUMPStart, If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer call **Elisa**, ext. 24.

Family-to-Family welcomes newcomer families and provides informal advice and orientation to our community. To participate, call Joanna, ext. 30.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna** ext. 215.

When You're About to Separate: What to Tell The Kids, a workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation on how to best meet your child's needs. Tuesday, June 5, 9:30 a.m.-noon.

High Conflict Divorce. A workshop for parents to lessen the impact of divorce on their children. Tuesday, June 5, 6:30-9 p.m.

All programs at The Promenade Mall, suite #313.

Earl Bales Seniors Club In The Park. Sunday dance, June 3, non-members welcome. Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 13. 416-398-1834. For information call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Chai Shalom will go to Stratford Festival to see *Oklahoma*, Tuesday, October 9, 2 p.m. and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Thursday, Oct. 25, 2 p.m. $80/each includes transportation. To reserve call 416-633-3838.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Lorenz Hart: A Poet on Broadway lecture by **Gordon Bean**, of Ryerson University. Tuesday, June 5, 10 a.m. $2, non-members $4.

Spring Fling Lunch and Concert, Wednesday, June 6, noon. $12, non-members $15.

Memory Boosters, every Thursday, 11 a.m. Free.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Between Stages Playwright's Reading Series presents the 2006 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition winner, *Guess Who's Coming to Shabbat Dinner* by **Phil Pivnik,** Sunday, June 3, 2 p.m. Pay what you can. Info contact **Esther Arbeid** at ext. 606 oresthera@mnjcc.org.

Toronto Jewish Film Society screens *The Living Orphan*, a 1937 Yiddish tear jerker, Sunday June 3, 7:30 p.m. at Al Green Theatre. Tickets $15, available 15 minutes before show. Ticket and info contact **Esther Arbeid** at ext. 606 oresthera@mnjcc.org.

Hebrew Courses, Intensive Hebrew Grammar, learn the Hebrew verb system, structures, types, how to conjugate verbs in all tenses and pronouns in just four days while improving your vocabulary, June 4-7, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. or August 13-16, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For info and registration call ext. 0.

Good Age Club, attend a lecture and discussion, Positive Aspects of Aging, at the Bernard Betel Centre. Thursday, June 7, 1 p.m. For info contact shawndac@mnjcc.org

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Registration now for September 2007 morning school including Tic Tac Two, Nursery and Junior Kindergarten. All programs include music, Hebrew, fun centre time, gym time, and swimming. Call ext. 248 for information.

EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED AT THE BETEL CENTRE: Psychologist and adult educator Ann Balaban recently reviewed the book *Everything is Illuminated* by Jonathan Safran Foer and film of the same title at a Literary Luncheon. Seen from left are Anne Balaban with Betel member, Jean Diamond.

COMFORTING THE BODY AND SPIRIT: L'Chaim Cancer Support Group recently held an evening of music therapy with music therapist-researcher Dr. Mary Rykov. L'Chaim provides confidential peer support for Jewish women with cancer. For information call 416-630-0203. Seen from left are Cheryl Gewurtz, Rykov and Helen Greenberg.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 27

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Crushes Ice at any Speed
40 oz. Glass Jar, Dripless Spout
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SAT & SUN 10-6
MON to FRI 9-9
WORRY FREE!!! BRIDAL REGISTRY

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

AHARON BARZILAY ז"ל

beloved Husband, Aba, Saba & Brother
will take place
Sunday, June 3rd at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section, Phase IV cccc
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

STEVEN STEARN ז"ל

loving husband, father & grandfather
will take place
Sunday, June 3rd at 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Wierzbnicker Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

BINA GLOWINSKY ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, June 3rd at 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Warshover/Lodzer Section #13
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

EVELYN KATZ ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, June 10th at 4:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
North of Major Mackenzie
Farband Labour Zionist, Section N, Row M, Plot #83
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.
Followed by light refreshments at Terrace Gardens Residence,
3705 Bathurst St., south of Wilson Ave.

HOWARD IZENBERG JOINS BENJAMIN'S

It is with great pleasure that we welcome **Howard Izenberg** to the staff of **Benjamin's Landmark Monuments.**

Howard brings 30 years of personal experience in the monument business and a family legacy of over 70 years of service to Toronto's Jewish community.

Howard's appointment reaffirms our company's position as the premier Jewish Monument dealer in Ontario.

BENJAMIN'S
LANDMARK
MONUMENTS
(416) 780-0635 · www.jewishmonuments.ca
3429 Bathurst St., Toronto, M6A 2C3

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

HY CAPLAN ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 12:00 noon
Beth Jacob Cemetery
1250 Snake Rd., Burlington
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

ANDRE JONAS ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 1:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section #5 JJJJJ
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

RUTH STILMAN ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, June 3rd, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section JJJJJ
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

ADELE JAGER ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, June 3rd, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst south of Steeles
Hebrew Friendly Sons of David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Steeles Memorial Chapel

Wucher, Ruth	May 11/07	205 Cummer Ave
Marshak, Bessie	May 12/07	170 Red Maple Dr
Glober, Eileen (Elsie)	May 12/07	Private
Manea, Katy	May 13/07	5935 Bathurst St
Grafstein, Ann	May 13/07	3636 Bathurst St
Joel, Dorothy	May 14/07	2515Bathurst St
Michalovsky, Charna	May 14/07	1131 Steeles Ave. W.
Kohn, George	May 15/07	7420 Bathurst St
Bromstein, Helen	May 14/07	133 Torresdale Ave
Burston, William	May 15/07	149 Cranbrooke Ave
Gusler, Igor	May 15/07	850 Steeles Ave. W.
Kurzrock, Sara	May 16/07	49 Cavotti Cres
Sugar, Jerry	May 14/07	531 Old Orchard Grove
Nemirovsky, Gitya	May 17/07	Private
Keter, Yakov	May 16/07	228 Honiton St.
Mainster, Judith (Edith)	May 16/07	3560 Bathurst St

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

OLGA MEISTER ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 1:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst south of Steeles
Adath Israel Moldovian Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

MORRIS (MOISHE) MILLER ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, June 3rd, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Blue Star Lodge Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

ANNE SCHER SILMAN ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, June 3rd, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Westmount Community Shul Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

Watch this space each week for obituaries and related notices

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שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

ואהבת לרעך

תודה לכל אלה שברכו אותי על הפרס ההומאניטרי שקיבלתי מידי מרכז חב"ד במהלך ה- Spirit of the Community Dinner למי שהורגל בפרסים על הישגים ותגליות רפואיים-היה משהו מרגש לזכות בהכרה על מעשים למען הקהילה.

חשבתי שבימים אלה, שבהם האידיאולוגיה העיקרית היא שמירת האינדיבידואל וזכויותיו מעל לזכויות הקהילה, וכשמילת הקסם היא "אני, אני ואפסי עוד"-כדאי לזכור שהעם שלנו שרד אלפי שנים של שנאה, רדיפות ועוני רק משום שהקהילה דאגה לאנשיה, בעוני, מצוקה ומחלה. כדאי גם לזכור ששנאה ופירוד בעם שלנו הביאו לחורבן בית המקדש.

ועל כן חייב כל אחד מאיתנו למצוא דרך לתרום לקהילה. וזו לא חייבת להיות תרומה כספית. כדברי הפורום הישראלי-יש המון מה לעשות ויש מקום לכולם.

את המשפט "ואהבת לרעך כמוך" מייחסים כולם לרבי עקיבא, למרות שציטט פסוק קיים מִספר "ויקרא" והיסב את תשומת לב תלמידיו לכך שבלי אהבת הזולת-כל המצוות הן כקליפת השום.

וזה הביא אותי לכתוב שיר חדש ולהקדישו לרב לנדא, האיש שמקדיש את חייו לאהבת חינם:

כה אמר רבנו
רבנו רבי עקיבא:
"שמרו נפשותיכם
בכל מצוה ומצוה.
יש תרי"ג מצוות
ועשרת הדיברות
אבל כל התורה
מקופלת באמרה:

ואהבת לרעך כמוך
זהי כל התורה

שמרו תרי"ג מצוות.
אמר רבי עקיבא,
אך בלי אהבה לרעהו
המצוה אינה שלמה.
על שנאת חינם
בית המקדש [illegible]
וכל התורה
מקופלת באמרה:
ואהבת לרעך כמוך....

מאיפה הגיע "פעם שלישית גלידה"?

עד בילדותנו למדנו שאם פוגשים אדם בצורה בלתי צפויה פעמיים רצוף, אומרים לו: "פעם שלישית גלידה!". מאיפה זה בא, הפתגם המוזר הזה? או ככה:

הרעיון הוא שבאנגלית, בעת פגישה מקרית שניה אומרים:" כשניפגש בשלישית- אני אצ־רח" או באנגלית:

Third time I'll scream

בהבנה העילגת של אנגלית ששררה בארץ לפני חמישים- ששים שנה הפכו את I'll scream *ל....* Ice cream *שנשמע מאוד דומה.....*

ואז באו חכמי הדור שממש מבינים אנגלית ואמרו ice cream *היא כמובן גלידה....*

וכך בשעה טובה ומוצלחת נולד לו ביטוי חדש בעברית, ותודה לקריסטינה על העידכון.

Jewish group offers locally grown organic produce

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Consumers can buy a 'vegetable share'

Torat HaTeva, an organization dedicated to promoting ecological awareness, has teamed up with Everdale Farm, in Hillsburgh, west of Toronto, to provide the Jewish community with locally and organically grown fruit and vegetables.

Ahuva Goldshmidt, Torat HaTeva's executive director, said the initiative is first of its kind for a Canadian Jewish community.

Consumers can buy a "vegetable share," ranging in price from $14 to $48 a box, depending on size. They can pick and choose the vegetables they want, and the box size can be upgraded or downgraded as needed throughout the 20-week season, which begins in early June.

People interested in a "fruit share" must be part of the vegetable program, and they can expect to receive from four to seven types of fruit each week. In order to keep fruit prices low, there is no picking and choosing, Goldshmidt said.

All orders can be picked up Thursdays at the First Narayever Congregation, 187 Brunswick Ave., just north of Harbord Street.

Goldshmidt said that because the farmers come to the depot, consumers can meet the people who harvest their food.

Buying local and organic food, said Goldshmidt, "makes us not just good people, but good Jews. In Genesis, humans are commanded to serve and protect our earth. By committing to local, organic produce with all its health, environmental and social justice advantages, we are helping to fulfil our divinely given role as stewards of the earth."

She said that by committing to purchase an entire season of produce, consumers are "putting their fate with the fate of the farm. They are sharing their burden."

Goldshmidt added that Torat HaTeva has received $10,000 in grants from Evergreen, an organization whose mission is to bring communities and nature together, and the Shell Environmental fund to create its own organic garden next spring at the Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan.

"Our mission is to create a strong connection to the idea of sustainability in the Jewish community."

For information or to order, visit Torat HaTeva website, www.torathateva.org.

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Winnipeg community celebrates Yom Yerushalayim

By **RHONDA SPIVAK**
Special to the CJN

WINNIPEG — The Jewish community here celebrated Yom Yerushalayim and the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem with a spirited gala performance of dance and song featuring Hora Jerusalem.

Hora Jerusalem is a professional dance troupe made up of 19 dancers, ages 17 to 27, all of whom live in Jerusalem.

They were joined on stage by the local Sarah Sommer Chai folk ensemble (Chai), a non-professional volunteer dance group.

An audience of close to 2,000 people at the Centennial Concert Hall watched the performance, which was presented by Chai and the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg

"This is the first time I have ever done a joint show with a separate company that is half way around the world. It turned out even better than I imagined," said Shai Gottesman, artistic director and choreographer of Hora Jerusalem.

"For this kind of production, after a year of planning between two dance companies with the same style of dancing, building a show like this was an amazing thing," he said. "I choreographed dances for Hora Jerusalem and we practised in Jerusalem, and the dancers in Winnipeg practised, and then we came to Winnipeg one week prior to the show.

"We were scared. They were scared. We worked very hard… The two companies danced together for six hours a day, we had differences in technique, as our company is more professional…but it all came together and was great."

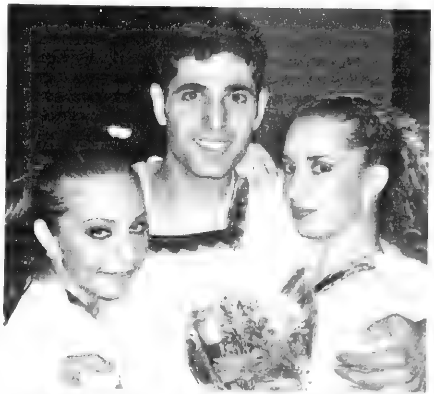
Gottesman, who has been with Hora Jerusalem since 1995, first learned of Winnipeg's Chai Folk ensemble in 1998 at Festival Aviv in Mexico, where his troupe and Chai both performed. The two groups have shared a long-distance relationship for nine years, and Gottesman has previously choreographed some works for Chai.

Tracy Kasner Greaves, Chai's artistic director, said the opportunity to perform with Hora Jerusalem "is a milestone for us."

Ya'acov Brosh, Israel's Toronto-based consul general for Ontario and Western Canada attended the event, as did Manitoba Lieut.-Gov. John Harvard.

Shir Choter, a 17-year-old dancer with Hora Jerusalem, said after the performance, that "we'll all be better dancers because of this [exchange]… It was the most exciting thing to come to Winnipeg and be aware of the Chai dancers and to see how you are being Jewish and having a living Judaism here."

Asli Bagil, a male dancer with Hora Jerusalem, added, "This concert and our visit here was amazing. We came and met youth our own age, and we formed new relationships… and we are being billeted by Jewish families here."



Chai dancer Hillary Nepon, left, with Asli Bagil, centre, and Shir Choter of Hora Jerusalem.

Chai dancer Cara Katz said that the experience "was so fun. There was so much new energy. We learned better technique. I'm sure the connection between the two groups will continue."

Fellow Chai dancer Hillary Nepon, added that the event was "awesome. I'm hosting two dancers from Jerusalem. This is such a special experience to meet them."

Hora Jerusalem also performed a different program of pieces at Winnipeg's Berney Theatre and gave performances for students at Shore Elementary School and Brock Corydon School. The dancers were also special guests at a community-wide Shabbat dinner at the Rady Jewish Community Centre.

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פרשת קרח
June 16, 2007

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B'nai Torah	Prof. Hindy Najman	6:15 p.m.
Beth Jacob V'anshe Drildz	Chana Werner	5:30 p.m.
Shaarei Shomayim	Ilana Sober	6:00 p.m.
Shaarei Tefillah	Dvora Chana Waiswasser	5:30 p.m.
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Outgoing WJC head Bronfman speaks out

By JACOB BERKMAN
JTA

NEW YORK — Amid the whirlwind of controversy that has surrounded the World Jewish Congress, Edgar Bronfman has remained largely silent since announcing he will resign his presidency effective June 10.

In his first comments to the media since disclosing his plans to the WJC's steering committee May 7, Bronfman spoke with JTA via e-mail about his past with the WJC, his future without it and what he expects from the organization moving forward.

"It will be up to new leadership to chart a forward path for the WJC. It will be up to them to determine what role they should play and how to perform it," said Bronfman, 76. "But communities are not static – they change constantly. They diminish. They grow. Population and attitudes change. We live in a time of challenge, no doubt. But this also is an era of remarkable innovation and entrepreneurship."

Bronfman became interim WJC president in 1979 and president in 1981. During his reign, the group played an instrumental role in the Soviet Jewry movement, often negotiating behind the scenes with Soviet leaders. It helped expose former Austrian president Kurt Waldheim's Nazi past, and during the 1990s, it helped win billions of dollars in Holocaust restitution money from European governments and banks.

Observers say Bronfman brought a personal flamboyance and financial clout that helped the WJC obtain the meetings with world leaders that helped it flourish in the 1980s and 1990s.

"Thirty years ago, the challenge was to stabilize the WJC, clarify its mission and grow its membership," Bronfman told JTA. "We made quick progress on those fronts and were able to play a major role in some of the most important Jewish events on the world stage."Among his favourite memories, Bronfman said, was telling then-Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir "that Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze agreed to lift the ban on teaching Hebrew and allow Russian Jews to worship and live their lives as Jews openly and with dignity."

Edgar Bronfman

Bronfman, who met with Pope John Paul II, said he was proud as well of the WJC's efforts to improve relations between Jews and the Catholic Church.

Despite its successes during Bronfman's tenure, the WJC appears in peril after four years of probes into the group's finances, which have bogged down the organization.

The last five years have taken a toll on the WJC, damaging its credibility and apparently its fundraising ability. A recent WJC report showed that its fundraising was down by 33 per cent during the first quarter of 2007. Bronfman leaves amid questions about the organization's role going forward.

Without the restitution battle as its focus, the WJC of late has taken up the fight against anti-Semitism, with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as its key target. But critics say that mantle is already worn by bodies such as the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee and the Israeli government.

The WJC has little or no power in the United States and Israel, where some 80 per cent of world Jewry lives. Still, supporters say the organization plays a more critical role in Europe and Latin America. They also say it's the only body that convenes Jewish leaders from every region of the Jewish world.

"I don' t believe that the work of defending Jewish communities and helping them raise their voice in world councils will ever end," Bronfman said. "The focus and tactics might shift with the times, and they should. But the work continues."

The controversy surrounding the WJC and the saga of Rabbi Israel Singer, the former chairman of the WJC' s policy board, have also taken a personal toll on Bronfman.

Rabbi Singer was entangled in an investigation by the New York state attorney general into the WJC's finances that focused on his transferring $1.2 million (US) of WJC money into a Swiss bank account. The attorney general didn't accuse Rabbi Singer of any illegalities, but he was prevented from taking further financial duties at WJC.

Bronfman fired Rabbi Singer in March, alleging financial impropriety, including new documentation from February 2002 that he tried to transfer $1.5 million of WJC money into a non-WJC Swiss bank account.

Bronfman said the firing was difficult after he had worked closely with Rabbi Singer during his nearly 30 years as WJC president. Bronfman had also spent the past several years defending Rabbi Singer.

"My mistake was in trusting Israel Singer to the extent that I did," Bronfman told JTA. "I am extremely saddened and disappointed that the investigations of the WJC by the office of the New York state Attorney General led unavoidably to Israel Singer and thus to his termination."

Rabbi Singer's supporters say he did nothing improper and that it was a shock Bronfman turned against his former lieutenant.

"Regardless of what Mr. Bronfman may now be saying, the decades-long relationship of Bronfman and Singer produced incalculable dividends for the Jewish people," a spokesman for Rabbi Singer, Hank Sheinkopf, told JTA via e-mail. "Though he sings a different tune now, Bronfman unstintingly supported Singer throughout the attorney general's inquiry from onset to conclusion."

Bronfman said "the biggest challenge was to preserve the integrity of the WJC and its good name. I am heartened that this period of the WJC is now over and I am looking forward to seeing a new generation take over the leadership."

Since Bronfman announced his retirement, a power struggle has been developing involving the chair of the WJC's executive, Mendel Kaplan; Ronald Lauder, president of the Jewish National Fund; and Bronfman's son Matthew.

Though some speculate Matthew Bronfman is interested in a position of power with the WJC that could eventually lead him to the presidency, it remains unclear if he wants to become WJC president, now or ever.

It's also not clear what Edgar Bronfman's financial involvement with WJC, which has been estimated at $2 million (US) per year, would be in the future.

Bronfman would not speculate about his family's future with the organization.

"Right now is too soon to say," he said.

Associates said that when Bronfman takes a step back from the WJC, he will focus on the work of his Samuel Bronfman Foundation, of which he is president. The family foundation helped revive Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, and founded the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, which takes 26 high school students to Israel each summer for a five-week leadership program.

It also supports a number of Jewish programs, such as STAR (Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal), Brooklyn Jews, Myjewishlearning.com and BIMA: The Berkshire Institute for Music and Arts.

"My goals remain the same as they've always been. I want to see Judaism thrive and prosper from both the political and cultural standpoints," Bronfman said in his e-mail. "I'm particularly interested in helping to foster a style of Judaism that is open and inclusive and that makes it possible for all Jews to explore their heritage in ways that are meaningful and positive.

"We've been doing a great a deal of work along those lines at The Samuel Bronfman Foundation, developing and supporting programs that encourage Jewish learning and community building," he said. "I will continue to focus my energies on those activities."

Qassams continue to fall on Sderot

By MIJAL GRINBERG and OR KASHTI
© Ha'aretz daily Newspaper Ltd.

SDEROT — At least eight Qassam rockets struck Sderot on Monday, one landing as Defence Minister Amir Peretz turned out in his western Negev hometown to vote in the Labor party primaries.

Two rockets struck Sunday evening, damaging a house in the city. It was the third salvo of the day, and came after a man from Hod Hasharon, a suburb of Tel Aviv, was killed by a rocket while driving.

Another Israeli killed

Oshri Oz, 35, was killed when a rocket landed near his car. The Qassam that killed Oz was preceded by an alert. An eyewitness, a career army man, said he signalled to Oz to stop, but Oz just waved and drove on. The eyewitness said Oz got out of his car after the explosion, walked a few steps and collapsed.

State Comptroller Micha Lindenstrauss and Knesset State Control Committee members visited Sderot on Sunday. They criticized the poor planning and construction of protected spaces in schools. Members of the Israel Manufacturers Association were also in the town Sunday, touring industrial facilities in the wake of reports that many employees have not been showing up for work, in many cases due to lack of proper protection.

The evening salvo came moments after the Israel Air Force fired missiles at a Hamas military position along the coast of southern Gaza, as part of expanding efforts to curb the rocket fire.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert signed an order recognizing Sderot and locales within an eight-kilometre radius of Gaza as "frontier" communities. The order also includes the southern industrial zone of Ashkelon, Sapir Academic College and area farms, gas stations and tourism facilities. Such recognition will allow businesses to receive compensation for indirect damages, retroactive to May 16, when the Qassam bombardments began.

The Knesset Finance Committee is expected to approve the order, which will remain in effect at least until the end of August.

As of Monday, more than 250 rockets had been fired at Sderot.

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Marriage breakup and RESPs

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash

B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Partner, Beard Winter LLP

Question. I might be separating from my husband of 12 years. We have two children, ages 10 and 12.

During the course of our marriage, I have been saving some money in an RESP for my children's post-secondary education. If we end up separating, how do I protect my children's education fund? I am ready to give up everything except my children's fund.

Answer. A Registered Education Savings Plan is a type of savings account that grows tax free until a child is ready for post-secondary education. RESPs are a good way to save for a number of reasons: the money grows tax free until the child needs it for tuition, residence and other educational expenses, and an RESP allows you to apply for the Canada Education Savings Grant on your child's behalf.

Until recently you could contribute up to $4,000 per year in an RESP, but the Harper government very recently removed the limit in the last budget. If only you have signing authority, then you'll have no worries.

The funds belong to the children. You are the "caretaker" of those funds, nothing more, nothing less.

They are reserved for post-secondary purposes and can only be released to the educational financial institution for those purposes unless your child never goes to any post-secondary school.

If that should happen, the contributor can, under certain circumstances, transfer the funds to their RRSP after 26 years or even withdraw the funds, minus the grants that had been received from the federal government.

If your spouse has signing authority then the worst that can happen is that he releases the funds for some educational institution with which you do not agree or if your children never use the funds for post-secondary purposes, your spouse could theoretically transfer the funds into his RRSP or even withdraw the funds under certain severe restrictions and deductions.

The safest strategy is to ensure that you are the sole contributor to the RESP and that the financial institution clarifies that only you have the power to apply the funds to the educational institution concerned, and that if there will never be such an institution only you can apply to transfer the funds to your RRSP or withdraw the funds.

Alternatively, many couples simply agree in their separation agreements to share responsibility for managing and applying RESP funds such that all decisions in respect of such savings could continue to be made. Why? Well, in many cases both parents contributed so the sharing of the RESP can continue.

*John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of **Beard Winter LLP**. Neither Beard Winter LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at 416-306-1733, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@beardwinter.com. You can also visit www.beardwinter.com and www.spousalsupport.com.*

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Labor party election could shake up Israeli gov't

By MAZAL MUALEM
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JERUSALEM — The polls opened in the Labor party primary at 8:30 a.m. Monday, in an election that could have far-reaching effects for the government.

One of the leading candidates, Ami Ayalon, has said that he would not remain in the coalition under Prime Minister Ehud Olmert if he is elected party chief.

Some senior Labor officials oppose a pullout from the ruling coalition. But should the 19-member Labor faction bolt, Olmert could be forced to seek support from religious or far-right parties. It could also renew pressure on Olmert to resign.

About 104,000 people were registered to vote in the Monday ballot. Polls closed at 9 p.m. (local Israeli time). The initial results were expected by 10:30 p.m., and final results were due about four hours later. By the afternoon, the voter turnout had reached 25 per cent, an unusually high figure for a primary election.

Ehud Barak and Ayalon, whom polls showed to be running neck and neck, were both hoping to win the primaries without having to compete in a second-round runoff.

Members of both camps said they thought they could win in the first round, but many observers expected the vote to be so split among the five candidates running that none of them would get the minimum 40 per cent for victory, making a second round necessary. A second round would take place on June 12.

The latest polls showed that neither Barak, a former prime minister, nor Ayalon, a former Shin Bet security chief, had reached the 40-per cent threshold.

Trailing behind them was the current party leader, Defence Minister Amir Peretz.

Peretz, who voted Monday in his hometown of Sderot, said "every ballot that goes to Amir Peretz is one step closer to the Finance Ministry and progress in the social revolution," referring to the platform upon which he was elected as party chair 18 months ago.

Peretz has said he will leave the post of defence minister, in the wake of the fierce criticism levelled at him over the handling of the Second Lebanon War.

Peretz said Monday he believed "that through the vote, party members will prove that what they want is stability."

Barak, voting in Kfar Sava, echoed Monday his previous warning that only he can emerge victorious from a face-off with Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

"I am telling the voters two things today: think hard about who you want more in times of war. Only I, at the head of this large beehive of a party, can beat Netanyahu. I have a very good feeling this morning."

In the last few days, Barak and Ayalon have been targeting the kibbutz vote and the Arab vote, which are expected to determine the elections. Ayalon is seen as having a slight lead over Barak among kibbutz members, which has led Barak to focus his last-minute efforts in this sector.

Barak emphasized his two messages: "Think about who you want more in a time of war" and "Only I will beat Bibi" – a reference to Netanyahu.

Ayalon has been telling Labor members that they should vote for him because Labor under his leadership would win more seats if a national election was held than it would under Barak.

The Prime Minister's Office is keeping an eye on the primaries because the results are expected to affect the fate of the Olmert government, since the Labor party, under its new leadership, will have to decide whether to stay in the government.

Barak aides said Monday that if he wins, he will work to bring together the other candidates: Ayalon, Ophir Pines-Paz, Danny Yatom and Peretz.

Former prime minister Barak has the support of cabinet ministers from Labor. Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, Isaac Herzog and Shalom Simhon made dozens of calls Sunday to try to convince Labor members to vote for him.

Ayalon also spent much of Sunday on the phone, repeating his message that he does not plan to sit in a government led by Ehud Olmert.

Peretz said he was optimistic he would again emerge victorious in the primaries. "There are some who want to take away from us the social revolution we began," Peretz said in a recorded message to his supporters. "When we win once again, we will demand the Finance Ministry and, from there, continue the social revolution we're dreaming of."

Peretz's tenure as party chairman has been overshadowed by his role as the defence minister during the Second Lebanon War. However, Peretz insisted that his supporters will give him a surprise victory and lashed out against Barak: "We all know the truth, that Ehud Barak was not a successful defence minister.

"He set mistaken concepts for which we paid a price – the unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon and a small and smart army."

As the candidates and their staff were immersed in campaigning, reports circulated about attempts to buy votes. The Ayalon camp said on Sunday it had been offered Arab-sector votes for money, but no official complaint has been filed. Yatom vehemently denied a rumour that he received an offer to have his campaign costs covered if he were to withdraw his candidacy.

Israel Briefs

Iran threatens Israel

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned Israel not to mount a new offensive in Lebanon. Apparently responding to current fighting in Gaza and speculation that Israel could go to war against Lebanese Hezbollah and Syria in the coming months, Ahmadinejad said May 24: "If you think that by bombing and assassinating Palestinian leaders you are preparing the ground for new attacks on Lebanon in the summer, I tell you that you are seriously wrong. If this year you repeat the same mistake of the last year, the ocean of nations of the region will get angry and will uproot the Zionist regime," Ahmadinejad told a rally in the Iranian city of Isfahan, referring to last summer's war between Israel and Hezbollah. In fact, many Sunni Arabs at first backed Israel's attacks on Hezbollah, a Shiite militia sponsored by Iran, and have since stepped up peace overtures toward Jerusalem.

Hamas threatens U.K. firm

Hamas attacked a British energy company for pursuing a deal to develop a natural gas field off the Gaza coast. Ziad Thatha, the Hamas economic minister, told the *Times of London* that any agreement on the gas is equivalent to a modern-day Balfour Declaration, the 1917 British government statement that pledged support for a Jewish state. "When a company sells Palestinian gas to the Zionist occupation, it is similar to acts of theft the Israelis are practising against our land every day," Thatha said. Talks over the gas deal were due to begin this week. Israel's Foreign Ministry said it's hoping to conclude a deal "as soon as possible."

Nobel winner cancels visit

Israeli newspapers reported that a Nobel prize-winning physicist cancelled a visit to a London university over what he says is widespread anti-Israel sentiment in Britain. Steven Weinberg, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, cancelled an appearance at London's Imperial College in July, the *Guardian* reported. "I know that some will say that these boycotts are directed only against Israel, rather than generally against Jews," Weinberg wrote in a letter explaining the cancellation. "But given the history of the attacks on Israel and the oppressiveness and aggressiveness of other countries in the Middle East and elsewhere, boycotting Israel indicated a moral blindness for which it is hard to find any explanation other than anti-Semitism." A spokesperson for Imperial said it was "very sad" about the professor's decision. Weinberg, who won the Nobel prize for physics in 1979, cancelled a 2006 appearance at the University of Durham for similar reasons.

Hamas politicians arrested

The Israeli army and the Shin Bet security service last week arrested 33 members of Hamas' political wing in the West Bank. The move was part of a broad offensive against Hamas in response to rocket barrages on southern Israel. The last time Israel arrested Hamas politicians was June 2006, after Hamas kidnapped Cpl. Gilad Shalit to Gaza in a cross-border raid. *–from JTA and Ha'aretz*

Firefighters and police assess the damage at Geneva's Hekhal Haness synagogue, which was damaged last week during Shavuot. **[RNS/Reuters photo]**

Fire damages Geneva synagogue

JTA

GENEVA — A large fire damaged the Hekhal Haness Synagogue in Geneva on May 24, the second day of Shavuot, and police are investigating whether the blaze was arson.

The fire erupted about 5 a.m. and no one was injured, although about one third of the synagogue, built in 1972 and attended mostly by Sephardi Jews with Middle Eastern and North African roots, was blackened by smoke. It took 40 firefighters one hour to put out the flames.

Police initially reported that the fire was a criminal act, but several hours later they announced that an electrical fault might have caused the fire. The police investigation, which was to continue over the weekend, used specially trained dogs to sniff out any explosives that might have been used.

> ***Police initially reported that the fire was a criminal act but said later that an electrical fault might be the cause***

Johanne Gurfinkel, secretary general of the Geneva-based Intercommunity Coordination against Anti-Semitism and Defamation, which monitors anti-Semitism in the French-speaking cantons of Switzerland, said police discovered that the fire began next to a circuit-breaker.

"The police are leaving the door open to any possibility and we are being very careful not to jump to conclusions," Gurfinkel said. "Of course people in the community are worried, some think it could be terrorism or someone even mentioned Kristallnacht, but there is no evidence yet that can tell us anything."

There are 5,000 to 6,000 Jews and six synagogues in Geneva. Gurfinkel said there were no local tensions between Muslims and Jews and that there was no noticeable increase in anti-Semitism in recent years.

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- Being aware of "politically sensitive" issues in the community and ensuring the Bulletin properly reports on them;
- Assisting with the solicitation of articles from a broad cross-section of the community, so that the newspaper will reflect diverse interests;
- Assisting with the editing of submissions so they are standardized, and are of a professional calibre;
- Assisting with the layout and design of the paper to ensure it is visually appealing and articles are properly placed to reflect their importance;
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Israeli discovery could provide low-cost fuel

By ILANA TEITELBAUM
Special to The CJN

TEL AVIV — The fact former U.S. vice-president Al Gore's documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* has become one of the top-grossing documentaries of all time shows that concern for global warming is widespread.

Carbon emissions, produced by motor vehicles, are the leading cause of global warming, and the quest for alternative fuels is now a hot topic worldwide.

Now, Israeli researcher Amir Sharon of Tel Aviv University has discovered a transgenic fungus strong enough to convert even the most resilient plant parts into bioethanol, a chemical used for biofuel.

Strengthened with an anti-death gene, this fungus is resistant to harsh conditions such as heat and toxic substances, both of which are released while converting plant biomass into ethanol. As a result, the production of ethanol using this transgenic fungus could be much more efficient than with conventional fungi.

Biofuel – fuel derived from plant biomass – has emerged as one of the most viable alternatives to oil. The U.S. bioethanol industry is booming: in 2006, 13 per cent of the U.S. corn crop was used to produce ethanol.

But there are drawbacks to biofuel's production – it's expensive and wasteful. Most bioethanol produced in the United States is derived from the edible parts of corn crops. The stalks and leaves – made of cellulose and known to scientists as cellulosic biomass – are much harder to convert into ethanol.

Dr. Amir Sharon says using plants for fuel doesn't damage the environment because plants recycle carbon dioxide, releasing the same molecule they've already absorbed.

The cellulose is bound with a chemical called lignin, which causes the plant material to be rigid and difficult to break down. Consequently the production of bioethanol from cellulosic biomass is not carried out on an industrial scale in the United States.

As a result, some grain crops that could be used for food production are being used for fuel production instead. The prevailing criticism is that there is not enough farmland to produce crops for biofuel and still maintain an adequate supply of food. Additionally, Americans consume about 400 million gallons of gasoline per day, and that figure is growing. Bioethanol only provides 70 per cent of the energy contained in a tank of gas.

However, Sharon's new fungus, with its capability to convert inedible plant cellulose into ethanol, could have a significant impact on ethanol production.

According to Sharon, fungus is normally very difficult to culture.

"It is spoiled. Fungus needs very specific conditions in which to thrive. These transfungi are much more resistant to stress conditions, even oxidant chemicals like hydrogen peroxide or UV radiation, which usually harms the DNA and causes mutations, has little effect on the new transfungi," he said.

New fungus may have a significant impact on ethanol production

How does this apply to the production of ethanol? Since fungi require specific conditions for survival, the stressful conditions produced during the conversion process eventually kill the fungi.

"When you apply the fungus to the plant material, degradation will release heat and toxic material, which usually kills it. But this transgenic fungus is more tolerant, so it can withstand heat and toxins, making the plant degradation process more efficient," Sharon said.

Sharon discovered the unique properties of this fungus by accident.

"We were exploring ways to modify the germination of the fungus using anti-death genes… about a year later, when we went to clean out the cold room, we were astonished to discover a bright fungal colony that should have died months before."

The unusual hardiness of the fungus may also be important for the food and drug industries, which rely on the process of fermentation. More than 20 drugs, including penicillin, require fungi in the manufacturing process.

"Our fungus can grow for much longer in the fermenter – twice as long or more," Sharon said. "This can allow for the production of many more fermentation units."

Doubling the efficiency of food and drug manufacture could mean significant cost savings for these industries.

According to David Zaks, an American expert on environmental issues and a contributor to the popular website Worldchanging, Sharon's research bodes well for future cellulose conversions.

"This research is definitely an important step in providing the technology needed to do [the conversion of cellulose] on a more industrial scale. In the future we'll be able to do it with things like switchgrass," said Zaks, a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison's Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment.

Zaks predicts cellulosic ethanol will be the next big thing.

"There are many different small-scale production companies that are going to be working on it," he said. "There's a lot of money being put into this field right now to make it an important part of our energy future."

Sharon also sees biofuel as an important alternative to fossil fuels, both to prevent global warming and to supplement the world's supply of fuels.

"When we use plants [for biofuel] we're not damaging the environment because we're recycling carbon dioxide, releasing the same molecule that plants have already absorbed," he said.

"We also need alternatives because in 30 or 40 years, we'll have used up our supply of petrol."

Irit Ben Chlouch, director of business development at Ramot, Tel Aviv University's technology transfer company, realizes the financial implications of Sharon's findings.

"Not even mentioning biofuels, the fungal biotechnology market, which includes drugs, enzymes and the food market, is estimated at more than $100 billion (US) a year," she said.

Ben Chlouch added that Ramot is in talks with several companies to develop and commercialize Sharon's breakthrough technology.

"We are not at liberty to disclose the names [of the companies] until a final agreement has been reached," she said.

Ilana Teitelbaum is a freelance writer for ISRAEL21c, a media organization focusing on 21st-century Israel.

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Hyperbaric chamber may help avoid amputations

By **LEILA SPEISMAN**
Staff Reporter

Three hyperbaric oxygen therapy chambers in the recently opened Judy Dan Wound Care Centre may be able to help people with diabetic wounds avoid amputations, says Dr. Ron Linden.

Linden, medical director and CEO of Ontario Wound Care Inc. and a specialist in hyperbaric medicine for over 17 years, also has a family practice and is a staff physician in the hyperbaric unit of Toronto General Hospital.

High sugar concentrations in those with diabetes, he said, damage the nerves, especially in the legs. Blood vessels in the capillaries of the legs and feet are also damaged.

"Circulation is impaired, and not enough blood or oxygen goes to the feet. Cells that fight infection and allow healing don't get enough oxygen and so can't do their job."

The result, he said, is that those with diabetes, particularly when it is not controlled by medication, diet and exercise, can't feel when their feet are injured – for example, if they step on a nail. Antibiotics can't get to the site because of the poor circulation, and the wound festers.

"When the infection reaches the bone, that's the time for amputation," Linden said.

Patients who use the hyperbaric chambers spend two hours, five days a week, usually for 30 treatments, breathing 100 per cent oxygen. Linden explained that in the chambers, the atmospheric pressure is twice as high as it is in room air.

"The blood cells absorb oxygen, and the serum [the liquid fluid of the blood], which is also saturated with oxygen, carries it to the wound."

Martin Necpal, a certified hyperbaric technologist who is hyperbaric safety director at Toronto General Hospital, is constantly in the treatment room and monitors each chamber. There is an intercom, so that the patient and Necpal can communicate with each other.

While one might think this is a rather claustrophobic experience, Linden said that doesn't seem to be much of a problem, although Ativan, an anti-anxiety medication is sometimes given. Patients can listen to music, watch television or a movie, or even have a nap.

Care must be taken to prevent sparks. The patient must wear all-cotton underwear and is given an all-cotton scrub suit and hair covering to wear. All jewelry is banned, as are cellphones, laptops and personal digital devices such as Blackberries and Palm Pilots.

Results of hyperbaric oxygen therapy have been very encouraging, Linden said, with a 75 per cent rate in healing wounds and thus making amputation unnecessary. Studies in other countries where the technique is used, including the United States, Australia, Japan, China, Israel and Russia, show the same results.

Toronto businessman and philanthropist Aubrey Dan donated $350,000 for the funding of the capital costs of the centre, in memory of his mother, the late Judy Dan, who fought Type 1 diabetes from the age of 18 and had a series of amputations prior to her death.

Operating costs, however, are not covered by the initial donation, or by OHIP. Linden lamented that, although Health Canada considers it an essential medical service for 13 conditions including osteomyelitis, decompression and carbon monoxide poisoning, OHIP won't pay for it because no double-blind studies have been carried out. (It does pay him for supervising the treatment.)

On the other hand, the Canada Health Act forbids the patient to pay for it because of the ban on private health care.

The centre, then, is dependent on private donations. A double blind study is tentatively scheduled, with the help of PATH, the Program for the Assessment of Technology and Health.

The facility can treat 120 patients a year, a small number compared to the 10,000 in Toronto with these wounds.

John Morgan of Pickering has just finished his 18th treatment. Insulin dependent since last November, he said that a small callus on his foot led to a crack in the skin, and eventually a hole. Two surgeons, he said, had recommended amputation.

"My girlfriend saw an article about the Judy Dan centre in the *Toronto Sun*, and told me about it. I called the next day, had an assessment and started treatment."

In addition to a 50 per cent improvement in the wound, "I have more feeling in my feet, and I am more mobile. I pick a good movie, and relax."

Patients can either come on their own, or be referred by their physician.

For more information on the centre, which is located at at the Branson Division of North York General Hospital, 555 Finch Ave. W., call 416-223-6600.

Learn not to put it off till tomorrow

In coaching, the word comes up over and over again. We all do it. We put off applying for that job until we lose the magical 20 pounds. Or we don't write the thank-you note right away or make the difficult phone call. We leave memos, speeches, presentations and homework until the last minute, working breathlessly to finish what we should have started earlier. It's that 15-letter word that affects all of us and reminds me of this line: "Procrastination is like a credit card: it's a lot of fun, until you get the bill."

Life Coach Corner

Judy Siblin-Librach

It is a constant refrain in coaching, and as Alice P. Cornyn-Selby puts it, "Procrastination is, hands down, our favourite form of self-sabotage."

So how do we become "unstuck" and thus have more happiness, peace and calm in our lives? First of all, recognize that you aren't alone. Often we procrastinate because we are perfectionists who become so stuck on perfecting the details that we delay moving the project along until the last minute. This is a way of not having to face the fear of imperfection.

We also procrastinate because we would rather have fun. But ironically, until we complete the task, we can't fully enjoy ourselves anyway, so we might as well do what we have to do in the first place and get it out of the way.

Another common form of procrastination is seen in the crisis junkie or adrenalin seeker, who only gets motivated at the last moment when the pressure is on. There are also the people who take on too much and never face the most important task they are responsible for because they are juggling so many balls.

In their book *Time Efficiency Makeover*, Dorothy Breininger and Debby Bitticks state, "Very simply, procrastinating is the deliberate act of excessive postponing. Procrastination is the avoidance of doing a task that needs to be accomplished. And this avoidance can lead to feelings of guilt, inadequacy, depression and self-doubt. Procrastination interferes with professional, academic and personal success."

So how do we control it and really get unstuck from this habit of leaving a task to the last minute?

For one thing, make sure that your desk or work area is neat and organized before you start whatever task you're working on. If necessary, clean the clutter first and you will be able to see clearly what you need to accomplish. Set aside time every day to do your correspondence – thank-you notes, bills, responding to e-mails – and just sit down every day and show up at this appointment you make with yourself. This also applies to homework. If it is done every day at the same time, it becomes a good habit that can replace the postponing habit.

Also, have a great scheduling tool, whether it's manual (the old-fashioned appointment book), or a Blackberry or Palm Pilot, and let it work for you. I also find preparing a "To do" list on a fresh piece of paper every day and putting it in your workspace can be very helpful. This can be typed or handwritten, but it is a great visual aid. Also make visual reminders of the work you want to accomplish.

Remember to acknowledge what you have accomplished and what successes you have created already, instead of dwelling on what is still left to do.

Take small baby steps and break down all of the big items into manageable pieces. It also really helps to put a date beside each goal or project or assignment and stick to it. Try to visualize yourself as a person who doesn't procrastinate. Or think of someone who is very well-organized and imagine stepping into their shoes and visualize what they would do to get the job done.

Finally, take action. Once you start, the momentum really does propel you to finish the task before you know it. And just think of the great feeling you'll have when you've completed what you set out to do!

Judy Siblin-Librach is an Adler-trained life coach. Her website is www.findingyourbliss.com; e-mail is judyelle@ican.net.

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Arab-Jewish festival films deal with history, co-existence, identity

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

This year's edition of the Voices Forward festival, a showcase of Israeli and Palestinian culture at the Royal theatre at 608 College Street, runs from May 31 to June 3 and features 10 films.

A preview:

Bridge over the Wadi, by Barak and Tomer Heymann, is an intriguing examination of the limits of Arab-Jewish co-existence in Israel.

Three years ago, as the second Palestinian uprising raged, a group of progressive Jewish and Arab parents formed a binational and bilingual school in Wadi Ara, a mainly Arab-inhabited area of Israel adjacent to the West Bank. The Bridge over the Wadi school, in the village of Kfar Kara, would have room for 50 Jewish and 50 Arab Grade 3 pupils. They would supposedly learn the virtues of mutual understanding and tolerance. Explaining why she enrolled her child in the school, a young Arab mother says, "I didn't want my daughter to hate Jews, as I did."

In the spirit of this joint venture, the students celebrate Chanukah, visit a mosque, learn the Hebrew and Arabic alphabets, teach each other words, and observe a moment of silence in honour of Holocaust Memorial Day.

Doubts soon emerge.

A Jewish father questions the need for studying the Koran, and in a fearful reference to the Arab students, a Jewish mother says, "We are training children who one day will come to kill us." Meanwhile, two teachers clash over the Palestinian refugee problem and an Arab teacher upsets Jewish parents by claiming that Israel expanded its borders at the expense of Arabs. As the film closes, Jewish and Arab boys engage in a rough verbal exchange, but viewers are told that, in 2005, twice as many students signed up to attend the school.

Is the glass half full or half empty? You be the judge.

We Too Have No Other Land, directed by Jerrold Kessel and Pierre Klochendler, also deals with the vexing question of co-existence. Last year, against all odds, an obscure and poorly funded team from the Israeli Arab village of Sakhnin, coached by a Jew, won Israel's professional soccer championship.

The film leaves two different impressions. The club builds bridges between Jewish and Arab communities and symbolizes the struggle for equal rights in Israel. But when Sakhnin plays Betar Jerusalem, passions flare. Arab fans shout, "Betar, the whore," while Jewish fans liken Arabs to suicide bombers and impugn Mohammed the prophet as gay. Some enlightened fans, however, chant, "Arab and Jew, Jew and Arab."

Like *Bridge over the Wadi, We Have No Other Land* highlights the fraught relationship between Jews and Arabs in Israel.

Goal Dreams, by Maya Sanbar and Jeffrey Saunders, profiles the Palestinian national soccer team, a symbol of Palestinian identity. "Our role is to provide hope," explains one of the players. "We're a country but not a state," says the team sponsor, a businessman.

A Jewish and an Arab student at the Bridge over the Wadi school

The ragtag squad, coached by a stolid Austrian who can only communicate through an interpreter, is made up of ethnic Palestinians from around the world, including Chile and the United States. As this fly-on-the-wall film unfolds, the players prepare for a 2006 World Cup qualifying game against Uzbekistan in Qatar. Though not particularly talented, they are motivated and spunky.

The team, which trains in the Gaza Strip and Egypt, grapples with a variety of problems. Some of the players can't get through the border crossing. Still others mourn the deaths of friends killed in an Israeli air strike.

The Bride of Galilee turns on the agony of personal loss. Fatma Hawari, a 78-year-old Israeli Arab who is confined to a wheelchair and lives alone with bitter memories, was paralyzed in 1948 when an Israeli war plane struck her home and burned her relatives to a crisp. Looking back, friends recall that she was an exquisitely beautiful woman.

The pilot who bombed her house was Abe Nathan, the famous peace activist. Basel Tanus' touching film is about his attempt to win her forgiveness and her efforts to extract a disability pension from the Israeli government. Having been denied a pension for decades, Fatma needs Nathan's help to secure one. But when she visits him in Tel Aviv, she realizes that she actually may be better off than him.

The State of Israel vs. Tali Fahima concerns the strange case of an Israeli Jewish woman from the development town of Kiryat Gat who befriended Zakaria Zbeidi, a commander of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade in Jenin, and offered to be his human shield.

As a result of her unusual gesture, Tali Fahima was charged with being an accomplice to terrorism, arrested and demonized as a traitor.

Tal Hakim's coolly balanced, somewhat surrealistic film documents her legal battle and lengthy detention, the impact of her detention on her mother and sister and her odd friendship with one of the most wanted Palestinians in the West Bank. Zbeidi, a rifle slung around his shoulder, is a study in composure as he recounts Israel's attempts on his life and voices his desire for peace.

Bil'in My Love, by Shai Carmeli Pollak, tells the story of the Arab residents of a West Bank village who defy the Israeli government by mounting weekly non-violent demonstrations in support of their cause. The villagers, backed by pro-Palestinian activists from abroad, protest that Israel has no right to expropriate half their land and uproot their olive trees so that the separation barrier can be built and a nearby Jewish settlement can expand its boundaries.

Told from the viewpoint of an Israeli protester who opposes the intrusive route of the security fence, this passionate film focuses on a 50-year-old farmer who is due to lose his land and on the clashes that pit protesters against soldiers.

Short Stories from the Middle East, funded by the World Health Organization, consists of four graphic short movies about the lives of Palestinians and Israeli Arabs.

Jonathan Ben Efrat's *The Mall* zeroes in on illegal Palestinian workers who dwell in a dark, smelly, mosquito-infested unfinished shopping mall in Israel. Sobhi al-Zodaidi's *Missing Gaza* revolves around Israel's closure policy and checkpoint system in the West Bank and its effect on Palestinians. Ayelet Bechar's *Power* is about an Israeli Bedouin Arab who joins the Israeli army so that his unrecognized village, bereft of running water and electricity, will finally receive basic services. Hanna Musleh's *Journey with Naba* is a profile of a poor Palestinian family dependent on United Nations food rations.

Emile's Girlfriend, the only feature film under review in this roundup, starts promisingly in a hot Tel Aviv flat on a summer day. Yoav, a virile Israeli, answers a knock on his door. Delphine, a non-Jewish visitor from Paris, has arrived. She is Emile's lover, whom Yoav met during a recent trip to France. Yoav accompanies Delphine to a Jewish history museum and to a sunny beach, where they embrace and kiss.

Eytan Harris' film is aimless, meandering and pointless – an exercise in self-indulgence.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

MUSICA BETH TIKVAH CELEBRATES JERUSALEM'S REUNIFICATION WITH "ISRAEL THEN & NOW"

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir

In honour of the 40th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification, Musica Beth Tikvah presents "Israel Then & Now," a musical celebration of Israeli music featuring cantors **Tibor Kovari** and **Gideon Zelermyer**, as well as music director **Eyal Bitton** and the **Kachol Velavan Band**.

The concert ranges over 60 years of Israeli musical favourites, and is presented under the auspices of the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto.

Thematically, the music explores Israel's history, ideology, hopes, hardships and demographic and cultural changes. During the concert, images of Israel and English translations of the songs are to be projected.

Kavori, the cantor of Beth Tikvah, is a young tenor from Romania whose sweet musical tones and personality have enthralled Toronto audiences since 2003. Joining him is cantor **Gideon Zelermyer** of Montreal's Shaar Hashomayim. Bitton provides musical direction and arrangements.

$36, $25, $18. Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave. Wednesday, June 13, 8 p.m. 416-221-3433, ext. 354, www.musicabethtikvah.com

* * *

Names in the News: Singer-songwriter **Eliezer (Laurence) Kosoy**, who grew up in Toronto and studied music at Concordia University in Montreal, recently released his third musical CD, *Elyon*.

An alumni of the Israeli yeshiva Lev Israel, Kosoy performed at a recent smichah celebration there, and received a glowing mention in *Hamodia*, the Israel-based newspaper of Torah Jewry, which reported that "the atmosphere was sweetened" by Kosoy's "beautiful vocals."

Now based in Israel, Kosoy's vision is to combine Jewish music with a powerful message of faith, hope and inspiration "to arouse the hearts of Jews all over the world." Greatly influenced by folk music, he and his musical partner **Yonason Hill** have a style that has been compared to **Simon and Garfunkel**.

Elyon, like Kosoy's previous CDs, *Patience With the Ordinary* and *Return*, should be available in Jewish stores locally.

* * *

Toronto Jewish Choir: The 81st annual spring concert of the **Toronto Jewish Choir** features performances by the outstanding choir and guest klezmerists **David Wall** and **Marilyn Lerner**. $23-$19; children free. Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. Sunday, June 3, 7:30 p.m. 416-636-0936 (evenings, weekends) or 416-665-7766, ext. 224 (business hours). E-mail tjfolkchoir@sympatico.ca, web www.winchevskycentre.org/institutions/choir.html.

* * *

Winnipeg Folk Dance Ensemble: Founded four decades ago, the Winnipeg-based **Chai Folk Ensemble** is a group of more than 40 dancers, singers and musicians who perform a variety of material including traditional horahs, dynamic klezmer, Israeli hits and exotic Oriental compositions.

North America's oldest and largest folk dance ensemble, CFE is presenting Celebration of Life concerts in Montreal and Toronto this week to aid Beit Halochem Canada's work in support of the disabled veterans of Israel. The ensemble performs at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St., Thursday, May 31, 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from $50. 905-695-0611

* * *

Ta-Shma: Brooklyn-based musical duo **Chunah Silverman** and **Menachem Shapiro**, who have given themselves the talmudic name **Ta-Shma**, have created a special niche for themselves in the changing world of hip-hop by combining electric beats with traditional Jewish melodies and spirituality. Some have called it "Hassidic Hip-Hop."

"Chunah and Menachem have truly blazed their own trails by making use of an ancient method of dialogue to deliver an eternal message of faith and yearning," asserts the band's promo material. Their debut CD, *Come Listen*, was recently released on the JMG label.

* * *

At the Galleries

- Acrylics and watercolours by **Esther Etigson** are on view at 163 Gailcrest Circle, Thornhill (Bathurst & Clark East). Sunday, June 3, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 905-886-8085
- Glass sculptures by **Alex Gabriel Bernstein** remain on view at the Sandra Ainsley Gallery. Some works by **Katherine Bernstein** (Alex's mother) are also on display. Until June 7. Distillery District, 55 Mill St., Building 32. 416-214-9490

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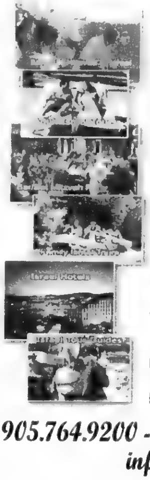

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Ballet conductor creates unity of music and movement

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

As music director and principal conductor of the National Ballet of Canada, David Briskin says he must always be attuned to, and respect, the delicate balance between the dancers on stage and the orchestra in the pit.

"I always envision a ballet company as a scale," said Briskin, who has held the baton since September.

"In certain companies, the dance takes precedence and the music is really there to serve the dance and serve the dancers. In other companies… the music is dominant and the dancers dance and the music is there.

"Here, there's a very, very close relationship. They're really on an equal basis, there's a great deal of collaboration here, between the dancers and myself, the ballet masters and myself, to really put the music and movement together… so it creates kind of a unity."

Before joining the National Ballet last fall, Briskin had guest conducted for the company a number of times.

To take the job, he moved to Toronto from New York with his wife, dance manager Julia Blackburn, and their 18-month-old daughter Charlotte. Briskin previously worked for the New York City Ballet and for seven years as conductor with American Ballet Theatre.

Toronto is a welcome change for the family, Briskin said, and the National Ballet of Canada is a good fit. He said he knew from his guest conducting experiences that he would like to spend more time with the company.

"I know the importance of music in this company, I know what its cultural values are. You sense that when you go into a company. Every company has a certain culture, some are healthier than others. This is particularly healthy."

And Briskin has been pleased with his choice so far, both in terms of the ballet season and his new Canadian life.

"It's been everything that I expected," he said. "We were very, very warmly welcomed, not only professionally but socially as well."

Briskin said that within two or three months of moving to Canada, the family received several invitations to seders and Charlotte was invited to a Chanukah party.

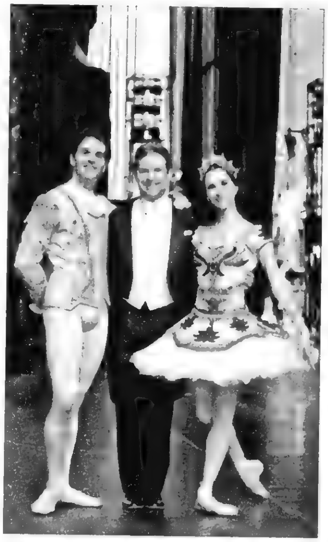
He called this a reflection of the high calibre of people involved with the ballet company, from employees to patrons to its board of directors.

The music director had to adjust to two new homes. He came on board with the ballet company as it started its first season in the new Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, where he said that out of 2,071 seats, there isn't a bad one in the house.

"It's one of the best places to see and hear work," he said. "It has an immediacy and an intimacy that few other halls have."

Since the centre was designed for opera, he said, it does present some challenges in reaching a balance between dance and music.

"Because of the immediacy and because of the acoustics of the hall, there's no places to really hide… the very nature of the house is going to raise the level of performance, because it just feels as if everyone is very close to you, and the sound that you get back is very close and very, very honest and clear. There's not a big boomy or whooshy sound and that has some challenges to deal with," he said.



National Ballet of Canada music director David Briskin with dancers Guillaume Côté and Greta Hodgkinson after a performance of *The Sleeping Beauty*.

[Bruce Zinger photo]

The 2006-2007 season, which opened with *The Sleeping Beauty*, is coming to a close at the end of June.

Matjash Mrozewski's *Wolf's Court* runs June 2 to 9. It's a brand new piece complete with original score by Alexina Louie. Briskin said it is particularly suited to the acoustics of the Four Seasons Centre.

"What I've seen so far looks absolutely magical," he said.

"One of the things Alexina told me is that she was creating the piece specifically with the acoustic of the opera house in mind. It's a very, very richly textured score, but there's a tremendous amount of detail, which in this house we're going to be able to hear."

In terms of Briskin's goals for the company's future, he said he would like give the orchestra a chance to shine on its own, taking them out of the pit and putting them on stage. This will begin with a noontime Thursday concert series in the Four Seasons Centre's Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre in November.

His other aims dovetail with artistic director Karen Kain's.

"That was the other reason that it was quite attractive to come, because Karen talked to me before I came a lot about what her vision for the company was, and I felt that these were values that I could very easily get on board with and help and support," he said.

Briskin's favourite part of the process is working collaboratively with both the musicians and the dancers and choreographer, and then bringing the two together to create a seamless product.

"I love performing, but to me the process is just as interesting as the product," he said.

As a conductor he must never compromise the musical side of performance, he said, but he must also give dancers enough flexibility to make them feel comfortable.

"When something is just right, and the pacing is just right and the tempo is just right, they feel that and their performances are better--and that's what we do."

Multimedia show documents recent South African history

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Warren Wilensky has created a "digital opera" about South Africa's transition from apartheid to freedom.

The Passion of Winnie, which premières June 8 as part of Toronto's Luminato arts festival, views South Africa's history through the eyes of controversial politician Winnie Mandela, the ex-wife of the country's former president, Nelson Mandela.

Wilensky's digital opera is a multimedia production that includes a live orchestra, chorus and soloists, who perform while moving images are run on three screens and five projectors.

The power of this production, says Wilensky, is that it helps hold the viewer's focus. "It brings the audience into the story and keeps them involved.

"At the same time, you've got these images that are portraying emotions as well, to make it more accessible."

The score was written by Bongani Ndodana-Breen, who is also the conductor. Wilensky wrote the lyrics, and the music is a blend of Xhosa rhythms, Township jive, Cape Town jazz and anti-apartheid street chants.

Wilensky, a filmmaker, moved to Canada from South Africa 10 years ago. He shot the images on his visits back to the small rural village of Mbeulene, where his nanny retired.

Wilensky says the idea for the opera came about while he and Ndodana-Breen partook in "a drunken evening on Thanksgiving dinner in 2003."

"We kind of sat with it. Both of us were too scared to approach the subject matter. Winnie is a very controversial figure.

"Even today when you mention the subject, many South Africans look at you weirdly," he says.

But after doing some research, a "rounded story" came together, he says.

"A story of a hero and a fallen hero, which made the most sense for the medium of opera."

Wilensky is happy to have the chance to share this story. "Having the opportunity to tell a story of the birth of our country, that's just an honour," he says.

"To be involved in such a thing, we are helping to define our culture, especially this portion, which has been kind of left out."

Warren Wilensky

Wilensky says most people do not know much about Winnie Mandela, and when they do have some background, it is "stuck on pause in the 1980s and '90s, when things weren't going so well." Mandela is popular among her supporters, who refer to her as the "Mother of the Nation," yet reviled by others.

Wilensky hopes that people come away from the digital opera without judging Mandela, because he says no one can do that without living in her shoes first and experiencing some of her trials, such as the 200 days she spent in solitary confinement.

He adds that he is grateful for the opportunity to bring *The Passion of Winnie* to Luminato.

"It's very unlikely that we would have had the perspective or distance to do this in South Africa," he says.

The Passion of Winnie premières at the Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles St.W., at 8 p.m. on June 8 and 9. Tickets are $30 and $40 and are available online at www.luminato.com or by calling Ticketmaster at 416-872-1111.

Luminato, a multi-disciplinary arts festival that features more than 100 events, takes place across the city from June 1 to 10.

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TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

SEE CHINA THROUGH JEWISH EYES

Toronto travel professional Harriet Morton is offering an 18-day tour called "China… A Journey Through Jewish Eyes," this fall. As on her previous Chinese-Jewish journeys, the itinerary includes various sites in and around Beijing, Harbin, Zhengzhou-Kaifeng, Xian, Shibaozhai, the Three Gorges and Shanghai, including much about China's rich but little-known Jewish history.

Included for the first time is a visit to the recently opened Jewish History of Harbin Museum, which Morton calls "the most dramatic and elaborate presentation centre that I have ever visited worldwide." Among the many Jews who came to Harbin in the early 1900s was Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's grandfather, who was buried there.

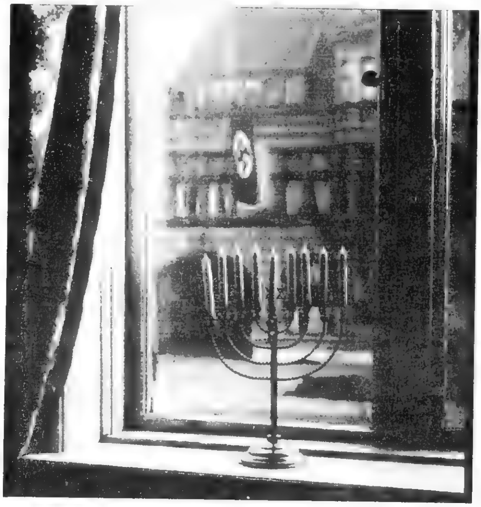
The tour departs Oct. 17 and returns Nov. 3, with optional extensions into Guilin and Hong Kong thru Nov. 7. For information and registration, please call Harriet Morton or Belle Araneta of New Wave Travel, 416-928-3113, ext. 273 or 245; call 1-800-463-1512, or e-mail harriet@newwavetravel.net

* * *

Jewish Travel Guide: Israelowitz Publishing of Brooklyn recently released its ninth edition of the *United States & Canada Jewish Travel Guide*. The book describes 351 Jewish sites, including museums and historic buildings such as Golda Meir's house in Denver, the Cuban Hebrew Synagogue in Miami Beach and the only synagogue in San Francisco to survive the 1906 earthquake.

Also listed are nearly 200 JCCs, 335 mikvahs, 489 Chabad houses, 4,309 synagogues and nearly 1,500 kosher restaurants and eating establishments, with particulars about rabbinical supervision.

"The book is a must for the Jewish traveller in the United States and Canada," according to its compiler Oscar Israelowitz, from whom it may be purchased for $19.95 (US) plus shipping. It's also available in many bookstores and through Amazon.com www.israelowitzpublishing.com



Rachel Posner, wife of Rabbi Dr. Akiva Posner, the last rabbi of the prewar Jewish community in Kiel, Germany, took this photo from inside the family home on Chanukah 1932. From the exhibition Daring to Resist: Jewish Defiance in the Holocaust, at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York.

* * *

Guest House in Charleston: The Broad Street Guesthouse is a one-year-old kosher bed and breakfast establishment in Charleston, S.C., that attracts many observant Jewish travellers. Hadassah has refurbished the house with unique furnishings and kosher kitchenettes in each guestroom and suite. It is located at 133 Broad St., in a classic 1875 home in Charleston's downtown historic district. Call 843-577-5965, or visit www.charlestonkosherbedandbreakfast.com

* * *

Travel Briefs

- An exhibition of landscapes by Renoir continues at the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, until Sept. 9. 800-319-ARTS
- Dateline Israel, New Photography and Video Art is an exhibition of photography and video art made since 2000 by artists in response to the second intifadah and other political realities in Israel. At the Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., New York, thru Aug. 5.
- Daring to Resist: Jewish Defiance in the Holocaust is the theme of an exhibition at New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage. The focus is acts of resistance that powerfully refute the popular perception that Jews were passive victims. "Whether praying clandestinely, documenting the experiences of Jews in the ghettos, or taking up arms to fight, these responses took many forms, but each and every one was a courageous act of resistance." 36 Battery Place, Manhattan. www.mjhnyc.org
- Colourful, quirky and inventive, a new family exhibition on Noah's Ark is set to open at the Skirball Museum in Los Angeles on June 26. Visitors feel the coming storm, participate in creating weather effects, help finish building the ark, care for animals and the ark on the voyage, and bask in the glow of a breathtaking rainbow. www.skirball.org
- Tourism Ireland's new vacation planner is a 60-page colour booklet that includes a detailed map of Ireland and a sample driving itinerary that takes in some of Ireland's many castles and fortifications. For a free copy, call 1-800-223-6470 or visit www.discoverireland.com
- *Full Circle: Escape from Baghdad and the Return* is a recent book by Saul Silas Fathi that chronicles the perilous journey of a young Jewish boy's escape from Iraq in 1941, his arrival in war-torn Israel, and his search for a new beginning in America. The Baghdad-born author currently lives in Long Island. www.saulsilasfathi.com

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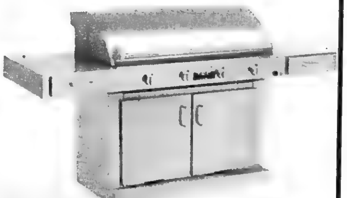

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A poet down by the river

***Black River* by Kenneth Sherman, Porcupine's Quill.**

By NORMAN RAVVIN
Special to The CJN

The next time you hear it said that Canadians lack a sense of history and identity, an effective response would be to offer a copy of Kenneth Sherman's powerful new poetry collection, *Black River*. In it, in ways both lyrical and ironic, Sherman addresses the Ontario landscape's colonial and aboriginal history. At the same time, he manages to interweave this public history with private memories of youth and family life spent along the Black River in south central Ontario.

Norman Ravvin

The outcome is a quiet tour de force – a short book built on the kind of introspection and stylistic alertness that readers once expected from such American poets as Charles Olson, and can still find in the work of Philip Levine. Black River calls to mind Levine's finely wrought poems of youth and hard work, in part because both poets have a satisfyingly subtle way of including Jewish themes in the broader context of their narrative and poetic concerns. Both have committed themselves to portraying, in detail and with pathos, a specific time and place.

In Levine's case, it is Detroit in its heyday as a manufacturing mecca, a place of hard work and difficult lives. In *Black River*, Sherman recalls for us a youth spent along the banks of the Black River, which flows through the Ontario town of Sutton on its way into Lake Simcoe.

Among *Black River*'s strengths is its retrospective point of view – the poet's recollection in maturity of the kind of river life he experienced as a boy. In one of the book's loveliest stanzas, he recalls how he

once drifted,

watching a girl chew on a stalk of grass.

Behind her, a tire swing,

a sagging shack, her father's rusted

Mercury on concrete blocks.

Her perfect pale legs.

One does not have to be a connoisseur of rusted wrecks (as I am) to recognize in this a fine juxtaposition of memory, of the discoveries of youth alongside the assuredness of decline.

Sherman presents the once lovely landscape around Black River as one in steep decline. He writes darkly of the "forests at Simcoe/ cleared for development. Prosperity/ and the end of identity." The history of the river – its ability to support life and memory – has been destroyed by "ammonia, phosphates, PCBs… Our luminous cocktail." It is through this theme that the collection includes a portrait of contemporary Canada, about which Sherman has a few caustic things to say.

The landscape's history, *Black River* reminds us, is not without its dark chapters. The poems invoke the arrival of Samuel de Champlain and the early Huron fear "that the great harvest/ might end" with the arrival of Europeans. What in fact followed was a

great reduction.

Thirty thousand of the indigenous

KENNETH SHERMAN
BLACK RIVER

near Simcoe's green shores,

powerless against the virus

dispensed by servants of Jesus.

Sherman complicates this colonial history by working his own Jewishness into his poetic tableau. A visit to the local church conjures a memory of "our small synagogue in unassuming brick/ protected by maples." And in strangely powerful stanzas he links the area's suppressed aboriginal character with Jewishness: "1956. Our town's cigar-store wooden Indian,/ his profile cracked, Semitic." In the same way he recalls his "grandfather's nose and bronzed skin/ akin to the Indian's: the Sioux-Jew,/ the Huron-Hebrew." And there is the cryptic presence in the river's summertime past of a remnant of wartime Europe:

the park by the public pier,

immigrants with their coolers and caps–

a glimpse of their pale forearms,

the shock of their blue

numeral tattoos.

It is this idiosyncratic presentation of local history and identity that places *Black River* far above stereotypical musings about what it means to be Canadian. Sherman's poetry achieves a fine balance between the public and the personal, the poetic and the political, merging philosophical musings with childhood romance. If you have, by chance, forgotten the pleasures of poetry, Kenneth Sherman's *Black River* will reawaken them for you.

Norman Ravvin's books include the novel Lola by Night *and the story collection* Sex, Skyscrapers and Standard Yiddish. *His essays on Canadian landscape and history are collected in* Hidden Canada: An Intimate Travelogue. *He is chair of Concordia's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.*

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* * *

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- **STRATHALLAN WOOD** Very spacious renovated & decorated 3 bdrm. sidesplit in prestigious location. Huge basement. $2,900 / mo.
- **STORMONT AVE.** 3 bdrm. sidesplit + fam. room, $2,500 / mo.
- **GLENGARRY AVE.** Spacious 3 + 2 bdrm., 3 baths, desirable location close to TTC, parks, schools, shops, $2,800 / mo. Aug. 1.

* * *

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• • •

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• • •

THORNHILL DOWNING. Prestigious location, 4,000 sq. ft., 5 bdrms. + fin. bsmt. for nanny's quarters. Granite, crown mouldings, 9 ft. ceilings, skylight, custom cedar playground. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT $929,000 – ACT NOW!**

• • •

THORNHILL WOODS, REDUCED $40,000. 2 storey, dbl. garage, oversized window for extra light, berber carpet, hrdwd., Dutch clean, $699,000.

• • •

BATHURST MANOR BUILDING LOT 55.89 ft. x 157 ft.

• • •

TORRESDALE CONDO New kitchen, renovated baths, low floor, very quiet private location, $189,000.

• • •

THORNHILL TOWNHOMES FROM $375,000 1,700 sq. ft. $370,000, 2,055 sq. ft. $375,000, 2 storey, 3 bdrms., 3 baths, granite kitchen counters, ceramic tile in bathrooms, hardwood floors, 9 ft. ceilings, 5 appliances, will close Dec. 2007. **ONLY 5 LEFT – ACT NOW!**

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15 HOUSES FOR RENT

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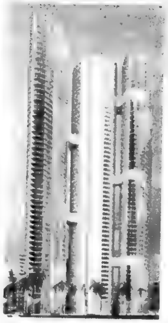

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Toronto FC defender loves playing at the highest level

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In most sports, very little is expected of expansion teams beyond providing good entertainment.

In its first three games in its Major League Soccer (MLS) debut season, Toronto FC lived up to those low expectations. It dropped all three contests and was held scoreless before heading back to BMO Field at Exhibition Place for its home opener.

Although the results on home field were no better – they were shut out in that game too – they did manage to crank up the entertainment value and excite a very enthusiastic crowd.

Following that game, defender Adam Braz could see the tide turning. The team's "fantastic" effort in that game four home opener, if duplicated, would soon pay off, he predicted.

"We're not a team that likes to just sit back, soak up pressure and counterattack. We like to move the ball quickly and create a more attacking game," he said.

By game five, it turned out he was right. Toronto FC scored its first goals of the season and cruised to a 3-1 victory over the Chicago Fire.

"We struggled to start the year, especially the first three games where we didn't put in good performances," Braz said. Returning home, the club was inspired by the tremendous reception from its fans, and he predicted even before the inaugural victory "the ball will go in."

"At the end of the day, we have to perform, especially for the fans, who are great," he added.

An outside defender, whose job description is partly to make forward runs and take part in the attack, Braz was signed as a free agent to a four-year contract. He joined Toronto FC because "I want to play at the highest possible level. To do so in Toronto is great."

Now 25, Braz has been a fan of Major League Soccer since he was 12 years old. Like a typical kid growing up in Montreal, his first team sport was hockey, but by age seven he realized he didn't like it all that much. Soccer, on the other hand, was the perfect fit. Perhaps the fact his dad, an Israeli, was a huge soccer fan also played a part in switching sports.

Though he started as a recreational player, Braz quickly moved up to AA and then AAA levels.

A student at Herzliah High School, he made the provincial soccer team and the youth national under-17 teams. Later he played on the Canadian under-20 squad and Canada's Olympic team, which, unfortunately, did not qualify for the Athens games.

For four of the last five professional seasons, Braz suited up for the Montreal Impact of the United Soccer Leagues (USL), one level below MLS. He helped the Impact win three consecutive USL First Division titles and bolstered an Impact backline that held opponents to 15 goals in 28 games. He played the 2003 season in Sweden before returning to his home team.

Braz remains part of a pool of 20 to 30 players who are called on to comprise Canada's national team. The coach selects 18 players for any one game or tournament and Braz considers it "a privilege to be able to represent the country."

Last March he was on the national team that played Bermuda in a friendly, and two years ago he played all three games in the Gold Cup, a regional tournament involving CONCACAF (North American, Central American, and Caribbean) countries.

Adam Braz

Canada has been a weak sister in these regional and international events for years, but Braz believes that "Canadian soccer is changing. Over the past few years, we've developed into a much better side and we're starting to play better soccer.

"We're trying to get positive results and a winning mentality."

Braz has already attained two of his sports-related goals: the chance to represent his country and "to be able to do this as my profession. It's the one thing I wanted to do. It's my passion and I love it."

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Adulthood arrives in a moment

Sandie
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20Something

His name is John Hanan, and he's the man I thought I'd be introducing to you as my fiancé.

I was already thinking about how I would do that, since he's not Jewish. I thought about the angry letters that I would get, and that this paper would probably get for presenting me as a so-called example of a good 20something Jewish girl.

I didn't care though, because I knew our relationship was well worth the criticism and skepticism.

But all that is irrelevant now, because on April 19, John passed away.

Instead of the column I was planning to write, arguing that I, and eventually our children, could and would continue to be Jewish in every way, despite my partner's religion, I now feel that I only need to explain who John was to justify why I fell so uncontrollably in love with him.

I first noticed him seven years ago in a journalism school radio class. After flashing me a mischievously charming smile, he told our instructor that I wasn't pulling my weight on an assignment. I knew then that this would be the one guy who wouldn't let me get away with anything.

A year later, after more flirtatious testing of my spirit, we started dating. Though there were some definite bumps in the road, we remained inseparable, not only as each other's loves, but as best buds. When we moved in together, I knew that I had never been happier in my life. He was my Number 1 supporter and I am still his Number 1 admirer.

John was sweet and sensitive. He kept me on my toes, both intellectually and as a human being. He was passionate about the environment, had a deep understanding of world issues and loved people who were genuine. I knew he was a keeper when my nieces reassured me he was 99.999 per cent cuter than Justin Timberlake.

The truth is, he was 100 per cent a decent person, and one billion per cent worthy of my and my family's respect.

He taught me to be honest and to speak from the heart, but now that my heart is broken, it's difficult to speak words that make any sense about what it feels like to lose a best friend.

A couple of months ago, I wrote about a special woman who was battling cancer with grace and compassion. Ironically, I wondered about how difficult it must be to lose someone you love and I vowed to appreciate and make the most out of every moment. Although I really did do that, I now know there are never enough kind words or good moments to ease the devastation of death.

It has been almost three years since I started writing this column, and most of the time, I've wondered about when I was going to feel like an adult, rather than like a child pretending to be a grown-up.

But adulthood came in a mere moment with this loss of innocence.

In the past month since John passed away, my wonderful friends and family have made me laugh, but my smile will never again be as bright. Yes, life goes on, but it will never be as rosy. And sure, love will come knocking again, but it won't ever be as pure as what I had with John.

I guess adulthood is about survival, and if my love has taught me anything, it's that I can't get away with anything without doing my best.

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1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
3/4 cup white sugar
1/4 cup melted butter
2 tsp. vanilla
1 sliced challah
1 tsp. cinnamon
5 eggs
3 ups milk
1 cup dried cranberries

Grease 9"x13" baking dish well. Layer bread into baking dish, filling in with small pieces of bread where necessary. Sprinkle dried cranberries on each layer as you go along.

In mixer, beat cream cheese, sugar, melted butter, vanilla and cinnamon. Slowly beat in eggs; stir in milk. Pour mixture over bread; refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350°F for 45 min.

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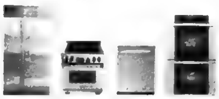

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About Life

Dear Ella,

My house sometimes feels like a real war zone. We have four kids ranging in age from 10 to 17. The problem lies with the middle two. Karen is 12 and Jeff is15. I really think these two kids hate each other. It causes such horrible feelings in our family. They can't even be in the same room together, which makes family outings a thing of the past.

Karen has a very strong personality and is aggressive and outgoing, whereas her brother Jeff is more of a thinker. He keeps to himself and doesn't need a lot of glory or recognition. These two have always been confrontational, but it's been manageable. This is no longer the case. They're out of control, and my husband and I are constantly jumping in and yelling. Sometimes, when I take a step back, it seems like we are living in a mad house. Any suggestions?

Sibling Rivalry

Dear Sibling Rivalry

Sounds like you have your hands full. Sibling rivalry is not new, nor is it unique to certain kinds of families. However, it is very disruptive to the family unit, as you well know.

My guess is that this didn't just start overnight. There was probably some underlying rivalry between these two for a long time. There are many factors that come into play: the kids' individual personalities, their place in the family unit, their ages, their genders, jealousy, how you treat them, how their other siblings interact with them. All of this plays a role in their clashing.

You can start by setting house rules. If you have set up rules such as no swearing, hitting or door slamming, you must enforce them. Once you know they're not in danger, let them work it out. Don't mix in, and don't take sides – all that will do is fuel the fire. Make sure they are safe and let them get through it without your intervention. They will eventually work it out, or they'll separate and move on. By allowing them to resolve their own battles, you're letting them develop resources that will serve them well later in life.

Speak to your family doctor. If you feel all this is more than you can bare, try family counselling. Perhaps a professional can give you the tools you need to get through this stage in their lives. Often kids who fight through their childhood end up very close as adults.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

It's great to hang out together

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN
WRITER

On a recent Shabbat, I took my son to Clanton Park. Noah River is a year old now, and it is an absolute delight to hang out with him there, or for that matter, most any place.

We approached the park from Palm Drive, just west of Bathurst Street north of Wilson Avenue, where you'll find a jungle gym, swings, slides and a teeter-totter. My little man was excited when we arrived and began making motorboat sounds with his tongue (he extends his tongue, presses it against his bottom lip and blows).

I parked his stroller and unclipped the straps that secure him. He flailed his arms and feet like a penguin and made a loud shrieking noise of joy. I laughed so hard.

The park began to fill up with people just as we arrived. A couple with a baby perhaps five months old entered the park. Noah and I are pretty friendly, and therefore bid the young family a good morning (they didn't look Jewish so we didn't say, "Good Shabbes").

The response? Nothing. Not a "hello," "how are you," or most importantly, "so what's your son's name?" This struck me as somewhat odd, but then I remembered. This is life. There are those people who will embrace a shared experience (like hanging out in the same park together), and others who are shy or disinterested. This couple was just not into us. That's okay, though. We were fine and moved on.

I put Noah into the baby swing and he burst out into a giggle, as it swung back and forth – of course not too high. His mother would be upset. We then sat on the adult swing, he in my lap, and carefully, well a bit higher than Miriam might like, swung and swung and swung. As we did this, a father and son entered the park.

The little fellow, perhaps three years old, was very effusive. Yes he is like that child you are thinking about who is obsessively curious and completely into the moment. My son's green and yellow rake and shovel elicited a 10-minute speech from the chatty lad.

Well, this father and son were pleasant and gregarious. The father took great pride in his son's loquacious nature. He pointed out to Noah and me how his boy would continue to challenge us with queries about everything from the colour of our baby bag to the two front teeth easing their way through Noah's gums.

The park was our world for a short while, and so far, I had met Mr. and Mrs. Keep-to-ourselves and father and son ultra-friendly.

Shul-goers began to return home. Some of them wished me a good Shabbes, others said hello, and still others said nothing. A man with a hunting dog came to greet us, but the dog showed little interest in Noah and me, and continued on with his nose to the ground looking for the fox or squirrel he was bred to find.

Soon enough, I met a lovely Ukrainian woman with a 13-month-old son. She was new to the area and happy to meet someone who would interact with her. She was charming, and told Noah and me about the hardships she has gone through, including being separated from two of her children who still reside in Kiev.

After a couple of hours, we packed up our toy bag, folded our blanket, and I loaded Noah into the stroller and we walked home.

Clanton Park was the 'hood I grew up in, and it is nice to be back there with my boy. Hanging with Noah is the most enjoyable thing in the world.

See my blog at http://avrumrosensweigideas.blogspot.com.

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This Week

National

Palestinian group calls for bookstore boycott. ***Page 3***

Alicia Ross' neighbour guilty of second-degree murder. ***Page 5***

Reform convert first ever in Newfoundland. ***Page 34***

Party Supplement

See inside for 56 pages of simchah ideas. ***Section B***

Arts & Travel

Young producers to bring hit off-Broadway play to Toronto. ***Page 46***

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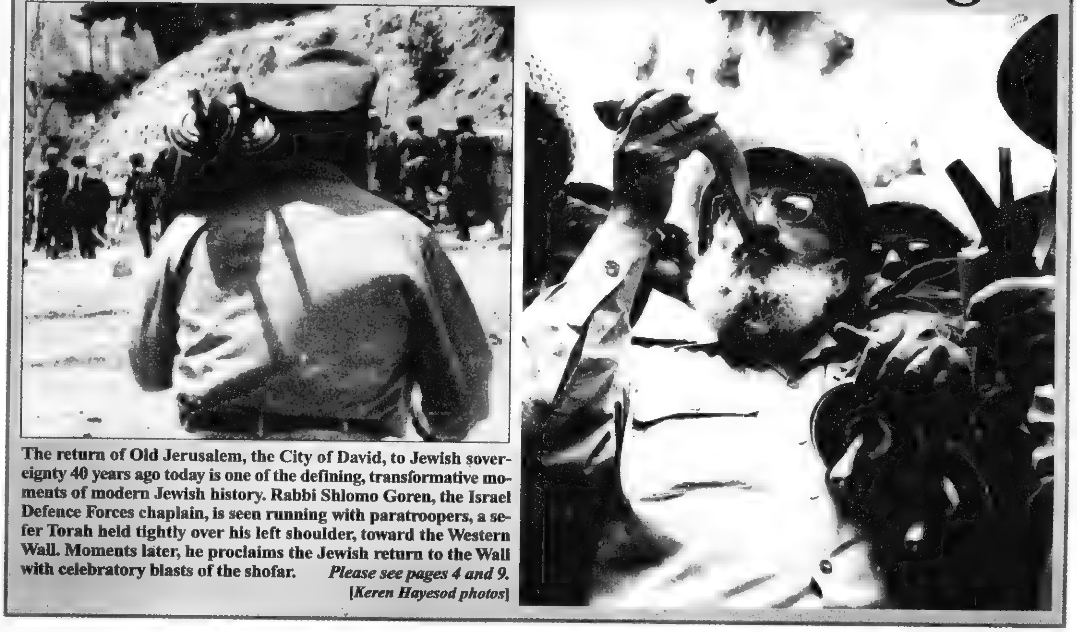
Six days of war, 40 years ago



The return of Old Jerusalem, the City of David, to Jewish sovereignty 40 years ago today is one of the defining, transformative moments of modern Jewish history. Rabbi Shlomo Goren, the Israel Defence Forces chaplain, is seen running with paratroopers, a sefer Torah held tightly over his left shoulder, toward the Western Wall. Moments later, he proclaims the Jewish return to the Wall with celebratory blasts of the shofar. ***Please see pages 4 and 9.***
[Keren Hayesod photos]

Sderot residents cope with attacks

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Atara Orenbuch's children think themselves lucky when the daily toll of incoming Qassam rockets drops to only three.

When only three missiles land to randomly cause damage and death in the development town of Sderot, the time between attacks gives them the sense that it's almost safe to go outside and play.

Going outdoors, of course, doesn't mean a family jaunt to the park or a shopping mall, but merely to a courtyard area in their apartment complex. They have to be nearby so that when warning sirens sound, protective shelters are only moments away. Thousands of homemade Qassam rockets have been fired into Israel over the past few years; 220 in the last half of May alone.

Orenbuch has six children, and for much of the past few weeks, they have been cooped up in the family's apartment. At night, all six, along with her and her husband, Amit, sleep together in one room that has been constructed with thicker, protective concrete walls. It's the family's personalized shelter that protects them from the Qassams that regularly fly in from nearby Gaza.

Life in Sderot has gone beyond normal in the past few years, Orenbuch said last week in a telephone interview from Israel. When she and her husband moved to the southern development town eight years ago as

Continued on page 39

A resident of Sderot points to the damage caused to his home by a Qassam rocket. ***[Isranet photos]***

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British union presses boycott of Israel — please see page 38

The News in Brief

CANADA

First Negev Dinner

BARRIE, Ont. — The Jewish National Fund and Am Shalom Congregation, Barrie, Ont.'s only synagogue, recently hosted the city's first-ever Negev Dinner. Businessman Stephen Sperling, president and CEO of the Aerarium Group, Barrie's largest developer of commercial and industrial property, was honoured at the April 29 event, which raised funds for youth programs in Barrie and Israel. Sperling is a founder and past president of Am Shalom and a longtime JNF supporter.

WORLD

Killer Pleads Insanity

SEATTLE — The man accused of shooting up the Seattle Jewish federation office has changed his plea to innocent by reason of insanity. Lawyers for Naeeid Haq, the Pakistani American accused in the attack that killed one and injured five others last July, said May 30 their client has a long history of mental illness, Associated Press reported. The lawyers said Haq has made several suicide attempts over the years and been diagnosed with bipolar disorder with psychotic features. Haq is charged with murder in the death of Pamela Waechter, 58, director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle's annual fundraising drive, and five counts of attempted murder in the July 28 attack. His trial is set for January. He's being held in jail without bail.

Extradition Likely

BUDAPEST — An Australian man accused of killing a Jew in Hungary in World War II will likely be extradited to Hungary. Hungary's Foreign Ministry suspects that Charles Zentai, 84, killed Peter Balazs in Budapest for failing to wear a yellow star identifying him as a Jew. The killing allegedly occurred in 1944 when Zentai tortured and fatally beat Balazs, 18, in an army barrack. Zentai, who immigrated to Australia in 1950, denies the allegations. An Australian court refused to block his extradition last week, rejecting his lawyer's request that it be delayed until Australia's high court hears his appeal. Zentai was ordered to reappear in August.

Israeli Activist Runs for WJC President

TEL AVIV — Israeli writer and activist Einat Wilf has announced a long-shot candidacy for president of the World Jewish Congress.

The former foreign policy adviser to Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres is being backed by KolDor, an international group of next-generation leaders. Wilf, 36, is working on a Cambridge University PhD in political science. Her focus is the WJC in the 1990s, when the group was at the centre of the battle for Shoah restitution money. She has written two books on Israeli public policy.

Einat Wilf

Edgar Bronfman, who has been WJC president since 1979, will step down June 10. The same day in New York, WJC's governing board will elect an interim president to serve until the organization's next plenary meeting in 2009.

Ronald Lauder, the cosmetics mogul and Jewish National Fund president, Mendel Kaplan, chair of the WJC executive committee and a South African steel manufacturer, and Israeli academic Vladimir Herzberg are also in the race.

"My candidacy is motivated by a deep concern for the future of the World Jewish Congress and the widening gap between what it has been, what it could be and its present state," Wilf wrote in her nomination letter, adding that " a new and committed generation of Jewish activists [must] articulate a vision for the WJC and commit to realizing it."

Blog Fights Boycott

LONDON — A prominent British TV journalist has started a blog to help fight the National Union of Journalists' vote to boycott Israeli goods. Launched last month by technology and business correspondent Rory Cellan-Jones, the blog Stop the NUJ Boycott will chronicle attempts to overturn the motion. Stopnujboycott.blogspot.com is only open to NUJ members' comments. On the site, Cellan-Jones said he's "just one of a number of BBC journalists concerned at the damage to our reputation for impartiality that results from the NUJ boycott policy." He said some 300 journalists have agreed to sign a petition.

Police Detain Teens

MOSCOW — Police have detained seven teens in the central Russian town of Klintsy in connection with last month's desecration of a Jewish cemetery. The teens attend the same middle school and face up to three years in jail if convicted of taking part in the attack, which toppled 43 gravestones. Due to their ages, they would serve little time if convicted.

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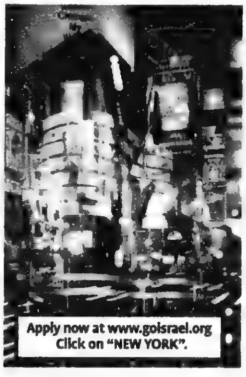
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Palestinian activists to boycott Chapters/Indigo

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

A Toronto-based pro-Palestinian activist group is urging its supporters to picket in front of Chapters and Indigo bookstores nationwide on June 9 for a "Chapters/Indigo Day of Action."

Heather Reisman

The Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid's (CAIA) website also calls for a boycott of the Canadian bookstore chain "to mark 40 years of apartheid… to send a clear message to majority shareholders Heather Reisman and Gerry Schwartz that their links to the Heseg Foundation… are unexceptable [sic]."

The Heseg (achievement) Foundation provides financial help to youth who've moved to Israel, without their families or a support network, to volunteer in the Israel Defence Forces. It gives scholarships to support these "lone soldiers" in their scholastic pursuits and daily living expenses following completion of military service.

Heseg was founded in 2005 by husband-and-wife power duo Schwartz and Reisman, respectively CEO of Onex Corporation and CEO of Indigo Books and Music Inc. Heseg's website says its purpose is to "support and encourage exceptional young people to realize their full academic potential and join the ranks of those who will lead the world of tomorrow."

The CAIA claims the foundation supports "soldiers from outside of Israel that want to serve in its racist military" and want Reisman and Schwartz to cut financial ties to the foundation.

The group has also held "picket information sessions" Fridays at 5 p.m. in front of the Indigo store at Bay and Bloor streets for the last few months and plans to organize pickets in front of at least six of the company's prominent Toronto storefronts for their "day of action."

A protest leaflet, available for download on CAIA's website, shows a caricature of a faceless Indigo businesswoman casually dropping a bag of money into a hungry Israel Defence Forces soldier's mouth as the soldier savagely throttles a woman on the ground. A subheading on the leaflet reads, "Israeli Apartheid: Made in Canada".

Indigo Books and Music Inc. declined to comment on the situation.

But national Jewish community organizations responded quickly to the CAIA's stated plans.

"No fair-minded observer could even remotely suggest that Israel – the sole pluralistic democracy in the Middle East – is in any way characterized by apartheid policies," wrote Manuel Prutschi, national executive vice-president of Canadian Jewish Congress, in an e-mail to *The CJN* last week. "What we have here… is nothing but a reprehensible and unjust harassment of Chapters/Indigo by a group to focus attention on their pathetic, ongoing anti-Israel efforts."

In a May 17 press release, B'nai Brith Canada accused the CAIA of promoting a "misguided attempt to delegitimize… Israel and its supporters."

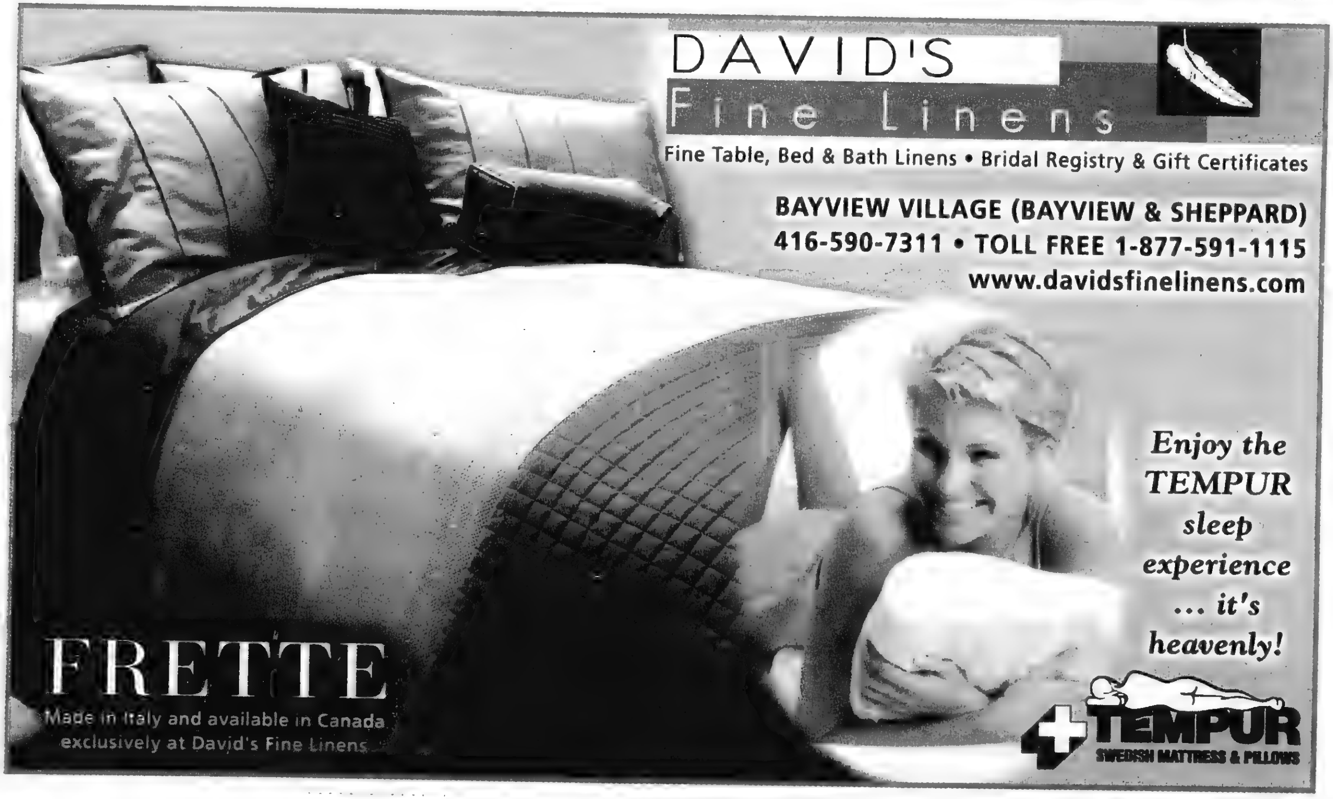
Frank Dimant, vice-president of B'nai Brith Canada, defended Schwartz and Reisman in the release, calling the couple "pillars of strength in Canada's Jewish community... philanthropists whose advocacy of worthy causes has benefited Canadians of all backgrounds and walks of life" and equated any boycott action as nothing more than an attempt at "character assassination."

In a July 7, 2005, report on the then newly founded charity, Schwartz told *The CJN* that Heseg was "the one [project] that has my heart."

A followup *CJN* report on Dec. 15, 2005, had quotes from both Reisman and Schwartz as they addressed recipients at the first annual Heseg Foundation Grants Awards Ceremony at Ganai Et-Arucha in Tel Aviv.

"This project is a real passion for us because it's an opportunity for us to invest in future leaders of Israel," Reisman said.

"We are a family. As Jews who live outside of Israel, I can tell you… that every one of us in all of those faraway lands know that you're here – and you're here not just for yourself, or just for the State of Israel, you are here protecting the freedom of Jews around the world."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From the editor's desk

This week we recall and commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Six Day War. It was a turning point in modern Jewish and world history.

Israel's remarkable victory on the field ultimately led to peace treaties with Egypt and with Jordan, albeit after a round of much bloodier fighting with the Egyptians merely six years later. To be sure, both peace treaties have weak pulses. They are felt more on the surface of relations between the countries than in the deep commercial, trading, touring or any other bilateral structure of relations. But the treaties are alive and have held since their respective signings, despite the weakly beating pulses.

But there is no semblance of peace, with weakly beating pulse or otherwise, with the Palestinians.

Worse.

The new Palestinian leadership is resolutely trying to define the conflict along religious rather than territorial parameters. "Land-for-peace" is not a formula that works for Hamas or any of the other extremist Islamic groups that hold sway in Palestinian society.

The old Palestinian leadership, on the other hand, was interested only in acquiring the "land," but not in making the compromises necessary for "peace."

Today, four decades after the war, historians, pundits, analysts and filmmakers of every stripe and political inclination are "assessing" its impact.

Typical of the assessments is the conclusion by Leslie Susser in a commentary for *JTA*: "The occupation was the most bitter legacy of Israel's 1967 victory on the battlefield."

In hindsight, this may be true. But there is more to the story. And we are entitled to ask how it is that the world little remembers the circumstances that led to the war or the circumstances that unfolded in its aftermath.

There are some essential points worth remembering concerning the occupation of the West Bank:

- Israel pleaded with Jordan NOT to enter the war. (See the Perspectives essay by Jack Chivo in today's issue.)
- Having acquired the West Bank by aggression in 1948, Jordan had no higher legal right to the West Bank than Israel did 19 years later.
- Israel was rebuffed by the Arab world in its efforts to negotiate peace shortly after the war. The Arab League flatly rejected Israel's call for peace with its three famous nos of Khartoum: no negotiation, no recognition, no peace with Israel.
- The three nos of Khartoum were merely the latest "nos" expectorated at Israel. Every prime minister of Israel before and after Khartoum has offered the Palestinians the possibility (and hope) of peace. But the Palestinians have always rejected that possibility.

The world, however, seems not to have noticed. In the intervening 40 years, history has been rewritten and the narrative told and retold only in the capital letters of Palestinian victimology.

Last Rosh Hashanah, *The CJN* dedicated the holiday supplement entirely to the events of the Six Day War. "An entire generation of Jews," we wrote then, "has been born that has no first-hand, direct knowledge of the events and the feelings that kept us, the older generation, holding our breath, fearful that a new horrific, black night was descending upon Israel and Jews worldwide.

"An entire generation of Jews has grown to adulthood with a sense of Israel and recent Jewish history distorted by the unceasing hostility of Israel's hate-obsessed enemies, and by the unwitting participation of often well-meaning but ignorant confederates.

"An entire generation of Jews has grown to adulthood with the predominant image of Israel as 'colonial occupier,' an image carefully crafted by the unremitting barrage on television and in newspapers of scenes of stone-throwing Palestinian children squaring off against well-armed, flak-jacketed Israeli soldiers or of wailing Palestinian women confronting IDF tanks and heavy equipment.

"The reliability of these heart-rending visual scenes has been reinforced by the imprimatur of the mountain-high record of debates, minutes and resolutions from the United Nations, thus driving home the 'truth' of the images in the hearts and minds of the unknowing. There is no Israel other than this Israel for so many of our youth."

This distortion of the truth, this misperception of Israel is a profound tragedy for the Jewish people and for the world. We see its bitter consequences manifested every day on every continent. Campaigns of boycott and divestment from Israeli businesses are only some of its poisoned fruit.

We must never acquiesce to this distortion. Despite Israel's missteps and the problems and burdens arising from the "occupation," the Six Day War was a profoundly important turning of history's wheel. We must never negate the courage and heroism of the soldiers who fought and of those who fell in that war. And we will never regret that Jews want to live too, that Jews are as entitled as any other people on earth to live in their own country.

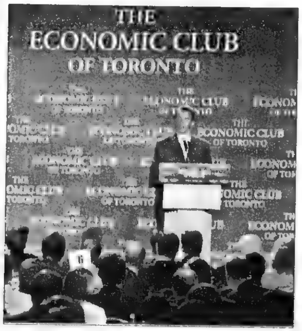
–MBD

Clarification

The caption accompanying last week's front-page photos of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Walk with Israel, noted three out-of-town politicians – all Liberal – who attended the event. Other out-of-town politicians at the walk included federal Environment Minister John Baird and Conservative Waterloo-Wellington MPP Ted Arnott.

SeeJN

THE ECONOMIC CLUB OF TORONTO
7


THE ECONOMIC CLUB OF TORONTO
6

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN': The Toronto Heschel School choir, comprising grades 5, 6 and 7 students, welcomes California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger at his Economic Club of Toronto luncheon address last Wednesday. The choir sang the California state song and a medley of other California-related tunes, including The Mamas and the Papas classic, *California Dreamin'*. The Economic Club presented Schwarzenegger, who was in Canada on a three-day trade mission, with its Newsmaker of the Year award. During his speech, the "governator" called the United States the "world's best hope" for solving the problem of global warming. [Abigail Bimman photos]

Ross' neighbour convicted of second-degree murder

A Newmarket jury deliberated less than four hours before finding Daniel Sylvester guilty of second-degree murder in the death of 25-year-old Alicia Ross.

Last week's verdict carries an automatic life sentence and Sylvester, Ross' neighbour, will face a minimum of 10 years in jail before he is eligible for parole. Judge Edwin Minden will announce the eligibility period for parole at a hearing on July 4.

Outside court, Ross' mother, Sharon Fortis, thanked jurors for not believing Sylvester's story – that he was provoked into attacking her daughter.

Alicia Ross

"The trial centred around a composed story craftily rehearsed and put forward so co-operatively on video as to mask itself as a remorseful confession," Fortis said.

Her daughter was not alive to contradict Sylvester's "lies" because she was "conveniently dead," she told reporters.

"The pain of our loss will never go away," she said in a statement addressed to the jury. "It is with us every day. But you believed in the truth and delivered a verdict that now helps all of us to move forward."

Sylvester showed no emotion when the verdict was announced.

Evidence presented at trial indicated that on the night of Ross' death on Aug. 17, 2005, her boyfriend Sean Hine left her Markham home late and tried calling her at 12:30 a.m. Hine testified he was worried when she did not answer and the next morning she was not home when he dropped by to see her.

He called police at that time.

Sylvester testified he had a chance encounter with Ross in the path between their two homes that night and that he beat her after she called him "a f…ing loser." Forensic evidence showed she had at least 33 fractures and broken bones, including her nasal and cheekbones, and resembled someone killed in a violent car crash.

Sylvester testified he put Ross' lifeless body in his car and drove her to a remote area north of Markham where he deposited it.

About a month later he confessed to police and took them to two locations where parts of the body were located.

Prior to trial, Sylvester, 33, had offered to plead guilty to a manslaughter charge, which would have implied Ross' death was accidental and resulted in a lesser sentence. Crown attorney Kelly Wright declined to accept the plea bargain and the trial went ahead on second-degree murder charge.

The Crown's theory was that Sylvester sexually assaulted Ross before killing her, but the body was too badly decomposed for them to prove how she died. Sylvester admitted masturbating after killing Ross as he drove to a place to hide her body.

Sylvester also testified he lived alone with his mother in the basement of the house next to the Fortis' and that he had no friends or a job. His defence lawyer argued Sylvester was "very dysfunctional," and he snapped when Ross called him a "f…ing loser" because of years of frustration and pent-up anger.

But Wright suggested Sylvester was "intelligent and articulate" and decided to kill Ross after she caught him spying on her and Hine that night.

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The following By-laws will be presented for approval:
Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care By-law No. 23
The Baycrest Day Care Centre By-law No. 6
Baycrest Hospital By-law No. 16
The Jewish Home for the Aged By-law No. 7

The above by-laws contain housekeeping changes that harmonize procedures and governance structures among the Baycrest corporations. The by-laws include the following governance changes: a phased-in reduction of elected directors to fourteen, provision to appoint one Vice Chair instead of several, a quorum of twenty-five voting members at members meetings, the elimination of an executive committee, a reduction in the number of standing committees, and the creation of an Advisory Council to the Chair of the Board and President and Chief Executive Officer. The by-laws empower the corporations to indemnify a director for expenses related to anticipated claims and proceedings against the director personally, subject to board approval.

Apart from the other by-laws and pursuant to the Public Hospitals Act, Baycrest Hospital By-law No. 16 does not enable members to vote by proxy. The by-law provides that the directors of Baycrest Hospital are, ex officio, the directors of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. By-law No. 16 contains further changes regarding the participation of nurses on committees, the election of nurses, and the appointment process and duties of the Chief Nursing Executive.

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Zareinu works toward erecting own building

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The first clue that Zareinu Educational Centre is not a run-of-the-mill school can be found along the wall of its main hallway. Oversized strollers, wheelchairs, child-sized walkers, including an innovative and costly hands-free model, and bicycles modified to accommodate children who have mobility issues line the hall.

The 18-year-old school, housed in rented premises in the basement of the Sephardic Kehila Centre in Thornhill, serves children with special needs, including those with cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and autism spectrum disorder.

This Sunday, Zareinu will hold its 10th annual "moveathon," the school's largest fundraiser. The event will feature a festival at Downsview Park with food, rides and entertainment, and a choice of routes – a two-kilometre walk, a 10-kilometre run and a 20-kilometre bike ride. As well, on June 24, there will be a "pro tour" bike ride of 50 or 100 kilometres along the Niagara Escarpment.

Annual per capita costs for each Zareinu student run about $40,000 a year, approximately double the annual tuition, which is just under $20,000. However, the school has never turned away a family for lack of money, Spiegel said.

A golf tournament May 29 raised more than $350,000, he added.

Showing a reporter the school, he paused to point out a young student walking hand in hand with a program assistant. "This is great," said Spiegel enthusiastically. "This kid is walking, and she's walking really well. This is a child who has been in a [wheel]chair for a long, long time."

The school accepts babies as young as six weeks into its infant intervention program and offers services through high school for students up to age 21. The high school program, now in its third year, was started to meet the needs of families who could not find an appropriate program for their older children.

Zareinu serves 73 children at the school and provides services to 30 students elsewhere. It has two satellite high school classes, one at Adath Israel Congregation and one at Beth Jacob High School for Girls. There is generally a maximum of eight children per class.

Although the school is affiliated with the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and provides Jewish studies, it serves a small number of non-Jewish children as well. They are accepted if they need what the school has to offer, and if there's a spot open, Spiegel explained, adding that there is a waiting list for most classes.

Some students leave Zareinu to attend mainstream schools. One boy, who has a shadow working with him at his new school, moved on after learning to overcome communication issues and the associated frustration when people didn't understand him.

With the help of teacher Loretta Rattanie-Husan, Zareinu student Devori Kakon prepares to put her coin in a coin-eating toy as part of a preschool lesson on tzedakah. [Frances Kraft photo]

"Every child has to have a [therapeutic and educational] program specifically for them," Spiegel said. A team of special education teachers for both Judaic and general studies as well as speech, music, occupational and physical therapists work together to help students reach their potential.

In a preschool classroom last week, children learned about tzedakah and mitzvot through interactive play, putting coins in a coin-eating toy and placing cards inside a toy mailbox as they pretended to send get-well cards.

Zareinu offers a unique program, said preschool co-ordinator Pat Resnick, who also teaches Early Childhood Education at Seneca College. "The therapists actually train the teachers and their educational assistants to do some of the therapies with the children, so they're not just getting therapy once or twice a week with the therapists… Everything is inter-related."

Staff need a "very positive outlook," said Resnick. "Our children learn differently, but they all learn… It's a pleasure and a privilege to work here."

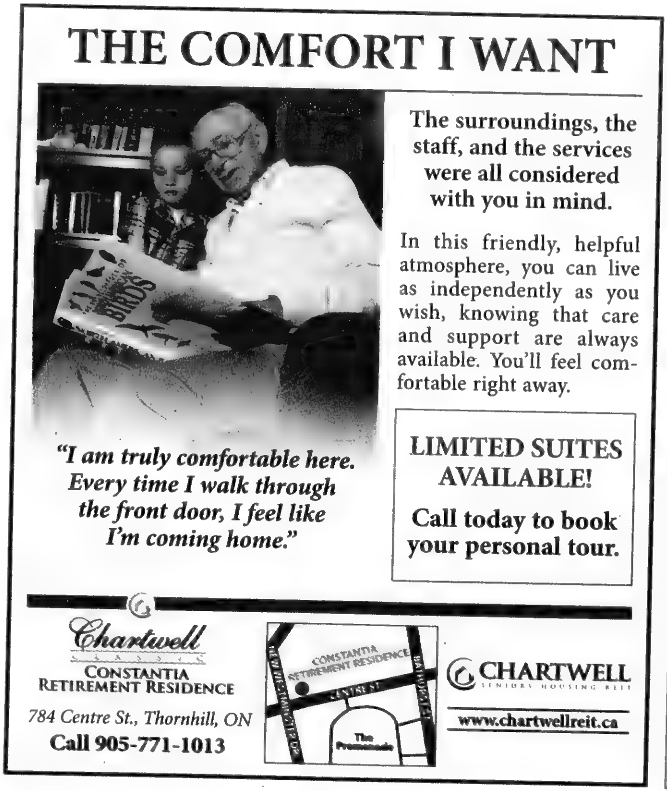
Wanda Gascho-White, head of music therapy, uses musical instruments to coax students into interacting with her. A student who doesn't make eye contact, for example, may be fascinated by her guitar. As she very gradually brings the instrument closer to her face, "bit by bit, I'm encouraging them to come more and more into my world." Nascent eye contact and interaction with her become transferable skills that "expand in many ways," she said.

For the past five years, Zareinu has received about $500,000 per year from Ontario's Community Care Access Centres to cover therapy costs, said Spiegel.

Spiegel said Zareinu board members have been working toward a building the school can call its own. An artist's rendering of one plan sits on his desk. The current premises of less than 10,000 square feet is about a quarter the size that is needed, he said.

He credits the school's board for being "incredibly fiscally responsible," and said there will not be a new building until it is certain that affiliated operating costs can be met.

"I'm hoping it's going to be soon."



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Elizabeth Friedman (TCS G11)
Canadian champion, will be representing Canada in Israel next year;

Danielle Ripsman (TCN G9)
scored in top 10 of Canada.

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Recent Scholarships *(a selection!)*

Tal Arane (TCS G12) *won a* Minden *Scholarship for the summer* 2007 *programme at the* Weizmann Institute *for* Science;

Jody Grundman (TCS G12) *won the top* Hope Foundation *4-year* University *Scholarship;*

Arielle Lewis (TCN G11) *has been awarded a* Bronfman Youth Fellowship *(only Canadian recipient);*

Adira Winegust (TCN G12) *is the first Canadian to be awarded the* Senator Joseph Lieberman *Scholarship.*

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G10 Israel Trip

59 G10 *students & 5 staff from both campuses participated in the* Annual G10 *Israel trip.*

From Our Graduates...

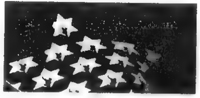
Dr. Aaron Schimmer
(TCS '87) *named to* Canada's *'Top 40 under 40' list for his distinction in Leukemia research;*

Jessica Smuskowitz
(TCS '03) *won the* Norman Berman Memorial Prize *for excellence in Jewish Studies at* McGill University;

Ryan Katchky (TCN '05)
won a Goldman Sachs *Global Leadership Award;*

Fiana Kalp (TCS '06) –
Dennis Waldman *Scholarship.*

Rabbi Ron Pachter
(TCS) *has been named* 'Outstanding Shaliach *of the* Year 2005-06' *by the* Jewish Agency *in* Jerusalem.



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More boycott, more hypocrisy

The United Kingdom's largest academic union – representing some 120,000 workers in higher education – last week voted 158 to 99 to urge its constituent branches to consider a boycott of Israeli academics. The University and College Union did not call for an all-out boycott of the Jewish state, but their meaning was clear.

The drafters of the motion left no doubt about their feelings regarding the Jewish state. "Israel's 40-year occupation has seriously damaged the fabric of Palestinian society through annexation, illegal settlement, collective punishment and restriction of movement."

As *JTA* reported, the vote was the latest of several British efforts to boycott Israel. Last month the National Union of Journalists passed a motion to boycott Israeli goods. More recently, a group of British doctors, journalists and architects also called for a boycott within their respective professions.

This latest decision by the academic union is an affront to decency. It is evidence of obsession. It is evidence of singular and single-minded animosity towards the Jewish state.

Were there even the slightest feint towards fairness in the motion, its proponents could possibly argue they were motivated by concerns of justice and compassion. But lacking fairness, justice as a motive is belied. And lacking the motivation of justice, malice is all it has left.

Writing in *Ma'ariv* last week, Israeli journalist Ben-Dror Yemini pointed out the obvious: "Boycotting Israel and not Syria or Russia, leads the British hypocrisy, and not the British morality, to new records. Because if human rights and human lives were what interested the British, they would devote much greater energy to what is happening in Darfur [to cite an obvious example] than to what is happening in the West Bank."

Israeli cabinet minister Isaac Herzog, whose portfolio includes monitoring anti-Semitism abroad, called the union's decision "troubling."

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations referred to the resolutions passed by the British union, not all of which are specifically boycott measures, as "obscene."

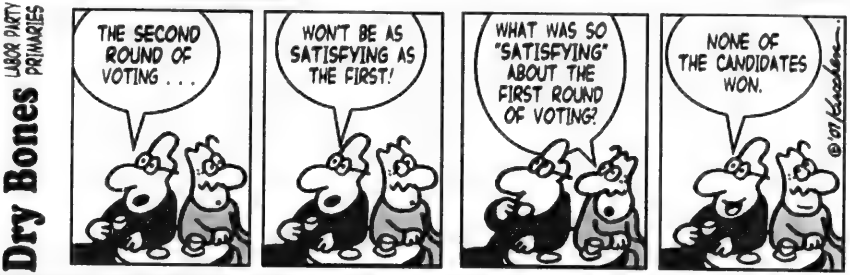
And they are.

Closer to home, the Canada-Israel Committee issued a call to action to all fair-minded individuals who are offended if not also worried by the union's brazen attack against Israel.

Outrage, anger and disgust at the union's behaviour are warranted emotional responses. But they are not sufficient. We must do all that we can to counter this latest British call to boycott Israel.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Israeli artillery, air and naval forces swept into southern Lebanon, determined to force the Palestine Liberation Organization out of the area. The attack, Operation Peace in Galilee, was in retaliation for an assassination attempt on Shlomo Argov, Israeli ambassador to Britain, by a PLO splinter group.


Dry Bones
LABOR PARTY PRIMARIES
THE SECOND ROUND OF VOTING . . .
WON'T BE AS SATISFYING AS THE FIRST!
WHAT WAS SO "SATISFYING" ABOUT THE FIRST ROUND OF VOTING?
NONE OF THE CANDIDATES WON.
©'07 Kirschen

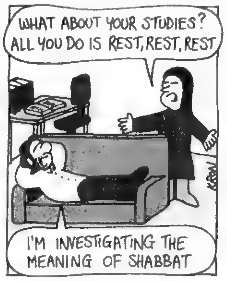
Editorial Advisory Board: Michael Brown, Sandra Brown, Donald Carr, Adam Hummel, Zac Kaye, Igor Korenzvit, Hagai Kuperman, Keith Landy, Andrea Most, Lou Ronson, Jacques Sayegh, Mike Shriqui, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Michael Stroh, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks

Doctors' group responds to Steinberg

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders protests in the strongest terms Gerald Steinberg's column "When aid is exploited for terror" (*CJN*, May 31). The charges that have been laid in Israel against former MSF social worker Mossaab Bashir are of grave concern to us as well. We are closely monitoring the situation. Meanwhile, keep in mind that the allegations have not been proven in court.

According to international judicial principles, he is still presumed innocent until a court of law declares otherwise. Bashir's alleged activities in no way implicate MSF.

MSF strives to observe neutrality and independence in many radicalized and violent regions of the world. MSF seeks to provide impartial medical care for those most in need in more than 70 countries. We reject Steinberg's insinuations that MSF is somehow connected to activities that go against our humanitarian mandate. It is a slight against all those we strive to assist worldwide, as well as those who volunteer overseas and donate money to help us save lives and alleviate suffering.


WHAT ABOUT YOUR STUDIES? ALL YOU DO IS REST, REST, REST
I'M INVESTIGATING THE MEANING OF SHABBAT
KRAW

MSF has a strict code of conduct for national and expatriate staff. MSF has always complied with Israeli regulations concerning movements of its aid workers. Bashir had obtained all the required authorizations from Israeli authorities to pass through security checkpoints enabling him to leave Gaza and travel to Jerusalem.

MSF has been working in the Palestinian territories since 1989 to address the violent consequences of the conflict, adhering completely to the principle of neutrality. Our teams provide psychological care along with medical and social services to families experiencing acute trauma and suffering from a lack of access to healthcare. We treat civilians who are exposed regularly and frequently to potentially traumatic conflict-related events. The majority of our patients live in the areas most affected by the violence. Our teams are currently working in Nablus, Hebron and Gaza.

Marilyn McHarg
General Director
Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders Canada

Editor's note: The charges against Mossaab Bashir are only allegations at this stage. We regret any contrary impression that may have arisen from the column, as well as the impression that MSF may be complicit in any inappropriate behaviour.

Rights group responds to Steinberg

Gerald Steinberg ("When aid is exploited for terror," *CJN*, May 31) is off the mark when he takes Human Rights Watch (HRW) to task for protesting Israeli travel restrictions imposed on Shawan Jabarin, the director of the Palestinian human rights organization Al Haq. True, Israeli military authorities more than two decades ago accused Jabarin of ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). No one has provided any evidence that he has since had any links with the PFLP or any other political organization. Steinberg then dismisses Al Haq as "radical." Maybe so, but not in the way Steinberg implies. Last July, Al Haq issued a strong and unequivocal condemnation of Palestinian targeting of Israeli civilians under any circumstances. Earlier this month, Al Haq led a group of Palestinian rights organizations in a public letter criticizing efforts by members of the UN Human Rights Council to eliminate country-specific mandates for any country other than Israel – a move that would prevent the council from keeping a spotlight on such egregious human rights violators as Sudan and North Korea.

Joe Stork
Deputy Director, Middle East division
Human Rights Watch

* * *

A letter from Sderot

When I moved to Sderot from Tel Aviv a year ago in order to establish a national institute for leadership training, I knew I was taking a risk. The statistics are quite clear: in the last six years, almost 5,000 missiles have shelled the town. At any given time, one of the 20,000 "registered" residents of Sderot may get hurt. The real number of people who actually live in Sderot is declining.

On Wednesday, May 16 at 9:45 a.m., my house in Sderot was hit by a Qassam missile fired from Gaza. A few days after my house was hit, my neighbour, a 32-year-old woman, was killed by a direct hit of a missile while she was shopping. Shopping in Sderot is one of the most dangerous activities here.

Investing in any aspect of development is what Sderot needs most of all. The residents of Sderot don't need food contributions, blankets or any material donations. The Zionist mission today is to empower us by developing Sderot.

Eeki (Itshak) Elner
Sderot
eeki.israeleader.org

LET THEM GO...

Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman,
Ehud Goldwasser, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz,
Eldad Regev, Gilad Shalit

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An unimpeachable witness

By **JACK CHIVO**

Forty years ago, while brave Israel Defence Forces (IDF) paratroopers were fighting to liberate Jerusalem from Jordanian occupation, I was desperately trying to travel to Israel to report from there for the U.S. radio station for which I was working as a foreign correspondent. Unfortunately, there were no seats available on the El Al flights. They were busy ferrying supplies, combat officers and others, all of whom were more needed than a scribbler with a pen, a pad and a tape recorder.

When I arrived a few days later, the Six Day War of June 5-10, 1967, was over and Jerusalem was again a united city where Jews and others could pray in peace, without barbed wires, daily shooting by Jordanian snipers or attacks by PLO terrorists blocking their way. The area in front of the Western Wall was dotted with shabby dwellings, and dirt and rubble were everywhere. Wild vegetation and tons of refuse blocked the access to the holiest site of the Jewish People.

I also saw the remains of the almost 60 synagogues, some dating back many centuries, destroyed and desecrated by the Jordanians after they conquered the Old City in 1948. They had turned some into garbage dumps and animal stables. We were shown gravestones from Jewish cemeteries, including thousands from the Mount of Olives, used to build walls in private houses, even in public toilets, or for paving roads. Many still had the carvings of names and dates, barely legible – testimony to the callousness, even the barbarity of the Arab occupiers.

We also learned that the liberation of Jerusalem, while a great moment in the history of our people, almost did not happen.

Then-prime minister Levi Eshkol, who was concerned about having to fight a war on three fronts after battles with Egypt and Syria started on June 5, 1967, desperately tried to convince Jordan's King Hussein to halt the aggression, which the king had initiated, unprovoked.

Eshkol's pleas for restraint were, however, rejected by the king, who continued to order his artillery, air force and special forces to attack the Jewish area of Jerusalem and beyond, deeper into Israel, causing many military and civilian casualties, until the Israeli defence minister, Moshe Dayan, ordered the IDF to counter-attack. And, as they say, the rest is history!

I was reminded of these events because of recent attempts by some so-called historians and other critics of Israel, including former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, to falsify history and portray the Jewish state as the aggressor and occupier of Palestinian lands. But the evidence is clear. In fighting the Jordanian military offensive and liberating the lands of historic Mandatory Palestine, illegally conquered by the regime in Amman in 1949, Israel was the victim, responding to an unwarranted, brutal attack by Jordan.

Fortunately, there is clear, unimpeachable testimony regarding these events from the best possible source: the Jordanian king himself.

One year after the war, King Hussein wrote a book titled *Ma guerre avec Israël*, first published in French and afterward translated into other languages. The U.S. edition, printed by the William Morrow publishing house in 1969, was titled *My War with Israel*. I was one of the correspondents invited to attend the launching of its German edition in 1968, and I still have the volume in my library. For the purpose of this report, however, I will use the English-language edition, to refute the harmful fabrications of the anti-Israel propagandists.

King Hussein's book describes in detail the weeks before the June '67 war: how the Egyptians, especially the president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, and his defence minister, Marshall Amer, were itching to attack and destroy Israel; and the nefarious role played by the PLO in heating up the confrontation by murderous incursions across the border with Israel. To quote King Hussein: "To the many difficulties undermining the work of the United Arab Command [in the days before the '67 conflict] must be added the unfortunate activities of the PLO." He adds that "from 1965 on, the PLO became a state within the Arab states and did as it liked."

The most stunning revelations are, however, included in the pages dealing with the start of the confrontation with Israel when the king was misled by Amer who gave him the "great news" that the Egyptian planes had scored decisive victories against the Israeli air force. Amer challenged the Jordanian monarch to enter the war and participate in the partition and plundering of the Jewish state.

Nobody knows whether King Hussein was fooled by the lies or chose to believe them. Here is his own description of the events, reproduced from the book, beginning on page 60: "At dawn on Monday, June 5, our air force began its task of protecting Jordan's skies… In the blockhouse in the headquarters basement, I carefully examined Marshall Amer's message under the neon lights and then conferred with [Egyptian general Abdul Moneim] Riad [who was there to co-ordinate the offensive by the Jordanian forces] on what moves had already been made.

"'I've given the artillery orders to occupy the front lines,' he said. 'An artillery battalion of the Imam Ali brigade has been ordered to occupy Mount Scopus in Jerusalem [the demilitarized zone since 1948].

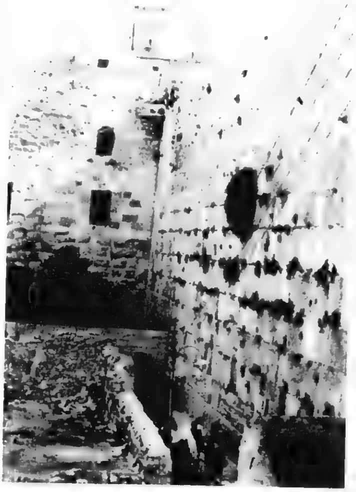
"Mount Scopus was occupied by our troops a short time later. Riad then gave our Hawker Hunters the green light. Their mission, together with the Iraqi and Syrian air forces, was to bomb Israeli air bases in the hope of neutralizing as much as possible the efficiency of the enemy air force…

"It was now 9 a.m. on Monday, June 5, and we were at war. Riad increased our fire power against the Israeli air bases by directing our heavy artillery – long range 155s – on the Israeli air force installations within our line of fire. Our field artillery also went into action, and our Hawker Hunters were ready to take part in the combined operation with the Iraqis and Syrians, beyond their initial incursions."

At this stage of the conflict, in spite of the Jordanian aggression, Israel refrained from any military action, which explains the next paragraph in Hussein's book.

"It was at this point that we received a telephone call at the air force headquarters from UN general Odd Bull. It wad little after 11 a.m.

"The Norwegian general informed me that the Israeli prime minister had addressed an appeal to Jordan. Mr. Eshkol had summarily announced that the Israeli offensive had started that morning, Monday, June 5, with operations directed against the United Arab Republic [the short-lived union between Egypt and Syria]. Eshkol further promised, 'If you don't intervene, you will suffer no consequences.' By that time, we were already fighting in Jerusalem, and our planes had just taken off to bomb Israeli air bases. So I answered Odd Bull: 'They started the battle; well, they are receiving our reply by air!'"



The Western Wall as it appeared on the eve of the Six Day War.

Even after Eshkol's urgent message, and Hussein's rebuff, the Israeli cabinet waited a bit longer, because, as noted by former foreign minister Abba Eban, "We decided to give King Hussein an ultimate chance to turn back."

Rather than seizing this unique opportunity, the Jordanian monarch increased the military action against Israel.

"Three times our Hawker Hunters attacked the bases at Netanya without a loss. And our pilots reported that they had destroyed four enemy planes, the only ones they had seen.

"On their side, the Iraqis bombed the airport at Lydda [Lod]. And a little later, the Syrians finally headed for the base at Ramat David and the refineries at Haifa."

The book records that, after another 90 minutes of waiting, under continuous attacks from the air and on land, and having sustained a number of casualties, Israel struck back with vengeance.

"At 12:30 on that 5th of June came the first Israeli response to the combined bombing by the Jordanians, Iraqis and Syrians. One of the Mirages' objectives was the military airport at Amman."

Suddenly the Jordanians were getting a taste of their own medicine.

"It was 1:10 p.m. A second wave of Israeli bombers attacked the Amman airport, 40 minutes after the first one. It lasted until 3:30. We didn't have a single aircraft left. The Israelis caught them all by surprise as they were taking on fresh ammunition and fuel. They were all destroyed on the ground before they could take off."

There are many other surprising details in the book, including an admission related to the famous conversation between Nasser and King Hussein, in which they decided to concoct the lie that the U.S. and British air forces were helping the Israelis. The Israeli Mossad intercepted the verbal exchange and broadcast it around the world:

Nasser: Should we say the United States and Britain, or only the United States?

Hussein: The United States and Britain.

Nasser: Good. King Hussein will publish a communiqué on this, and I'll publish the same communiqué.

Hussein: Thank you.

Nasser: As God is my witness, I tell you that I shall publish a communiqué and you will publish a communiqué, and we'll see that the Syrians also announce that American and English aircraft are attacking us from their aircraft carriers… We'll really emphasize this point and do it together

Hussein: Good, perfect.

Nasser: A thousand thanks… Our planes have been bombing Israeli airports since early this morning…

Hussein: A thousand thanks. Stay well.

Forty years later, nothing has changed. The Arabs continue to tell lies in their propaganda, and many of Israel's critics and enemies continue to believe the fabrications, no matter how outrageous and blatant they are. And, as demonstrated by King Hussein's refusal to accept Eshkol's offer – to use the famous words of Abba Eban – Israel's enemies still "never miss an opportunity, to miss an opportunity" to make peace with Israel.

Jack Chivo, a former journalist, lives in Vancouver.

Beginnings, endings and Alaska

I recently completed my last official day as chair of the religion department at Concordia University.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

I had been in the position for four years. They were good years, full of comradeship, silliness, and significance. I made both trivial and momentous decisions – some wise, others misguided. I have looked forward to this day, yet now I am torn, bewildered.

On the one hand, I am eager to rid myself of the constant meetings, of the repetitious and inane reports. On the other hand, I enjoyed meeting colleagues in other parts of the university. I also enjoyed helping to guide my department forward. Weird as it sounds to me, I am sad to leave the position!

The most significant years of my academic life were spent with colleagues in this department. In 1975, I was hired as a part-time teacher. Then I became a graduate student, receiving my PhD in 1995. In 1992, I was hired as a full-time tenure track specialist in women and religion. In all these years, I was supported, encouraged, nurtured and befriended. When I became chair, it was my turn to do my part.

And I did. My research and writing almost stopped. While the administrative side of life is no fun, it wasn't unbearable. It was clear to me that I had the easiest job of all the other chairs. I had a great team. I knew it would be long hours and lots of extra work, but I wasn't distressed. The years were great and I leave a very strong department. (The hardest part was not having the time to go visit my kids or take a vacation.)

So now that I return to all the things I love about academic life, why am I disturbed? There are many factors that diminish my joy at being released from this job. But I think part of me just needs time and ritual to mark the transition.

We eagerly celebrate beginnings, but we don't do so well with endings. Yes, we have serious rituals for the final ending of death. But what about others such as divorce, loss of job, menopause, miscarriages or retirement? It seems to me that we need ritual patterns that will help us transition from one stage of life to another, whether the transition marks a beginning or an ending. We need to mark the moment, highlighting its significance and helping us over the awkward experience of change.

Endings and beginnings are really two sides of the same human coin.

We need to find appropriate ways to share these events of our lives and to put them into context. We err by ignoring the endings. So I am off on a trip to Alaska to mark this transition.

Turkey's lessons for Israel

Recently my e-mail has been deluged with articles about Turkey and the intense confrontation going on there between Islamists and secularists, as well as between the elected government of an Islamic party and the secular army generals. I love the country I lived in for two years. You can't easily figure it out because it is a living, breathing organism with a vigour that amazes me.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Briefly, the argument put forward against Prime Minister Recep Erdogan's government is that he will lead Turkey into an age of religious fundamentalism by manipulating the existing political system and shutting it down. He, so the argument goes, has an agenda similar to that of Saudi Arabia, and Hamas: the implementation of a state based not on western secular principles created by the Ataturk revolution, but on sharia law, which would mean, among other things, the re-enslavement of women behind the veil, the rise of a mullah-led coterie within the government, and a slide backward to an intolerance of non-Muslim minorities.

More dangerously, he is accused of imperilling the entente between Turkey and Israel, and cozying up to people from Hamas and to the anti-Semite and Holocaust denier, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Turkey and Israel have a strong economic and military partnership, and this relationship has shown that a Jewish state can live and do business with a Muslim country.

On the other hand, say Erdogan's supporters, any attempt to undo the election of the current parliament and prime minister is the real step backward. (Note: his Islamist party got 35 per cent of the popular vote, but has 65 per cent of the seats in parliament.)

Army coups in Turkey are always a possibility and have in the past occurred when the generals felt the country had strayed too far from Ataturk's secularist vision. The generals once had one prime minister hanged, his party disbanded and its leaders imprisoned. That, supporters say, was a step away from democracy, and a similar move by the army today would be truly destabilizing.

They also point out that the secular left is very anti-American and often anti-Israel, and many leftists are against joining the European Union, a membership that the Islamist governing party has supported.

Each side is partly right. The EU membership would, it seems, be a boon to Turkey, and an army coup is hardly a democratic move.

And while the wearing of head scarves has increased (not to mention the wearing of full regalia, including veils, at least in villages), many observers note that recent million-person marches clamouring for the country to remain true to its secular ideals have included scarf-wearing women.

So what's the truth about Turkey? It's still a work in progress.

Its women, secular and religious, have come a long way. Its middle class is strong, which is vital for any country that wants a sustainable democracy. It's also rich in natural and human resources. It has some history to sort out, most glaringly the need to come to terms with the Armenian genocide and with its Kurdish population. Yet, what other Muslim country can we think of that has come so far into the western world?

But why am I even writing about a situation that is seemingly so far away from us?

Because it is precisely such a nuanced approach that we must apply to Israel.

It too has its religious right, its fundamentalists, its resolute secularists, its traditionalists and its own anti-Zionists (religious and secular). It is also no stranger to radicals, such as those behind the hateful assassination of prime minister Yitzchak Rabin. It has its seemingly endless struggle with the Palestinians. It has its tension between civil and military authority, although no general has needed to stage a coup – they just run for office. It has byzantine corruption, nasty inequality for women (not to mention tolerance for sexual harassment), and yet it boasts a vibrant civil society.

Israel is not a dream palace, but a real place, where all these currents jostle for influence. People get up in the morning, brush their teeth and go to work. Like Turkey, Israel deserves our considered appraisal, not doomsday scenarios or unqualified praise.

She – and we – will survive.

Religion and human rights

In Canada and particularly in Quebec, there has been considerable controversy recently about the rights afforded to minority religions and the notion of "reasonable accommodation" as applied to these minorities. Not surprisingly, some of these issues have ended up in the courts.

Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

Over the past 25 years since the advent of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, religious concerns have been argued in our courts by members of the Jewish community, the Jehovah's Witnesses faith, those minorities seeking government funding of secondary education, fundamentalist Christians and others. The latest challenge presently before the courts relates to members of a Hutterite Brethren colony in rural Alberta.

The Hutterites believe in rural communal living somewhat akin to a kibbutz. In the early 1970s, the Hutterites justifiably objected to provincial legislation restricting the amount of communal landholding in Alberta. The Communal Property Act was specifically directed at Hutterites and Doukhobors, although, since there were no Doukhobors in Alberta at that time, it was essentially aimed at Hutterites. The case, Walter v. Alberta, went to the Supreme Court of Canada and was decided in favour of the Alberta government. Of course, there was no constitutionally entrenched Charter of Rights and Freedoms protecting religious minorities at the time. In any event, the offending act was subsequently repealed.

Another issue affecting mostly Hutterites has now emerged. It involves a challenge to a recent Alberta regulation requiring photographs on Alberta driver's licences. Photographs became an integral part of the Alberta driver's licence in 1974, although there was provision for an allowable exemption. In 2003, the exemption provision was removed and photographs became mandatory for all. The photo identification on drivers' licences was meant to assist law enforcement officials in the prevention and investigation of fraud and identity theft.

This requirement offends members of the Hutterite faith who believe that being photographed is contrary to the second of the Ten Commandments prohibiting the making "for yourself an idol, or any likeness."

In the case, Hutterite Brethern of Wilson County vs. Alberta, both the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench and the Alberta Court of Appeal (the province's highest court) held that the photograph requirement was a violation of the Hutterites' freedom of religion under Section 2(a) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Moreover, the regulation could not be saved under Section 1 of the Charter as a "reasonable limit" in a "free and democratic society." As a result, the removal of the exemption of the mandatory photographic requirement was held to be of no force and effect. It is likely that this case will be appealed further to the Supreme Court of Canada.

The Alberta Court of Appeal decision attracted considerable national attention in the media, including critical editorial reaction.

In confronting laws and government practices that threaten the rights of religious minorities, the prevailing reaction is that society must take steps to reasonably accommodate the sensitivities of those minorities.

Given the recent reaction to the notion of reasonable accommodation in general, and to the Hutterite Brethren case in particularly, it may be that we are seeing the emergence of a backlash to some of these minority religious assertions. This is particularly important to chassidic Jews in Quebec who have been somewhat assertive in the past two years in arguing for religious minority rights.

We do not really know whether these minority religious assertions and the notion of reasonable accommodation will become acceptable over the long run in a society that, on one hand, respects religious minorities, but on the other hand, is essentially secular in nature. Religious minorities are winning the day now and reasonable accommodation has become the acceptable norm.

But will this continue to prevail? The Hutterite Brethren case had a strong dissenting opinion at the Court of Appeal level. And, as the *Globe and Mail* subsequently asserted, "It's a balancing act. If the majority [of the judges of that court] had been willing to give more weight to Alberta's obligation to the public to protect driver's licences from abuse, the Hutterite Brethren, not the system safeguarding those licences, would have had to make the greater accommodation".

At this point, one can only speculate whether Canadian society will actively continue to support the accommodation of minority religious rights.

The Kirshner File

Reflections on the Six Day War

Forty years on, the Six Day War can now be regarded as a watershed whose far-reaching consequences could not be foreseen in 1967. Widely viewed by Israelis as an existential struggle for sheer survival, the decisive outcome of the war seemed to improve Israel's security and enhance its legitimacy. By capturing vast swaths of territory – the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights – in a brilliant feat of arms, Israel established itself as the preeminent and undisputed military power in the Middle East.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

For the first time in its brief and tumultuous history as a Jewish state, Israel appeared secure and indomitable, its place in the region apparently unchallenged. For a fleeting moment, Israelis could feel confident, euphoric and even heroic. The Israeli armed forces, consisting primarily of reservists, had vanquished a coalition of Arab armies, spearheaded by Egypt, bent on Israel's destruction. And now, basking in Israel's David-and-Goliath triumph, Israelis could flock to Jewish ancestral lands and places of biblical import that had been off limits to them since the 1948 War of Independence.

There was even speculation that the Arabs, having been shocked, stunned and flummoxed by Israel's military prowess, might finally come to terms with Israel and bring closure to a long simmering dispute that had exacted far too much blood, treasure and suffering.

Whatever hopes and illusions Israelis harboured were rudely ruptured by the hand of reality. Less than three months after the Arabs' shattering defeat and Israel's offer to return some of the territories, an Arab League summit in Khartoum issued a ringing, recalcitrant declaration utterly rejecting peace with, recognition of, and negotiations with Israel.

The three no's of Khartoum were followed by frantic diplomatic efforts at the United Nations – a body not known to be overly sympathetic to Israel – to defuse the imbroglio. Security Council Resolution 242 called for Israel's withdrawal from territories acquired in the war in exchange for Arab acceptance of Israel. The land-for-peace formula, which forms the basis of Middle East diplomacy today, was lauded as a breakthrough and a harbinger of normalization between Israel and the Arab world. Yet this was not to be.

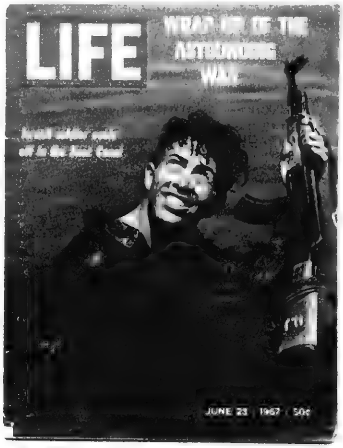
Israel succumbed to the messianic allure of settling the territories, which fuelled Arab suspicions that it was not serious about peace. Conversely, the Arab refusal to engage Israel in direct talks stoked Israeli fears that their real aim was Israel's destruction. As the dust settled, the Soviet Union – which contributed to the outbreak of the war by falsely claiming that Israel had massed troops on the Syrian border in preparation for an attack– took immediate steps to rearm its two client states, Egypt and Syria. Egyptian and Syrian forces had sustained huge losses, and now Moscow was trying to bolster its credibility and tinker with the balance of power in the region.

By the autumn of that seminal year, the stirrings of an Arab backlash were being felt by Israel on several fronts. In Sinai, Egypt launched pinprick commando raids, artillery barrages and air attacks. Israel responded in kind and constructed the defensive Bar-Lev line. Within a year, the president of Egypt, Gamal Abdul Nasser, who had blundered into the war, announced the commencement of the War of Attrition. It would claim the lives of hundreds of Israeli servicemen, and many more Egyptian soldiers, and would not end until the summer of 1970, when the United States intervened and imposed a ceasefire on the combatants. On the Golan, meanwhile, fighting continued to rage intermittently.

Of more concern to Israel was the situation in the West Bank and Gaza, both of which were inhabited by Palestinians. The war had jolted the Palestinians – who had been dispossessed by the 1948 war – and reinforced their identity and yearning for nationhood. Their representative organization, the PLO, which had been created in the mid-1960s by the Arab League, masterminded a mini uprising in the West Bank and Gaza that foreshadowed the intifadahs of 1987 and 2000.

Israel suppressed the 1967 rebellion in short order, prompting the PLO to build bases in Jordan from which to attack Israeli settlements. Israel hit back. In some instances, Jordan's army, the Arab Legion, joined the fray. The problem was exacerbated by the Palestinians' decision to establish a beachhead in southern Lebanon, which was inexorably drawn into the conflagration.

As the historian Michael Oren correctly observes, the Six Day War ushered in deadlier conflicts, of which the 1973 Yom Kippur War was a prime example. Determined to regain the Sinai, and frustrated by Israel's disinterest in its 1972 peace proposals, Egypt – and Syria – initiated hostilities. Their objective was to break the status quo, which Israel complacently preferred.



The Yom Kippur War bloodied Israel, broke its aura of invincibility, proved that territory is not necessarily synonymous with security, and emboldened the United States to sponsor a series negotiations that brought a measure of stability, however tenuous, to the area. Israel's historic disengagement pacts with Egypt and Syria opened the door for Israeli withdrawals from the Sinai and the Golan, jump-started the process leading to Israel's peace treaty with Egypt and solidified Israel's strategic relationship with the United States, despite an incident during which Israeli jets attacked the USS Liberty, an intelligence gathering vessel. But the war left the Palestinian problem festering and led to Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The Six Day War greatly inspired Islamic fundamentalists and religious Zionists, both of whom are wedded to ideological imperatives.

Islamists saw the ignominious Arab defeat as an unmistakable sign of the failure of secular Arab nationalism. It would take Saddam Hussein, with his ill-considered invasion of Kuwait in 1990, to drive the last nail into its coffin. But in the meantime, Israel's victory convinced many Arabs – and Iranians – that Islam is the solution.

This sectarian approach to temporal problems has had an enormous impact throughout the Muslim world. Islamists overthrew the pro-Western Pahlavi monarchy in Iran, attempted to oust the Baathist regime in Syria, fomented a short-lived revolt in Egypt and a civil war in Algeria, and seized power in Afghanistan and the Palestinian Authority. And lest we forget, Al Qaeda was formed in the stew of this toxic brew.

In Israel, messianic fervour played no small role in influencing successive governments to tighten their grip on the territories. Having returned to Hebron, eastern Jerusalem and the like, religious Zionists, allied with secular nationalists, won permission to construct and expand settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, and thus set Israel's agenda.

Of late, Israelis have had second thoughts about the wisdom of clinging to the territories, realizing that the building of settlements and the attainment of peace are diametrically opposed, and that the retention of the West Bank is bound to block prospects for a realistic rapprochement with Palestinians ready to coexist with Israel. More importantly, as former prime minister Ariel Sharon realized before relinquishing Gaza in 2005, the occupation of densely Arab-inhabited areas poses a long term threat to Israel's status as a Jewish and democratic state.

Forty years ago, few Israelis could have predicted that the conquest of the new territories would bring more problems than solutions. Nor could they have known that Israel – judging by last summer's inconclusive war in Lebanon and Israel's current failure to crush the Qassam rocket launchers of Hamas and Islamic Jihad – might be perceived to be as or more vulnerable than it was prior to the Six Day War.

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Jewish Life

The mitzvah of challah

By RABBI MEIR ROSENBERG

Rabbinic Reflections

How many of us remember a grandmother or a mother baking challah for Shabbat? The aroma, the taste and the feeling was unbelievable!

There are many Jewish women who still bake challah today. The mitzvah of challah, however, is not limited to erev Shabbat or yom tov, but is mandatory every time one bakes bread.

The Torah commands that from every batch of dough (approximately three pounds worth) made with one of the five types of grain (wheat, barley, spelt, rye and oats) a portion – commonly known as challah (though today we call the whole loaf challah, in the Torah, the word challah actually refers to the portion of dough that is separated from the batch) – be given to the Kohanim (priests) who serve God full time and depend on these portions as their only means of sustenance.

Today, all Jews are presumed to be in a state of ritual impurity, and therefore, the priests are no longer allowed to eat the challah that is separated from the dough. For this reason, our current custom is to separate a small amount of dough and then bake it until it is burnt. In this inedible state, it is discarded.

In parshat Shelach, Torah provides various details of this mitzvah not just in one verse, but in a complete portion. In the Mishnah, an entire tractate is dedicated to this mitzvah and is called Mesechta Challah. It gives the general guidelines of this special mitzvah. Although many of the 613 mitzvot are mentioned very concisely and briefly in the Torah, the mitzvah of challah is clarified at considerable length and in detail.

What does the mitzvah of challah entail that it should be so deserving of discussion? The primary food staple is bread, the staff of life. Therefore, in Hebrew, the entire meal is called "bread," as the Torah relates of the Egyptians that they could not bear to eat bread with the Jews, since it was despicable to them. In actuality, only Jewish meat was despised (the lamb that we used for the Pesach sacrifice was the Egyptian deity), yet the entire meal is called "bread."

The mitzvah of challah conveys a timely lesson for every Jew, man and woman – even for those not involved in baking – in our service to God. That is, before a Jew prepares dough for a meal, which in the broader sense includes all of one's material needs, the first and best part of everything should be separated for God.

A Jew must realize that his challah - his first priority in time and importance – is what he separates and gives to God, whether it's one's energy, money or support of holy endeavours in the realm of Torah and its observance. This is not just a theological expression, but is quite clearly expressed in the *Shulchan Aruch*, the Code of Jewish Law.

The reward for this mitzvah ends where it began – in the home, as the prophet Ezekiel states, "to cause a blessing to rest in your home."

May this most sweet smelling of blessings be found in all of our Jewish homes.

Rabbi Meir Rosenberg is spiritual leader of Congregation Ayin L'Tzion in Thornhill, Ont., and executive director of Mizrachi Canada.

A double scoop of random kindness

IDEAS ON IDENTITY

By Rabbi Elyse Goldstein

One Shabbat afternoon several years ago, my family was enjoying time in the park with another family.

As the day got late, an ice cream truck came ding-a-linging along and stopped – no surprise – in front of all the kids playing.

Coincidentally, our son and his friend had just had an argument a few moments earlier, and we proudly watched as they worked it out with words and compromises. As they walked toward us, hand in hand, all the parents agreed that in theory, ice cream would be just the right thing for this special moment. But it was Shabbat, and neither family uses money on Shabbat.

The boys approached, wide-eyed and expectant. We reminded them that it was Shabbat, and we had no money.

They said, with complete child-like innocence, "What if we explain to the ice cream truck driver that it's Shabbat and we can't pay him today, but we can pay him tomorrow?"

My inclination was to shield the kids from embarrassment and failure, but instead I said, "Go ahead and see what happens."

"Excuse me, are you Jewish?" they asked the 18-year-old driver.

"No," he answered.

Realizing the seriousness of the mission, they continued. "Well, we are Jewish, and today is our special day, called Shabbat. It comes once a week, on Saturday, and to make this day special we don't use money, although we are allowed to have ice cream. We were wondering if we could get just one cone today and come back tomorrow to pay for it."

That ice cream truck driver had 30 seconds to make a decision. He could have followed the rules and explained that if he gives them ice cream without paying for it, every kid would want the same treatment, and he'd get in trouble, and his boss wouldn't like it, and it's not his truck (he's only renting it), and as the kids say, "yada yada yada."

Instead, he smiled broadly and gave the kids not one, but two ice cream cones. I still can see the utter joy with which those kids ran to us. They were so proud to be Jewish, and they were proud that they were proud! Someone from the "grown up" world had validated them as trustworthy people and given them respect. They were touched that this stranger had done a simple act of kindness for them.

Some parents wouldn't have allowed this kind of exchange on Shabbat, and I respect that. The point of the story is not to illustrate creative ways to "get around" Shabbat. The point is, rather, how easy it is to make someone else happy, how a "random act of kindness" changes the world, and how simplicity and trust still exist.

Tradition teaches that before the Messiah comes, Elijah will herald that special day. But in order to see if we are really ready for a better world, Elijah will come in disguise.

The very next day, we returned to the park to pay the ice cream man, but he wasn't there. He wasn't there for the whole following week. In fact, he never came back.

We don't want to believe he was fired. "What do you think happened?" I asked my son.

He answered, "It's obvious. That ice cream man was Elijah."

Now every time someone does a simple act of kindness, our family believes we have seen the face of Elijah. And in return for that gift, we remind ourselves all the time that we should try to "be Elijah" for someone else.

Jewish Life

Free schooling is a communal duty

Money Matters

By Rabbi Jay Kelman CA

The ever-increasing cost of Jewish education has been the focus of many articles recently, including at least three in this newspaper's May 25 edition.

But the unaffordable cost for many in our community of attaining a Jewish education is not a new phenomenon. The Talmud (Bava Batra 21a) explains that since the obligation to teach one's children is a parental duty, in the early years of our history, "whoever did not have a [learned] father did not learn Torah." While to moderns this seems rather unbelievable, in the ancient world, formal education was the privilege of the few.

Apparently, many Jews "learned" by societal osmosis, witnessing the practices of their parents and the Jewish community around them. They, unlike Jews today, could be practising Jews even if they were ignorant Jews.

Yet such a "system" was doomed to fail. The first-century high priest Yehoshua ben Gamla thus instituted universal free Jewish education, with the costs being borne by the community at large. This act, which became the model for our contemporary public school system, where every child is guaranteed a free education, was simple, brilliant and the most important enactment in all of Jewish history. Without it, there would, in fact, be no Jewish history.

The Talmud, in assessing the importance of universal free Jewish education, states simply: "Remember that man [he was apparently not learned himself] for good and his name is Yehoshua ben Gamla, for if not for him, Torah would have been forgotten from Israel."

The Talmud states the obvious – and often it's the obvious that must be stated the most often – that if not for Yehoshua ben Gamla's decree mandating universal free Jewish education, there would no Torah, no Judaism and no Jewish people. Jewish history would have ceased with the destruction of the Temple.

Amazingly, this decree was enacted a mere six years before that destruction, when the Jewish community seemingly had much more serious issues – issues of physical survival – to deal with. But Yehoshua ben Gamla understood that there can be no greater threat to Jewish survival than ignorance.

Coupled with the successful plea of Yehoshua's contemporary, Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai, to set up an academy of higher Jewish learning in the coastal city of Yavneh, rabbinic Judaism was able to survive, and even thrive, despite the destruction of Judaism's most beautiful and important building, the Temple. The many Jewish sects of the time soon faded into oblivion, interesting only scholars of the Second Temple period. Had the Romans understood that Judaism can survive without the gleaming temples – but not without Jewish education – they might have spared the temple and concentrated on closing down Jewish schools.

While many believe that Jewish tuition fees should be treated as user fees to be paid by those who use the Jewish education system, our tradition teaches otherwise. It's a tradition that the rest of the world has copied from us. It's time we copy it back from them.

While contemporary Jewish communities (outside Israel) lack the power to tax their members, the unprecedented resources that exist within our community allow us, if we can find the will, to guarantee "Birthright Education" to every Jewish child, similar to free birthright israel trips to the Holy Land for young Jewish adults.

It will take a concerted effort involving the entire community – nothing less will do when the future of Judaism is at stake. Study after study has shown that Jewish education and involvement in, and commitment to, the Jewish community at large are intimately related.

The Talmud (Shabbat 119b) teaches that "the world continues to exist only because of children learning Torah."

Are we up to the challenge of Jewish history?

Send comments to rabbijay@torahinmotion.org.

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Israel and the environment

The Jewish Highway

We like to think of it as the Land Flowing with Milk and Honey. But unless Israel faces up to its environmental challenges, far more dangerous substances will flow through the country's rivers, lakes and taps.

Today, a look at some of Israel environmental challenges, initiatives and successes.

I recommend starting at the Jewish Global Environmental Network. The articles are well written, interesting and challenging. Alon Tal of Ben Gurion University looks at the possible effects of global climate change on Israel, which include agricultural devastation, very hot summers and beach erosion. Tal does mention some eco-friendly initiatives, such as a plan to create Israel's first solar power plant in the Negev desert, but ends on an ominous note. "Even if Israel does its share, global warming is primed to affect Israeli life dramatically. Emissions released in places far across the sea, including by Israel's friends in America, will alter Israel's land, its plants and animals, its weather, and its people." **[www.jgenisrael.org/]**

You get a more upbeat view of the country at the Ministry of Environmental Protection website. For example, 84 per cent of the country's beaches (which are not patrolled by lifeguards) have been deemed "very clean." Only six per cent are considered "dirty" and none "very dirty." **[http://tinyurl.com/33f8m9]** For in-depth coverage of the state of the environment from the government's perspective, you can download the glossy Environmental Bulletins. **[http://tinyurl.com/374hl8]**

Although it may not come to mind immediately, the Jewish National Fund has been involved in environmental change in Israel for more than a century. The JNF is best known for its planting forests and making the desert bloom. I was interested to read about a more recent JNF project. When I was growing up, I was taught how the JNF was able to dry up the Hula lake and marshlands. While the region gained an additional 16,500 acres of arable farmland, the Sea of Galilee lost the Hula lake, a natural filter for waters flowing into the sea. A decade ago, the JNF sought to correct its error and reflooded some of the area. **[http://tinyurl.com/2m3u6t]**

There are other lesser known Israeli environmental organizations.

- The Council for a Beautiful Israel protects the natural beauty of Israel, preserves historical sites and develops public recreation sites and gardens. **[www.israel-yafa.org.il]**
- Green Action promotes "socio-ecological change through direct non-violent action, community service and youth empowerment." **[http://tinyurl. com/ 32js3l]**
- The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies prepares "future Arab and Jewish leaders to co-operatively solve the region's environmental challenges." **[www.arava.org/new/]**
- Green Course: Students for the Environment has "6,000 volunteer students in 24 chapters in universities and colleges across Israel." **[www.green.org.il/eng/]** (Interesting addendum at the bottom of Green Course's homepage: "This new website has been made possible through the generous support of the First Narayever Congregation – Toronto.")

You may not live in Israel, but you can have an impact (or less of one) the next time you visit. Consider biking it. Israel for Bicycles' goal is to make Israel's cities bike-friendly, and improve the country's quality of life and road safety. **[www.bike.org.il/]** If you're up to it, consider tackling the Israel Bike Trail, an 850-kilometre route that reaches from the slopes of Mount Hermon in the north to Eilat's Almog Beach in the south. **[http://tinyurl.com/2k6e6c]**

The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs presents some forward-thinking articles about Israel's future and the environment. One that caught my eye was Environmental Change in the Messianic Era. We are all familiar with the vision that foretells a fundamental change in nature when the "wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard lie down with the kid" (Isaiah 11:6). As for the food supply in the End of Days, a midrash says that "when the Messiah arrives, there will be a harvest every month and the trees will give fruit every two months." Aside from that, Ezekiel prophesies that foul waters will become healthy ones. (Ezekiel 47:12) **[www.jcpa.org/jep.htm]**

Until then, there's work to be done and plenty of Israeli environmental organizations determined to do it. **[http://tinyurl.com/34jgjf]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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The assisted suicide of CJC: does it matter?

By MICHAEL BROWN

Guest Voice

Should we laugh or cry?

The May 25 issue of *The CJN* reported that abolishing popular participation – elections, that is – in Canadian Jewish Congress will, according to some, "make CJC [a] 'dynamic, new institution.'"

Does anyone buy that?

Congress was once the pride of Canadian Jewry, the kind of organization that American Jews have been never been able to establish, a truly representative body. It marked us as unique.

With the exception of the extreme left, Congress encompassed all Canadian Jews, secular and religious (all stripes), left-wing and right-wing, socialist and capitalist, rich and poor, newcomer and "pure laine," Zionist and non-Zionist. Quite legitimately, it could claim to speak for us all.

And now, assisted suicide is proposed for the parliament of the Jewish people of Canada, which would end its role as a representative communal spokesperson and give it a new role as the mouthpiece for those "who know best."

The last vestige of Canadian-Jewish communal democracy is about to die, only to be reborn as an arm of CIJA – the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy – and local Jewish federations.

The move would not simply formalize a shift of power in the community, it would deprive "the people" of any voice at all. It will mark the final step in the (Jewish) Americanization of Canadian Jewry, the move from democracy to paternalistic plutocracy.

"So what?" you may ask. In fact, the end of Canadian-Jewish democracy is likely to have unpleasant consequences.

In 1947, Winston Churchill said that democracy "is the worst form of government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." He made this statement just two years after being turfed out of office by the electorate, despite his brilliant and inspiring wartime leadership.

To be sure, democracy is inefficient. Elected leaders are often chosen for reasons other than their leadership skills. And the way of the world is that "he who pays the piper calls the tune."

But self-appointed leaders and those chosen by small groups of people "in the know" in governments, business, academia or other settings have proven no more capable on the whole, and sometimes they have proven themselves to be less capable, because there are no checks and balances on their power. For evidence, read the front pages of our dailies any day of the week.

The same issue of *The CJN* that reported the death of Congress as we have known it contained a report about a new study by two sociologists on the affiliation – or, more accurately, non-affiliation – patterns of young Jewish adults in North America.

The study documents their lack of interest in communal institutions and in traditional patterns of behaviour. Other studies document the declining interest in Israel on the part of young Jews and the alarming rate of intermarriage. Our community notables are forever expressing dismay at their inability to communicate with the young.

What better way to ensure the alienation of growing numbers of Jews than to deprive them of even a feeble voice in the community, even in a now largely toothless (because it's penniless) organization?

Can anyone really imagine that the way to get the unaffiliated to "buy into" the community is to make decisions for them, since they couldn't possibly understand their own needs, to say nothing of the needs of other Jews? Deprived of a voice, they will continue to vote with their feet.

So what about those who foot the bill? Should they not have a say in how things are done?

They should, indeed. But in a democratic society, we don't give extra votes to those who pay the most taxes. There are other legitimate ways for them to exert influence.

Their voice will be heard above that of others, simply because they have easy access to those in power.

In a voluntary group such as the Jewish community, people can (and do) choose to support only the activities that they approve of. And there are appropriate rewards and honours for those who give generously of their time and money for the good of us all. But that doesn't mean the rank and file should be deprived of a voice.

Congress is not what it once was. But because of its historic role in this country, it retains some clout in the community and as its representative. That leadership positions are being eagerly contested by respected members of the community is a sign of vitality.

But turning Congress into a puppet will make it neither "dynamic" nor effective. It will be just be one more turn-off for the increasing numbers of Jews who are not attracted to the organized community.

Let the people continue to speak. Democracy is still the best form of communal government.

Michael Brown is professor emeritus at York University. He has written extensively about Canadian Jewry.

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Dinner to raise funds for Laniado Hospital

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Israel's Laniado Hospital is 30 years old, and its Canadian supporters are hosting a tribute dinner to fundraise for a new pediatric trauma unit in its children's facility.

Hilda Weil

"I'm hoping this evening will raise the profile of Laniado in our community by helping people understand how unique the hospital is and how important their support is," said Dani Weil, president of the Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital.

Laniado Hospital is the only hospital in Netanya, a coastal city with a population of 250,000 people. It has a full medical campus, including a nursing school and two geriatric care centres, as well as a children's hospital.

The Canadian Friends' dinner is being held June 11 at Beth Avraham Yoseph in Thornhill in memory of Weil's mother, Hilda Weil, who died unexpectedly last year.

Hilda was a teacher at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and helped develop its Hebrew program.

Last year, she made aliyah to Israel, but she passed away while the family was helping her move.

Dani said that since most of her friends were still in Toronto and his mother died in Israel, they did not have a chance to visit the shivah and express their condolences.

"My mother always looked at things in a positive light. We wanted to use that to some form of good, and do something in her memory that would benefit," Dani said.

His father, Dr. Joseph Weil, was the first medical director of Laniado Hospital.

The fundraising goal for the evening is $1 million dollars. The new trauma unit of the children's hospital opened last month and is fully functional.

The keynote speaker for the evening is Rabbi Zvi Elimelech Halberstam, the Sanz Rebbe, and son of the original Sanz Rebbe, who helped found the hospital. It's Rabbi Halberstam's first visit to Toronto. Dani will also be speaking at the evening.

For more information or to reserve a ticket, call 416-879-2065 or e-mail shaindy@rogers.com.

GRAND-PAL DAY: Junior kindergarten students at Netivot HaTorah Day School recently enjoyed a morning of special activities with their grandparents. Pictured are Bernie Zaionz and his granddaughter Sarah. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

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Special needs people get 'tools' to fit into society

Israel Elwyn provides unique service in Israel

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

David Marcu, executive director of Israel Elwyn, an organization in Israel that serves children and adults with special needs, says his most important job is giving people the tools to become independent.

Here recently to attend the annual meeting of Canadian Friends of Israel Elwyn, Marcu said he also wants to take his clients from "being stigmatized to feeling proud."

Serving about 1,700 children and adults, Israel Elwyn's services include preschool development centres, education services, work activity centres, adult development centres, supported employment services, job placement and vocational training, supported group homes, residential services and transitional employment.

Marcu was honoured as this year's recipent of the Bernie Rosenthal Executive Director Award, for outstanding leadership in Jewish vocational services, at a joint conference of the Association of Jewish Families and Children's Agencies and the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services, held recently in New York City.

Originally from Philadelphia, Pa., Marcu has been with Israel Elwyn since 1984, and he has been its executive director for 13 years. He said the organization is founded on the belief that "everyone deserves the chance to be an active participant in society through inclusive rather than exclusive interaction."

David Marcu

The organization gets government funding, he said, but it's responsible for raising funds for physical improvements, such as renovating or building a new facility.

"We're always trying to raise money for new equipment and new programs."

One of the newest programs, he said, is for seniors who are developmentally delayed. "Life expectancy has changed because of improved medical care. These seniors are living to a ripe old age, but their needs change. They might, for example, need new accommodations at their job."

Israel Elwyn is now building the first centre in Israel for seniors with disabilities – it should be ready by the beginning of next year – on land donated by the municipality of Jerusalem, he said.

"This gives people a chance to retire. If they had been attending our work centre, they might want to move on and take advantage of our programs such as physio, occupational or recreational therapy."

The centre is in the middle of a residential neighbourhood, said Marcu, "so they have contact with the neighbours. We want it to be as inclusive as possible."

At another Elwyn program, the goal is to work with children and their families at early intervention centres – there are two in Jerusalem and two in Haifa – in order to integrate special needs kids into mainstream classrooms.

"We work closely with parents, because they are the most important factor in their children's success."

Israel Elwyn's employment program has 300 people working in a variety of jobs, he said. "They are able to work because they have a job coach who offers them support and assistance on the job. This is a huge thing for people who might otherwise not be able to work."

As a member of the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services, his organization has a good relationship with JVS Toronto, Marcu said.

"We share ideas and best practices, and JVS also serves as our headquarters in Toronto."

Marcu said Israel Elwyn and Canadian Friends of Israel Elwyn are always looking for volunteers. Call 416-787-1151, ext. 300 for information.

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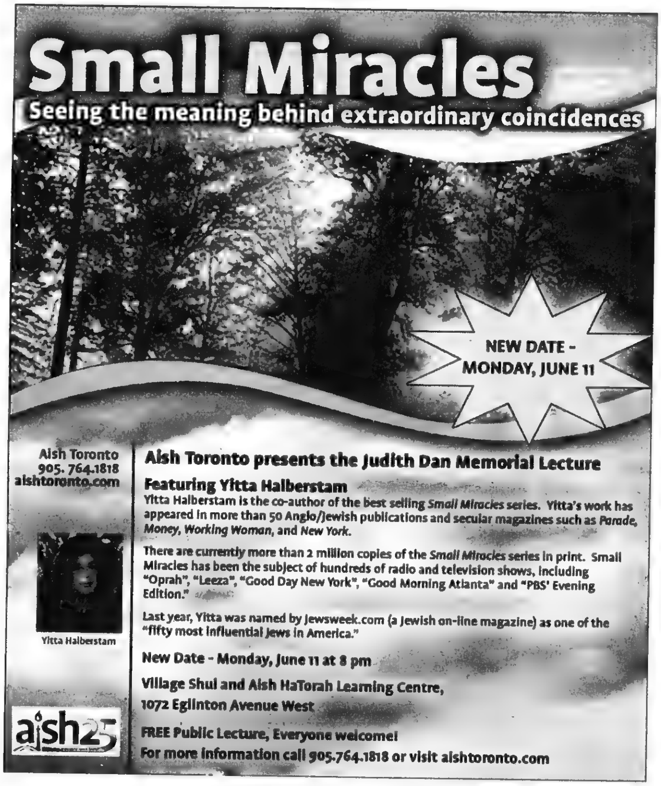

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Susan Horvath heads Mount Sinai Foundation

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Susan Horvath, the recently installed president of the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation, is excited about a project that will add six floors to the hospital's main tower.

The project, Renew Sinai, will also provide new and improved equipment and add new hospital services.

Horvath, who became foundation president on March 19, said that Mount Sinai's combination of research and health care set it apart from other facilities. For instance, she noted that the heel-prick test, developed at Mount Sinai, which checks infants for a number of potential diseases and conditions is "now internationally used, was developed and quickly came into common use here."

Susan Horvath

Molecular geneticist Irene Andrulis, Horvath said, is working at Mount Sinai's Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute on a blood test to detect breast cancer at a very early stage.

The hospital, she stressed, determines what's needed in terms of funding. "There is input from all areas of the hospital, and so priorities have to be set."

The fundraiser has to take those needs into account, Horvath said, but also must consider that donors have special interests and passions themselves, or might be interested in a certain aspect of a project.

"I love matching organizational priorities with donor philosophies, and working with someone to accomplish a dream they have."

She said she will meet with past donors, show how the money they gave before is being used and see what they might like to do next.

Sometimes donors approach the foundation with a project they might be interested in, because of their own personal histories – for instance, someone who had a long hospital stay might want to make the rooms more inviting.

Horvath stressed that she is not just interested in getting big donors. "I got good training at the United Way. For some people, $20 might be a huge sacrifice."

While people may be taken aback at the tremendous costs involved in new technologies, Horvath said, they may well lead to huge savings, both in time and money.

Genetic testing, she said, through the power of computers can be carried out in a matter of hours and at a much lower cost than older techniques.

Horvath has a clear-eyed set of personal goals including building on Mount Sinai's philanthropic traditions of the past and helping to continue the long tradition of volunteerism that is a part of the hospital's history.

Horvath, who has a BSc from the University of Western Ontario and an MS from the University of Alberta in home economics, served on the faculty of UWO for 10 years.

"I couldn't see myself doing that forever," she said. "So I decided to try something new." She accepted a position at the United Way, and "I loved fundraising from day one."

From 2001, Horvath was in charge of fundraising and public relations for the Robarts Research Institute in London, Ont. She established a major gifts program there and raised more than $35 million to support medical research.

In a Mount Sinai press release, she calls her new position "a fundraiser's dream."

Not that she has a lot of spare time, but in the little she does have, Horvath likes cooking, maintaining her fitness and reading.

Horvath mused about the new stage of life she has entered with her new position. "My children are launched, my husband and I will be establishing a home here – it is all very exciting," she said.

KNITTIN' FOR TIKKUN: **Bialik Hebrew Day School's student council spearheaded a school-wide "Knittin' for Tikkun" drive in which students and families were invited to knit squares that the students, under the guidance of teacher Lindsay Springer, crocheted into blankets for a women's shelter. Pictured, from left, are Springer and students Jocelyn Tobin, Aya Schechner, Micaela Jacobson and Jessie Naftalis.**

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Israeli 'Mr. Wizard' introduces science to kids

By **SHERI SHEFA**
Staff Reporter

The enthusiasm Mordechai (Macky) Goldman exhibits when he conducts science experiments is unmistakable.

Fredericton, N.B.-born Goldman, known as the Israeli "Mr. Wizard," was in Toronto late last month to perform experiments during a show at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. The original "Mr. Wizard" was made famous by Don Hebert, the American creator of the 1950s television show *Watch Mr. Wizard*.

Although both the original "Mr. Wizard" and Goldman work toward the same goal of introducing the wonders of science to children, he doesn't want his demonstrations associated with "wizardry" or "magic." Rather than refer to it as a magical chemistry show, he prefers the "magic of chemistry."

After years as a chemist, a teacher and even a farmer, 60-year-old Goldman is now hoping to make a career out of exposing children to the relationship between God and nature.

"Chemistry is about a love of creating, and I call it a partnership with the creator," Goldman said.

Goldman moved to Toronto to earn his bachelor's degree in 1968, and after obtaining a PhD in chemistry in 1975, he made aliyah with his wife Barbara and his two children.

He moved his family to a settlement called Elazar in Gush Etzion, near Jerusalem, before they settled in Gush Katif, where Goldman worked as a farmer.

"We moved to Nezter Hazani in Gush Katif, where I lived for four years, and then we moved to Be'er Sheva to actually give up on a dream of raising our family on a moshav, which was very attractive to us, in order to find long-term work."

With his PhD in chemistry, he said he got a job with an Israeli chemical company, but he also taught an after-school science program and a weekly chemistry class for gifted children.

"That actually started a war between teaching and working in chemistry that has carried me through my entire professional life," Goldman said.

He said he wasn't sure when this occurred to him, but he wanted to have hands-on experience in chemistry so that he could go back into the classroom and use that knowledge to get kids turned onto chemistry.

"But that was only one of my goals," he said. "I don't think it should be called a unique approach, because anyone could and should be using it, but I use chemistry as a tool to get people turned on to the wonders of God and nature. I try to encourage them to open their eyes to what there is in the material world and at the same time to realize that it didn't just happen to fall into place."

It wasn't until 1991 that Goldman enrolled in a chemical education course that would lead him to fulfil his passion of engaging youth in science.

"Ultimately, this is what I decided: If I was going to be a teacher, I'd have to have my hand somehow in practical chemistry."

It was then that Goldman developed a relationship with Irwin Talesnick, a Toronto-based chemist and a retired Queen's University professor, who runs a company called S17 Science Supplies and Services, which provides teachers with chemicals that are often hard to find.

Mordechai Goldman, right, with Irwin Talesnick

Talesnick, who shares Goldman's passion for scientific demonstrations, said he's been doing shows for close to 50 years.

Last year, Talesnick spent two weeks in Singapore doing chemistry sessions at the Singapore Science Centre for children and teachers.

When Goldman decided to come back to Toronto to do a show at Shaarei Shomayim, he asked Talesnick to get involved because they've never had a chance to work together.

To demonstrate the kinds of experiments he conducts for the kids, Goldman pulled out a burner and lowered a beaker over a hot flame in the living room of his brother's home.

"You put a little bit of water into the flask and place the balloon over the flask's mouth. When the water boils, you'd expect the balloon to expand, but instead, it becomes smaller," Goldman said.

He explained that as the bottle cools, the balloon is sucked into the bottle and inflates to fill the entire inside of the bottle. At the start of the experiment, the water vapour from the boiling water forced the balloon to expand outside the flask. But as it cooled, the pressure outside the flask became greater than the pressure inside, creating a vacuum.

As he does with most of his experiments, Goldman attempted to tie a Torah-based lesson to it.

"A person who is extremely modest doesn't want anyone to know about the good things that he does. They call him *nechba alhakirim*, he is clinging to the wall," he said, translating from Hebrew to English.

"In terms of a message here, I would give a general one and say that something as simple as a balloon, and blowing it up, shows them aspects of nature that they weren't aware of."

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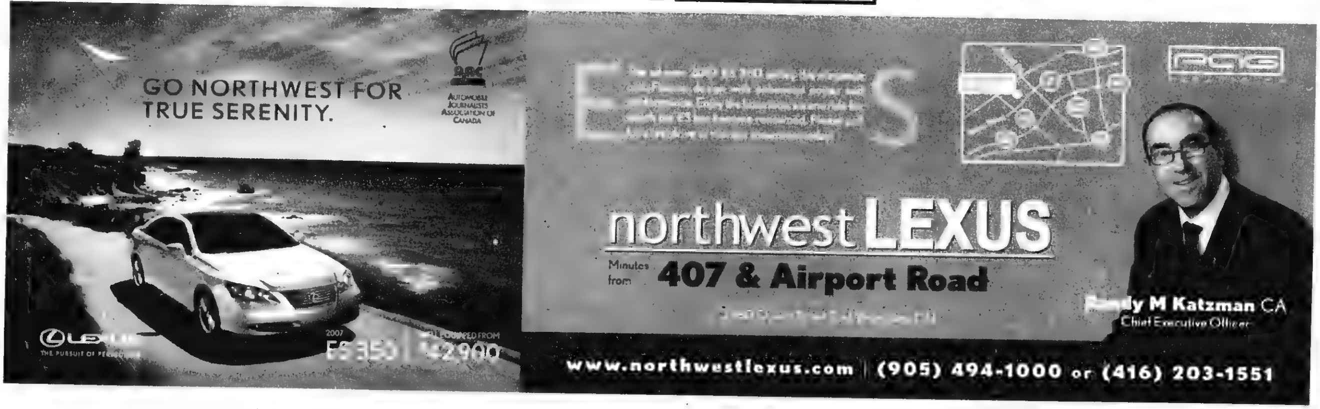
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Vancouver day school holds reunion in T.O.

By **BARBARA SILVERSTEIN**
Special to The CJN

Attention graduates of the Vancouver Talmud Torah School (VTT): the day school is holding its first-ever reunion in Toronto, and all alumni living in southern Ontario are invited.

The brunch, which takes place June 10 at 11: 30 a.m. at the home of Sherry Firestone, is being organized by Vancouver resident David Bogoch, chair of the VTT alumni committee.

Bogoch, who graduated in 1968, says after Vancouver and Israel, the largest number of VTT graduates reside in the Toronto area.

"Out of 72 invites mailed out, we have more than 40 people coming. We're hoping for even more," he said.

"It's a great way to reconnect all these people who went to Vancouver Talmud Torah and are living in Toronto."

Bogoch is urging any alumni in Toronto who didn't get an invitation to contact him, because he's still trying to find all the 2,000 people who have graduated from the school since 1948. While the VTT was actually founded in 1934, records were only kept after 1948, the year the school moved to its present site at 27th Avenue and Oak Street.

According to its records, VTT had an enrolment of 79 students in 1948. Today, it has 480.

Alumni contact information was inadvertently discarded during the last major expansion in 1995, lamented Bogoch, adding that so far, he has managed to locate 1,500 out of all 2,000 graduates.

The upcoming Toronto brunch is the fifth reunion he's organized since he took on the alumnae portfolio in 2004.

He's following in the footsteps of his late father, Abraham Bogoch.

"My father was a really long-time volunteer. He spent years fundraising to keep the school going. He was nicknamed Mr. Talmud Torah," Bogoch said.

"During his shivah – he died in August of 2004 – the president of the [VTT] board asked if I wanted to be on the board. I said. 'Yes.' The board is portfolio-driven. I picked the most fun one. I picked alumni. It's the most perfect thing for me."

Bogoch said he was so eager to reconnect with his graduating class that he held the first reunion for the class of '68 at his home in the summer of 1985.

Out of 23 surviving graduates – four have died – 15 attended, while one was sick and seven were out of town, he recalled.

"We got together and raised $20,000 and put in a spectacular garden at the front of the school."

Many of his closest friends are fellow VTT classmates.

"These are the people whose kids' bar mitzvahs and weddings you go to… You're still considered part of the gang, whether or not you live in town," he said.

"I still keep in touch with people who live far away. I might not see them for years, but we catch up in two minutes like we've never been apart. When you go through a place like Talmud Torah you keep those friends for life."

In addition to his own graduating year, Bogoch has also organized reunions for the classes of '67, '73, and '76.

"One of the nice things is the feedback that I get. People remember the good times. They look at what they've achieved in life now and they [donate money] to the school, usually in honour of their parents. Sometimes it's in memory of a specific teacher."

The feedback from reunion participants has been very positive, he said. "Everybody says thank you for doing this. Thanks for sending us the newsletter. Thanks for getting us together."

Reaching out to alumni and reconnecting them to the VTT is Bogoch's way of giving back to the school that gave him so much.

"It was a great school. I made all my best friends there," he said.

"It's easy to get passionate about the Talmud Torah. My father was passionate for years and years, and I have picked up the torch."

For more information about the reunion, contact Firestone at 416-880-1764 or sgfassoc@rogers.com, or Bogoch at 604-269-9085 or davidbogoch@yahoo.com

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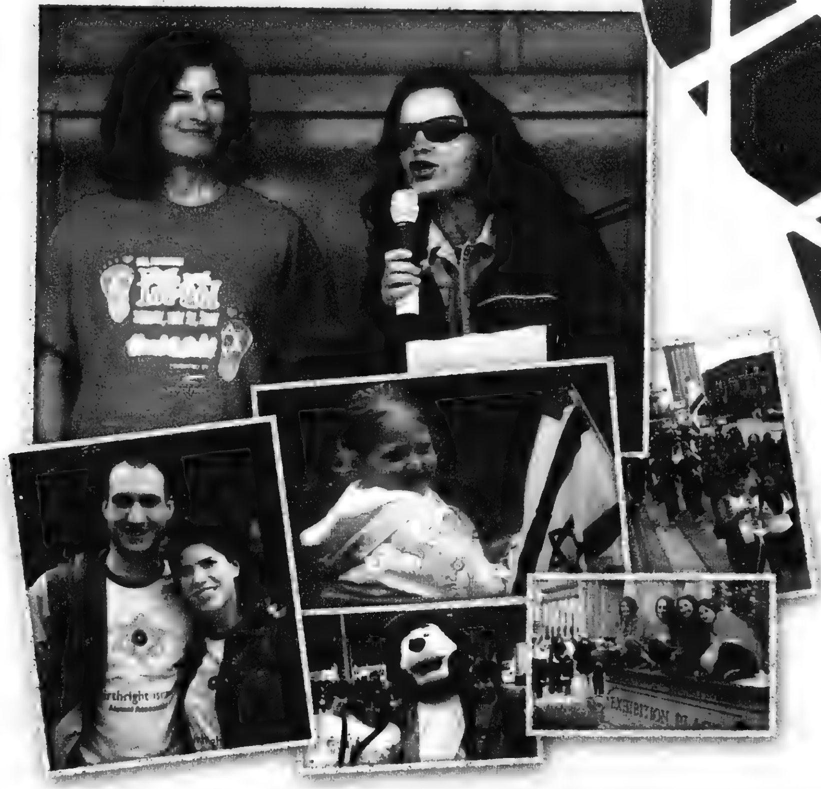

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Carleton U offers new Jewish studies minor

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Carleton University is offering a new minor in Jewish studies this fall through its religion program.

"It's a natural fit," said program co-ordinator Leonard Librande, a professor of religion who was instrumental in establishing the minor.

Librande said that in the last 10 years, Carleton has seen the creation of many new minors. Students, especially those in second and third year, find them a good way to "credentialize" their degree, he said.

"It struck me that another area of interest that's always been present in the department as far back as the mid-70s when I started was the area of Jewish studies."

Librande said that while Islam and Buddhism are currently popular religions to study, the department has traditionally had deep ties with the local Jewish and Christian communities.

"One of the things that became apparent was how many people there are at the university, if you ask them to what degree their research and their teaching involves some degree of Judaism, its history or its beliefs, there are an extraordinary number," he said.

The minor requires the completion of four credits. Rabbi Reuven Bulka of Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas, who taught an introduction to Judaism class last year, is expected to teach two classes, a Jewish ethics half-credit in the fall and one about Torah and Talmud in the winter.

Prof. Deidre Butler joined Carleton's faculty last fall and taught a course about sex, love and marriage in Judaism. She is also the religion program's Jewish studies specialist.

"There's a growing excitement about Jewish studies at Carleton," said Butler, noting that about 40 per cent of her class was Jewish, and most felt the opportunity for such studies had been lacking.

"Jewish studies has always been something I'm interested in," said third-year mass communication student Charley Levitan.

Levitan, who took Butler's course, recently enrolled in the minor.

"I was kind of just waiting for it to happen at Carleton. I would always be asking when it was going to materialize," she said.

In terms of the growing opportunities for Jewish studies, Butler also notes the activities of Carleton's Jewish studies centre, which was established in 2005 and renamed the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies in 2006 after a $500,000 donation from local philanthropist Max Zelikovitz.

"We seem to be on the cusp of a really exciting moment," said Butler, who is the centre's associate director.

While the centre does not administer any courses or credits, it complements the teaching and research of the religion program, Butler said.

Rabbi Bulka's hiring is an example. The centre is paying for one of his courses, and the religion program for the other, she said.

"We're hoping that the Jewish students will become more involved," said Butler about the centre.

"What I'm hoping is when I'm getting to know students more, it will generate more activism and excitement and we'll grow in a lot of different directions."

Gay rabbi speaks out

By MEREDITH HERMAN
Special to The CJN

MONTREAL — The Orthodox Jewish community must be more inclusive of gays and lesbians, says Rabbi Steven Greenberg.

Rabbi Greenberg, the first openly gay Orthodox rabbi, recently spoke at McGill University as part of a panel titled "Gays and God."

Having spent fifteen years coming to terms with his sexual orientation, Rabbi Greenberg, who received his smichah (rabbinic ordination) before he came out as gay, views himself as a spokesperson for homosexuals in the Orthodox world who tries to have people acknowledge the reality of homosexuality.

"At one time, people who were Orthodox and gay were either silent or left," he said. "Not now. Now we're insisting on not being silent."

Certain that the Orthodox position on homosexual relations is unlikely to change soon, Rabbi Greenberg said the greatest obstacle to be overcome is not the halachic text itself, but what is in the hearts and minds of the people.

In his book, *Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition*, Rabbi Greenberg traces the midrashic and halachic references to homosexuality in an effort to understand how the rabbis conceived of it.

He suggests they believed that God abhors sex that gets confounded with power, violence and humiliation, because, in the ancient world, homosexual acts, specifically anal penetration, were deemed to be the best way for men to humiliate, demean and punish other men.

Rabbi Greenberg challenges the notion that the negative attitude toward same-sex relations stems from religious texts and hypothesizes that the idea was conceived by a homophobic culture that has used the text as a consistent reference point for millennia.

Although Rabbi Greenberg's readings of the midrashim depart from the traditional understanding of the prohibition against male homosexual relations, he admitted that they do little to ameliorate the legal status of homosexual relations in Judaism. Regarding this, he insisted that the Torah cannot prosecute people for things that are not based on choice.

He appealed to a halachic argument made by Rabbi Norman Lamm, the chancellor of Yeshiva University, which states that gays are under duress, and therefore cannot be prosecuted by either humans or God.

As celibacy is not a viable option for most people, Rabbi Greenberg said that a framework within which gays are less than fully culpable can be viewed as a temporary solution until new halachic realities are born.

Asked whether he truly believes that his reading of the text is faithful to rabbinic teaching or if he is merely reading his own biases into the text and looking for a way to legitimize them, Rabbi Greenberg responded, "I get that people want to keep things pure. Part of what I'm after is keeping things human."

Having people leave the community because they are unable to reconcile who they are with the person they are told God wants them to be is not a solution, Rabbi Greenberg said. Rather, he calls for a more nuanced reading of the text that extrapolates previously hidden meaning.

Speaking before the panel discussion, Rabbi Greenberg addressed the same issue.

"I can't imagine that a verse can be made sense of without understanding those who it affects and touches. Until people's stories are heard, no one can claim to know what they mean."

He referred to *Trembling Before God*, the acclaimed 2001 film that documents the stories of six Orthodox gay Jews.

The film marks a critical first step towards achieving his goal of building an Orthodox community that welcomes its gay congregants with open arms, he said.

On the panel with Rabbi Greenberg were Rev. Ellie Hummel of the United Church of Canada and Father Hor Kutash of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The event was moderated by Marlene Jennings, the Liberal justice critic who pushed for the legalization of gay marriage in Canada.

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The Jewish Education Report

Toronto Heschel School leads the way in environmental education

by Raquel Kaplan Goldberg

Abraham Joshua Heschel is perhaps best known for his legacy of active social justice – what he called "praying with my feet" – and the Toronto school that bears his name is extending that global consciousness to the environment as the country's first Jewish "EcoSchool."

Building upon an environmental sensitivity that has permeated the Toronto Heschel School since its founding, the school was recently certified by the Ontario EcoSchools program. To be eligible, Heschel had to meet standards in energy conservation, waste minimization, environmental professional development for faculty and staff, and curricular greening initiatives.

"One of the pillars of our school's philosophy is to be environmentally conscious," said Ellen Kessler, Heschel's director of environmental studies and the main force behind the initiative. "We try to promote naturalist intelligence in our students and staff and just to be part of this EcoSchool infrastructure is very exciting."

Heschel was also required to form an "EcoTeam" to plan and evaluate the school's environmental efforts.

With certification comes "tools for developing ecological literacy in the students," Kessler said. "We'll get lesson plans, workshops, and a support system of similarly-minded teachers. By going through this process and becoming certified, we're becoming more organized and focused, and we're being acknowledged for what we've done until now."

Heschel students and staff are pictured with Catherine Mahler (back row, far right), assistant project manager of the Ontario EcoSchools Program.

The Toronto Heschel School, affiliated with UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education, has long integrated ecological education into its curriculum. One-third of the school's junior kindergarten students stay late on Fridays to participate in a general environmental program. Grade 1 students conduct a recycling audit for the school as part of their "matter, material and miracles" unit. Grade 6 students participate in an "eco-seder that relates the concepts of the Haggada to ecosystems – from the bitter herbs on the seder plate to the [salt] water we pass around," Kessler said, adding that the school has several environmental after-hours and lunch-time clubs.

Jewish values underpin environmental program for schools

by S.I. Stein

A group of 25 educators will travel to Israel this summer as part of a unique professional development program that fuses Jewish values with environmental education.

"From Here Everything Grows" aims to raise awareness of environmental issues among educators through an intensive 10-day program in Israel, in addition to seminars that take place in Toronto both before and after the Israel portion. The Israel segment runs from July 2nd to July 11th.

"We're anchoring our concern about the environment in Jewish values and Jewish teachings," said Ruth Rohn, an educational psychologist with the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE) and one of the program's coordinators. "This year the environment has really risen onto everyone's awareness and consciousness." Rohn added that this year the BJE drafted a statement on the importance of environmental issues and the program helps carry forward that statement.

The idea for the program came out of discussions that Rohn and colleague Silvia Eilath held with BJE staff, including Israeli emissary Rabbi Natan Kandler, who is responsible for forging and strengthening connections to Israel. The program, now in its second year, is under the aegis of Makom, which is a partnership of the Jewish Agency for Israel and local North American Jewish Federations.

Participants will be spending four days in Eilat-Eilot – UJA Federation's partnership region. "You have kibbutzim in the region that have been very strong advocates for protecting the environment and they're a great role model," said Eilath, a day school consultant with the BJE and another program coordinator. Participants will travel from the south of Israel to the north, with several stops in-between. Highlights include a hike through the Tel Dan nature reserve, meetings with leading Israeli environmental activists and a visit to the underwater observatory in Eilat.

Program participants represent both day and supplementary schools, and there will be a mix of general studies and Judaic studies teachers, in addition to principals and vice-principals.

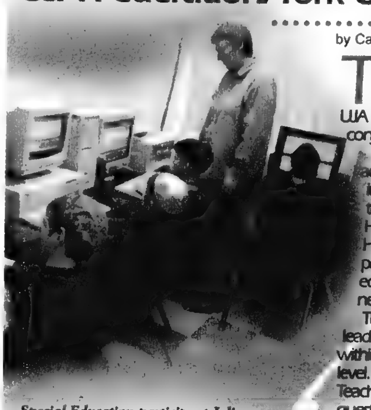
Rohn said she hopes the program will benefit educators on several levels, including fostering a sense of collegiality and helping teachers recognize Israel as a resource in terms of its response to environmental challenges.

Ultimately, it is the students who will benefit from their teachers' enhanced knowledge and awareness. "The bottom line is that kids will benefit from teachers who have better knowledge, better skills and better preparedness to teach these issues," said Rohn.

Participants from last year's group on the playground equipment - made entirely from recycled materials - at Kibbutz Lotan in the Arava.

Photo: Miriam Cahn

UJA Federation/York U. special education course provides teachers with new skills



Special Education participant Julie Liebmann from She'arim helps students improve their typing skills.

by Carla Lancit

Twenty teachers from Jewish schools in Toronto recently completed an important course on special education run by the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education in conjunction with York University.

The teachers represented schools from across the spectrum of Jewish learning, including United Synagogue Day School, the Toronto Heschel School, Ahavat Yisrael Hebrew School, and Yeshiva Yesodei Hatorah. The teachers had previously completed two terms of education that helped equip them with strategies to address the needs of all students in the classroom.

The third section of the course emphasized leadership within special education — both within the classroom and on the community level. Each teacher completed a project called Teacher Inquiry, in which they identified a question of concern, researched it, built an action plan, applied it and evaluated it.

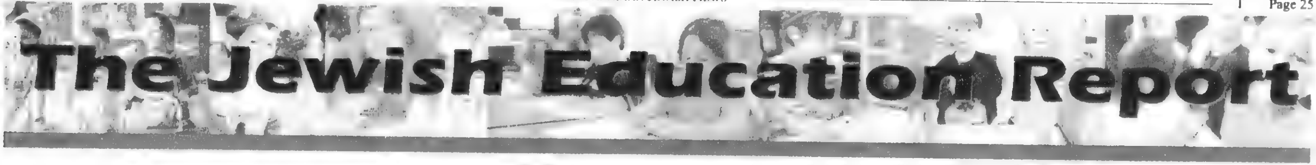
"These teachers are going back to the classroom and they're not just infused with knowledge but they have learned how to execute that knowledge," said Dafna Ross, senior special education consultant at the BJE. "The children benefit because they are receiving their Jewish content and learning skills via a much more holistic education that views the child as a whole."

One teacher from TanenbaumCHAT said the course had an impact on her. "It affected me – I'm using all kinds of skills that I learned," said Yael Amar, who has taught at TanenbaumCHAT's north campus for six years and serves as the department head of Hebrew and Modern Languages. Despite her experience, Amar said she felt she was lacking some skills. "I was looking at my class, seeing some special needs, some different needs, and I was asking myself how I can make learning happen," she said. "I thought this would be the right course for me."

After completing all three sections, Amar said she can hardly remember what teaching was like before, adding that her priorities in the classroom have shifted. "It's not that we were not concerned before, but teachers are very worried about covering the curriculum. I'm still worried about that, but my priorities have changed — first to make learning happen, not just to cover the curriculum, but to give them some tools and skills to learn independently."

Ross said the course imparts invaluable lessons. "This course recognizes two important things to the community: that Jewish education is very important, and that every Jewish child deserves to have a Jewish education," she said. "It's not about how smart or talented the child is, it's how do we as teachers come up with a way to reach the needs of every child."

THE JEWISH EDUCATION REPORT IS PUBLISHED BY UJA FEDERATION'S BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION.



The Jewish Education Report

Oakville supplementary school links children to Judaism

by A.M. Segal

She lives on a street without Jewish neighbours and doesn't count Jews among her daytime classmates, but every week, four-year-old Emma Hyett is chomping at the bit to go to Hebrew school.

"Emma loves it," says her mother, Bonnie Hyett.

"She asks me every week, 'Mommy, how many more days till Hebrew school?'"

The Hyett family lives in Oakville, a predominantly non-Jewish community west of Toronto that is home to Beit Sefer Shaarei-Beth El, a supplementary religious school with about 60 students.

The school runs classes twice a week, is affiliated with UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and offers a comprehensive curriculum that includes Hebrew, prayer, Bible study and the teaching of Jewish customs, values and the holidays. Many of the teachers are experienced instructors who come in from Toronto.

Though small in size, the school boasts a committed core group of students and their respective families. Ran Salamon, the school's director of education, attributes this to the community's strong resolve to keep the faith and the school's outreach efforts.

"The great thing about this community is that everybody makes a conscientious effort to pull together and link with Judaism," says Salamon. "It's a small community, but everybody knows each other and is engaged. It's a nice feeling."

Salamon adds that both the school and Shaarei-Beth El Congregation, which has 135 family members, offer a variety of informal programs to connect with the community, such as a mom and tots program, a youth group, town halls and dances.

"For us to establish strong bonds amongst the kids and the families in the community, we provide heavy after-school programming, whether it be trips to the Jewish Film Festival or going on the UJA Federation Walk with Israel," Salamon says.

Hyett believes the school's small size provides a more 'intimate' form of education than what students may receive in a larger setting.

"Because the class sizes are small, they are more intimate," says Hyett, who is chair of the school's education committee.

"Emma has only nine kids in her class and she's made close friends because of that and has a positive experience."

Still, Salamon points out that enrolment is not rising and in order for the school and the community to flourish in the future, connections with Toronto's Jewish community and other established Jewish institutions are imperative.

"Making connections with other Jewish institutions really strengthens everyone," says Salamon.

"For example, we are in discussions with TanenbaumCHAT about the possibility of having a commuter bus that will bring students from Oakville to TanenbaumCHAT's north campus. That would be a huge development to have a Jewish day school option, something you wouldn't be able to do in Oakville."

The next big thing on the horizon for Jewish residents of Oakville is the arrival of Rabbi Stephen Weiss, an American rabbi who is slated to start at Shaarei-Beth El Congregation in June.

For more information about Beit Sefer Shaarei-Beth El, visit www.sbe-school.com or phone 416-871-2719.

Supplementary school Beit Sefer Shaarei-Beth El provides a Jewish education to children in Oakville.

Three Thornhill day schools unite to celebrate Israel Independence Day

by Raquel Kaplan Goldberg

Walking past three Jewish day schools within 100 yards of each other in Thornhill, one is reminded of the classic aphorism, "two Jews, three opinions." But on April 24, Netivot HaTorah, Leo Baeck Day School, and Associated Hebrew Schools – affiliated with Orthodox, Reform and traditional Judaism, respectively – came together to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day.

נתיבות התורה
NETIVOT HATORAH DAY SCHO

Children from three day schools in the city celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut together.

Photo: Miriam Cahn

Over 700 students from grades three, four and five gathered at Netivot HaTorah, where they departed for a mini-parade that traveled north on Atkinson Avenue, past Leo Baeck, and ended at Associated. Along the way marchers were cheered on by parents, other students, and neighbourhood residents "leaning out of their windows waving flags," according to David Prashker, director of education at Leo Baeck. Municipal support closed the street to traffic and provided a police presence.

A joint assembly followed, at which the Associated choir and rikudiyah (dance club) performed. Netivot HaTorah junior high school girls entertained with a daglanut (a choreographed movement involving flags) while their male peers put on a percussion show à la "Stomp," and Leo Baeck students treated the crowd to an Israeli dance routine. There was Hatikvah, a prayer on behalf of Israel's kidnapped soldiers, and speeches, including remarks made by Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation's Senior Vice President for Jewish Education and Identity, and Jewish Agency representative Natan Kandler, who presented greetings via DVD from Eilat, Toronto's Partnership sister city.

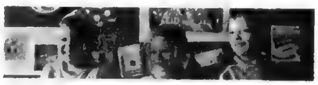
The celebration was the brainchild of Prashker and Elliott Diamond, vice principal of Judaic studies at Netivot HaTorah, who were inspired to find ways "that we can work together effectively to support the Jewish community and to build the Jewish community," according to Prashker. "We want to be a community of Jewish day schools."

After successfully piloting a smaller march last year, the three schools decided to expand the festivities for 2007, inviting parents to line the route and increasing student participation both in the parade and the assembly.

According to Epstein, the parade "reflected the two most important issues in Jewish life today: unity and the future. The fact that three schools with divergent ideologies came together is a sign of hope for unity, and the fact that these children are being trained in schools which care about both Jewish literacy and deep Jewish identity is the best indication for the future."

Yom Ha'atzmaut provides the perfect opportunity for cooperation, said Linda Kichler, vice principal at Associated. "We can all celebrate the birthday of Israel, it unites us all. Here we are with different philosophies, but on this day we were one."

Diamond agreed, pleased that the holiday could "bring the schools together about something that was important to all of us," he said. "It makes us stronger as a community when we discover and stress the commonalities that bind us."



For more information about Jewish education in Toronto, visit the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education Web site: www.bjetoronto.org

Call: 416.633.7770 or e-mail: bje@ujafed.org

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Canadian Jewish news

ISRAEL DAY CELEBRATION

Despite grey skies, thousands gathered at Earl Bales Park on Sunday for the 12th annual Israel Day at the Park, sponsored by the Canadian Zionist Federation. Clockwise from left, David Collin manned *The CJN* booth, King David offered up delicious pizza and falafel, children let loose on the inflatable slide, and Lauren Breslin and Shayna Lampert checked out jewelry for sale at the shuk, the marketplace.

[Sheri Shefa photos]

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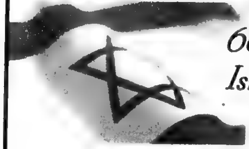

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Nova Scotia professor blasts critics

Dossa attended Holocaust-denial conference in Tehran

A tenured political science professor at St. Francis Xavier University who attended a Holocaust-denial conference in Tehran has accused his school of "illiteracy and bias" and of authorizing "a small Spanish Inquisition… launched by two Jewish professors and the Christian chair of the political science department."

Shiraz Dossa, who teaches political theory and comparative politics at the Nova Scotia institution, made the accusations in an article in the June 2007 edition of the *Literary Review of Canada*, in which he defended his participation in the conference.

Dossa, the only Canadian to attend the December 2006 event, stated that "St. Francis Xavier in effect sanctioned a crusade against a Muslim Holocaust scholar, who also happens to be an outspoken critic of Israel's brutality in occupied Palestine."

Dossa wrote that he has never denied the Holocaust, "only noted its propaganda power."

He also denounced the university for not defending his academic freedom.

Dossa was roundly criticized when he attended the conference, which was seen as another effort by the government of Iran to attack Jews and Israel. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has repeatedly questioned the veracity of the Holocaust while calling for the destruction of the State of Israel.

Ahmadinejad repeated some of those threats in an address to the conference, which was also attended by former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, who presented a paper that said gas chambers that killed Jews never existed.

The event was sponsored by the Iranian Institute of Political and International Studies, a department of the Iranian ministry of foreign affairs. It was chaired by a deputy foreign minister.

At the time, university president Sean Riley said Dossa's attendance at the Tehran conference caused "shock and anger" at the university.

Riley defended that criticism last week, asserting that while Dossa is entitled to his opinion, it was "terrible" that the school's name was "tainted" by the participation in the conference of "those denying one of the great tragedies of human rights in the modern era."

In his June article, Dossa said Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has never called the Holocaust a myth and never threatened to destroy Israel. "As an Iran specialist, I can attest that both accusations are false," he wrote, saying that Ahmadinejad's comments had been improperly translated.

Dossa goes on to call the conference an academic exercise "convened to devise an intellectual/political response to western-Israeli intervention in Muslim affairs." He rejected suggestions the conference focused on Holocaust denial – though he acknowledged "the presence of a few notorious western Christian deniers/skeptics, a couple of a neo-Nazi stripe."

He also tore into the *Globe and Mail* for an editorial that was critical of his attendance, and he included a personal attack on commentators John Ibbitson and Rex Murphy, who questioned his participation.

Responding to Dossa in a May 30 letter to the *Globe*, Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, wrote that he "shamelessly tries to justify his attendance at last year's Holocaust-denial conference in Iran by whitewashing both the proceedings and the Iranian president's history of Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism.

"There is no doubt that the conference was specifically convened to promote the view that the Holocaust is a hoax that Jews invented and imposed on the entire world.

"To our knowledge, Prof. Dossa was the only scholar from a mainstream Western university to attend. No doubt the organizers were delighted by the prestige his institutional affiliation lent the proceedings."

In another May 30 letter to the *Globe*, University of Toronto law professor and Canadian Jewish Congress president Ed Morgan, writing in his capacity as an academic, noted that "academic freedom and freedom of expression do not render any of us immune from being criticized."

The letter, which was co-signed by York University history professor (and former CJC president) Irving Abella and 11 other scholars, said Dossa had a right to attend the conference, "but we would hope academics of good conscience would condemn it."

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CBC Radio's Iran segment was off the point

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

On May 23, Carol Off, host of CBC Radio's *As It Happens*, introduced a segment on Iran's nuclear program with the following statement: "A report issued today by the International Atomic Energy agency (IAEA) does not mince words. Iran has not scrapped its nuclear program. Rather, the program continues to expand."

To explore the subject, Off interviewed Henry Sokolski, director of the Washington-based Non-Proliferation Policy Education Center. She began by asking his opinion of the IAEA report. Sokolski complained that until now, the agency has been in denial about Iran's determination to produce nuclear weapons. "[W]e don't want to admit that Iran is trying to make a bomb. We don't want to admit that it can," he said.

Instead of following through on the key question of how the international community might contain the Iranian threat, Off turned the discussion in a radically different direction – toward Israel and the possibility that Iran is, after all, only acting to defend itself against Israel's nuclear weapons!

When Sokolski failed to agree with this idea, Off pressed further: "But if it's wrong for [Iran] to have [nuclear weapons], if it's wrong for anyone to have [them], then why do we continue to not challenge Israel for its program?" She then suggested that Iran might also be acting defensively against the United States, which branded it "part of an axis of evil."

Sokolski tried to draw the discussion back to Iran itself: "You know, if you talk to Iran's neighbours, they see [Iran's] weapons not as a reply to Israel, they see them as a way of pressuring events nearby and influencing how the neighbourhood will be run in the Persian Gulf. So it's a little more complicated, is all I'm saying."

Off was apparently not satisfied with Sokolski's answer and persevered with her Iran-as-potential-victim line. "If Iran feels it must have these [nuclear weapons] because it's afraid for whatever reason."

At this point Sokolski interjected and told Off he was "rebutting" her thesis. Her idea, he believed, was "not a very good explanation for why [Iran] is engaged in its nuclear program."

Not only was Off's argument weak, Sokolski said, more importantly, it was not even endorsed by some of Iran's own leaders.

He pointed out that contrary to Off's theory, these Iranian officials don't express fear of the United States or Israel. Rather, they say, "'Why shouldn't we have these?'"

Sokolski tried to convince Off that "in other words, I don't think fear [of Israel and the United States] is necessarily the key explanation or even the prime one."

Only at this point, late in the interview, did Off stop pushing the idea that Iran might be acting in self-defence against Israel.

This left precious little time to return to where the interview began – how the international community can handle Iran's nuclear program and its defiance of the UN Security Council.

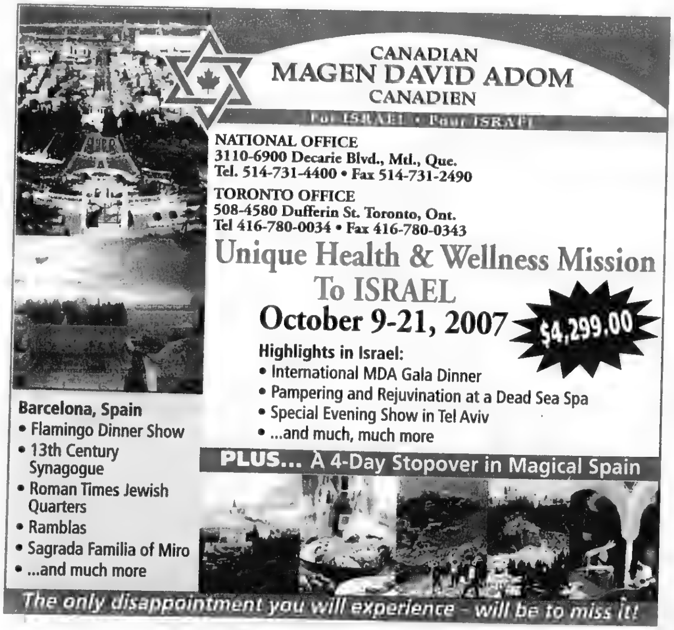
Anyone listening closely to Off but not Sokolski might have concluded that the answer lies in confronting Israel and the United States – but not Iran!

In the few seconds Sokolski had left, he finally made his point: Iran must be treated the way the West previously confronted the former Soviet Union.

The West must "wipe this current hostile regime out" with a combination of diplomacy and military capability, mainly through the buildup of NATO forces in the Persian Gulf, Sokolski said.

In short, there must be a concerted determination to rein in Iran's aggressive intent and ultimately bring about a regime change.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.



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Student council president gets award

By **MYRON LOVE**
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Yael Shrom says it was quite a surprise to receive a Provincial Excellence Award from the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

The dynamic Gray Academy student council president knew she was being considered for the $16,000 award, but she said that when she called in late April to inquire about it, she was led to believe that she wasn't going to get the scholarship.

"I was both excited and shocked when I got the letter with the notification," she said.

The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation is an independent organization that was created by an act of Parliament in 1998. It encourages Canadian students to pursue post-secondary studies and distributes $325 million in bursaries and scholarships each year throughout Canada.

Shrom – who was recognized for her academic achievements, her volunteer efforts in the larger community, her leadership and her commitment to innovation – was one of more than 240 provincial and territorial excellence award laureates selected this year across Canada.

Shrom's scholarship pays $16,000 over four years to help fund her post-secondary education.

"It was quite the ride," Shrom said of her just-completed studies at Winnipeg's Jewish high school.

In Grade 9, she was head of student council's fundraising committee, and she was its secretary the next year. In Grade 11, she was vice-president.

As student council president this past year, her goals were to help connect the student body and the administration, and to continue to raise funds for causes such as CancerCare Manitoba, Shalom Residences (primarily for Jewish developmentally challenged adults), Magen David Adom and others.

She also wanted to make student council a force in each student's life with spirited pep rallies, celebrations of Jewish holidays and random fun days.

Shrom's leadership and determination to make a difference were evident in her student-driven Loonie Toonie province-wide fundraiser for cancer, for which she solicited the participation of several other schools in the city and surrounding area.

The foundation's selection committee was also impressed that a Gray Academy student petition to free three kidnapped Israeli soldiers (part of a Raoul Wallenberg Day commemoration) reached Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

"What I loved about Gray Academy is that because there is a smaller atmosphere, I was able to take advantage of all of these opportunities, whereas at other schools, I would not be able to," Shrom said.

"How many people at a large high school can say that, simultaneously, they were involved in student council; played on the volleyball, basketball and soccer teams; went on educational trips to Israel, the UN, and the March of the Living; became a journalist for the school newspaper and a peer tutor; and also performed in the school band?

"At Gray Academy, the smaller, more nurturing atmosphere, allows for every student to excel in the activity and program that he or she chooses."

Within Winnipeg's Jewish and general communities, Shrom has been active in human rights and quality-of-life organizations. She has held chair and co-ordinator positions and raised medical funds and social programming funds through CancerCare Manitoba, The United Way, Jewish Child & Family Service, and the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg.

Last year, Shrom was the recipient of the Special Contribution to School Life award. At convocation this year, she received the Gray Academy of Jewish Education Gold Medal for combining high academic achievement in Grade 11 and Grade 12 with participation in extra-curricular activities and overall contribution to the school.

"Yael is a leader in her community and a future leader in the community at large," said Gray Academy's head of school, Rory Paul.

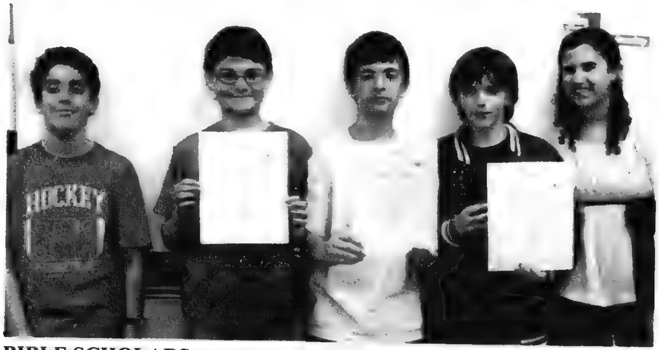
Shrom is currently in Israel with most of her graduating classmates.

(The Gray Academy senior class traditionally goes to Israel for four weeks immediately after graduation. Most students take part in the program.)

In September, Shrom will start a bachelor of science degree at the University of Manitoba. She hopes to become a doctor.

She said she is also looking forward to continuing her volunteer work and leadership roles.

RUNNING TEAM: In preparation for the first annual Toronto Jewish Day School Grade 4 and 5 running meet, Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School Grade 5 teacher Seth Goldsweig, left, leads his runners on a training run with the help of parent Jennifer Ross, centre. They will compete against students from Leo Baeck Day School, United Synagogue Day School and Bialik Hebrew Day School on June 7 at Viewmount Park.



BIBLE SCHOLARS: The National Bible Contest was held May 6 to 8 in Montreal. Shaar Shalom Synagogue students Griffen Miller, second from left, and Ari DaCosta, third from left, made the top five in the the grade 5 and 6 English division. Griffen came in first place and Ari fourth place. Pictured, from left, are Zachary Chippin, Griffen Miller, Ari DaCosta, Noah Hamilton and coach Tal Arane.

BBYO CONVENTION: Over the Victoria Day weekend, teens from B'nai Brith Youth Organization took part in BBYO's annual spring convention at Camp Northland B'nai Brith. Planned by BBYO members Gillie Geller and Jason Mortfield, the weekend's pirate theme included a scavenger hunt and sword fighting.

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Hudy & Morris Charendoff
celebrate their 60th anniversary.
Debbi & Bobby, Aubey, Jonah & Jesse,
Susie & Stewart, Emily, Rebecca,
Jay & Lisa, Michael, Miriam & Haley.

Happy anniversary Mom & Dad.
Love, Arlene, Rebecca, Sheldon,
Cai, Jessica, Myles, Elaine,
Laurin, Carol, Joshua, Daniel,
Mitchell and Kelly.

Mark & Margo Hartzman
and Dalia Mercazi announce the
engagement of Leigh Hartzman
& Oz Mercazi. Wedding planned in
Israel summer 2007.

Mazel tov Lyn & Steve Furman
on your marriage!
Love, Anne & Jack Futerman,
Ruth Goldstein Futerman,
Tina Furman. Missed is the
late Julian Furman.

Happy fourth and second birthdays
to Emma Lily and Leah Madilyn,
daughters of Sari Shaicovitch
and Gary Kivenko.
We're so proud of you both!

Alicia & Davd Kalman welcome
Matthew Lawrence.
Grandparents, Marla & Barry Richler
and Barbara Kalman.
Great-grandparents, Mitchell & Betty
Richler and Maxwell Kalman.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return.
Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments,
1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205,
North York, ON. M3B 3K4.
or email: cblackman@cjnews.com

JNF
Say it with Trees
"In Loving Memory"
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
416-638-7200

What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

CJN DATING
MEET YOUR MATCH
www.cjndating.com
powered by JMATCH
JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New deadlines: Monday, June 11, is the deadline for the June 21 issue and Monday, June 18, is the deadline for the June 28 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Note: Wednesday, June 27, is the deadline for the July 12 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, June 7

CHAT '87 CLASS REUNION

Members of CHAT's class of 1987 are invited to a reunion at 7 p[illegible] the school atrium. Light di[illegible]r and bar service. $36. Proceeds from the evening will support CHAT extracurricular programs. www.chat-edu.ca

Friday, June 8

BAYCREST CLINIC DAY

Baycrest hosts Clinical and Ethical Issues in Geriatric and Long-Term Care, a clinic day of lectures and workshops on geriatric practice for family physicians and allied care professionals. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. For info and registration call, 416-785-4215.

Saturday, June 9

40 YEARS AFTER 6 DAY WAR

Beth Tzedec Congregation welcomes the ambassador of Israel to Canada who will speak from the pulpit on The State of Israel, Old Challenges, New Conflicts: Reflections 40 years after the Six Day War. Service 8:45 a.m. 416-781-3511.

Sunday, June 10

HADASSAH STREET SALE

Household items, small appliances, baby and kid essentials, clothing for all ages, collectibles, furniture, books and more will be sold at a street sale to benefit Toronto Hadassah-WIZO. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 148 Fisherville Rd.

A WALK IN THE BEACHES

Join Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club of Ontario for a brisk walk in The Beaches along the boardwalk, park trails and on residential streets. 10:15 am. For details see www.mosaictoronto.org.

ZAREINU MOVEATHONS

Join the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Zareinu Moveathon in support of the Zareinu Educational Centre. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Downsview Park. Enjoy laser tag, paintball, pony rides, mechanical and inflatable rides, food pavilion, musical performance and more. Free admission. www.moveathon.com.

VANCOUVER ALUMNI

The Vancouver Talmud Torah Day School will be holding a multi-year reunion brunch for its alumni living in Southern Ontario. 11:30 a.m. at the home of **Sherry Barad Firestone** (Class of '74). Kashruth will be observed. For information call 416-880-1764.

JEWISH FAMILY TREE

The Ontario Jewish Archives, part of the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage is offering a half-day workshop on how to create a Jewish family tree. The workshop, given by **Bill Gladstone**, will provide an overview of the many Jewish genealogical sites available on the Internet. Participants will learn how to use Family Tree Maker, a software package, and by the end of the workshop will be able to locate family information on the web. 1-4:30 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building. $50/$75 per couple, includes a free copy of Family Tree Maker. To register call 416-635-2883, ext. 170 or email oja1@ujafed.org.

Monday, June 11

LANIADO DINNER

Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital dinner tonight is dedicated to the memory of **Hilda Weil**. The guest speaker is **Rabbi Zvi Elimelech Halberstam**, the Sanz Klausenberg rebbe. For info and tickets call **Shaindy**, 416-879-2065 or shaindy@rogers.com.

Continued on page 31

JNF
Jewish National Fund Of Toronto
is pleased to present
The Singing Soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces
Tuesday, June 19, 7:30 p.m.
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue
(Sanctuary)
100 Elder Street
Admission: Students $18 • Seniors $18
Adults $36 *(tax receipt for allowable portion on adult tickets only)*
For tickets, please call: Sheila 416-638-7200 ext. 30
e-mail: sheila.krone@jnf-canada.org

Coming Soon! Holy Blossom Temple 150th Anniversary Concert on June 17!
GIL SHAHAM
tso
Toronto Symphony Orchestra
Peter Oundjian | Music Director
Oundjian & Shaham
"I am always excited to work with Gil Shaham, truly one of the finest violinists in the world."
~ Peter Oundjian
June 9 at 8:00pm
Peter Oundjian, conductor
Gil Shaham, violin
Brahms: *Haydn Variations*
Stravinsky: Violin Concerto
Brahms: Symphony No. 3
TIPPET-RICHARDSON CONCERT SEASON
416.593.4828 | tso.ca
Concerts at Roy Thomson Hall

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Brahms: Symphony No. 3
TIPPET-RICHARDSON CONCERT SEASON
416.593.4828 | tso.ca
Concerts at Roy Thomson Hall

Continued from page 30

ADVOCATES FOR HUMANITY

Advocates for Humanity, a Jewish volunteer humanitarian group dedicated to tikkun olam, is hold a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m in Thornhill. New members welcome. For information contact **Marleine** at 905-763-1136 or marleine@rogers.com.

ISRAEL CULINARY TOUR

Join an information night about Food for Thought Israel Culinary Tour co-led by **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** and **Bonnie Stern** Feb. 3-13, 2008. 7:30 p.m. 416-636-1880, ext 472.

Tuesday, June 12

KADIMA LOUNGE NIGHT

Beth Tzedec Kadima, grades 6-8, Lounge Nights will explore the tunnels under Beth Tzedec. 6-8 p.m. $10. RSVP, 416-781-3514, ext. 30.

WHAT IS KABBALAH?

The Lodzer Centre Congregation presents What Is Kabbalah? an introduction to the world of the Jewish mystic with **Rabbi Matthew Kaufman**. 7:30 p.m. Free. 416-636-6665.

CHUG HATANACH

Rabbi Pinchas Brumer will lead a study group in a discussion of *The Song of Songs,* Chapter 7 at 8 p.m. at Beth David Congregation.

MOSES LIVE: CD LAUNCH

Cantor Eric Moses launches his new CD, *Moses Live*. All proceeds will benefit breast cancer research. 8 p.m. at Beth Sholom Synagogue. 416-783-6103

Wednesday, June 13

JWI JAZZ 'N ICE

Jewish Women international hosts an evening of hot jazz and cool martinis with **Rosanne Agasee** and her trio of musicians, featuring food, drinks, a silent auction, raffles, door prizes and more. 7:30 p.m. at The Great Hall 1087 Queen St. W., corner Queen and Dovercourt. $60. Tickets, 416-630-9313.

ISRAEL THEN & NOW

In honour of the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, Musica Beth Tikvah, under the auspices of the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto, presents a multimedia concert, Israel Then and Now, a musical celebration of 60 years of Israeli favourites, featuring **Cantor Tibor Kovari**, **Cantor Gideon Zelermyer** and **Eyal Bitton**'s Kachol Velavan Band. 8 p.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Tickets, 416-221-3433.

CONCERT

The Beth Radom and the Knights of Pythias invite the community to a musical presentation with **Daniela Taurasi**. 8 p.m. at Beth Radom. Members $5, nonmembers $8. bethradom@on.aibn.com

Other News

GOLF TOURNAMENTS

The Regesh Family and Child Services Inaugural Golf Tournament takes place Monday, June 11 at Clublink's Cherry Downs Golf and Country Club. Shot-gun tee-off time 8:30 a.m. with a full breakfast before, and lunch after golfing. To register call 416-225-2777, ext. 242 or email rosalie@smhilaw.com or visit www.regesh.com.

The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital's 17th annual golf tournament, Day on the Green, is being held Thursday, June 14 at Caledon Woods Golf Course. To register visit www.hospitalwithaheart.ca or call 416-781-3584.

EMUNAH SHABBAT

Emunah Women will be holding its 12th annual city-wide seudah shlishit program at six synagogues throughout the GTA Saturday, June 17. The events take place at BAYT with **Sharon Weltman Fixler** at 5 p.m., B'nai Torah Congregation with **Prof. Hindy Najman** at 6:15 p.m., Beth Jacob V'anshe Drildz with **Chana Werner** at 5:30 p.m., Yeshivat Or Chaim with **Rebecca Winter** at 5:30 p.m., Shaarei Tefillah with **Dvora Chana Waiswasser** at 5:30 p.m. and Shaarei Shomayim Congregation with **Ilana Sober** at 6 p.m. Couvert $18, sponsorships $36 or $54. R.S.V.P. 416-636-0036.

KABBALAH SHABBATON

Join The Lodzer Centre Congregation for a Kabbalah Shabbaton with **Dr. Joel Hecker**, author of *Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals: Eating and Embodiment in Medieval Kabbalah*, Friday, June 22-Sunday, June 24. Dinner Friday night $25, non-members $30, children $10, non-members $15. RSVP by Thursday, June 14, 416-636-6665 or lodzercente@rogers.com.

SUPPORT FOR ABUSED

Circle of Care begins a group Older Adults Facing Abuse, an eight-week support group, which will examine a variety of issues including increasing the knowledge of abuse and providing strategies to older women experiencing abuse, and to help them develop relationships with women experiencing abuse so that they can feel supported and understood. Begins Thursday, June 28, 10-11:30 a.m. For information contact the service consultant, 416-635-2860.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna** ext. 215.

How to Talk to Your Ex. A 2-session workshop to help individuals learn effective communication and listening skills in order to better deal with their ex-spouse around issues to do with parenting and the children. Wednesday, June 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Promenade Mall-suite #313.

Adolescents and Divorce. A workshop for parents with adolescents going through a separation or divorce. Thursday, June 21, 7-9 p.m. at The Promenade Mall, suite #313.

Developing a Successful Businesslike Relationship With Your Ex. A workshop to develop a relationship with an ex to negotiate details of children's lives based on their needs. Thursday, June 21, 7-9 p.m. at The Promenade Mall, suite #313.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors Club In The Park. Sunday Dance, June 17, 7-10 p.m. non-members welcome. Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 13. Those interested in woodworking call **David**, 416-398-1834. For information call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Film @ the J Pride Week will screen *Hineini: Coming out in a Jewish High School*, the story of a community inspired and changed by one girl's courage, with guest speaker **Tara Goldstein**, of OISE. Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Al Green Theatre. Free. Ticket, esthera@mnjcc.org or ext. 606.

Miles Nadal and the Bloor Annex Business Improvement group present the 11th annual Festival on Bloor, from Spadina Avenue to Bathurst Street, with live music acts, crafts, children's storytelling, foods and more. June 10, noon to 6 p.m. For information, call **Suzanne**, ext. 121.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Lunch N Learn with **Rabbi Moshe Stern**, Friday, June 8 in room 202. 12-1 p.m. Bring your lunch, coffee and tea are free.

Evening Latin Dance starts Thursday, June 7, 9:15-10:15 p.m. Register at ext. 259.

The Koffler School of Music presents The Koffler Chamber Orchestra with soloist **Michael Israelievitch**, playing Spanish music by Arriaga, Villa Lobos, Piazzola, Rosauro and Turina. Monday, June 11, 8 p.m. $20, seniors and students $18. Tickets, ext. 228.

Thursday evenings join Conversation Café, a joint program with JIAS, offering newcomers a chance to practice their English in a social environment. Call 416-630-6481.

The Koffler School of Music's final student recital of the season takes place Sunday, June 17 at 2 p.m. in the Koffler Gallery Loggia. Violin, piano, cello and guitar students will perform. All welcome. Free admission.

Registration now for September 2007 Morning School including Tic Tac Two, Nursery and Junior Kindergarten. All program includes music, Hebrew, Fun Centre time, gym time, and swimming. Call ext. 248 for information.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DISCUSSED: Dr. Shlomit Lehman, director of the Family Services Center at Yad Sarah in Israel, was the guest speaker at a recent Jewish Family and Child Service luncheon attended by Jewish professionals who work in the area of domestic violence. Lehman spoke about her work with abused women and their families, addressing the unique needs and sensitivities of religious and haredi families. JF&CS offers programs and services for adults and children affected by domestic violence (416-638-7800). Seen from left are Richard Cummings, executive director JF&CS and Lehman.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 34

Delonghi Single Touch Magnifica Fully Automatic Espresso Cappuccino Machine
Push one button for perfect Coffee, Espresso, Cappuccino and Latte, Built-in Burr Grinder
Compact Design, Perfect for Home or Office
LOWEST PRICE IN ONTARIO
1399.99
Compare at 1999.99
Full Money-Back Refund Policy!
Shop 24/7 Securely online
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The Ideal Gift Anytime.
Easy To Get To.
112 DONCASTER, Thornhill, Ont.
One Traffic Light North of Steeles Ave
East of Yonge St.
905-764-1188
SAT & SUN 10-6
MON to FRI 9-9
BRIDAL REGISTRY

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FREDA FREEDMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 17th at 2:30 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Stashiver Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RITA EPSTEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th at 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
Sunnyside Cemetery Association Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

We would like to extend a very warm thank you
to all our friends at 7 and 11 Townsgate Drive,
who generously donated a Shiva meal
and for all of their heartfelt sympathy at the loss of
MENDEL (MAX) LIPSON ז"ל
Pearl Lipson and family

The family of the late
Barbara Frances Grimson ז"ל
wishes to acknowledge that the third yahrzeit
will be observed on Wednesday, June 6th, 2007.
To the world you were special;
to us you were the world.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DR. THOMAS FRIED ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section 5
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HY CAPLAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 12:00 noon
Beth Jacob Cemetery
1250 Snake Rd., Burlington
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
STEVEN ERDOS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Habonim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HARRY WALDMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LEONARD WISEBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 11:00 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
3169 St. Clair Ave. E.
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SIGMUND KORN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Judean Benevolent & Friendly Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
OLGA MEISTER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 1:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst south of Steeles
Adath Israel Moldovian Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FLORENCE ROSEN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 1:30 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Blue Star Lodge Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of
FRAN SALEM ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 11:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ARTHUR ISAAC STEVENS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 17th, 11:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Old Beth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ALFRED BRANT ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 12:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section JJJJJ
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the the memory of the late
MAJER NUCHEM WEINSTEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 10:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section Phase IV CCCC
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
VICTOR WISE ז"ל
Beloved father, grandfather and friend to all,
will take place
Sunday, June 17th at 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of
LILLIAN WEINGARTEN ז"ל
Beloved mother of Gloria Karpen & Howard & Marilyn Weingarten,
devoted grandmother and great-grandmother
will take place
Sunday, June 10th at 11:00 a.m.
Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EVELYN KATZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 10th, 4:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
North of Major Mackenzie
Farband Labour Zionist,
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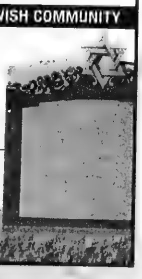

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Golish, Harry Michael	May 16/07	21 Fairholme Ave
Zombori, Marta	May 19/07	5400 Steeles Ave. W
Ostrovsky, Hana	May 21/07	Private
Fisher, Samuel	May 19/07	11 Goldfinch Crt
Rosen, Scheindla	May 21/07	
Perlstein, Martha	May 21/07	
Mizrahi, Ramah	May 22/07	3000 Bathurst St
Seigel, Harvey	May 23/07	74 Ridelle Ave
Tugg, Helen	May 25/07	7440 Bathurst St
Rubin, Max	May 23/07	

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Fagie Moss	May 15/07	65 Spring Garden Ave
Helene Kenigsberg	May 14/07	45 Shallmar Blvd
Joseph Kirshenblatt	May 17/07	2 Clairtrell Rd
Reva Lang	May 17/07	43 Covington Rd
Arnold Tucker	May 18/07	1110 Walden Cir
Bettye Morton	May 17/07	3560 Bathurst St
Beatrice Shainhouse	May 20/07	49 Timberland Dr
Mel Applebaum	May 19/07	100 Observatory Ln
Murray Rumack	May 20/07	4005 Bayview Ave
Barry Tepperman	May 17/07	234 E. Walter St
Minnie Weingarten	May 22/07	3636 Bathurst St
Jean Cooper	May 21/07	205 Cummer Ave
Percy Budman	May 24/07	111 Avenue Rd
Henia Donenfeld	May 23/07	7420 Bathurst St
Arthur Caplan	May 24/07	1166 Bay St
Sara Axler	May 26/07	65 Skymark Dr
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Coast to Coast

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More than 70 people attended B'nai Brith Canada's Forestdale Heights Lodge's 40th anniversary gala May 27 at Beth Radom Congregation, including two former past presidents of B'nai Brith, as well as members of other lodges. Pictured is lodge president Bonnie Kates, right, with her husband Michael and lodge trustee Lisa Rosen.

[Rachel Spitzer photo]

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Coast to Coast

Reform convert takes the plunge in Newfoundland

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — It takes a lot of nerve to jump into the frigid northern Atlantic waters off Newfoundland on any May 8.

Indeed, it took a major commitment – to himself and to his conversion to Judaism – for John Longlott to take that icy plunge, three times, as he became the first person to undergo conversion to Judaism in Newfoundland.

"I was moved," Longlott said of the moment he completed the immersion ritual in the Reform conversion.

Longlott was born in the United States but is a dual citizen, because his mother is a Toronto native. Longlott's commitment was completed when he dipped into the waves at Middle Cove Beach, near St. John's, before several dozen witnesses, including his sister, Laurie Karitsis of Pennsylvania.

His large group of friends, including some from Newfoundland's Jewish community, heard Longlott speak passionately and eloquently about his intentions and reasons for converting to Judaism.

John Longlott

The 41-year-old former resident of Wernersville, Pa., (near Reading) studied and read about his newly chosen religion for several years. To complete the conversion, he took written and oral examinations, and, lastly, the final step into the ocean.

"It was a very powerful experience for me. I felt I had been doing many things Jewish in spirit for the past few years, but needed this conversion to complete my soul," said the music composer, who moved to Newfoundland three years ago.

"I felt it wasn't necessary to formalize my conversion to make a connection to God, but it was important for me to be part of the Jewish community."

Longlott left the United States in early 2003, unhappy with the political situation there and with a desire to change his life. He had met a Newfoundlander in 2001, before the events of 9/11, with no idea where the easternmost province was.

"I researched it, discovered Newfoundland was a beautiful place with hard-working, humble people – plus I had an attachment to the ocean," he said.

His introduction to Judaism had come a few years earlier when he worked at a drug rehabilitation centre in Pennsylvania. As part of the rehabilitation of one of his clients, he attended services with her at her synagogue.

"I went to a bar mitzvah and was impressed with the message of peace and working with others that the young man uttered," Longlott said.

"That started my investigation into Judaism. I took a course on the history of the Holocaust at a Penn State branch. I discussed Judaism with Rabbi Brian I. Michaelson of Temple Oheb Shalom in Wyomissing [Pa., about 10 minutes from Reading], and the seed was planted."

The rabbi invited Longlott to attend weekly Friday evening services at the Reform temple and that, plus reading assigned books and doing other research, went on for about two years.

When Longlott finally decided to leave the United States in 2003, his depth of commitment was complete.

In Newfoundland, he met Reb Sherrill Gilbert, a Reconstructionist rabbinic student who was working in collaboration with rabbis Elina Bykova and Leigh Lerner of Temple Emanu-el Beth Sholom in Montreal.

He is now part of a small group of Jews, not connected with the synagogue in St. John's, who gather for davening on Friday nights and holidays. There are currently two more students engaged in studies for local conversion to Judaism.

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Bat mitzvah donates over $20,000 to Sunnybrook

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

With all of the gifts, glitz and glamour of contemporary bar/bat mitzvahs, it's all too easy for the mitzvah aspect of the event to simply be a footnote.

But in the Blankenstein family, mitzvah has most certainly been the magic word when it comes to bar/bat mitzvah celebrations.

Dani Blankenstein, a 12-year-old student at Bialik Hebrew Day School, recently donated more than $20,000 from her bat mitzvah proceeds to an endowment fund in her grandmother's name for hematology and oncology research at Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre.

Dani and Adam Blankenstein

Cancer has touched the lives of the Blankenstein family and that was at the forefront of Dani's desire to make the substantial donation.

"I wanted…my bubby to be part of my bat mitzvah," she relates.

"I don't want anyone else to get leukemia or lymphoma and I don't want anyone else to miss having a family member at their bat mitzvah."

Dani's brother Adam, a 15-year-old CHAT student, also parlayed his philanthropic instincts during his bar mitzvah year by requesting his guests support the breast cancer research group at Sunnybrook.

The more than $20,000 donated to The Adam Blankenstein Fund will support construction of a patient resource area at Sunnybrook's new breast cancer centre, slated to open in 2009.

"I am fortunate that I was able to use my bar mitzvah gifts to donate to an important cause," says Adam, noting he helped decide where the proceeds would be directed and had a lot of input in the entire process.

"This was a cause close to my family with personal meaning to me."

Adam and Dani's parents, Dr. Harvey Blankenstein and Dr. Fay Sliwin, both note that the personal connection is definitely a motivator .

"It's a matter of doing something that's close to your child's heart," says Sliwin.

"If the kids see the importance of it, they'll want to do it on their own, which is exactly what happened with us."

Philanthropy is a cornerstone in the Sliwin and Blankenstein families, going back several generations.

Harvey Blankenstein says kids learn by example when it comes to charity and that it's never too early to start nurturing such values in children.

"Realizing there are others who are less fortunate than they are is something they've learned since childhood," the father says.

"Even when Adam and Dani were little kids, for their birthday gifts, they would ask for donations to things like the school library."

As medical professionals who have dealt with cancer both personally and professionally, Blankenstein and Sliwin are especially proud of what their kids have done.

"We know the tangible benefits…of how [the donations] are really going to impact people," he says.

"And I think it's important for the kids to understand the value of what they're doing. It really makes them feel good to give back to the community."

For more information, please visit www.sunnybrook.ca/foundation or phone 416-480-4483.

Magnetic ribbons help support programs in Israel

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

A blue, orange and white magnetic ribbon is now available to raise both awareness of Israel and funds to help Israeli victims of terror and violence.

Atarah Derrick, speaking for the Toronto Zionist Council, which launched the initiative, said the magnets can be found in 20 locations across the city, particularly along the Bathurst Street corridor. They cost $5.

SUPPORT
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Among other charities, the money will go to NATAL, the Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War; Lev U'Neshama, which supplies clothing and food to the needy in Safed; Operation Dignity, helping the evacuees from Neve Dekalim, which was an Israeli settlement in the Gaza strip; the Israel Free Loan Association that provides scholarship grants, free loans and small business free loans; and JobKatif, offering employment opportunities for former residents of the Gaza Strip.

Toronto Zionist Council vice-president Izzy Kaplan, whose idea the magnets were, said that Israel is "on my mind 24 hours a day. I am always trying to find ways to bring Diaspora Jews closer to the issues [affecting the country.]"

Noting wryly that in a big city, "you are always behind someone in a traffic jam," Kaplan said he was always seeing different emblems on the backs of cars in support of any number of causes, from breast cancer to political issues. "I figured that everyone notices what's there."

On a different level, he said, "anti-Semitism and Jew/Israel bashing have become almost common. People may have difficulty in dealing with this."

He believes that seeing the new magnets gives people a shot in the arm and an inner strength.

He chose the colours – bright orange, blue and white – first, because of their vividness, and second, for their symbolism. Blue and white are the colours of the Israeli flag, and orange is used for issues in Gaza, Iran and Lebanon – the primary issues Israel is facing today.

Black letters on the ribbons say: "Fight terrorism!" and "Support Israel."

Kaplan developed a display unit and contacted various shops. The response so far, he said, has been very favourable.

The GTA, he said, is the test market for the project. If it goes well, he will try to expand it to places like New York and Los Angeles. "It just takes volunteers, people willing to work on it."

He is even exploring the idea of translating the message into Hebrew, and selling the ribbons in Israel.

Winnipeg CJA names campaign chair

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg has tapped Ben Cohen, the President of Oreck Canada and one of Canada's leading younger businessmen to chair this year's CJA campaign.

The 43-year-old Cohen has shown himself to be a savvy marketer as well as an individual who is committed to his community.

Last year's campaign raised a record $5.1 million, slightly higher than the targeted goal of $5 million. In addition, the community raised $2.3 million in emergency funding for Israel as a result of the damage caused by the Lebanon War.

"People in Winnipeg are very generous," he says. "We have a good broad-based campaign that gives a large amount per capita. The women's campaign is equally successful."

Cohen praised the federation for doing a good job of grooming younger members of the community to take on leadership roles.

Cohen and his wife, Simone (who teaches kindergarten at the Grey Academy) have three children, Jacqueline, 8, Harry, 7 and Myles, 5.

For the Women's Division campaign, the new chair is Sharon Allentuck.

She is the sister of CJA executive director Elaine Goldstine and sister-in-law of Dr. Ian Goldstine (Elaine's husband) who chaired the overall campaign last year.

Allentuck shares her sister and brother-in-law's strong commitment to the community and the work of the Jewish Federation. A federal government employee, Allentuck has been involved in the Women's Division campaign for many years.

Last year, she reports, the Women's Division campaign raised $1,086,000. The goal this year is $1.1 million. The goal for the overall campaign is still to be determined.

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Recipes, wisdom and humour for a healthy lifestyle

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Edith Rothschild's new book *Nutrilicious, Food for Thought and Whole Health* (Feldheim Publishers) is much more than a cookbook.

"It's the story of how I turned my life around and committed myself to a healthy lifestyle," she says.

A mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Rothschild, who has a counselling psychology degree from the Adler Professional School of Psychology, suffered for years with osteoarthritis.

"I had debilitating back pain and joint inflammation, and for 25 years, I spent hours a day in bed," she said in an interview at her home office.

"Consultations with doctors left me with an assortment of medical opinions, and I was started on a number of medications, none of which were good for my stomach."

Eventually she decided to take charge of her own health, and in the late 1970s, turned to "God's natural drugstore to allow the healing powers He built into me to take over."

Her explorations led her to a holistic, vegetarian lifestyle, she said, and through "trial and error I learned over the course of many years which foods, diets, remedies, healing techniques, therapies and modalities would be good for me and which ones I should avoid."

The lifestyle was not totally new to her, she said, because her mother, Joanne Hertz, "instilled in me at a very young age the love of nature and all things green. She fed us muesli made with raw oat flakes, ground hazelnut, shredded coconut, anise seeds, raisins and pure sugar from grapes."

Rothschild said when she began writing the book – she worked on it for almost nine years – she had no intention of preaching. "I simply wanted to share my life story."

The "non-glossy" book is easy to read, and chock-full of information suitable for anyone interested in a vegetarian diet. It is also full of personal stories and rhymes.

To keep it light-hearted, she starts off with a poem: "Come listen to my story/ And listen to it well/ About the book you're holding/ It is I want to tell/ Too bad you had to wait so long/ It seemed like endless years/ Of slave labour in my kitchen/ With testing, tasting and tears/ It's all about good cooking/ But in it you'll find much more/ With bits 'n bites 'n tidbits/ and sayings and stories galore."

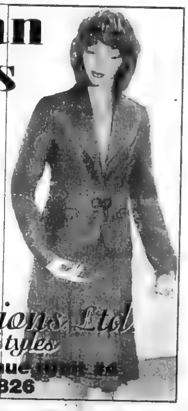
She lists ingredients she always has on hand in her own kitchen, such as Bragg liquid soy, Rice Dream non-dairy frozen dessert, and Nasoya, a soya-based sandwich spread. The comprehensive list includes dried fruits, legumes, nuts and seeds, dried sea vegetables, pastas, vinegars and oils.

She admits that maintaining a healthy lifestyle is a commitment. "But, what is my alternative?"

Her healthy regimen includes a twice daily break for jin shin jytusu, a physio-philosophy that facilitates balance in the body's energy systems and promotes health and well being.

She is not free of cravings, she said, and still enjoys a bagel, lox and cream cheese, "but only once in a while. If I listen to my body, I'm fine."

Continued on page 37



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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

פאַרברענגט פסח אין ישראל

פון מרים בעקערמאַן (טאָראָנטאָ)

אין יאַנואַר פון 2007 איז געוואָרן פונקט 60 יאָר ווי איך, דאַן אַ מיטגליד פון „הבונים" און „החלוץ", בין אָנגעקומען פון טאָראָנטאָ קיין ארץ־ישראל. דאָס איז געווען אין 1947. איך און נאָך 3–4 פון הכשרה אין סמיטהוויל, אָנטעריאָ, זיינען מיט דער הילף פון סוכנות־פירערס געוואָרן לעגאַלע אימיגראַנטן. עס האָבן אונדז אָנגעוואַרט חברים פון „קיבוץ בלום" אין גליל העליון און מיר זיינען דאָרט אַהין געפאָרן מיט אַן אויטאָבוס. די וועגן זיינען געווען זייער שמאָלע און דער גליל איז געווען ווייניק באַזעצט.

איך האָב אַ ביסל שפעטער געטראָפן מיין צוקונפטיקן מאַן משה ע"ה אין קיבוץ „מעין ברוך" ווו מיר האָבן חתונה געהאַט אין אָקטאָבער פון 1947. אין 1952 זיינען מיר, שוין מיט אַ זון פון 3 יאָר, צוריקגעקומען קיין טאָראָנטאָ. טראָץ דעם, וואָס איך בין שוין געווען 12 מאָל אין ישראל, האָב איך באַשלאָסן צו פאָרן אויף פסח אין דער מדינה אָפצוצייכענען דעם 60סטן יאָרטאָג פון מיין אָנקומען דאָרטן. אין דער זעלבער צייט האָב איך אויך געוואָלט פאַרברענגען דריי וואָכן מיט מיין טאָכטער און אייניקלעך, וואָס וווינען אין ראשון לציון.

מיין טאָכטער האָט אָראַנזשירט, אַז מיר זאָלן פאַרברענגען אין האָטעל פון קיבוץ „כפר גלעדי" אין גליל העליון. עס איז דאָרט געווען אַן אַלגעמיינער סדר אין אַן אמתער יום־טובדיקער שטימונג. מיר האָבן דאָרט פאַרברענגט אַ גאַנצע וואָך. ווייל מיר האָבן געהאַט אַן אייגענעם אויטאָ איז געווען מעגלעך פאַר אונדז אַרומצופאָרן איבערן לאַנד און באַוווּנדערן די גרויסע לאַנדווירטשאַפטלעכע און עקאָנאָמישע דערגרייכונגען, וואָס די ישראל איינוווינער האָבן באַוויזן אויפצוטאָן אין משך פון זייער עקזיסטענץ.

מיר האָבן באַזוכט „כפר בלום", וואָס איז געווען מיין ערשטע היים אין לאַנד מיט 60 יאָר צוריק. אין מיין צייט איז עס געווען אַ נייער ישוב און ס'איז דאָרט כמעט גאָרנישט געווען. איצט איז דאָרט אַ גרויסער באַוווינטער ישוב מיט אַ האָטעל פאַר געסט און אַן אָלימפישער סטיל שווימבאַסיין, אַ שיינער פאַרק, אַ זאַל פאַר קאָנצערטן און אַ הויך־שול פאַר דער גאַנצער סביבה. מיר זיינען אויך געווען אין קיבוץ „מעין ברוך" ווו איך האָב חתונה געהאַט און געזען די ענדערונגען, וואָס זיינען דאָרטן געמאַכט געוואָרן.

מיר האָבן געהאַט אַ געלעגנהייט צו באַזוכן אַ מוזיי פון מאָלערייען אין תל־אביב און דעם „בית שלום עליכם", וואָס איז בשכנות. עס איז געווען אַ גרויס פאַרגעניגן צו זען אַ קאָנצערט אין ראשון לציון מיטן אָנטייל פון די „דריי ישראל טענאָרס" באַגלייט פון אַ פיאַנאָ, גיטאַר, באַס און האַרמאָניע. מען האָט דאָרט געוויזן אַ פילם וועגן דער רעהאַביליטאַציע אַרבעט, וואָס מען טוט אין „בית לעווענשטיין" פאַר די שווער־פאַרוווּנדעטע אָדער די, וואָס האָבן באַקומען אַ שטראָך. איצט איז דער בנין צו קליין און מען וויל צובויען נאָך אַ שטאָק. איין פילאַנטראָפ האָט בייגעשטייערט אַ מיליאָן דאָלער און מען אַפעלירט צו קהל פאַר ביישטייערונגען.

איין אָוונט האָבן מיר הנאה געהאַט פון אַ כאָר, וואָס איז געקומען פון תל־אביב. די זינגערס זיינען געווען צומערסטנס געראַטעוועטע פון דער שואה. אַמאָל האָט דער כאָר געהאַט 60 מיטגלידער. צום באַדויערן זיינען היינט נאָר געבליבן 25. זיי האָבן געזונגען אין יידיש און העברעיש. די יידיש־רעדנערס פון כאָר האָבן איבערגעזעצט אַ צאָל לידער און זיי געזונגען אין ביידע שפראַכן. צווישן זיי איז געווען קאַטשערגינסקיס ליד „שטילער, שטילער". ס'איז דאָ נאָך אַ סך צו שרייבן, אָבער איך מוז דאָס איבערלאָזן אויף אַ צווייט מאָל.

Author respects her vegetables

Continued from page 36

She cannot overemphasize her respect for vegetables, she said, and "I try to make a new recipe every day so things stay interesting."

Her recipe section is complete with healthful hints and sayings – "if we eat wrongly, no doctor can cure us, if we eat rightly, no doctor is needed," Victor G. Rocine – and is divided into chapters that include Vegetables: The Best Life Insurance We Can Buy; Soups: The Comfort Food for All Occasions; Sauces: To Make Simple Food Elegant; Tofu: The Joy and Ploy of Soy; and Nuts and Seeds: It's OK to Go Nuts.

She also offers recipes – each one was tested "hundreds of times" for guests and family – for Shabbat, holidays and elegant entertaining.

Now that the book is finished, she said, "I can finally sleep. My creative time was in the middle of the night."

Nutrilicious is available at Jewish book stores, major food chains, and at Barnes & Noble.

SPICY RED LENTIL-YAM SOUP

This light soup, with its gorgeous golden colour, is a nutri-yummy meal-starter any time of the year. It is also a pleasant way to add to your (and your family's) vitamin A and protein account.

3-in. piece wakame (a type of seaweed)
8 cups water
2 medium yams, peeled and cut into 1-in. cubes
1 cup red lentils
1 cup coarsely chopped onions
2 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
2 large bay leaves
2 tsp. grated ginger
1/2 tsp. ground cumin or to taste
1 tsp. ground coriander or to taste
3 tbsp. organic soy sauce
1-2 tbsp. umeboshi vinegar
finely chopped dill or curly parsley, for garnish

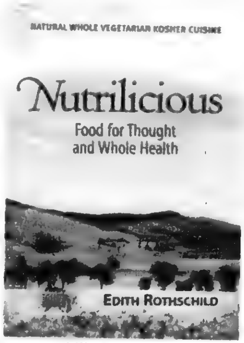
Soak the wakame in a bit of warm water for eight minutes, and cut into 1/4-in. pieces. In a large pot, place the eight cups water, yams, lentils, onions, garlic, bay leaves, ginger and wakame; cover, bring to a boil, and cook on medium heat for 40-50 minutes.

Cool slightly, remove the bay leaves, and purée with a hand-held electric mixer, or in a blender or food processor.

Pour the soup back into the pot, add the cumin, coriander, soy sauce and vinegar, adjust seasoning, and simmer for another eight minutes.

Garnish with dill or parsley and serve. Serves 6-7.

For party time or special occasions, serve hot in mugs or in elegant china cups. In summer, serve chilled.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MUSHROOM PÂTÉ

All types of mushrooms beckon us today at the stores, from simple white button mushrooms to more exotic and strange-looking creatures. Their distinctive, strong flavours enhance many a dish.

This pâté makes a delectable appetizer, using 1/4-1/3 cup pâté for each portion, served on a lettuce leaf and colourfully decorated, or as a tasty snack on crackers, rice cakes or bread.

2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
2 cups coarsely chopped onions
1 lb. coarsely sliced mushrooms
2/3 cup raw organic walnuts
1 tsp. sea salt
black pepper to taste

In a large skillet, heat oil and sauté the onions and mushrooms until onions become translucent (about eight minutes).

In a food processor, chop the walnuts, add the mushrooms and onions, salt and pepper, and process until well blended.

Transfer to a bowl, adjust seasoning, and serve chilled or at room temperature. Yields about 2 cups; serves 6-8 as an appetizer.

For the weight watchers, the yo-yo dieters and the health-conscious, place a dollop of this mouthwatering pâté on a medium, firm lettuce leaf, roll up and snack to your heart's content.

BEYOND THE RAINBOW SALAD

No veggies, raw or cooked, are safe from my passion for this vita-packed, mix 'n match salad. It is especially good for those poor souls who don't like vegetables but need their immune-building properties.

4 cups shredded packed romaine lettuce
1/4 cup shredded packed radicchio
1/4 cup shredded packed Belgian endive
1/3 cup finely sliced purple onion
2-in. piece English cucumber, shaved with a vegetable peeler
1 small carrot, shaved with a vegetable peeler
1 celery stalk, shaved with a vegetable peeler
1/8 cup finely chopped dill
2-3 tbsp. flaxseed oil
3 tbsp. brown rice vinegar or 1-2 tbsp. apple cider vinegar
2 tbsp. umeboshi vinegar
1 tbsp. dried marjoram

In a large bowl, place all the vegetables and dill and toss well.

Pour the oil and vinegars and marjoram over the salad, toss well, adjust seasoning and serve immediately. Serves 5-6.

For best results, the greens in this salad should be fresh, crisp, and completely dry.

Variations:

More colour in your salad means more energy for you and adds to your daily vitamin and mineral account. Add to this salad any of the following, according to your taste: finely sliced raw mushrooms, finely grated raw or cooked beets, yellow or red sweet peppers, cut into fine strips. You can also sneak in some steamed kale or broccoli. Served with some kind of grains, pasta or wholesome bread, this salad can become a main course.

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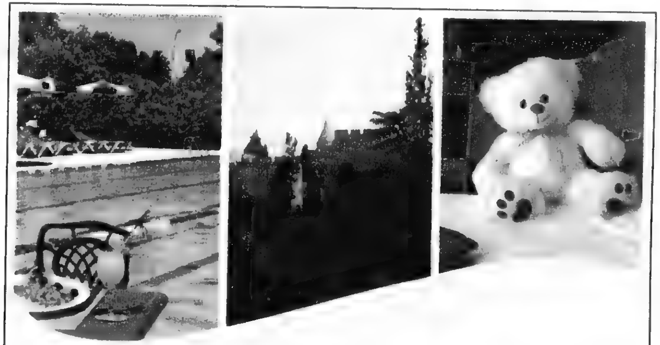

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British union keeps boycott talk alive

JTA Staff

LONDON — The decision by Britain's largest academic union to further consider a boycott of Israeli academics drew swift and harsh reaction from Israel's supporters.

"Essentially, British trade unions are declaring war on Israel," Ronnie Fraser, director of the Academic Friends of Israel, told JTA.

Last week, the University and College Union stopped short of calling for an all-out boycott, but instead passed a motion to circulate Palestinian calls for an academic boycott of Israel to its branches "for information and discussion."

The motion, at the group's first gathering, passed by a vote of 158 to 99.

In a statement, the union said the boycott motion means branches "have a responsibility" to consult all of their members on the issue. The union represents 120,000 workers in higher education throughout the United Kingdom.

The motion passed despite comments during the debate by the union's new general secretary, Sally Hunt, who said, "I do not believe a boycott is supported by the majority of UCU members, nor do I believe that members see it is a priority for the union."

Ed Morgan, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, told *The CJN* that "CJC completely opposes the boycott. We feel that it's misguided. It not only stifles academic freedom and freedom of speech but it [also] wrongly targets Israeli academics and Israeli institutions for issues that have nothing to do with them and are beyond their control.

"Israel has one of the most vibrant and high-quality academic scenes anywhere, and it only exacerbates conflict with the Palestinians to target the [Israeli] academic world.

"The CJC and CIC [Canada-Israel Committee] are sister organizations working together on this. We're helping disseminate their call to action," Morgan said.

Last week, the CIC answered a British Jewish Union request for worldwide Jewry to exert pressure on the UCU by issuing an "urgent call to action" via e-mail to members of the Canadian Jewish community.

The e-mail contained a template letter addressed to Hunt, citing deep disappointment in the UCU and exhorting Hunt to "act upon your electoral promise that under your watch as general secretary, any boycott resolution would have to be approved in a national referendum by all of UCU's members, and to issue a clear and categorical statement to this effect." The CIC asked recipients to circulate the letter to their contacts.

The UCU's move to consider a boycott of Israeli academics is the latest of several British efforts to boycott Israel. Last month the National Union of Journalists passed a motion to boycott Israeli goods. More recently, a group of British doctors and a group of architects called for a boycott within their respective professions.

The UCU also passed a motion to campaign for the restoration of all international aid to the Palestinian Authority and all revenues that the union says rightfully belong to the authority. Worldwide aid to the Palestinian Authority was stopped when Hamas took control of the government last year.

Boycott opponents were outraged by the union's vote.

Ofir Frankel, executive director of the International Advisory Board for Academic Freedom based at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, said the union "has allowed itself to act as a one-sided player in Middle Eastern politics. It is very disturbing to behold a form of singling out and discrimination happening in the U.K. – the U.K. which upholds itself as the cradle of fairness, freedom of speech and academic debate."

Jeremy Newmark, chief executive of the Jewish Leadership Council, said that while the vast majority of academics do not support a boycott, "this decision damages the credibility of British academia as a whole."

In a statement, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said, "These obscene resolutions have all the faults that academics normally deplore in their profession: a superficial and flawed understanding of the subject, clear bias, and antagonism to the open exchange of ideas."

British and Israeli government officials also registered their opposition to the move. Britain's minister of state for education, Bill Rammell, denounced last week's vote, saying it would do nothing to promote Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.

"The U.K. government fully supports academic freedom and is firmly against any academic boycotts of Israel or Israeli academics," Rammell said.

In Israel, cabinet minister Isaac Herzog, whose portfolio includes monitoring anti-Semitism abroad, conveyed the [Prime Minister Ehud] Olmert government's anger at the resolution to British Ambassador Tom Phillips.

"It is especially troubling that this resolution was passed in a country that is considered friendly to Israel," Herzog told Israel Radio. "It requires a soul-searching on the part of all British citizens."

With files from JTA correspondents Vanessa Bulkacz and Jonny Paul in London, staff writer Ben Harris and copy editor Marc Brodsky in New York.

Entebbe conspiracy report roils Israelis

By DAN BARON
JTA

JERUSALEM — Israelis are outraged over a 30-year-old British conspiracy theory about the origins of the legendary Entebbe operation. Experts on the Entebbe rescue, including Benjamin Netanyahu, are weighing in to debunk the theory.

A BBC report published June 1 quoted a recently declassified British government memorandum suggesting that Jerusalem secretly collaborated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) terrorists who hijacked an Air France airliner full of Israeli passengers on June 27, 1976.

The plane was redirected to the Entebbe Airport in Uganda, where the hijackers demanded that Israel release Palestinian prisoners en masse. Israel refused, and ultimately dispatched commandos for a rescue mission 2,400 miles away that astonished the world.

But according to a theory advanced by D.H. Colvin, a British diplomat in Paris at the time of the crisis, the hijacking may have been staged as part of a bid by Israel to discredit the Palestinians in the West.

In a memorandum uncovered by the BBC, Colvin quoted an unnamed source as saying that the "the hijack was the work of the PFLP, with help from the Israeli Secret Service, the Shin Bet.

"The operation was designed to torpedo the PLO's standing in France and to prevent what they see as a growing rapprochement between the PLO and the Americans," Colvin wrote of the Israelis.

The emergence of the memorandum made the front page of Israel's *Ma'ariv* newspaper and drew incredulous responses from Entebbe veterans.

"It is simply implausible that someone in Israel collaborated with this hijacking, even partially or tangentially," retired general Yehoshua Shani, who commanded the airlift to and from Uganda, told the newspaper. "This theory is just absurd."

Israeli opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, whose brother Yoni was killed while leading the commando unit in Entebbe, described the BBC report as part of a longstanding tradition of anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic slurs.

"This is an absolute lie, an evil lie," he told Israel's Army Radio. "It reminds me of those who, after the attack on the Twin Towers by Arab terrorists, said it was organized by the American CIA and the Israeli Mossad."

The BBC report did not indicate how Colvin's memorandum was received in London at the time. Some Israeli experts suggested that Colvin was simply doing his duty by discreetly relaying an intelligence tidbit to his superiors.

France, Spain condemn Ahmadinejad's remarks on Israel

© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — France and Spain on Monday issued condemnations of the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's latest verbal attack on Israel, in which he said that the world would soon witness the destruction of Israel.

Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos called Ahmadinejad's comments unacceptable.

"These words need a strong response," he told Spanish national radio. Moratinos will summon Iran's ambassador in the coming days, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

In France, Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said the president's comments were "unacceptable" and "incompatible" with Tehran's wish to play a major role in the region.

"If these comments were actually made, they are unacceptable. I condemn them with utmost severity," Kouchner said in a statement.

"Such statements are incompatible with the dialogue between cultures and civilizations to which we are attached and with Iran's aspiration to play a role of major importance in the region."

Ahmadinejad said Sunday last summer's war between Israel and Hezbollah showed for the first time that the hegemony of the occupier regime [Israel] had collapsed, and the Lebanese nation pushed the button to begin counting the days until the destruction of the Zionist regime, Islamic Republic News Agency quoted him as saying.

Israel responded Sunday by asking the international community for a condemnation of Ahmadinejad's comments.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Monday that Iran will not beg world powers for its right to develop nuclear technology and has shown it will not retreat from the "field of danger" to protect such rights.

The defiant remarks by the Islamic Republic's highest authority come two days ahead of a summit of the Group of Eight top industrialized nations that is expected to include discussions about the row over Iran's nuclear program.

World powers have demanded Iran halt uranium enrichment, a process western nations say Tehran is mastering so it can build atomic bombs. Tehran insists its plans have purely civilian goals and has refused to halt the work.

'Tension is high'

Continued from page 1

part of the Afikim (Wellsprings) Jewish outreach project, life was quiet. No one could have dreamed the community would be on the front lines of Palestinian terror bombings. Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, those were the more typical high-profile targets for terrorists, she said. But Sderot?

Life has changed dramatically for the town's 24,000 residents. Even the simplest task has taken on added danger. Orenbuch's oldest daughter won't shower unless mommy is nearby with a bathrobe waiting to take her to the safe room in case the warning sirens sound. Getting her brood – they range in age from 14 to one – ready for school is a logistical undertaking of monumental proportions. Everyone must be ready at the door to leave at exactly the same time, and everything outside the apartment must be done on the run, she said.

Orenbuch's 14-year-old is now being sent to school outside Sderot, where it is safer, but the minutes waiting for the bus seem interminable. Thankfully, a lady near the bus stop has befriended the kids and offered her home as a shelter in case an incoming missile is detected.

Once, when Orenbuch had most of her kids in the car, the siren went off just as they entered a busy traffic roundabout. Residents of Sderot have been instructed to stop their cars and seek shelter immediately, as sirens give only about 20 seconds notice before the missiles strike. If they find no shelter, they are told to lie flat on the ground.

On this particular occasion, she couldn't stop immediately and her oldest son, who is 12, began to panic. His screaming triggered panic attacks in the other children, and she soon had a car full of wailing, frightened children. After a few moments, she managed to stop the car, and luckily, the Qassam did not land nearby.

After calming her kids, she dropped her son off at school and met with the local psychologist to ask her to speak with her son. It turns out the psychologist had received many similar requests that day.

In the years the Qassams have been coming, the Orenbuch family have been lucky. One missile landed behind their apartment in a building under construction only a few dozen metres away. No one was hurt.

Another incident was even more unnerving. Last year, Orenbuch's husband, a principal at the local religious school, was davening with the children in shul and kept them a little longer than usual. A Qassam slammed into their classroom nearby. Had he kept a normal schedule that day, the class would have been full. Amit noted that the rocket came through the ceiling and hit the room not far from where he normally sits.

Such is life in Sderot these days. The tension is high, and many people, whose nerves cannot hold out, have left for respite in other parts of the country.

Orenbuch is adamant that her family is going nowhere. They originally moved to Sderot to help the community demographically and to offer their skills as educators. What's more, to leave now would be giving Arab terrorists just what they want, she said.

"People left the Gaza Strip. We did our [part]. Now it's time for peace and quiet," she said.

And, she continued, where in Israel will it be safe? Today, it's Sderot, tomorrow Ashkelon, then Ashdod, and ultimately they will try to hit even Tel Aviv.

Sari Kalimi has a similar attitude. An occupational therapist who moved to Sderot from Be'er Sheva 7½ years ago, she is adamant that her family will not leave.

"It's my home," she said. "This is my country. I'm proud to live here in Israel. I feel a lot of soldiers were killed in wars so we could live here."

When the family moved to the development town, "Sderot was a very nice place to live. It has a nice community" with a small-town feel, where "people know each other."

That was before the Qassams started raining down – and before she started a family that now includes three children, aged seven, five and two.

They moved so that her husband could study at Yeshivat Hesder of Sderot while performing military duty.

They remained, and even when the Qassams started coming five years ago, they ignored advice from their parents to move out.

So far, the closest a Qassam has landed is about 20 metres from their home. No one was hurt, but the bursting rocket shattered the living room window and left broken glass everywhere.

Kalimi knows she was lucky, far luckier than a friend who works at the same school as she does. Her friend lost her four-year-old son to a Qassam three years ago.

With the Palestinians' home-made rockets landing regularly these days, elementary school has been cancelled and kids are at home. Kalimi's youngest is in day care a 15-minute drive out of town where it is safer.

When her five-year-old daughter was in school, the little girl and 30 other children spent their day in a bomb shelter. "They can't go out. It's very difficult to put a child underground and not go out and play like children are supposed to play," Kalimi said.

At home, Kalimi tries to maintain as normal a lifestyle as possible. So far, her kids haven't displayed some of the stress reactions other Sderot youngsters have shown – wetting their pants, nightmares.

Just last week, two missiles landed a few hours apart in the early morning. The first came down at 6:30 a.m. "We heard the siren, and after 10 seconds, we heard a gigantic boom. The Qassam fell right behind our house. Nobody was hurt."

Three hours later, "there was another Qassam that fell close to our house. That hit a house. People were inside, but baruch HaShem [thank God], nobody was hurt. The house was badly damaged.

"It was scary. It was horrible. You don't want it to happen again."

Kalimi believes the best way for her kids to get through without developing anxiety symptoms is for no one to panic. "Our kids are very trained. They know exactly what to do when we hear the siren. I think that helps," she said.

"It's best just to continue with the normal routine. I believe that's the best for us and our children. But it's not a normal life. I can't take my kids to the park. We don't go out much, just to a little garden at the house.

"People have to know something very bad is happening here. People's lives are in danger. It's not a joke. Qassams kill and ruin people's lives."

She is grateful for the support the people of Sderot have received from other Israelis. Many volunteers have arrived to watch the kids, give parents a respite and provide escapes from the constant danger.

But she's quite angry at the government, which she blames for letting down the people of Sderot.

"Somebody's not doing their job," she said. "I'm no prime minister or in charge of the army. It seems that if somebody attacks you in any other part of the world and your life is in danger, something has to be done."

Orenbuch agrees and believes the Israeli government is overly concerned about international reaction and the possible effect of retaliation.

She and her neighbours are angry that the government has failed to defend its citizens. "I don't think any European or North American country would be quiet" under the circumstances facing Israel, Orenbuch said.

"I don't think anybody I know wants to hurt civilians or families. Palestinians have families. But if there was no choice… shoot at the Qassam launchers [even if] you might hit kids nearby… It's very sad, but they won't be able to kill us. We can defend ourselves that way. What is a country supposed to defend, their children or our children? We think it's weakness on the part of the government."

Moti (he asked that his last name not be used) believes the Israeli government is not doing enough to protect Sderot. "It's a disgrace that the government isn't doing more," he said. "It's like they're leaving the citizens here and doing nothing.

"We have to understand we're dealing with enemies and deal with them like an enemy. We have to fight."

Geneva shul fire was arson

© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

GENEVA — The fire that heavily damaged Geneva's largest synagogue was caused by arson, an investigation has concluded, the presiding magistrate said June 1.

The cause of the fire was criminal, said a statement by magistrate Michel Graber, who has been overseeing the investigation into the May 24 fire. But he said there had been no indication that it was set by extremists.

The May 24 blaze raised fears among Geneva's Jewish community that the fire might have been an anti-Semitic attack.

Contrary to earlier theories, the investigation has excluded the possibility that the fire was the result of an accident or technical problem, Graber said.

He said a DNA sample was taken from a cigarette butt found in the area where the fire started, but it was possible it may prove inconclusive because of damage from the heat of the fire and the water used to extinguish the blaze.

A number of witnesses have been interviewed by police, but so far have failed to point to a suspect, Graber said.

The fire caused serious damage to the interior of the Hekhal Haness Synagogue, which was built in the early 1970s The fire blew out windows and destroyed stairs and books. Other parts of the synagogue, located in the residential area of Malangou, were severely damaged by the water used to extinguish the flames.

Graber's statement did not detail the findings on which he based his conclusion, nor whether the incident was anti-Semitic.

Switzerland's president, Micheline Calmy-Rey, issued a statement expressing sadness and concern after the announcement that the fire was an act of arson. She conveyed solidarity with the Jewish community and said anti-Semitic acts are unacceptable and an insult to Switzerland's tradition of dialogue.

The announcement took many by surprise in Geneva's Jewish community, where the fire had already been accepted as accidental. The synagogue's founder, Nissim Gaon, initially said he was convinced that an electrical short circuit was the culprit.

The president of the umbrella organization Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities (FSCI), Alfred Donath, claimed the June 1 announcement proves that the fire was inspired by anti-Semitism. The Jewish community in Geneva, however, has taken a more cautious line.

Johanne Gurfinkiel, secretary-general of the Geneva-based Intercommunity Co-ordination against Anti-Semitism and Defamation (CICAD), said the community is shocked and greatly concerned, and is calling on the authorities to make every effort to see the investigation through.

The badly damaged synagogue is the largest of six in Geneva, and can accommodate 1,200 worshippers. Most of the damage was in the front part of the building. The Torah scrolls and other religious objects in the synagogue were removed intact by the rescue crews.

Gaon's wife, Renee, promised the synagogue would be restored by Rosh Hashanah. She said the shul is insured, but if additional money is needed, "my husband is ready to pay the rest."

With files from JTA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Schara Tzedeck Synagogue in Vancouver, British Columbia the largest Orthodox Synagogue in the Lower Mainland with in excess of five hundred families requires a full time Executive Director.

The primary responsibilities of the Executive Director, among others are as follows:

- Supervise and manage the administrative and maintenance staffs to support the Rabbi and President to address the general needs of the Congregation
- Oversee and manage the Synagogue's administrative, fund-raising, fiscal and physical processes
- Work in partnership with Professional and Lay leadership to develop structured policies and procedures for the smooth day-to-day operation of the Synagogue
- Coordinate and support all Synagogue activities and programs
- Represent the Synagogue to the general community and manage internal and external Synagogue communications
- Foster a caring environment for staff and congregation consistent with the mission of the Synagogue

The successful candidate should have a minimum of three years experience as a non-profit Executive Director or equivalent business experience, excellent interpersonal skills and organizational skills to understand the Synagogue's conceptual goals and implement effective processes to support them; computer proficiency; warm and welcoming personality; and respect for the Synagogue rituals, traditions and holidays.

Interested candidates should e-mail their Resume and remuneration expectations to the following email address: posthuma@uniserve.com or mail their Resume to the Schara Tzedeck Synagogue at 3476 Oak Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6H 2L8 Attention: Allan Posthuma.

Israeli Holocaust survivors suffering, critics charge

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The plight of destitute Holocaust survivors in Israel has touched off a war of words in Israel and the Diaspora.

Two hundred and fifty thousand survivors, the greatest such concentration in the world, reside in Israel. Close to 80,000, or almost one-third, are reportedly impoverished.

"These survivors can barely afford the medications they need and can barely live on their own without any help," Jonny Konig, a reader wrote in a bristling letter to the editor of *The Canadian Jewish News* recently. "What an embarrassment. It's a shame to think that several European countries have done more than Israel for the care of its Holocaust survivors."

Dow Marmur, rabbi emeritus at Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple and a survivor, was just as indignant. In a recent column in the *CJN*, he observed, "It's a shame of historic proportions."

The problem has been acknowledged by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Last month, at a special Knesset ceremony marking the 62nd anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany, he said: "We are obligated to recognize our wrongs and to admit that there are thousands of survivors living below the poverty line."

Promising to take remedial measures, Olmert noted that every survivor should be able to live in dignity.

Some critics, such as former World Jewish Congress vice-president Isi Leibler, contend that the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany – known as the Claims Conference – is to blame for the situation.

Founded in 1951, the Claims Conference, based in New York City, administers and allocates restitution funds to survivors and provides them with social welfare services.

In an interview, Leibler charged that the Claims Conference should have dealt with this situation urgently.

"It failed to do so," said Leibler, who divides his time between Australia and Israel. "If the Claims Conference had fulfilled its role, no survivor – in Israel or anywhere – would be living in poverty."

Eli Pfefferkorn, a Toronto survivor, claimed that funds have been misallocated, to the detriment of survivors.

Citing an example, he said the March of the Living – which sends Jewish teens on trips to the sites of death camps in Europe, and then on to Israel – receives huge allocations from the Claims Conference, but that such funds would be better spent if they were channelled to survivors.

Hillary Kessler-Godin, a Claims Conference spokesperson, said the overwhelming majority of needy survivors in Israel hail from the former Soviet Union.

"Like many elderly [Soviet] immigrants, their economic conditions are not good," she said.

In a stiff rebuttal to detractors, Kessler-Godin added that the Claims Conference has done its best to look after survivors.

"In Israel, we have allocated $400 million [US] since 1995, effectively revolutionizing care to survivors. Another $100 million has been allocated in Israel for 2007 and 2008. Claims Conference allocations have spurred a recognition and support network for the special needs of survivors, which largely did not exist before we assumed this responsibility."

Twelve years ago, the Claims Conference helped establish the Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel, she said. "Claims Conference allocations since then have grown each year."

These funds provide vital home care services – from housekeeping to bathing assistance – to 11,000 survivors, she pointed out.

"The Claims Conference has also helped build and upgrade nursing homes and geriatric hospital units caring for survivors; establish day cares and rehabilitation facilities; build and renovate housing for Nazi victims; provide medical equipment and assistance, and in many other ways has vastly improved the survivors' quality of life as they age."

In addition, in 2006, the Claims Conference paid more than $167 million in direct compensation payments to Israeli survivors and directed funds to the Jewish Agency for Holocaust-related educational and teacher training programs in Israel, Russia and eastern Europe.

"These programs are for youth and educators, varying in duration and intensity and including trips to the sites of Nazi atrocities," she said.

In the May 28 edition of *The Jerusalem Report*, Zeev Factor, chair of the Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel, offered an explanation for the prevalence of poverty among survivors in Israel.

"There are several reasons," he said.

"Most survivors who came to Palestine after the war had their education permanently disrupted. Many took low-paying jobs as long as it provided permanent employment… By age 65, the typical Israeli survivor was subsisting on about $1,000 per month… But geriatric illness wiped out savings because many medicines are not covered by national health insurance, and nursing home care in Israel, besides being of poor quality, is also not covered."

Further, survivors who remained in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe in the aftermath of the war were not permitted to apply for pensions.

"Indeed, large numbers of survivor immigrants, who started coming [to Israel] in 1991, had never received anything and were poor."

To assist these immigrants, the Claims Conference established a special hardship fund paid for by Germany.

"Some were helped," wrote Factor, "but not enough."

The Claims Conference says that more than 500,000 survivors in 75 countries have received compensation payments totalling more than $60 billion since its founding.

Last year alone, allocations of approximately $220 million were made in 42 countries.

Israel Briefs

Barak, Ayalon in runoff

Amir Peretz was ousted as Labor Party chief. A May 28 primary ended in a near draw between former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak and retired admiral Ami Ayalon, neither of whom passed the threshold of votes – 40 per cent – for an outright win. They will now face each other in a June 13 runoff. Barak came out ahead in the first round, with 35.6 per cent of votes to Ayalon's 30.6 per cent. But he is expected to have greater difficulty in drawing Peretz and his supporters, who accounted for 22.4 per cent of votes, to his side. Both Ayalon, 61, the former Shin Bet security services chief, and Barak, 65, have said they will remove Labor from the ruling coalition unless Prime Minister Ehud Olmert steps down or sets a date for early elections.

Israel to release funds

Israel is prepared to transfer withheld tax revenues to the Palestinians provided no money reaches the Hamas-led government. Israeli officials said that Israel would release the estimated $700 million (US) once a mechanism was in place with safeguards to ensure none of it reaches terrorist elements, Reuters reported. Israel stopped transfers of the tax revenues it collects on behalf of the Palestinians after Hamas won parliamentary elections in January 2006. Israel increasingly has found itself isolated on this issue, as the United States and Europe have moved to allow funds to be transferred to the Palestinians under restricted conditions.

Hamas pledges more attacks

A leader of Hamas said attacks against Israel will continue regardless of whether they are effective. Khaled Meshal, the Damascus-based political leader of Hamas, said it's the right of the Palestinians to resist "Zionist aggression," and he rejected the three conditions laid out by the international community for recognition of Hamas, the *Guardian* reported. Meshal said those conditions – recognition of Israel, an end to violence and acceptance of previous peace agreements with Israel – are a "pretext" to demanding the amendment of the Hamas Charter, which calls for Israel's destruction.

Livni warns Europe

Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni said Europe must stand up to Hamas. Livni delivered a strong message to European leaders May 30 during her visit in Prague with Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg. "It is important that Europe understands that the Palestinian government is controlled by a terror organization which has officially claimed responsibility for terror attacks and the firing of Qassam rockets," Livni told reporters. "Any European attempt to differentiate between the responsibility of the Palestinian government and the Hamas terror organization interferes with the fight against terror."

Peres candidacy official

Shimon Peres announced his run for Israel's presidency. "After much thought I have decided to satisfy all the requests that I be a candidate for president," the 83-year-old deputy prime minister said in accepting the Kadima party's endorsement of his run for head of state. The successor to President Moshe Katsav will be elected June 13 in a Knesset ballot. Peres, who lost to Katsav in the 2000 run, is now up against Reuven Rivlin of the Likud Party and Colette Avital of Labor.

Israeli economy hums

The Israeli economy is in its largest sustained expansion. Globes Online reported that since middle of the second intifadah in 2003, the Israeli economy has grown 18.3 per cent – its largest period of sustained growth since Israel's independence. In the first quarter of this year, the economy grew at a rate of 6.3 per cent, after rising at a rate of 7.3 per cent in the previous quarter. The growth was attributed mainly to an increase in the export of goods and services, more fixed assets investments and greater private consumption. Unemployment continues to fall, dropping to 7.7 per cent this quarter from 7.8 per cent last quarter.

– Files from JTA

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Aphasia: A world beyond words

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Jack Geller has been active in the Jewish community for decades, but he couldn't tell you about it.

He is an honorary life president of Holy Blossom Temple, was the youngest president of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada and was involved with Canadian Jewish Congress, among other activities.

Geller also had two successful careers – as a lawyer and as chair of the Ontario Securities Commission.

But he can't speak about any of his accomplishments.

Five years ago, Geller had a stroke during the second Passover seder, and he has lived with aphasia ever since.

Aphasia is a communication disorder caused by injury to the brain, usually as a result of a stroke or head injury. People with aphasia are intellectually competent, but have difficulty with language. Aphasia can affect the ability to speak, understand, read and write, and can thus mask a person's true intelligence.

An estimated 20 to 25 per cent of stroke sufferers develop aphasia, and at least 100,000 Canadians live with the disorder. Aphasia can be mild, manifesting itself in slow speech and searching for words, or extremely severe, to the point where a person has no speech at all.

Geller's aphasia is severe. He makes a lot of sounds, but few of them are recognizable words.

"He can't speak, but he can communicate," says his wife, Sybil, who calls aphasia an "invisible disorder" that few know about. People with aphasia rely on pictures and other tools to help express themselves.

After the stroke, Jack was comatose for several days and completely paralyzed on his right side. He was told he would never walk.

"He recovered, amazing everybody," Sybil said. While his speech will never be the same, Jack has seen improvement over the last five years.

"He can put some sentences together but not consistently. Aphasia is inconsistent. Just when you think you've got something, it's gone… You think, 'Oh wonderful, there's progress,' and then it's gone," she says.

"You don't know what the trigger is because it doesn't depend on being tired or being confused – this is one of the horrors of aphasia."

She says Jack's involvement with the Aphasia Institute has been a major factor in his improvement over the last half-decade.

"It absolutely saved our lives; it made sense of everything," says Sybil, who describes her husband's stroke and the period after it as a "very low time."

The Aphasia Institute is a Toronto organization in that focuses on training, education and outreach about the disorder. It also offers programs including conversation circles and recreational activities for people with aphasia, through its Pat Arato Aphasia Centre.

Sybil and Jack attended the 12-week introductory program for families. Since then, Jack has been a member of the Toastmasters International Aphasia Gavel Club.

"It's unique, there isn't another one in the world for people with aphasia," Sybil says of the public speaking club.

She still attends the family support group. Both Gellers have sat on various committees at the institute and have been involved in fundraising. They founded the Jack Geller Fund. "We do everything we can to fundraise for it," Sybil says.

Jack was 72 and had just retired when he had his stroke, but this is not the case for many others.

"Just think of young people, people who have a family and they're a wage earner," she says. "What do they do? Think of what it does to a family."

She says their own family's support was crucial to the healing process.

"I must emphasize the importance of family and friends in recovery, in quality of life."

The Gellers' seven grandsons continue to visit Jack for lunch regularly as if nothing has changed since 2002.

Sybil worked in health-care services all her life, and had an aunt with aphasia, but didn't know what it was until Jack's experience.

"I couldn't pronounce it, I couldn't even spell it," says the former president of the Ontario Red Cross, who also sat on the board of the Ontario Cancer and Research Foundation for six years and was involved with the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Sybil cites Wheel Trans as an example of why she refers to aphasia as an invisible disorder. Jack is not physically limited and therefore is not a candidate for the assisted transportation system. But since he can't read much more than headlines and can get confused, using public transit is usually not possible.

"There's just a myriad of things he can't do," Sybil says.

She says life can "never be normal," but the Gellers do what they can to live it to its fullest. They have travelled worldwide and attend some theatre productions and concerts.

But aphasia continues to present challenges, Sybil says.

"When you have a powerful person you've lived with, who could take initiative – now he has to have his routine, and anything out of the routine confuses him. For someone who has been in control of not only his life… but contributed tremendously to the community, [it's difficult to adjust]."

The Aphasia Institute is hosting an afternoon for Aphasia Awareness Day on June 14, 2:30 to 5 p.m., and the Gellers will be attending.

"Anything we can do to bring awareness to the public is important so that there is understanding," Sybil says.

The institute's event is geared to health professionals, people with aphasia and anyone who wants to learn more about the disorder. Called A Partnership of Hope, the afternoon features a prominent neurologist, Dr. Sandra Black, as the keynote speaker, as well as demonstrations of aphasia-friendly resources and programs, a speech by a Gavel Club member, a performance by the Aphasia Institute Drum Circle and a workshop for health professionals.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Michelle Christian at 416-226-3636, ext. 20, or by e-mail at mchristian@aphasia.ca.

RESIDENCE HONOURED: **Hazelton Place Retirement Residence, a 157-suite facility in Yorkville, was recently awarded the Order of Excellence 2007 by the National Quality Institute of Canada, a non-profit workplace evaluation organization, for its Continuous Quality Improvement Program. Standing, top row from left, are Tawab Karimi, assistant marketing and move in co-coordinator; Paul Richardson, president of Diversicare Canada, Hazelton Place's parent company; recreation manager Andrea Doufexis; office manager Olga Stilos; food services manager Lyle Beaugard; and director of care Ron Khan. Seated are marketing manager Leslie Westlake and Diversicare Canada vice-president Ann Walton.**

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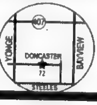

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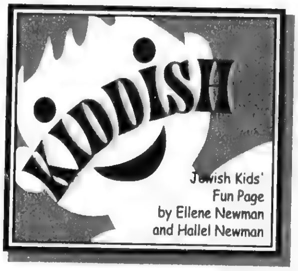


Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

The Rock

The silence of dawn was broken by the bleating of the sheep, led by the shepherd Akiva across the vast estates of Calba Savua. Spring had come to the upper Galilee, and the air was bursting with the rich scent of lilacs. Akiva took a deep breath and smiled. Life was good.

Or was it? Deep down, his thoughts tormented him. *Is this what I should be doing with my life? I'm 40 years old already, and what am I? Just a shepherd. I don't even know how to read! I wish I could be like the Torah scholars, discussing wisdom, seeking truth.*

Akiva twirled his shepherd's staff and shook his head, trying to rid himself of the impossible fantasy. *Ah, why would I want to be a Torah scholar? They seem so stuck up, keeping to themselves.*

He stopped, and the staff went limp in his hand.

Who are you fooling? He silently berated himself. *You're just jealous.*

He trudged on, lost in empty dreams.

The sheep started bleating, and Akiva looked up. They had already reached the river. He quickly scanned the area to find an open space to bring the flock. There. Away from the trees, where the river bent. He headed toward the water, the flock behind him. The sheep piled to the riverbank, and Akiva squatted down to rest. He had to wait for them to drink their fill.

His eyes wandered. Beyond the bend, the river dropped abruptly, cascading down in a frothing waterfall. He went over to take a look. Most of the water plunged straight down, churning in the riverbed below. Off to the sides, however, tiny streams broke off and took the long route, gently wandering around the moss-covered rocks before eventually rejoining the river below.

Akiva's eyes followed the rushing waters. That's when he noticed the rock. At first glance, there was nothing extraordinary about it. Just your everyday riverside rock, dull gray in colour. But there was something very peculiar about this rock. It had a hole through its centre, a hole that went all the way through from top to bottom. Akiva leaned over, studying it. *The hole is perfectly round, smooth and even. What in the world could have caused it?* Akiva was still pondering the mystery when a drop of water fell from an overhanging ledge, plunged straight through the hole in the rock, and broke up into tiny droplets on the moist ground below.

So that's what carved the hole. Dripping water has pierced the rock and penetrated it. Over vast amounts of time, tiny drops of water have accomplished through perseverance what even he strongest knife could not do.

And then realization struck. *If a rock this hard could be broken by something so soft, then anything's possible, if you try hard enough. Anything.*

Akiva raised his eyes to the clear sky, *Please God, he begged, help me. Help me learn your Torah. Help me become a true scholar. May the words of Your Torah penetrate my heart the way water broke through this rock.*

He realized that he was crying.

He sat there for a long time, until the sheep began to call.

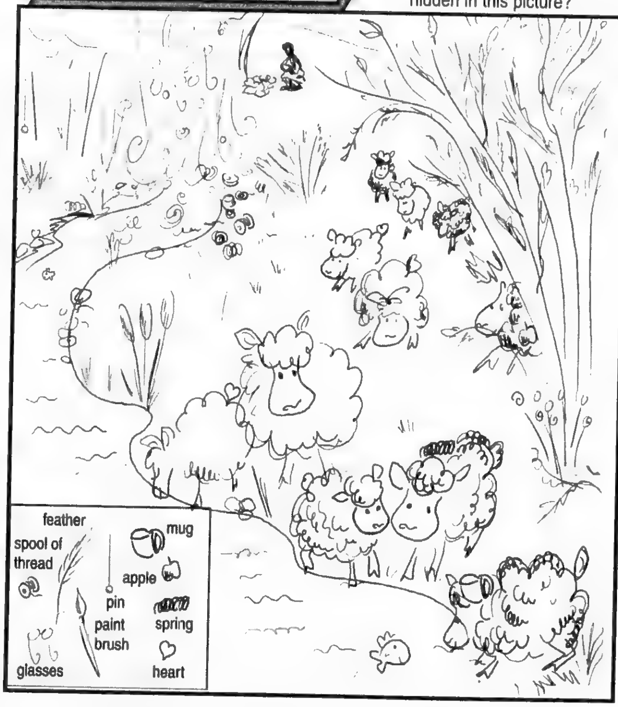
Reluctantly, he stood up.

Today he would have to bring back the sheep, but tomorrow? Tomorrow he would begin to study.

The future shone in all its glory. ❢

HIDDEN PICTURES

Can you find all the objects hidden in this picture?



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CJN Profile

Montreal poet makes a sharp political turn

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

For David Solway, a Montreal poet, teacher, literary critic and editor, it was a defining event that ineluctably changed him.

He was vacationing on the remote Greek island of Tilos when that wrenching day of infamy intruded on his life and reshaped his views.

On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 Arab hijackers, all dispatched by Al Qaeda, crashed commercial airliners into the World Trade Center in Manhattan and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., killing thousands of civilians and highlighting the threat posed by Islamic radicalism.

"It was an axial moment," said Solway, comparing Sept. 11 to a shrill and rude awakening. "It politicized me, pulling me out of my narcissistic preoccupations."

With the trauma still fresh and smouldering in his mind, Solway took early retirement from his job as a professor of English at John Abbott College to research and write a book about its far-ranging implications.

Recently published by Lester, Mason & Begg, and distributed by Random House Canada, *The Big Lie: On Terror, Anti-Semitism and Identity* comes off as a hard-bitten, polemical work by someone whose ideas and assumptions were completely upended and buried in the avalanche of a single, cataclysmic event.

"This book was written against the grain as I came to realize that I had been wrong about nearly everything," he writes with bracing frankness in the preface.

In an interview, Solway said that Sept. 11 forced him to make a 180 degree turn that inalterably transformed him.

From a leftist who had been instinctively anti-American and pro-Palestinian, Solway has morphed into a rightist who fervently supports Israel, identifies with the United States, votes for the Conservative party in Canada and warns of the dangers of resurgent, radicalized Islam.

Once, though, Solway was insulated from the hurly-burly of politics, content to lose himself in the purity of literature.

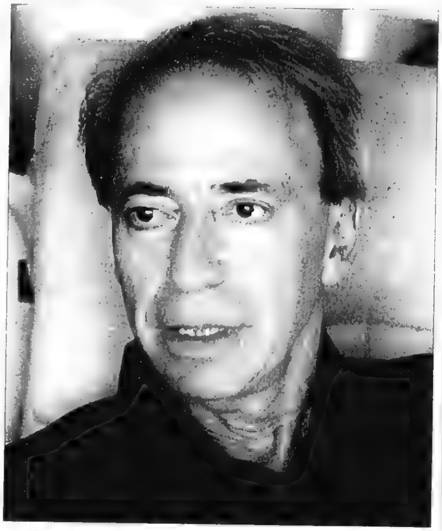
He is the author of more than 40 works of poetry and criticism, ranging from *Modern Marriage* to *Director's Cut*. He has contributed to literary journals such as *The Sewanee Review*. He has been a writer-in-residence at Concordia University. Currently, he is an associate editor of *Books in Canada*.

The shock of Sept. 11 gave Solway pause, pushing him to the belief that the political world is neither unimportant nor irrelevant.

Indeed, the terrorist rampage was a watershed insofar as he was concerned. It led him to the realization that politics is as vital as a poet's imaginative realm, that the "utopian period" after the major wars of 1914 and 1939 had run its course, and that he, as a Jew and a citizen of the West, was now personally at risk.

"I should have known better," he said ruefully in a reference to St. Agathe, the largely French Canadian town in Quebec's Laurentian Mountains where he was raised by a gentle mother and a domineering father, a racketeer and dead ringer for Joseph Stalin who twice tried to kill Solway.

When he was 12 years old, Solway was attacked by his neighbour and supposedly closest friend, a Quebecois who shouted *maudit Juif* as he viciously assaulted him, leaving a permanent scar on his forehead and a sense of betrayal that he still nurses.



David Solway

"I didn't understand why I was targeted," said Solway, a man of deep passions and stream-of-consciousness litanies. "But now I understand. I was targeted because, regardless of who I am, I was a Jew. Being a Jew is forever. You can't deny it. You can't un-Jew yourself."

Before Sept. 11, Solway was only dimly aware of being Jewish, the St. Agathe incident notwithstanding.

He considered himself a "non-Jewish Jew" in the mould of Isaac Deutscher, the Polish-born, British historian, journalist and commentator who penned a Marxist-tinged biography of the Soviet revolutionary Leon Trotsky.

But after Sept. 11, Solway knew that he was duty-bound to re-examine his views mercilessly. Yet, he admitted, "it was very difficult accepting that I had been wrong about so many things."

After a reading binge that enabled him to substantiate and refine his arguments for *The Big Lie*, Solway knew that he had reached a new and higher level of consciousness.

It is encapsulated in a telling paragraph: "We must recognize that terror and anti-Semitism are ultimately related … We must come to terms with the fact that we are under sustained attack and that we will have to respond courageously…"

In this spirit, he came to two conclusions. The 9/11 hijackers were inspired by a theologically inspired form of terrorism that feeds into anti-Semitism. The liberal left ignores the incompatibility between Islam and democracy.

Using Michel Houellebecq's controversial novel, *Platform*, as a platform for a critical consideration of Islam, Solway argues that it is out of step with modernity and lacks mechanisms to resist extremist tendencies.

In addition, he writes, Islam is "intrinsically hostile" to western values and poses "a devastating threat to the civilized world."

Adding that moderate Muslims have done little to try to check extremists, he said, "Islam is not a religion of peace, no matter what people say. It's a religion of war and jihad. Read the Qur'an! It's all there."

In a reference to Samuel Huntington's theory about the civilizational clash between Islam and the West, Solway observed, "The world can't live with theocratic Islam. We're in a state of war with it."

A thrice-married father of four whose wife is a German Catholic, he fears that the West will lose the struggle and that his children and grandchildren will be compelled to live under Sharia law.

His opinions concerning Israel's future are just as apocalyptic.

As he put it, "Israel will never have peace with the Arabs and, like ancient Sparta, will have to remain on a war footing."

He contends that Arab hatred of Israel is rooted in Islamic beliefs and that Palestinian land claims are historically spurious.

Proclaiming that Israel's pre-1967 borders are basically indefensible, he said that Israeli territorial concessions will spawn further turbulence and demands.

Whatever international pressure may be brought to bear, Israel should retain the Golan Heights and the mountain ridges of the West Bank, Solway stated.

He warned that Israel will not be secure after signing hasty peace agreements.

"Peace now is war later," he claimed.

Solway acknowledged that his "conversion" to conservatism has alienated friends and acquaintances who once shared his views.

But being an iconoclast, he hardly cares. "I have my convictions, and I've earned them."

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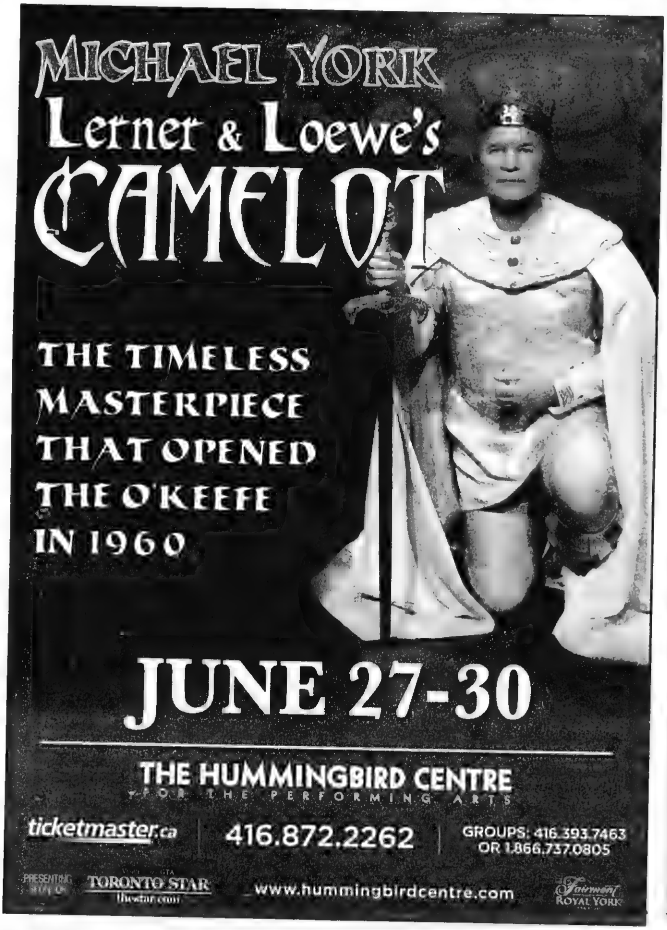

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Arts & Travel

Jews and Palestinian Arab fish for laughs

By **SHELDON KIRSHNER**
Staff Reporter

It was business as usual when the Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour rolled into Toronto last week.

Thousands of kilometres away, the Israeli Air Force struck a Hamas training camp in the Gaza Strip and Israeli troops killed two Hamas militants in a gun battle during a cross-border raid into Gaza. Meanwhile, Hamas fired three Qassam rockets into the western Negev.

But at Roy Thomson Hall in downtown Toronto, the continuing strife in the Mideast seemed surreal as four cheeky standup comedians trolled for laughs.

Three of the jesters were Jewish and one was a Palestinian Christian.

So where was the Muslim?

Never mind.

As the one-night-only show got under way, a sonorous voice boomed: "To Israelis, no home demolitions. To Palestinians, please disarm explosive belts."

'Continuing strife in the Mideast seemed surreal'

The self-deprecating tone having been established, the foursome – Aaron Freeman, Charley Warady, Ray Hanania and Yisrael Campbell – wrung chuckles and laughter from an appreciative audience consisting of about 900 Jews, Christians and Muslims.

"We're cracking jokes for peace," said Freeman, a Chicago-born African- American convert to Judaism. "To prove that we can get along, at least for two hours."

Explaining his conversion, the gravel-voiced Freeman joked, "I really became a Jew to confuse the Nation of Islam."

In a gentle jab at himself and haredim in Israel, he said, "We had to move out because the neighbourhood went black. They didn't mean me."

Warady, an American Jew who has appeared on the Comedy Central network and made aliyah a decade ago, poked fun at Israelis who can't keep dents off their new cars, corruption in high places, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's unpopularity and El Al Airlines.

If you buy a new car in Israel, you might as well take a hammer to it so as to avoid heartache, he advised.

In a biting reference to the scandals that have enveloped Israeli cabinet ministers of late, he said that a criminal record is a job requirement for Israeli pols.

Ripping into El Al, Warady opined that it is the world's sole airline that offers standing room only.

In a dig at Olmert, he said that his current ratings are so miserable that U.S. President George W. Bush looks good by comparison.

Without missing a beat, Warady also skewered Amir Peretz, who lost the leadership of the Labor party in last week's primary, and Shimon Peres, the Kadima party's candidate for Israel's presidency.

Hanania, a former Chicago newspaper columnist whose parents hail from Bethlehem and Jerusalem, framed his black humour within the context of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States.

"Usually, they don't let me into buildings so big," he observed in dead-pan fashion. "Something happens to you, I go to jail for 18 months."

Professing not to be a terrorist, he said, "I pay people to do that."

Saving a few choice words for this country, he said, "Canada isn't violent enough for me."

After tossing off a ribald joke about vibrators and airport security, he confided that the question he is asked most often at airports is: "Are you on my flight?"

In a play on words concerning the abundance of Arab fossil fuel, Hanania remarked, "Just because we have oil doesn't make us crude."

Turning more serious, he disclosed that he and his Jewish wife divided their house on the basis of the partition of Palestine. She allocated 78 per cent for herself and only 22 per cent for him.

In a stinging parting shot, he said that if Israel's security "wall" is a "fence," then the Western Wall should be called the Western Fence.

Campbell, an Irish Italian Catholic from Philadelphia who converted to Judaism in the mid-1990s and now lives as a haredi Jew in Israel, appeared on the stage all in black.

"Is it warm in here, or am I the only one dressed for 17th-century Poland?"

Campbell, whose first name was originally Christopher, talked excitedly about his journey from Reform and Conservative Judaism to strict Orthodoxy and his immigration to Israel.

In cutting asides, he said, "There is a Hebrew word for hell – ulpan," and thanked his lucky stars that he was circumcised in a hospital.

He, too, took a swipe at the culture of corruption among Israeli politicians. As he put it in the course of a monologue, "The entire government is being indicted."

The jokesters were applauded as they wrapped, and as the crowd filed out of the cavernous hall, an old Japanese woman in granny glasses leaned on her cane and told a friend, "This was a totally different experience."

You know what? She was right.

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

YAD VASHEM PUBLISHES HECHT HOLOCAUST MEMOIR

Thomas O. Hecht, a retired Montreal businessman – in the 1970s he replaced his father as president of Continental Pharma Canada – and founder of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, has published a memoir of his family's former life in Bratislava and their struggles in escaping the Nazis and reaching the New World.

Czech Mate, A Life in Progress is Hecht's story as told to **Joe King**, the prodigious and prolific Montreal author and broadcaster. The book features a foreword by Ambassador **Meir Rosenne** and some enviably detailed and coloured genealogical charts, and was published by Yad Vashem Publications of Jerusalem.

At the outbreak of World War II, the Hecht family (father, mother, daughter, son) fled Czechoslovakia, reached France shortly before the German destruction of the French army, then spent months dodging their murderous enemies as they sought an escape route to Canada or America. Ultimately a Slovakian diplomat in Madrid supplied them with the precious documents needed to reach Lisbon, the last Atlantic port in Europe available for escaping refugees.

BARKLEY'S BARK-MITZVAH: If there ever was a doggie love-in, this is it. Woofstock, North America's largest outdoor festival for dogs and their two-footed companions, returns June 9 and 10 to Toronto's historic St. Lawrence Market Neighborhood for its fifth year. Woofstock is a quirky, fun, free and entertaining consumer show. Woofstock is organized by Marlene Cook, responsible also for dressing her dog Barkley (pictured). [www.woofstock.ca]

* * *

Chamber Music: The Koffler School of Music presents the **Koffler Chamber Orchestra**, with music director **Jacques Israelievitch** and percussionist **Michael Israelievitch**, performing works by **Rosalro**, **Villa-Lobos**, **Turina** and others. The performance is generously sponsored by **Leslie Dan** and family. $20-$18. Leah Posluns Theatre, June 11, 8 p.m. 416-636-1880, ext. 228

* * *

Dutch Holocaust Memoir: Michael Englishman was born in Amsterdam and immigrated to Canada after the war. A Toronto-area Holocaust educator, he is the author of *163256: A Memoir of Resistance*, which reflects his experiences as a Jew in wartime Holland. Israel's Books, 870 Eglinton Ave. W., is hosting a book launch, Thursday, June 14, 7 p.m.

* * *

Israeli Singing Sensation: Rita, an Iranian-born Israeli singer of considerable renown and popularity in Israel, performs here this week with a seven-piece band. $100-$55. "Her music combines the Middle Eastern lilt of her Persian heritage with a western orientation and the influence of her American-born husband **Rami Kleinstein**, one of Israel's leading artist-composer-producers." The Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave. Sunday, June 10, 8 p.m. 416-778-8163, website: ticketmaster.ca/artist/702969

* * *

Names in the News: Yaakov (Bones) Kirschen may not be a familiar name, but you've undoubtedly seen his cartoon, "Dry Bones," which runs regularly in this and many other publications. The Brooklyn-born cartoonist made aliyah in 1971 and began drawing the daily cartoon strip in 1973. To promote his strip, Kirschen maintains a blog that recently swept the Jewish and Israeli Blog awards, taking five first places including best Jewish blog of 2007. The blog presents the cartoons and tells the story behind each one. www. drybonesblog.com

* * *

Casting Call: Slice TV, formerly the Life network, is seeking "outgoing Canadian Jewish families who enjoy living the good life" for a new "family challenge" reality TV show. The series will follow families with lively, colourful children as they embark on a fun, back-to-basics adventure or challenge together. To participate, please send an e-mail with a brief description of your family and a recent family photo to casting@cjmercon.com or call 416-504-2588. Selected families will need to be available for a two-day shooting period this summer. To learn more about Slice TV, visit www.slice.ca

* * *

Arts in Brief

- *The Second City That Never Sleeps* is a 24-hour improv comedy marathon in support of the Therapeutic Clown Program at the Hospital for Sick Children. June 10, 12 p.m. until June 11, 12 p.m. 51 Mercer St. at Blue Jays Way. 416-343-0011.
- Singer-folklorist **Shelley Posen** launches a new solo CD, *Menorah: Songs from a Jewish Life*, in Ottawa this week. Posen, **Sol Gunner** and the **Menorah Band** perform a benefit for the Florence Melton School and the Soloway JCC. Library and Archives Canada Auditorium, Monday June 11, 7:30 p.m. www.shelleyposen.com
- Israel Then & Now, A Musical Celebration is a celebration of Israeli music in honour of Israel's 40th anniversary. $25-$36. Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave. Wednesday, June 13, 8 p.m. 416- 221-3433, ext. 354 or www.musicabethtikvah.com

Correction

In the article "Arab-Jewish festival deals with history, coexistence, identity" (*CJN*, May 31), the name of the director of the film *Emile's Girlfriend* was incorrect. The film was, in fact, directed by Nadav Lapid.

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Off-Broadway comedy *Jewtopia* comes to Toronto

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Two young theatre producers are bringing the hit off-Broadway comedy *Jewtopia*, a "goy-meets-girl" love story, to Toronto.

First-time producers Lindsey Steinberg, 24, and Matthew Tishler, 20, are staging the show, about the search for the perfect Jewish girl, at the Diesel Playhouse, where it has its Canadian première on Sept. 23.

Steinberg got the idea to bring Jewtopia to Toronto last December, after watching an episode of *The View* on which Bryan Fogel and Sam Wolfson, the original *Jewtopia* writers, actors and producers, were guests.

"I thought, 'This is so perfect for Toronto, I really need to do something about this,'" said Steinberg, who is a recent York University theatre studies and bachelor of education grad.

Then Steinberg teamed up with Tishler, whom she met four years earlier when she hired him for Acting Out, a children's after-school theatre program she founded.

"We just kept thinking this is so great for Toronto because this is such a funny show, and there just seems to be this buzz around about Jewish humour," she said.

The pair flew to New York to see the show, the story of two single 30-year-olds who want to meet the perfect Jewish girl – but for different reasons.

Adam Lipschitz wants to make his Jewish family happy (but can't seem to land a date), and goy Chris O'Connell wants to marry a Jew so he never has to make another decision in his life.

The two make a pact: Adam will show Chris how to be a good "Jew," if Chris will teach Adam to score the Jewish chick of his parents' dreams.

Wolfson and Fogel opened the show in 2003 in Los Angeles, where it became the longest running comedy in the city's theatre history. Next came more than 1,000 performances in New York and the release of *Jewtopia: The Chosen Book for the Chosen People* in 2006.

Tishler and Steinberg obtained the rights to the show and teamed up with an experienced producer, Michael Rubinoff, to round out the production team.

"When you have people that are new to it, they come at questions and problems from a different direction. You really engage in a dialogue that lets you always find the best answer and the best idea," said Rubinoff.

Lindsey Steinberg and Matthew Tishler are the producers of *Jewtopia*, a "goy-meets-girl" love story.
[Abigail Bimman photo]

He notes that an example of this fresh thinking is the use of the popular social-networking-website-cum-marketing-tool Facebook, which he had never used for a production before. The Jewtopia Toronto Facebook group already has several hundred members.

Spunky and energetic, Tishler and Steinberg admit that first-time producers have a lot to learn. "Every day is different and every day is crazy," said Steinberg.

"But every day is completely enjoyable," Tishler chimed in.

He added that "when you license the rights to a play, you basically get a script and then it's your job from there – from script delivery to opening night."

The duo are in the process of launching their ad campaign and selecting the director and the rest of the creative team. Casting will begin mid-June.

"I think Jewtopia holds up a microscope into our lives an allows us to laugh... and that's the beauty of live theatre, it brings the community together to have a laugh, to reflect and to be entertaining," said Rubinoff.

Steinberg and Tishler are ready to prove to Toronto that *Jewtopia* will achieve that. To them, the new world of commercial theatre sometimes seems like a dream, but one they are very excited about.

"Sometimes I still don't believe it," said Steinberg. "I'm not going to believe we did this until I'm sitting in the theatre opening night."

For tickets to *Jewtopia*, call 1-877-971-5656 or visit www.dieselplayhouse.com. The Jewtopia Toronto website is www.jewtopiatoronto.com.

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Singer/songwriter's CD reflects journey to Orthodoxy

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Dana Mase, an Orthodox Jewish singer living in New York, has been on a long spiritual journey.

Raised in a household where Jewish practice was minimal, Mase struggled to find her own spiritual identity. She rebelled against Judaism and studied at a Christian missionary college before coming full circle and exploring her roots.

"It's been a long process and it's still evolving," said Mase of her journey. "I came to a realization in my life that God was real, and it's very important to build your life around faith and trying to get closer to God."

Mase recently released *The Colours of Black and White*, an 18-track CD compiled from her four previous albums.

Mase described her musical style as "introspective pop."

"The songs are an expression of where I'm at spiritually, and different struggles, and my relationship with HaShem as well as with other people," said Mase.

The Colours of Black and White is full of fresh sounds and varied musical arrangements. Some tracks, such as *Dandelions*, have a distinctive country twang, while others, for example *Thread of Blue*, have a darker resonance and reflect troubled emotions.

The acoustic sound and soft percussion found on many of the CD's songs could classify it as folk, but occasionally harsher guitar chords pull the music into a soft rock or pop genre.

Most of the tracks relate to Mase's spiritual voyage. Songs such as *Seraphin and Seagulls* and *Beautiful Tears* evoke pastoral images, reflective of a youth trying to make sense of the connections and importance of the past to her present and future.

One particularly evocative track is titled *She Never Knew She Never Knew*. While it has nothing to do with Judaism, Mase sings about the tragedy of people who were institutionalized as a result of misdiagnosed physical handicaps and learning disabilities, and who, as a result of institutionalization, became developmentally disabled.

Dana Mase

The subject of the song is a young girl who was placed in an institution because she limped at the age of five. The girl is now 78. Mase met with her to write the song and continues to visit her in the group home where she now lives.

"She's this beautiful spirit," Mase said. "She's a giving, wonderful woman, but this is how she spent her whole life, and unfortunately this [did] happen a lot."

The CD's title reflects Mase's concern about the fact that many people see the Jewish Orthodox world as divided into black and white. Mase believes that within that stereotypical divide there are many colours. She is against the classification and judgment that often stems from the black and white demarcations.

"If it was a perfect world, I'd say OK, we're all Jews, we're all on this journey…maybe one person was born with a father who was a rabbi and one person was born with a father who is a drunk. That wasn't anyone's choice, HaShem decided that. So classifying each other, I think just works against us all," Mase explained.

Mase would like to encourage other women to pursue what they are good at and push the conventional boundaries that society has established.

"Whatever it is, just go for it. HaShem will open doors or not," she said.

Concert captures the history of Israel

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

An eclectic celebration of Israeli music, culture and history will be featured in an upcoming concert at Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

Entitled Israel Then and Now, the multimedia show to jointly honour the milestones of Israel's 60th birthday and 40 years since Jerusalem reunited, will showcase cantors Tibor Kovari and Gideon Zelermyer, as well as Beth Tikvah music director Eyal Bitton and the Kachol Velavan Band.

The musicians will perform a collection of tunes that are redolent of Israel's storied journey through the ages.

Eyal Bitton

"Israel Then and Now is a concert that's meant to capture the history of Israel," relates Bitton, who is not only directing the show, but also playing the guitar in it.

"We selected songs from every decade, from the 1940s, right up to the present day."

In addition to celebrating Israel, Bitton notes the concert is also meant to serve as a cultural link between Israel and the North American Diaspora.

"Knowledge of Israeli music beyond the 1970s is rare amongst the Diaspora community," says Bitton.

"So we felt this concert was a way to bridge the gap between Israel and North America, the old and the new, as well as the classic pieces and the contemporary ones."

To spruce up the performances and make them strike a resounding chord with the largely non-Hebrew speaking audience, a multimedia display of historic and geographic images of Israel will be flashed across a projection screen.

As well, lyrics from the Hebrew songs will be translated into English on screen.

"Our congregants and community are not generally fluent in Hebrew, so we will have the translations to give them a better idea of what the songs are about," notes Kovari, who is the chazzan at Beth Tikvah.

"It's an extra element to the show that will add to the enjoyment of the program."

Kovari, the brainchild of the concert, says it was difficult to develop the musical lineup for the show because there are so many tunes he and Bitton love.

"If we included everything we wanted to, this would have been a three-day concert," quips the Romanian-born tenor.

While intent on building intrigue for the show and not giving away too many tidbits, Kovari did note the program will include classics from Israel's early days, as well as modern songs by famed Israeli musicians, such as Sarit Hadad and Eyal Golan.

Bitton was also tight lipped, but he did share this exciting detail:

"There's one moment when we look at the 1980s when *Les Miserables* was performed in Israel," he says.

"We will sing a song from the Israeli version of the famous musical."

And what does he hope the audience take away from the concert?

"I want them to have a wonderful time, to experience the joy and passion that I have for this music and to be aware of the richness and diversity of Israeli music," intones Bitton.

The show takes place on June 13. For tickets, call 416-221-3433 ext. 354. More information about the concert can be found by visiting www.musicabethtikvah.com.

Brott music festival...

See page 53

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Books & Authors

Middle East topics top the list in former CIA director's memoirs

***At the Center of the Storm, My Years at the CIA* by George Tenet, HarperCollins.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

George Tenet, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1997 to 2004, tells quite a rousing tale in his newly published memoir, *At the Center of the Storm, My Years at the CIA*.

Tenet's stewardship of America's largest espionage organization coincided with a rush of events: the Oslo peace process, the attacks against the United States by Al Qaeda on Sept. 11, 2001 and the American invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

It is fair to say that the Middle East consumed him. As he writes in the preface,"For better or worse, the twin topics of terrorism and Iraq would come to define my seven years as director of Central Intelligence."

The opening chapter of this interesting and hardhitting book turns on Tenet's personal role in developing a security plan that the Palestinian side could present to Israel at the 1998 Wye talks.

It was no easy task dealing with senior Palestinian officials, says Tenet. "It was sometimes hard to know where their official talking points stopped and their personal agendas began."

He claims that the then Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, tried to use the Wye negotiations to free Jonathan Pollard, a U.S. naval analyst who was sentenced to life imprisonment for passing secrets to Israel.

Tenet was opposed to Pollard's release and said so without equivocation. "If you give them Pollard, I'm done," he told John Podesta, then-president Bill Clinton's chief of staff. Arguing that the Wye agreement was as much in Israel's interest as anyone else's, Tenet urged the Clinton administration to "hold fast."

And that is what happened. Pollard remains in jail.

Two years after Wye was signed and sealed, Tenet found himself at the Camp David summit, where the chief negotiators were Ehud Barak, the Israeli prime minister, and Yasser Arafat, the president of the Palestinian Authority.

Tenet had no illusions. "For starters, I knew, absolutely knew, that for the first three or four hours, we initially would have to listen to exactly what we had heard at previous meetings – a litany of grievances."

In Tenet's view, Arafat had no intention, like Barak, of reaching a permanent status accord. Having been bitterly disappointed by Barak's refusal to honour a promise to turn over three Arab villages near Jerusalem, Arafat no longer trusted him. Nevertheless, Arafat went to Camp David, anxious not to insult Clinton, he writes.

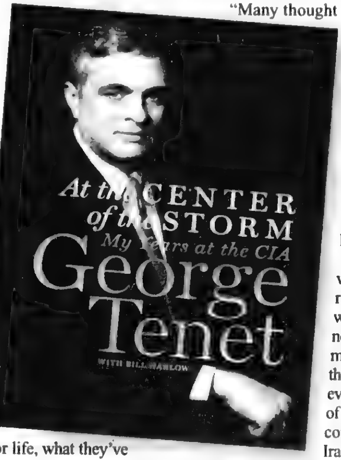
This issue notwithstanding, Tenet characterizes Arafat as a slippery fellow. "Trust with Arafat was always problematic," he observes. "Arafat always wanted one more thing, and one more thing was never enough because what he really wanted was for the peace process to be ever-active and eternally unresolved. Keeping the process going gave Arafat leverage. Walking up to the edge of agreeing and then backing away made him a central player on the world stage. It stamped him as legitimate."

He adds that Arafat did not want it to succeed in any way acceptable either to Israel or the United States.

Tenet, a Greek American, expresses affection and respect for Israel. "The truth is, I love the Israelis – their passion for life, what they've done to stand up for themselves, and what they've done in establishing their state – but I bonded with the Palestinians as well."

Tenet's discussion of Al Qaeda and its charismatic leader, Osama bin Laden, is instructive.

As early as 1993, he explains, the CIA knew that bin Laden was "a significant financial backer" of Islamic terrorist movements. By 1996, the CIA realized that he was not only a financier but a terrorist intent on striking the United States.



Shortly after he assumed office, Tenet issued a warning that Al Qaeda had a presence in more than 60 countries and had forged ties with Sunni extremists around the world. "We told Clinton that bin Ladin was planning between five and 15 attacks..."

Tenet shared his anxiety with the directors of various intelligence agencies, but did not receive the desired co-operation. "Many thought we had become obsessed. Others failed to understand fully how terrorists in their countries might be planning for attacks within ours." In this respect, Pakistan was "singularly unco-operative."

Pulling no punches, Tenet says that the Sept. 11 attacks were merely "the opening shot" of Al Qaeda's campaign. But he points out that, contrary to Bush administration claims, there was no evidence linking Iraq with Al Qaeda.

Suggesting that the United States was determined to unseat the Baathist regime of Saddam Hussein come what may, Tenet says that there was never "a serious debate" within the administration about "the imminence of the Iraqi threat." Nor did Bush officials ever engage in a significant discussion of the possible benefits of the enhanced containment of Iraq. By 2002, war in Iraq was "a forgone conclusion."

Tenet says that Saddam's supposed possession of weapons of mass destruction was not why the United States took action against Iraq.

The real, largely unarticulated reason was that regime change in Baghdad might democratize the Middle East. Quoting U.S. official Paul Wolfowitz, Tenet says that the administration trumpeted Iraq's weapons of mass destruction because it was "the one issue that everyone could agree on."

He admits that he should have scotched the illusion that Iraq had a vast stockpile of such weapons, but confesses that he did not because he was so focused on Al Qaeda.

Tenet was not overly impressed by the speech that the American secretary of state, Colin Powell, delivered before the United Nations which summarized the case against Iraq. "It was a great presentation, but unfortunately the substance didn't hold up. One by one, the various pillars of the speech, particularly on Iraq's biological and chemical weapons programs, began to buckle."

Describing the war in Iraq as a "runaway freight train," Tenet notes that post-war contingency planning was virtually nil. "The war, in short, went well, but peace was hell."

Singling out Washington's mistakes in the occupation of Iraq, he calls the order to de-Baathify Iraqi society as a short-sighted manoeuvre that destroyed what few "institutional foundations" were left in the country. Similarly, the dissolution of the Iraqi army was an error. These moves, combined with the lack of economic opportunity and political direction in the new Iraq, provided fuel for the current insurgency.

In closing, Tenet voices gloom about the future.

"The Middle East is less stable today than at any time in the past quarter century," he says. "The security of Israel is at greater peril than at any time I can remember."

Tenet criticizes the Bush administration for not having seriously tried to rejuvenate the now-defunct Oslo peace process. If it had done so, "we might have mitigated the agitation in the Sunni world and created an environment more conducive to regional peace and security and less hospitable to the forces of Islamic extremism."

In the same vein, Tenet says that the United States failed to capitalize on Arafat's death in 2004 "to create a political process that offered real hope to the Palestinian people."

Looking ahead, Tenet says that the struggle against international terrorism must be the United States' highest priority. "The campaign against terrorism will consume the next generation of Americans the way the Cold War dominated the lives of their parents and grandparents."

A sobering thought.

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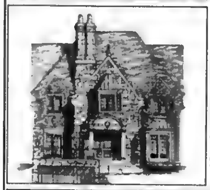

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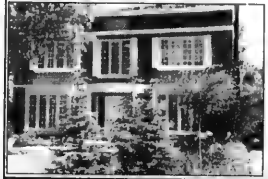

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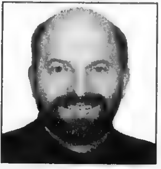

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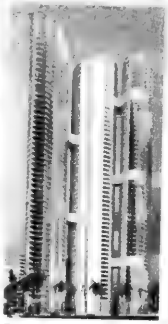

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Brott music festival in Toronto, Hamilton and Muskoka

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

From jazz and pop hits, to opera and symphony classics, a diverse blend of musical genres and performing artists will converge this summer to present the 20th annual Brott Music Festival.

The three-month-long festival showcases a wide range of events, such as intimate recitals and feature concerts, presented in the Hamilton area, Toronto and Muskoka.

A rather unique aspect of the shows is performances by the National Academy Orchestra, which couples aspiring musicians with their experienced mentors.

"This program has a unique alchemy, with mentors and apprentices performing together," says Boris Brott, the founder and artistic director of the festival.

"It brings out the best in both types of performers."

Many of the artists, such as violinist Susanne Yi-Jia Hou and pianist Stewart Goodyear, have played with Brott's guidance since they were children.

Nurturing these musicians and giving them the platform to become professionals is quite meaningful to the esteemed music director.

"I was taught by Leonard Bernstein that if you give back, it's a form of tzedakah and that's what this festival really is," Brott relates.

The two Toronto performances on June 15 and 27 will take place in the CBC's Glenn Gould Studio.

They will feature various Beethoven classics by the Gryphon Trio, as well as Susanne Yi-Jia Hou, Alain Trudel and the National Academy Orchestra.

Another show of note is the L'Chayim! concert on Aug. 7 at the Adas Israel Synagogue in Hamilton, which celebrates 160 years of Jewish music.

"Audiences will be treated to very highly charged, energetic performances," enthuses the 63-year-old.

An internationally renowned conductor, music educator and public speaker, Brott presently conducts the New West Symphony in California, the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada and the McGill Chamber Orchestra in Montreal, which was founded by his parents, Alexander and Lotte, 67 years ago.

"I am continuing my parents' music legacy," says the proud son, noting his music education started very early on in life.

"My mother would set out my teddy bears, put bow ties on them and they would be my audience, while I gave concerts," he says.

In his illustrious career, Brott has guest conducted on five continents including before Pope John Paul II, produced numerous CDs, been awarded the Order of Canada, was made a Knight of Malta and has conducted more than 100 television programs.

The articulate musician is also a professional motivational speaker, giving more than 30 annual presentations that link music with business to Fortune 500 companies around the world.

For more information about the Brott Music Festival, visit www.brottmusic.com or phone 1-888-475-9377.

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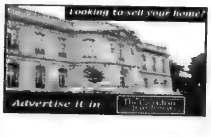

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Concordia sends team to Israeli tournament

By **BEN RABY**
Special to The CJN

TEL AVIV — Concordia University basketball coach John Dore has been to Israel enough times to know it has more to offer than the 6:30 news would have you believe. Dore's job this spring was to convince both his team and the university of just that.

In the end, he was successful, and the Stingers headed to Israel recently to participate in the Friendship Games in Tel Aviv, a one-week round-robin tournament at Tel Aviv University featuring 30 teams from 17 countries, including Russia, China, Serbia, Slovenia, Greece, Turkey and Jordan, as well as the Palestinian Authority. Concordia, which won the Quebec university championship, is the only North American team at the event.

Coaches attending the games were invited to two clinics, one at TAU featuring former NBA all-star Dominique Williams, and the other in Amman, Jordan, with the Hawks' assistant coach Herb Brown. Last week, the Stingers visited Be'er Sheva, where they played in a warm-up tournament.

The plan to bring the Stingers to Israel had been in the works since December, but it was not finalized until everybody got on board.

"It's a challenge to make any international trip, Israel or elsewhere," said Dore, Concordia's coach since 1989. "And to do it in our off-season makes things a little more complicated."

Shortly after the Stingers' season ended in March, Dore played travel agent, finalizing his team's 16-day trip to Israel. The onetime coach of Canada's Maccabiah team had all the contacts in place and invitations to the tournaments.

Still, he knew it would not be easy, given the costs, the security concerns and Concordia's previous dealings with issues related to Israel. The university was the scene of a violent protest in 2002 as anti-Israel ralliers prevented a speaking engagement by former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"A trip like this does not happen overnight, and we would not be here without our players' commitment and the university's full support," Dore said. "The senior administration thought it was a great initiative."

90 per cent of the trip has been funded privately

While the trip was given the go-ahead, interpretations of the university's "full" support varied. The administration encouraged the team to go to Israel and the school's bookstore donated gifts for the trip, but Dore estimates more than 90 per cent of the trip has been funded privately.

"This is the chance of a lifetime for these guys, and we are lucky that people bought into it," he said. "This trip is not just about basketball. It's a chance to see different cultures, and to see another part of the world. Building the sightseeing into the trip was a huge selling point."

In addition to the basketball tournaments, the itinerary includes visits to the Dead Sea, Masada and Jerusalem. The combination of basketball with touring a foreign country made for a trip that was hard to refuse. When Dore asked his team if they were interested, the response was unanimously positive. Some could not believe what they were hearing.

"Where I come from," says Granby, Que. native Sebastien Martin, "all we know about Israel are bombings and wars, because it's the only thing we see on TV. So when I heard about our trip, I remember thinking, 'They have basketball there?' I had no idea."

Martin's family had its concerns, asking why the team could not go to Florida instead. "I had to explain that it's not just war in Israel. If coach [Dore] is bringing us there, it must be OK. I don't see him putting us in danger."

The first-year Stinger admits he was nervous heading in, but it did not take long before feeling at ease. "It's like everybody says, once you're here, you realize it's not dangerous everywhere. In Tel Aviv, I never even thought about [any threats]."

"This is an opportunity that had to be taken advantage of," said Jamal Gallier, a third-year Stinger and a religious Christian. "I'm happy to visit Jerusalem, to see the history after reading about it in the Bible. I'll be representing my family… I'm not sure if they will ever make it here."

Dore said he could sense the excitement building at practice in the week leading up to the trip.

"The guys were preparing themselves, asking about the sites, checking the Internet for weather and trying to figure out how many shekels can buy a meal at McDonald's."

"I didn't know too much about [Israel] before getting here," says team captain Patrick Perrotte. "I worked at a Jewish camp one summer, so I heard a little bit about Tel Aviv and what a great city it is, but to be here now is unbelievable."

Perrotte is the only member of the team who had ever been outside North America, and that could have remained unchanged had the private donations not come in or the Stingers backed away from their pledge to help raise money.

Among the many fundraisers was a Yom Ha'atzmaut basketball tournament and barbecue hosted by Hillel Concordia. The event was advertised primarily through word of mouth and e-mail, but that seemed to work just fine, and $1,300 was raised in one afternoon.

On campus, the trip was met with little reaction. Chances are high that only a small percentage of Concordia's student body was even aware of it. There was little advertising, and by the time the team had gone into full fundraising mode, the winter semester was over and students had left for the summer.

As for the basketball, Dore was invited to bring the Stingers to the Friendship Games by tournament founder and Atlanta Hawks owner Ed Peskowitz. The idea behind the tournament is to promote peace through sport.

Organizers got more than they bargained for in last year's inaugural event. One of the final pairings featured a team from the Palestinian Authority pitted against a team of Israelis, and to the surprise of many cynics, the game was well-played and widely considered a huge success both on and off the court.

"This is all about building bridges," Dore says. "For our guys to come here and see teams from Palestine, Jordan and Israel all playing in the same gym, it doesn't get much better."

For more information on The Friendship Games, visit www.thefriendshipgames.org.

Maccabi Tel Aviv does it again

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — A basket by Jamie Arnold with 2.2 seconds left gave Maccabi Tel Aviv a stunning 80-78 come-from-behind victory over Hapoel Jerusalem in last week's final to earn its 47th Israel elite league basketball championship.

The perennial champion entered the game with far less confidence than previous years, particularly after it barely defeated Galil Elyon in the Final Four semifinal earlier in the week.

On the other hand, Hapoel, coming off an easy semifinal win over Bnei Hasharon, was confident of taking the double after having won the State Cup earlier this season.

And for most of the game, it looked like the Reds would pull it off.

Maccabi opened the game poorly, while Hapoel captain Meir Tapiro scored 10 first-quarter points to help give his team a 24-17 lead at the end of the period.

Maccabi turned things around a bit in the second quarter as Tapiro ran into foul trouble, but Hapoel stayed ahead throughout the period and took a 41-36 lead into the break.

After the intermission, Maccabi came out strong as Will Bynum, Tal Burstein and Nicola Vujcic took over. Maccabi captain Derek Sharp, meanwhile, kept the pressure on Tapiro.

And it was Sharp's drawing a controversial foul against Tapiro on a charge in the fourth quarter that sent Hapoel's captain off to the bench crying with his fifth foul. The critical call enabled the defending champion to stay close till the dramatic finish.

With five seconds remaining in the game and Jerusalem ahead 78-77, Maccabi's Sharon Sasson missed a jump shot, and it looked like the Reds would seal the victory. But Arnold grabbed the rebound and scored, while drawing a foul, to give the defending champion the victory.

Bynum led Maccabi with 18 points, followed by Burstein with 15, Vujcic with 13 and Sasson with 11.

Mario Austin led Jerusalem with 16 points and Horace Jenkins came off the bench to add 13 points.

But Tapiro was the team's true leader, with 14 points and five rebounds, and his absence in the game's final few minutes kept Jerusalem from pulling off the victory.

Tapiro was despondent after the game.

"Apparently it's impossible to win the championship," he said. "I'm storming with emotion now. One official took away the title. If they don't want a league here, they should enjoy it."

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The Senior Side of Life

He was standing at the counter as I was leaving the local bakery. I had not seen him for awhile and wondered what had happened to him. He had been a regular volunteer and I always enjoyed speaking to him when our paths crossed.

"Where have you been? It's wonderful to see you," I greeted him as I filled my coffee cup at the checkout.

"I have been too busy helping my wife at home – she really needs me full time these days. I just don't have time to volunteer right now, even though I love doing it," he explained.

I recall years ago reading in the newspaper about the so called "bed blockers" – mainly frail, elderly people admitted to hospitals, who could not return home and were in acute care beds awaiting transfer to a long-term care facility. I recall a colleague complaining almost resentfully to me about "them" taking up "valuable" beds when all they needed was caretaking.

He was referring to individuals who could have been one of his parents but were certainly someone's loved one. He was referring to people who would have preferred to be in their own home with the necessary support from health-care professionals and their families, or in a long-term care facility appropriately staffed and suitable for them.

There has been a lot of negative media attention paid to the elderly recently – "they will drain the coffers," "soon all of our money will be going to pay for their needs." Almost from the onset of my career in geriatrics, my eldercare colleagues and I have been waging a constant uphill battle to present a humane, economically sound and civilized approach to providing the care and respect that our elders deserve.

So it was with great joy that we saw a study recently published by the HSBC Bank of Canada indicating that the elderly are major contributors to our society and our economy. It was such good news that I kept getting e-mail copies of it from colleagues.

The international study indicated that with the changing face of retirement, many seniors continue to work and fill important roles for which there are few adequately trained replacements. According to the study, working elders in Canada "between the ages of 60 and 79 contribute more than $2.2 billion each year in tax payments on employment income." The study suggested that in the future even more 60- to 79-year-olds and older intend to continue working either full or part time.

The economic benefit in Canada of seniors who volunteer approaches $3.1 billion, calculated by using the minimum wage multiplied by the number of hours served.

I have witnessed the wonderful contributions of volunteers at Baycrest's geriatric heath-care system, the institution with which I have been connected for more than 30 years. They support the clients with care, dedication and energy and are a vital complement to the care provided by employed staff members so that both groups together contribute to the elders' quality of life.

The HSBC Bank study also acknowledged the enormous human and economic contribution provided by seniors in the care of their own contemporary, older and younger family members. The major portion of eldercare is provided by family, including those who themselves are elderly.

For the seniors yourselves – hold your collective heads up high – you are vital to our society with all of your contributions. For those who make public policy – rethink your focus to maximize the opportunities for our elders to contribute to their families and our collective society.

We must always remember the corollary: when there is need for eldercare, it should be provided with dignity and respect, reflecting a truly caring society.

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1 small celery stalk, chopped
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1/4 tsp. ground cumin

4 fresh cilantro sprigs (optional)

Purée ingredients (except cilantro) in blender. Chill 2 hours. Can be made 8 hrs. ahead. Keep refrigerated. Ladle soup into 4 bowls. Garnish with cilantro.

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Explaining Jewish literacy

Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

Recently, I have been writing and talking a great deal about Jewish literacy and identity as the ultimate goals of a good Jewish education. I have been asked what I mean by literacy, since the term is usually used in other contexts.

From a pluralist point of view, it's obvious that Jewish literacy will mean different things to different kinds of Jews. Indeed, there are elements of Jewish knowledge in the Liberal Jewish world that would be considered anti-knowledge in certain Orthodox circles, and beliefs that are considered fact in traditional circles that would be ridiculed in other groups.

That said, I would rather deal with process and form than struggle with the different contents. In both general studies and Jewish subjects, there are two important notions that can radically change the way we approach subject content and student mastery of it. They are both the work of the famous Harvard University psychologist Jerome Bruner, as described in two of his books, *The Process of Education* and *On Knowing*. One is "structure," the other is "discovery." In the short space of such a column, I can only briefly describe what Bruner meant by structure. (Discovery will have to wait!)

Bruner asserts that the structure of a given discipline should shape the way we study that subject. This means that in the study of Bible or Talmud, for example, while the actual content of a specific parshah or sugyah is important, the structure of such study and its internal reasoning are critical to further study and should mould the lesson in a certain way. Rashi's methodology for discerning pshat and drash are as important as any given commentary by him.

In the words of Bruner: "The first object of any act of learning, over and beyond the pleasure it may give, is that it should serve us in the future. Learning should… allow us to go further more easily."

A proper understanding of structure in the learning process can help our students achieve a more profound Jewish literacy in their adulthood, no matter what content we prefer.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Julius Ciss: a decisive Jew

URBAN WRITER

Julius Ciss is an old friend. I met him close to 20 years ago. From the outset, this jovial Jew made me laugh. Julius is a child of Holocaust survivors, so having an abundance of joy in his heart, being such a cheerful man, is very special.

Julius is also a very tall person, somewhat of an anomaly among his Jewish contemporaries. He stands above a crowd and can be heard at the other end of a room with his booming voice.

The thing I admire mostly about Julius, however, more than his drive and ability to light up a room, is his courage. Julius is indeed a brave man.

More than 30 years ago, he made a choice, one that was painful to those he loved, but he made it anyway, with the belief that he be true to himself.

For five years Julius was a member of a "Hebrew-Christian" community and adhered to their basic dogma, including a belief in Jesus as the messiah.

On the face of it, many people would be critical of his decision, because of our mistrust of Christianity and the tools used by Hebrew-Christians to convert Jews to their ways. But I am speaking of Julius's ability to make major changes in his life. He did so then, and he continues to do so today.

Julius is a decisive human being.

Ultimately, Julius left that lifestyle, according to the website of Jews for Judaism, because "he discovered the numerous inconsistencies in Christian belief."

Soon afterward, he did what few others have done. Angered by the devious conversion methods of Jews for Jesus and similar missionary organizations, Julius launched the Toronto branch of Jews for Judaism.

This move was not a simple one, as Julius was considered to be one of the finest illustrators in Canada, and his shift in career priorities definitely limited his ability to enhance his career as a commercial artist and a highly respected teacher at the Ontario College of Art and Design. But he made the move, and he did so with great enthusiasm.

For more than 18 years, Julius has painstakingly built the organization with the help of colleagues and volunteers. He speaks regularly in Canada, the United States and Israel, and he has produced counter-missionary literature and tapes and been engaged in one-on-one counselling with Hebrew Christians in an attempt to bring them back into the fold. If you were to shmooze with Julius, you would discover that he has saved many a soul over the years and has played a key role as a Jewish leader.

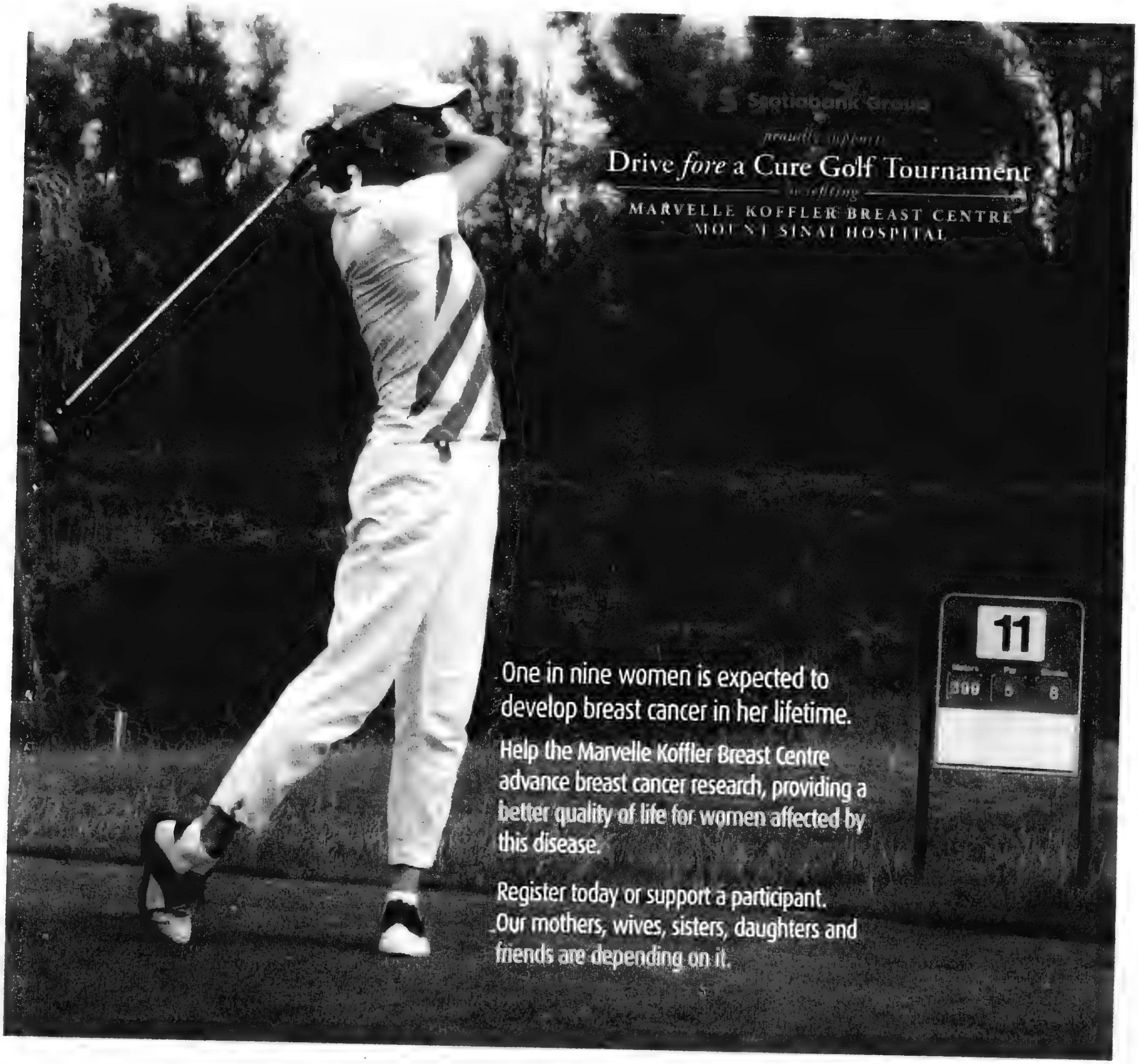
Julius is a good person. Throughout the years, he has faced many difficult challenges including the death of his mother and a brother. They were hard times, to say the least, but Julius seemed to manage life's hardships and challenges with grace and strength. I recall watching him and thinking what an inspiration he was, somebody I hope I can emulate when my time comes to deal with the difficulties of life.

Julius is a dedicated husband. His wife, Claire is equally committed to strengthening of the Jewish community. He is a father to Miriam, a very bright, inquisitive and lovely girl. He also introduced me to my dear friend and media partner, Marty Galin.

Life is complex and requires us to be valiant and decisive on a daily basis. This is not simple, but Julius often makes it seem so.

As the founding director of Jews for Judaism, a world class graphic artist, a loyal and loving father and husband, and a very good friend, and as a hilarious human being, Julius does indeed remind us that decent men are in our midst – people who pursue life with a vengeance and a desire to make our world shine. Julius is a decisive Jew and a very good man.

Comment on my blog avrumrosensweigideas.blogspot.com.



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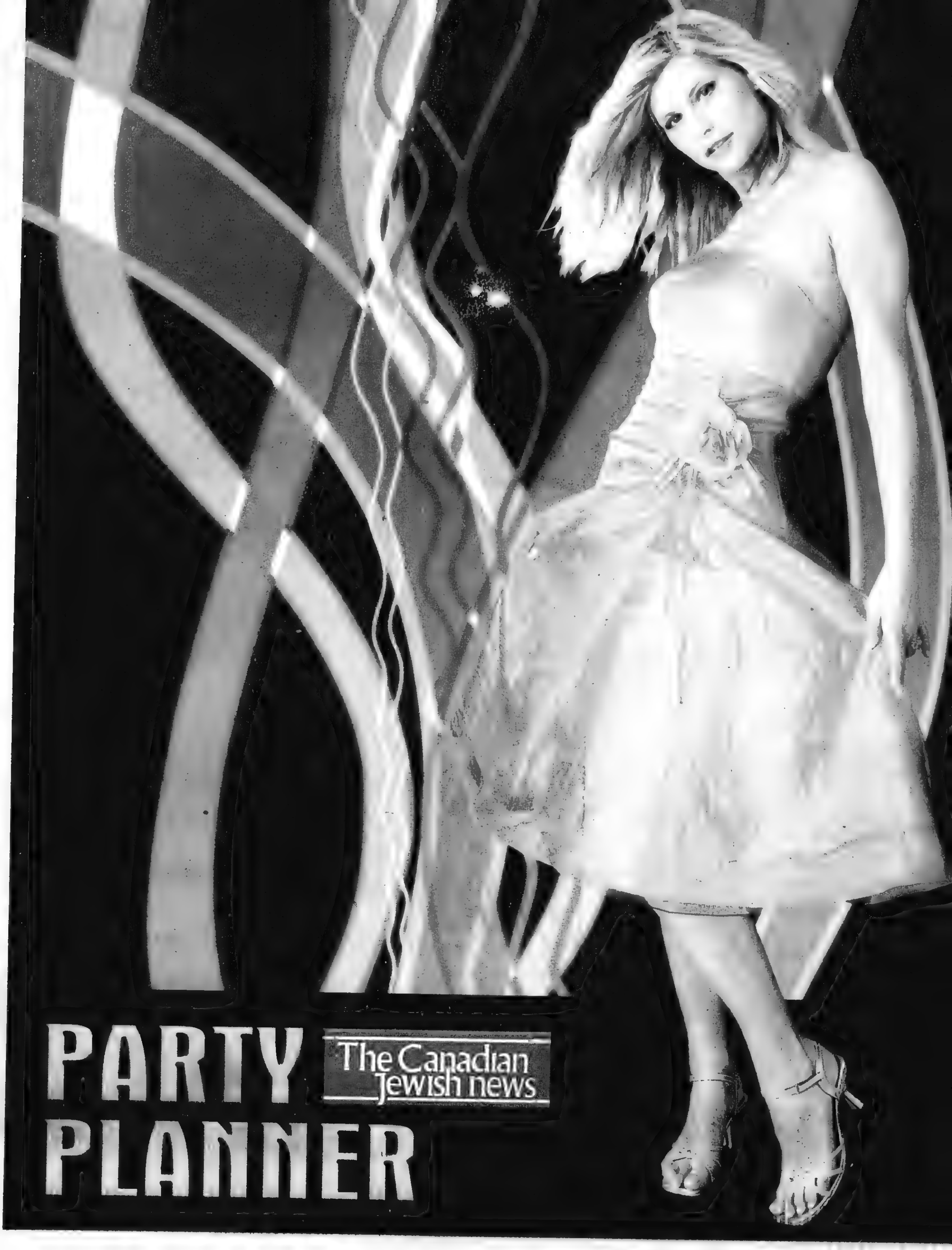

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Shopping made easy for men of all ages

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

For most men, shopping for clothing is bad enough – shopping for special occasion clothing is a nightmare. Either the waist is too tight, the jacket is too long or the tie doesn't match. Thankfully, if you know where to shop, these problems simply do not exist.

Le Club Menswear (416-488-7848) caters to men of all ages, from boys to adults. Located at 424 Eglinton Ave. W. just west of Avenue Road, the boutique carries carefully selected clothing for casual, business, dress and formal occasions.

Le Club offers specialized wardrobe consultation services.

"We offer a one-stop shopping experience for all three generations," says owner Nadia Serraf.

In addition, Le Club offers specialized wardrobe consultation services. The staff can help clean up your existing attire as well as add to it, creating a more versatile and interesting wardrobe. "We go out of our way to create a unique and personal image," Serraf says.

Perfect for unifying a business wardrobe or simplifying vacation packing, Le Club's consultation services can be customized for special occasions such as weddings and bar mitzvahs.

"We can dress an entire wedding party to compliment each other without having any two men wearing the same thing," Serraf says.

Carrying everything from lightweight polos and linen pants to leather outerwear, Serraf cites the return to a lean look as one of the biggest fashion trends in the store. Stripes, stripes and more stripes, in colours such as aqua and burnt orange, will make this look stand out from the rest. For more information about Le Club, visit www.leclubmenswear.com.

Another option for men of all ages is Crawford Boys (416-782- 8137). Located at 508-A Lawrence Ave. W., in Lawrence Plaza, Crawford is primarily known for its expertise in special occasion boyswear. But in response to popular demand, Crawford has also introduced men's suits and casualwear this year.

"We have had so many requests from customers who want to continue shopping with us," says Crawford owner Paul Spiar. "This way, not only can the older boys shop with us, but their father can shop with us [as] well."

With this new addition, Crawford can cater to even more men's sizes than before. Husky boys' sizes 10-20 can be combined with men's sizes to achieve a perfect fit. "Because we specialize in this area, we can develop the concept and stock the clothes extremely quickly," Spiar says.

Among the strongest looks in the store, he says, a more relaxed and unstructured silhouette is the most prominent at the moment. "This is a new direction in menswear continuing into fall and we're hopping on it." Spiar says.

New Arrivals

Le Club owner Nadia Serraf, left, and her assistant Rita Sloan.

This means that a dress shirt may be combined with casual clothing such as jeans. "The dress shirt has really got to stand up on its own these days, and we are trying to carry as many of them as possible. I truly do not think anyone carries more shirts than us," Spiar says with a laugh.

Patterned and striped shirts in bright colours like fuchsia and orange are absolutely sizzling at the moment. For fall, Spiar predicts that corduroy will be the dominant look for outerwear.

"Above all, the most important asset to the store is the staff," says Spiar. "We all understand that the most important person in the store is the person who walks through the front door."

For more information about Crawford Boys, visit www.crawfordboys.com.

With stores like Le Club Menswear and Crawford Boys, the shopping landscape for both boys and men is looking good in Toronto.

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Matthew Mendelsohn's, Bar Mitzvah Oct. 2006
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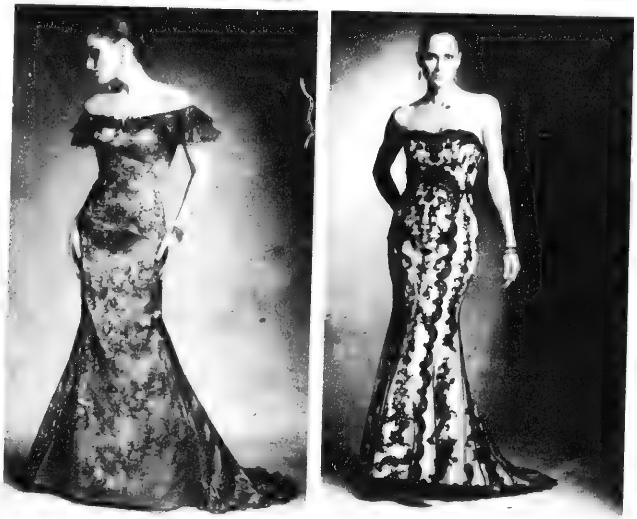
ABC's of Dress shopping



Edith's Fashions carries a large selection of ladies' formalwear.

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

As the summer of simchahs quickly approaches, the most important thought that comes to mind (okay, perhaps only for the ladies) is "what am I going to wear!" To help in your search for the perfect outfit, we've scouted two of the best boutiques in the city.

With one of the largest selection of ladies' formalwear and gowns in the country, Edith's Fashions (416-633-4222) has built up quite a reputation in its 25 years of business. Located at 245 Wilmington Ave., the two-floor, 8,000-square-foot space has all the flavour of a downtown boutique with the accessibility of an uptown location.

"We like to make our customers feel like a million dollars," says owner Joe Nourani. "You'd never be able to carry such a large range of quality clothes at a downtown address."

At Edith's, you will be greeted with a friendly and expert salespeople who truly understand formalwear. "Most importantly, they do not work on commission, so when they come to serve you, they are only interested in helping you look your best," says Nourani.

Edith's Fashions has something for everyone. Not only does the boutique carry unique and fashionable gowns and suiting but a small but carefully chosen bridal collection as well.

"Most likely, when someone comes into the store to look for a dress, they leave with one or two outfits," says Nourani. Among the hottest trends in the store at the moment, Nourani cites a return to glamorous gowns – especially in sage green and coffee brown. "We say that brown is the new black," he says.

Perhaps most importantly, the clothing at Edith's can be altered to fit every size. "A gown never fits 100 per cent off the rack, and once you've spent the money, it should be perfect." says Nourani.

"We have six expert seamstresses on the premises that are available to tailor the dress to your body." To allow for a more modest look, sleeves can also be added and hems can be extended.

"People fly in from all over the country for special occasions, and we can fit, alter and have the dress ready for pick up within one day," says Nourani.

Another fabulous place to search for a special occasion outfit is Madeline's (416-789-4890). Located at 1841 Avenue Rd., Madeline's carries a wide range of ladies' eveningwear, from cocktail dresses to custom-made bridal gowns. While the eveningwear is imported from France, Spain, Italy and New York, including designer names such as Bagley and Mishka and Carmen Marc Valvo, the collection of bridal dresses is specially designed by Madeline herself.

"The bridal gowns are like my babies," Madeline Cerra says, laughing. "The dresses are all hand-beaded, and I use only the best silks and laces."

Carrying ready-to-wear dresses in sizes 2 to 18 and 26 by special order, Madeline's can adapt them to fit any body type.

As well, Cerra takes pride in the superb quality of the store's alterations and custom work. "Our seamstresses are absolutely amazing," she says. Madeline's also carries a selection of jewelry chosen to perfectly compliment the clothes.

Opened more than three years ago by the husband and wife team of Nick and Madeline Cerra, the store had always been the couple's dream. "My husband has always been an expert in the fashion business, and I am a graduate of fashion design from the International Academy of Design," says Cerra. "We are really passionate about what we do, so combining our interests into opening the store was made to be."

The atmosphere at Madeline's is just the kind that makes you comfortable enough to shop, shop, shop! "We really love dressing the customer," says Cerra. "The environment in the store reflects that."

The perfect dress or outfit for a special occasion can prove to be disaster if you aren't careful where you shop. Lost in a sea of silk, lace and tulle, you might just get stuck in a lime green bustier. With the help of Edith's Fashions and Madeline's, you'll look simply fantastic.

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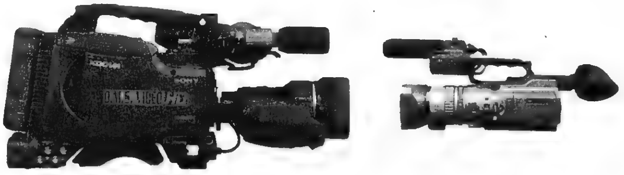

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Park Hyatt has kosher kitchen and on-site mashgiach

By DEBORAH STERESCU
Special to The CJN

The Park Hyatt hotel in Toronto is fully equipped for the Jewish community of Toronto, with a kosher kitchen and an on-site mashgiach.

The kosher kitchen is capable of creating any menu style that is desired, as the kitchen can customize any menu. Some popular menu items include the oven-poached halibut and the roast beef ribeye.

Nick Pratpas, the director of catering at the Park Hyatt (416-925-1234) , says, "People rave about our attention to detail… personal touches bring everyone back."

It is this "personal" aspect that will satisfy the customers' needs, whether it is in the kitchen or on the dance floor. Lighting, for example, can be adjusted to any temperature or colour, according to the customer's wishes.

The Roof Salon, the Park Hyatt's most popular room, has a wrap-around balcony that overlooks breathtaking views of the city and is able to hold 130 people comfortably on the dance floor. The slightly larger space available, the Queen's Park Ballroom, holds from 270 to 280 people.

The Park Hyatt typically does not charge for the space when food and beverage are included, which is a bonus when considering a place to throw your party.

Couples who hold their wedding receptions at the Park Hyatt receive many gifts, including two-night complimentary accommodation for their anniversary at any Park Hyatt worldwide and accommodation overnight on the day of the wedding in an upgraded suite. Free his/her body massage and spa services are provided.

A room at the Park Hyatt Hotel.

The Park Hyatt's on-site wedding specialists will help plan every detail from the rehearsal dinner and the Sunday morning brunch to the ceremony of your dreams, flowers and music.

If the bride and groom are looking to be pampered, Park Hyatt will ensure they are.

Summer months are the busiest season for the Park Hyatt, so booking time can range anywhere from two days to two years in advance, depending on availability.

For more detailed information or to browse the beautiful pictures, visit www.parkhyatttoronto.com.

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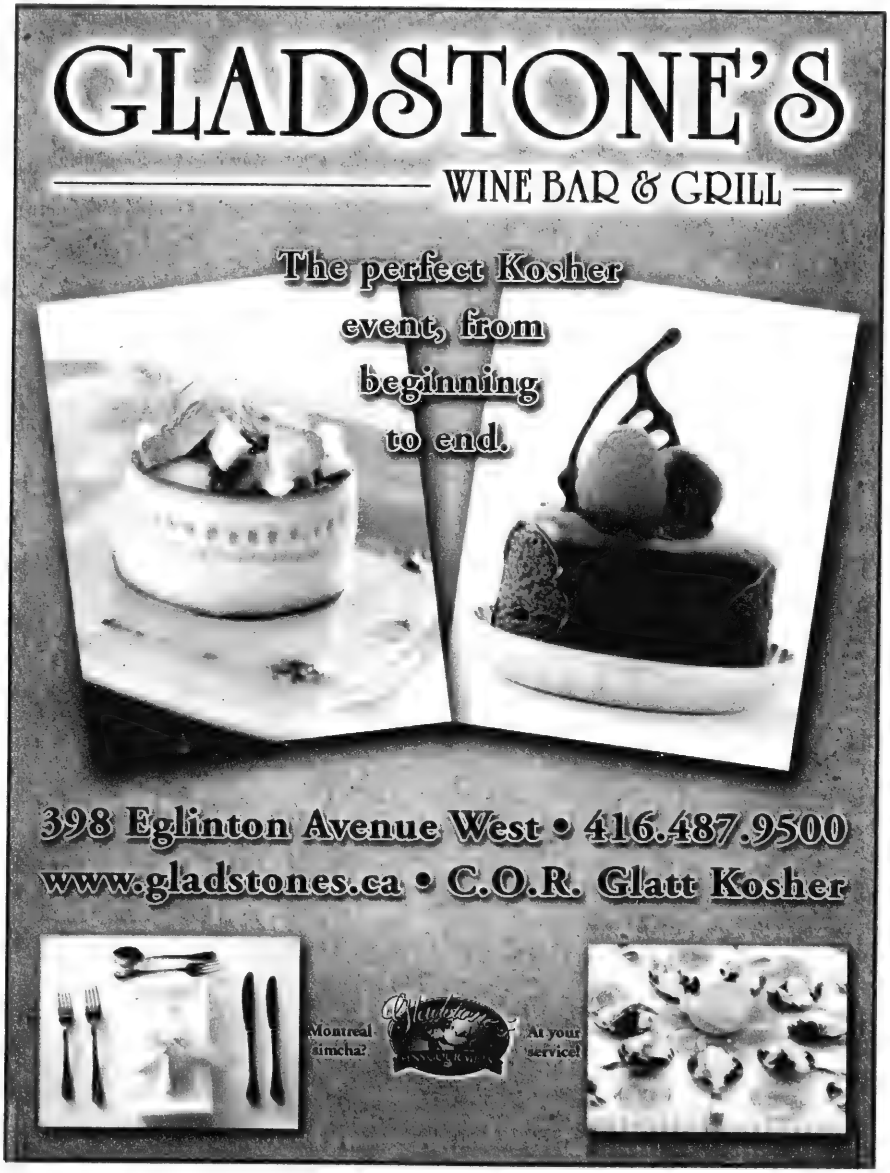
The Roof Salon is the Park Hyatt's most popular room.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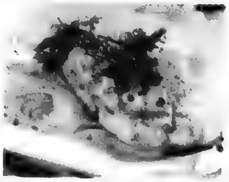
"Our wedding and special occasion clients really appreciate that Hilton Suites provides everything under one roof," comments General Manager Daniel Mathew. "Rehearsal dinner; Welcome reception; Ceremony; Out-of-town guest bedrooms; Send-off breakfast – whatever our guests are looking for – Hilton Suites delivers, all under one roof. There's even our world-class Holtz Spa for luxurious pre-ceremony spa treatments and our Salon for beautiful hair and make up design."

"Hilton Suites is proud to be part of the Simcha that launches a Jewish couple's future together," says Jennifer Chiappetta, Director of Sales and Marketing. "And, our team of professional planners are always available to make certain that no detail, no matter how small, is overlooked."

Along with an incredibly attentive staff, delivering impeccable service, Hilton Suites is renowned as a venue for discerning guests. Home to Community and Charity Galas, Hollywood movie productions, and more weddings, sweet sixteens and bar and bat mitzvahs than they can count, Hilton Suites treats every detail of every event with uncompromising attention.



"No two affairs are alike," states Siena Pang, Director of Catering & Conference Services. "Every event held at Hilton Suites is created to meet, and exceed our guests' expectations. From elaborate ballroom décor to breathtaking photo opportunities, and exceptional cuisine to peaceful and relaxing spacious 2 or 3 room guest suites – Hilton Suites creates a one-of-a-kind experience each and every time."

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For more information please contact Siena Pang, Director of Catering & Conference Services at 905-415-7602 or by e-mail at siena.pang@markhamsuites.com

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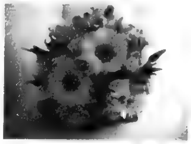
Flowers bring more than just colour to an event

By JENNA ROSMAN
Special to The CJN

Floral designs for a simchah such as a wedding or a bar or bat mitzvah are as unique as the clients are, say two of Toronto's veteran florists.



"I want to make sure that everyone has [left a] stamp of who they are [for their event]… that's what makes [every event] unique," said Fran Sackler of Fran Sackler Floral Designs. "[The looks are] not from a book. I don't have anyone come here and have a look through magazines and books to find something they want."

Speaking of weddings, Sackler, who was trained in London's West End in the early 1960s, always schedules a consultation with the prospective client that lasts from one to three hours.

"We sit down and go through everything that the bride likes, [as well as] her dislikes, her colours. We discuss what the gown is like – all these little important things," she said.

"[We do this, so as not to] go with something that will totally clash with what [the bride] is wearing."

Sackler added that it's important to go over such details thoroughly because not all colours go well together and because it's critical that the flowers compliment the bride.

An industry veteran, Sackler was the florist for William Ashley China in Toronto from 1994 until 2004 and does flower arrangements for synagogues such as Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto.

She describes her style as "European traditional" or "English garden, pretty and elegant," and she favours traditional flowers, her favourite being orchids as well as freesias.

"[Freesias] are beautiful, old and traditional. They smell so beautiful – it has this light peppery scent. It lasts about two weeks," she said. "It [encompasses] everything that I love most about a flower: it's a simple bit of elegance with a classic scent."

Karen Baker, of Designs by Karen Baker has been working her magic with flowers and room décor for 20 years.

She decorated the stage for singer Barbara Streisand's recent concert in Toronto and has also worked for other celebrities, including singers Mariah Carey and Christina Aguilera, and Toronto Maple Leafs captain Mats Sundin.

"I have done a lot of private parties and interesting events over the years. I've tried to keep up with the designs – what is contemporary and what people are looking for," Baker said.

"My style would be [described as] 'creative.' It would be what is happening now."

The current trend, she said, is a "minimalist look," which she describes as a "combination of the western look and the eastern look, and also what suits the client's needs and what fits the design of the venue."

For a romantic look, Baker suggests roses, stocks and lisianthus. For a more contemporary look, Baker likes antheriums and calla lilies, together with unusually shaped branches, for example.

When doing bar or bat mitzvah parties, Baker encourages the direct involvement of the child.

"Especially the girls. They have an idea of what they want to do, so I prefer, sort of like the bride, that they come prepared with their colours and [idea of what they want] and then I'll talk to them," she said. "I think that… if [the kids] choose to get involved, then they really get a rush out of it when they go to their own party."

Baker said the trick with pulling a look together is colour.

"[What is important is] how you display your colour and how you balance your room with colour. It doesn't matter what colour it is, it's how it's worked in the room," she said. "I think no matter how you do it, the whole room falls into place."

For more information on Fran Sackler Floral Designs, visit the website at www.fsflorals.com or call Sackler at 905-884-5848. To get in touch with Karen Baker of Designs by Karen Baker, call 905-886-8100 or visit www.designsbykarenbaker.com.

Another florist advertising in this supplement is An Affair to Remember.

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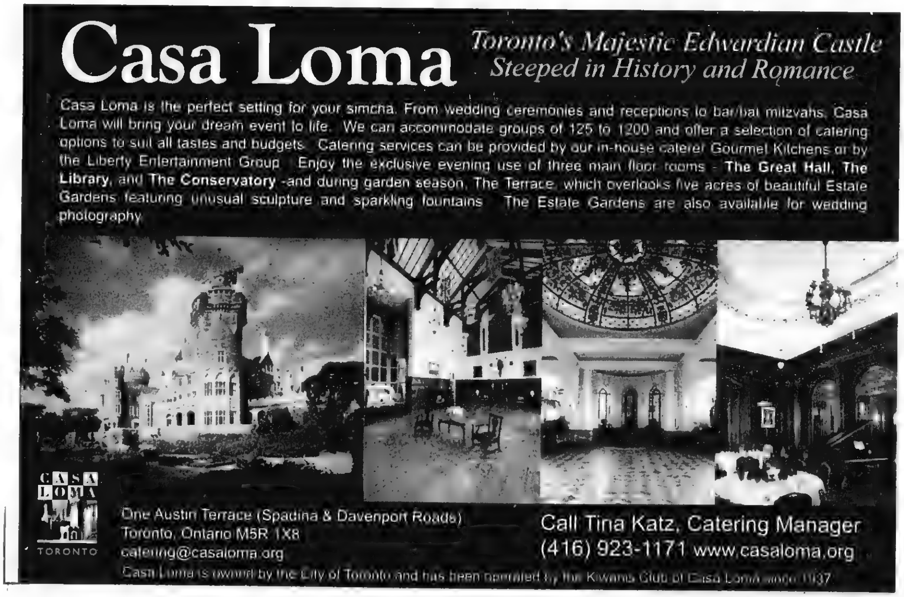

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Décor gives your party a **unique look and feel**

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When guests come to your party, you want them to revel in the ambience.

Having creative décor is one of the best ways to make that happen.

From the centrepieces and gift baskets to memento books and party favour giveaways, there are many pieces to the décor puzzle, all of which serve to give your party a unique look and feel.

Shelley Herzog and Reesa Nussbaum.

With themed parties becoming especially trendy, décor specialists look to customize their products for whatever it is the client wants.

"Rather than doing cookie cutter [décor], we personalize it," says Tammy Heisel of Artistic Creations, a party planning and decorating company that's been in business for 14 years.

"With bar or bat mitzvahs, it's really all about what the kid's likes or interests are, and we try to emphasize that."

For instance, if a bar or bar mitzvah kid is particularly interested in a certain sport or has a favourite hobby, décor experts will display that theme in various creative ways.

"For a recent bat mitzvah with a shopping theme, instead of doing place cards, everyone is getting a little shopping bag with different kinds of items inside," notes Shelley Herzog of Party Hat.

"And we'll use all kinds of props, such as store names all over the walls and lamp posts everywhere, so it looks like you're in the mall."

Both Herzog and Heisel encourage people to rely on word of mouth to find a décor vendor, and they also say that the best specialists are those who work closely with clients.

"I like to meet with the clients as much as possible and have the child involved," says Heisel.

"If they really like hockey, but don't know what to do with it in terms of a theme, I will do up a drawing for them that gives an idea of what the room would look like. I also invite them to come to other parties to see things I've done."

Herzog says she will frequently provide three or four samples to help clients choose their décor styles and theme.

"Customer service is key," she says.

"When you're choosing a vendor, you have to find one who is going to listen to you and [follows the dictum that] the customer is always right."

Just as parties tend to be held during specific seasons, décor supplies are also more readily available at certain times of the year, so Herzog encourages clients to book about six months in advance.

To learn more about Artistic Creations, visit www.tammyswebsite.ca, or call 905-787-8686.

To find out more about Party Hat, go to www.partyhat.ca or call 905-370-2109.

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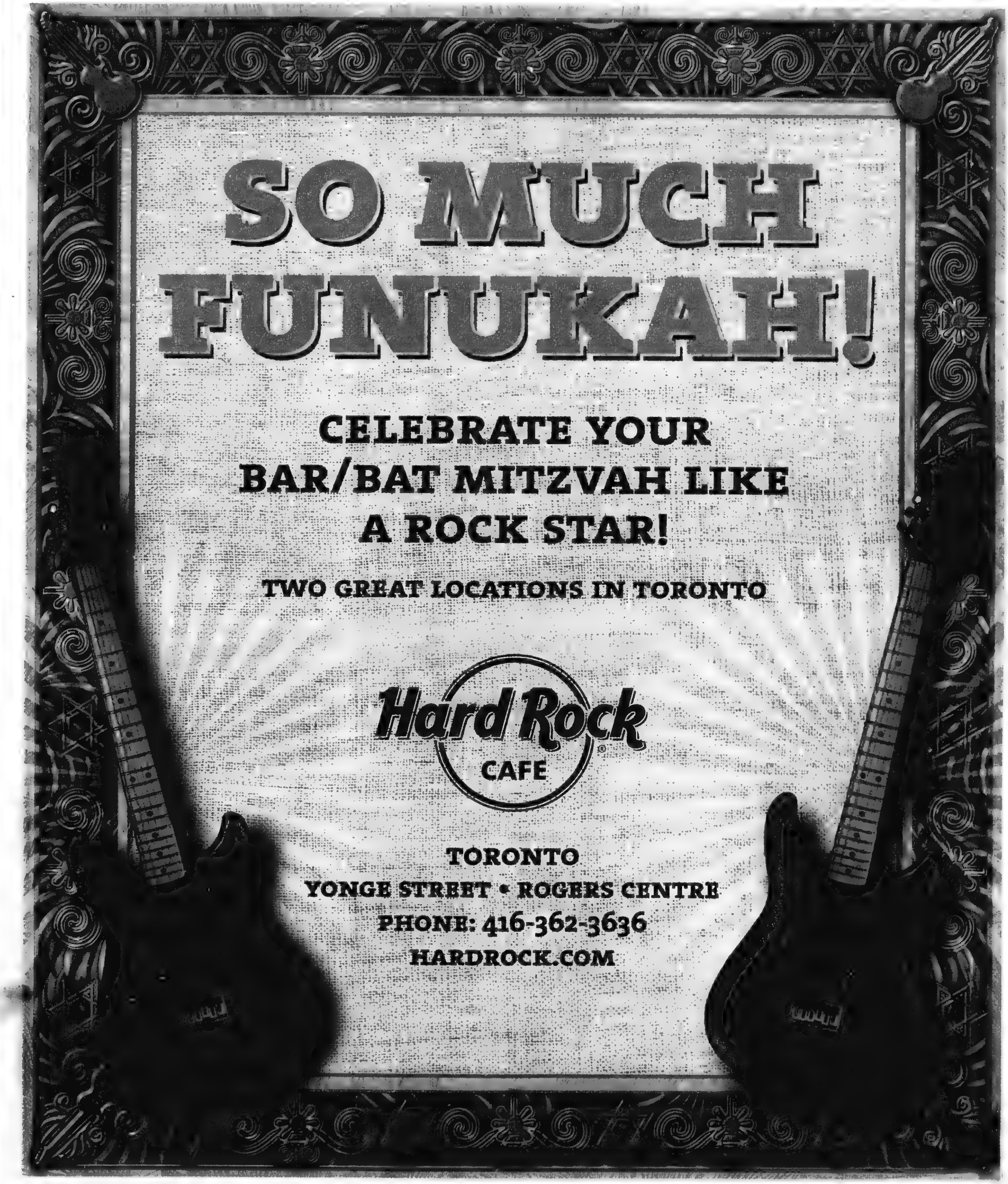

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Bellvue Manor Hall will offer country elegance

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Imagine holding a simchah at a grand country estate with a stone entrance way, French doors and a great hall with intricate mouldings, chandeliers and a 30-foot ceiling.

This country elegance is the ambiance you'll find at Bellvue Manor (905-851-2325), a new banquet hall slated to open in September.

Located at 8083 Jane St., two lights north of Highway 7, Bellvue Manor boasts a grand ballroom that can accommodate up to 1,000 people for dinner and dancing. The room can also be divided into three separate rooms for parties for up to 300 to 350 people, says owner Nancy Marra.

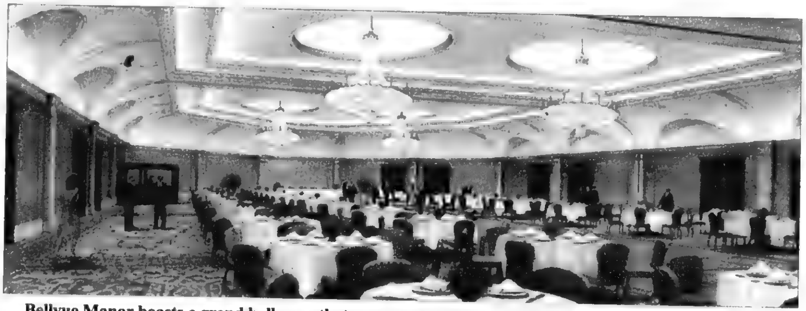
She and her husband Robert have been in the banquet business for 22 years and have catered to the Jewish community at The Royalton, their banquet facility on Weston Road north of Highway 7.

"Bellvue Manor is our latest venture," she says.

She urges people looking for an elegant ballroom with kosher facilities and "state-of-the-art lighting and sound" to visit the website at www.bellvuemanor.com

For parties of 150 to 200 people, Marra recommends a smaller room at Bellvue Manor called The Library. "It has its own entrance, wood panelling and a fireplace. It offers a cozier and more intimate setting."

She notes that she and her husband will be able to offer their Jewish clients a more extensive kosher menu, because the Bellvue Manor will be equipped with a kosher kitchen. The kosher caterer will be Tiara Culinary Creations.



Bellvue Manor boasts a grand ballroom that can accommodate up to 1,000 people for dinner and dancing.

Aside from the elegant surroundings, food has always been a big draw for people using the Royalton, says Marra, noting that its executive chef, Vince Bava, will be working at Bellvue manor.

"He specializes in Italian, but he's known for international cuisine. He trained in California. He's known for his prime rib, but his chicken and salmon are amazing too," she says.

"His sauces are unbelievable, and that's what makes the meal, because the average person doesn't have the training in sauce-making. Vince cooks in the kosher kitchen preparing prime rib or his other beef specialties. The mashgiach is always present making sure they follow every dietary law."

Generally, people opt for a four- or five-course meal that usually includes soup, salad, pasta – a house specialty – and sometimes a fish course, Marra says.

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"We have a full menu for any occasion. We customize the menu to the function," she adds.

"We can also accommodate vegetarian and people with special dietary needs. There are celiacs, who can't eat wheat, and people are lactose intolerant. We try to accommodate as best we can."

Before the meal guests can enjoy a variety or food stations or the antipasto bar, Marra says.

"We're known for the antipasto bar, appetizer items like grilled vegetables and smoked salmon served like a buffet instead of hors d'oeuvres."

She describes her food stations as "very innovative." Popular stations include cut corn beef stations and mashed potato stations with the potatoes served with toppings in martini glasses

Their martini bars are always a big hit, Marra says. "We can customize a martini bar for you. We do the classics like vodka martinis, or cosmopolitans or a chocolate martini. We do all the different fruits as martinis. Watermelon is nice in the summer time."

All meals include the cost of alcohol and a sweet table, she says. "We do lavish sweet tables with luscious deserts and lots of fresh fruit. We have chocolate fountains and our newest dessert, a molten chocolate lava cake, is incredible."

Aside from Old World elegance and great food, Bellvue Manor provides personalized attention from people with years of hospitality service experience, says Marra.

"My husband and I are a tag team. We offer a real personal touch. Our maitre d' has been with us for many years. We keep it all personal by being present at all our events.

"That's the fulfilling part of our work, when all the planning is over and we get to see people enjoying themselves. When the bride is dancing with her father, that's always a soft spot for my husband.

"After the wedding when everything has turned out wonderfully, it is so nice to see how happy people are, especially the parents. This is a once-in-a-lifetime event for our clients. and we make sure the affair is very special."

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Kosher simchahs in an upscale setting at Gladstone's

By **JENNIFER M. MACLEOD**

Special to The CJN

Gino Falcitelli may not see himself as the manager of a kosher restaurant because for years, he wasn't. But just as he did back then, he offers "fine dining cuisine, with the best service, best ambience, best quality of food" – only now in a strictly kosher setting.

During Falcitelli's more than two years with Gladstone's Wine Bar and Grill (398 Eglinton Ave. W., 416-487-9500, www.gladstones.ca), the restaurant has become known as a showpiece of the local community. Customers not only return, but come back with non-Jewish friends, clients and colleagues to show what a fine dining experience ought to be.

Gladstone's distinctive touch starts with the meat. "People say, 'I don't understand; I've been to a place that gets the same meat, and it tastes completely different.'"

That's because, whether it's for a simchah or an individual diner's meal, the meat is carefully aged for about three weeks in a special cooler. Falcitelli says carrying a large inventory does make the meat more expensive, and that's why most restaurants skip the process. "The overhead is very high." But it's worth it. "Enzymes in the meat break down the toughness of it… Our clients reap the benefits – it's very tender."

Gladstone's most popular items are steak and prime rib, available for dining room customers and private events ranging from full-scale weddings (including on-site ceremonies with chupah) and bar mitzvahs, to more casual functions like Sheva Brachot and even corporate events,

A striking Hollywood staircase divides the restaurant into an upstairs mezzanine and downstairs dining area so that it can accommodate events of many sizes, from more than 300 diners occupying the entire restaurant to smaller functions of 30 to 50 people.

The upstairs dining room also has high-tech facilities for business meetings: full Internet access and a large-screen plasma display, along with the services of Gladstone's expert chef, who can customize the menu to any tastes and help guests avoid the feeling of "been-there, done-that."

"Every time someone comes in for a function, it's something different. One company recently said, 'We want you to wow us.'" Gladstone's rose to the occasion with a brand new "stuffed steak" entrée incorporating mushrooms and red peppers.

Falcitelli is quick to dispel the biggest myth about Gladstone's: "People think we're expensive because they see how nice it looks, but we can accommodate all budgets."

"Nice" is perhaps a modest understatement for the restaurant's warm, natural tones of leather, wood and slate. Understated lighting, a cozy fireplace conversation area and a live pianist add to the charm, while a 30-foot sushi bar lends variety to the dining and event menu.

With so many non-kosher venues available to host simchahs, it may be tempting to look for a non-kosher setting and simply order specially prepared kosher meals for those who need them.

"But the quality is not the same when you're just reheating the [kosher] food," Falcitelli says.

And at Gladstone's, there's no need to do that – everybody can share an exquisite dining experience, without singling out anyone who's eating kosher.

Gladstone's: Showpiece of the local community.

Even the wines match the fine dining label: "We don't carry any bad wines." And a sommelier can recommend wines to accompany any meal. "You could have the best wine in the world, but if it doesn't complement the food, it's lost."

All of Gladstone's wines are mevushal (pasteurized for kashrut reasons).

Falcitelli ran his own restaurant, Acceso, in the location where Gladstone's is now, until current owner Raphy Amar bought him out. Initially concerned about closing on Friday and Saturday nights, prime time for most successful restaurants, Falcitelli has realized that Gladstone's loyal customers "live by the same rules we do" and do their share to make up the difference between Sunday and Thursday.

When it comes to keeping kosher, "work with what you have" has become his motto, whether it's applied to wines or the reality of creating distinctive non-dairy desserts. "We have all the desserts that you would not expect."

Whether it's crème brulée or chocolate mousse, there are many options for creating delicious pareve desserts. For weddings and other simchahs, Gladstone's will also work with outside kosher bakeries to bring in one-of-a-kind cakes and other baked goods.

Whatever your event, there's always a dedicated staff person and a team "to make sure that all your needs are being met." Whether you're expecting 30 people or 350, Gladstone's takes your function seriously.

"With a lot of halls, you have basically your standard packages." That's why Falcitelli's willing to work hard to prove that, kosher or not, Gladstone's is "not just a typical hall."

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Add some flare to your upcoming simcha!

Kosher caterers keep up with the times

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Two of Toronto's well-established kosher caterers, Ely's Fine Foods and Caterers York, have been able to successfully serve the community for many years by focusing on freshness, keeping up with the times and paying careful attention to the needs of their clients.

Ely's Fine Foods (416-782-3231; www.elysfinefoods.com) is a take-out business, privately owned by a husband-and-wife team. In their 13 years of business, they have maintained personal, one-on-one relationships with their clients, says one of the two owners, Perla Azulay.

Caterers York is the exclusive caterer at Adath Israel Congregation .

While Ely's will cater at a number of venues, much of their work is done in clients' homes. They do a lot of bar and bat mitzvahs and corporate wine and cheese parties. At the same time, they are versatile, and have worked in venues ranging from cruise ships to discos.

Ely's Fine Foods

☑ Kosher
☐ Non-Kosher

Azulay says Ely's pays close attention to choosing ingredients that are high-quality and treating those ingredients right. They use only lean meat, and the best quality meats, fish and poultry.

To get the best, Ely's will import what they need. For example, they bring in their ribs from Montreal.

The menus offer standard favourites like knishes, as well as inventive vegetable dishes such as fresh mango salad and squash kugel. All Ely's foods and dishes are fresh. No additives or preservatives are used in their kitchen.

"Also, we don't refreeze or reheat. Your cooked food comes to your premises steaming hot," Azulay says.

This commitment to freshness influences the way Ely's organizes its logistics. In preparing food, they allow time for cooking and delivering, but nothing is left sitting around.

Azulay observes that no two clients are exactly alike, and Ely's will customize a menu for you. With everyone vying for business, she says, the party industry has made clients more demanding.

Ely's has contacts to help you find things like flowers, linen or centrepieces, though they don't supply these things themselves.

Caterers York

☑ Kosher
☐ Non-Kosher

Caterers York (416-783-4293) has been in business for 52 years. Sharon Firestone co-owns the company with Euclides ("Bill") Batista. Firestone also owns a bakery that is a separate business, Sweet York Desserts (www.sweetyork.com).

Caterers York is the exclusive caterer at Adath Israel Congregation and will be exclusive at Beth David Synagogue as of Aug. 1. At Beth Tikvah, it is one of four caterers. It also caters off-site, and has worked at events of from 10 guests up to 1,000.

How has Caterers York stayed in business so long? It has kept up with trends in cuisine and service, always been ready to try something new. Firestone says they maintain consistent, predictable high quality in food and service.

In addition, Firestone is always ready to work with the client. "You can bring in a recipe of your own if you want," she says.

When Caterers York caters, she says, one of the two co-owners is almost always on site – "hands on, from beginning to end." For this reason, she doesn't over-book.

"Each event," Firestone says, "is a link in a chain, not a one-shot."

And each event, if the client is satisfied, helps build the caterer's reputation.

Firestone says good staff is vital to the company's success. Some of Caterers York's staff have been with the company for 10 or 15 years.

Asked when one should book a caterer, Firestone replies: "Three to six months is safe, but our on-site bookings, of course, come through the shuls. And some of these are as far ahead as 2010."

Another kosher caterer advertising in this supplement is: Tiara Culinary Creations.

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Shop the market for designer clothing

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Stores come and go, but some Toronto landmarks are here to stay. One such landmark is Tom's Place (416 596-0297), located at 191 Baldwin St. in the heart of Kensington Market.

Now in its 49th year, Tom's Place sells high-end men and women's clothing at affordable prices.

Opened in 1958 by owner Tom Mihalik's father as a used clothing store, Tom's Place has since gained a reputation in the city for being the source for fashionable, yet inexpensive, clothing.

Staying true to his father's philosophy, Mihalik insists on dressing men and women as chicly as he can for the lowest possible prices.

Quality designer brands are sold at up to 60 per cent off their regular prices.

What's more, the prices at Tom's Place are not final.

"If you like to wheel and deal, come to Tom's Place, where no price is ever truly firm and the customer reigns supreme," states the store's website. "We always believed in suits, and making people look great."

Tom's Place does indeed believe in suits. It carries more than 10,000 in a variety of sizes, which can be altered at the tailor shop on the premises.

"We always say, if you don't find a suit at Tom's Place, you aren't looking for a suit," laughs Mihalik.

This year, Tom's Place has expanded its selection of shirts and ties.

"Patterned and striped shirts are extremely popular," says Mihalik.

Among other important trends for the season, Mihalik cites a slim-fitting pant with a two-buttoned suit jacket.

In womenswear, Tom's Place carries only the best in designer labels, including Michael Kors and Hucke.

While the store's location might strike some as strange, the market only adds to the vibrancy of Tom's Place, as well as to the clothes inside.

"We stay here because we truly love the market," Mihalik says. "Kensington isn't just where do our business. It's our home as well."

Even the late media mogul Ken Thompson used to buy all of his suits at Tom's Place.

"He used to love coming here because he knew it was the best value," Mihalik says.

For more information about Tom's Place, visit www.toms-place.com.

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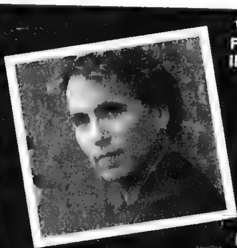

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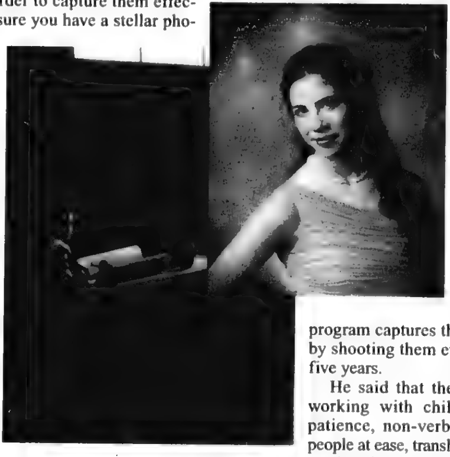
Plan ahead for **great memories**

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

More important than the food, music and décor of your simchah are the memories created during the event. And in order to capture them effectively, you need to make sure you have a stellar photographer.



Two pictures at left by David Amoils.

"Event photographers have to be quick on their feet, and understand the situation. They are very reactive and can think ahead one or two steps, always anticipating what's going to happen next," said photographer Jordan Prussky, who has been shooting professionally for seven years.

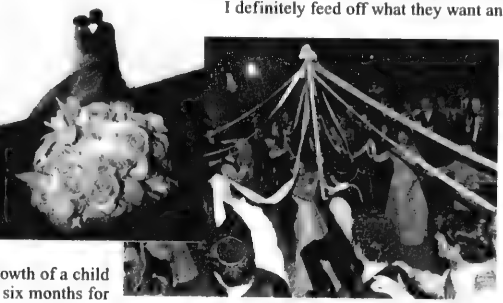
"Quality, professionalism and reliability – I'm keen on those three aims," he said.

Prussky said you must always check out a photographer's work and see if you like it before hiring them. Liking the photographer helps too.

"In the end, the work speaks for itself. But you have to meet the photographer...the relationship between the photographer and client has to be solid, and built on trust and understanding," Prussky said.

"We want somebody that's going to understand where you're coming from, understand where your stresses are, and be able to deal with you as a human being first," said photographer David Amoils who has been shooting for 22 years.

He specializes in photographing children. Amoil's Kidzpics program captures the growth of a child by shooting them every six months for five years.



Two pictures at right by Jordan Prussky.

He said that the skills he needs for working with children, like empathy, patience, non-verbal communication and putting people at ease, translate well into his work with adults.

"People get overwhelmed by the magnitude of what they're walking into," said Amoils of the stress that events can bring. Part of the photographer's job is to minimize that stress.

"I've never been interested in capturing a smile. I'm interested in capturing the person," said Amoils of his photographic style.

Prussky described his style as "artistic contemporary," but said that he is flexible and trained in all styles.

"I go into every job as an empty canvas," Prussky said.

He also goes into every job energized. "I put 100 per cent of my ability and creativeness into it," he said.

"I tend to feed off my clients in getting to know them and understand them. I try to bring what I see or what I want, but I definitely feed off what they want and what they see, and try to come up with something that is unique for both of us."

Both photographers stress the importance of quick turnaround time in getting photos to their clients, and recommend booking well in advance. Prussky suggested booking six months ahead for bar and bat mitzvahs, and a year out for weddings. But the two photographers said that they are happy to take last minute jobs if they are available.

"I'm quite willing to take small jobs for an hour or two hours," said Amoils. "Even if it's on a Saturday night in the middle of June, I'm happy to do that."

To contact either photographer or have a look at their work, visit www.jordanprussky.com or call 416-420-1651, or www.davidamoils.com or call 905-882-6770.

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The Granite Club can add style to your simchah

By **DEBORAH STERESCU**
Special to The CJN

If you're looking to throw a party and you're not restricted to a kosher menu, the Granite Club is a wonderful venue for any occasion.

If you're searching for style, the Granite Club (416-510-6676) has it. The club, which began in 1875 as a curling club but is now a prestigious athletic and social club, offers a large selection of different foods.

It can accommodate almost any dietary request, with a menu that can include Chilean sea bass, salmon wrapped in phyllo pastry, various hors d'oeuvres and sweet potato fries, to name but a few choices.

Some features of its menu for children include a "mocktail" bar, a candy station, a chip bar with several layers of chips and dip, and a sundae bar.

The Granite Club will customize its menu according to its customers' needs. For example, the kitchen can present special desserts based on the wishes of the client.

The club's grand ballroom fits 120 people comfortably, while its main ballroom fits 400 and features an enormous built-in stage, an attached patio for outdoor pleasures, and 12 beautiful chandeliers.

There are also several other rooms available, meaning the club can accommodate almost any occasion, lavish or casual.

The professional staff at the Granite Club will ensure that your event gets the full attention it deserves.

Catering director Deborah Muise believes that the Granite Club is a "unique venue" because it's like an extension of your home.

The club is decorated with beautiful artwork, sofas, chairs and a fireplace, which creates a warmth that also extends to the club's service, she says.

All this might explain why there is a growing demand for the Granite Club among people celebrating bar and bat mitzvahs and Jewish weddings.

For any special day, you want everything to be just right, and the Granite Club understands this, she says, so everything can be customized, from dessert to sound equipment.

Even lighting can be tailored to your desires. The club's alcove lighting has 40 different colours to choose from, so that it can be co-ordinated with the theme of any event.

Despite its cachet, the Granite Club is competitively priced, but it requires a year in advance for booking, Muise says.

For more information, an online menu and a virtual tour of the ballrooms, as well as splendid views of the club, visit www.graniteclub.com.

Other non-kosher venues advertising in this supplement are Atlantis Pavilions/The Eglinton Grand; The Estates of Sunnybrook; Fairmont Royal York Hotel; The Hard Rock Cafe; Karbouzi Mediterranean Bar & Grill; Levy Restaurant; Liberty Grand; Pickle Barrel; Richmond Hill Country Club; Scaramouche Restaurant/Pasta Bar; St. Andrew's Club & Conference Centre; Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre.

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The Granite Club's main ballroom can hold 400 people.

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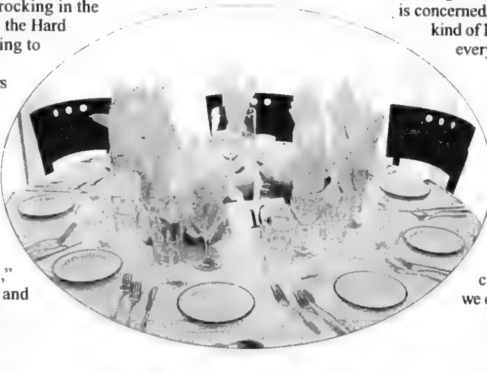
Try the **Hard Rock life**

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Neil Young was on the ball when he told us to "keep on rocking in the free world," and the Hard Rock Café is just sticking to the beat.

Over the last two years they have expanded their niche to become a popular destination for bar and bat mitzvahs, because kids can appreciate the décor, music memorabilia and great food too.

"Music has no age," said director of sales and marketing Robert Barbieri. "We have everything on our walls, from stuff from the early 50s and 60s to today's biggest artists."



Hard-Rock Cafe is like a one-stop shop that does everything for you.

Barbieri lists two great reasons for choosing the Hard Rock Café (416-362-3636) at Yonge and Dundas for your simchah: the venue itself and the lengths the staff take to meet each client's needs.

"It's legendary. We've been around for 36 years. We've got an amazing venue. As far as the decoration is concerned, it's already decorated. It's kind of like a one-stop-shop, we do everything for you" he said.

The Hard Rock Café staff can become event planners, helping with everything from invitation selection to photographer recommendations.

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- ☐ Separate Kosher Kitchen Available
- ☐ Kosher Event Catering Available
- ☑ Capacity up to 100 People
- ☑ 100-300 Person Capacity
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"We're not a cookie-cutter kind of location, and we create every event based on our client's needs," Barbieri said. "We have an amazing banquet chef and we're not dictating that 'this is the menu and that's all we can do.' If the client has any ideas we can create it for them."

He said that bat and bat mitzvah menus usually have two types of food. There are the traditional children's' favourites such as pizza and onion rings, and a wide range of adult-pleasing selections, including chicken, beef and pasta.

If you want to host a kosher event, you can hire your own caterer, as long as they have a catering license, Barbieri said.

Besides the downstairs restaurant area, the Hard Rock Café also has an upstairs floor that can seat 200 people or hold almost 400 people reception style. Together, the two floors can accommodate up to 500 guests.

The venue's flexibility is also impressive. One or both floors can be rented, and clients have used the bottom floor as an arrival and reception area and the top floor for dancing, as it has more of a club feel, said Barbieri.

In-house music piping allows you to hold an event on one floor that simultaneously mirrors the one on the other, he said.

"Truly, it's all about the client."

While the Yonge and Dundas Hard Rock Café has not yet hosted a wedding reception, Barbieri said it is a possibility, and that different locations have done so. The other events the Yonge and Dundas hotspot typically host include holiday parties, corporate events and product launches. choosing the Hard Rock Café as a simchah venue is an easy decision.. "We're almost like a rock and roll museum. We've got great food, and a great atmosphere," Barbieri said.

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No party is complete without the food

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Specialty foods are always a hit with party guests.

While there are many types available, party sandwiches continue to please everyone.

So how do you find the right provider?

Ask your friends, says Lesley Byrne, founder of Lesley's Party Sandwiches.

"This is a word of mouth business," says Byrne, noting that for 18 years, the company has been serving up sandwiches, fruit trays and much more.

"The most important thing [for clients] is to choose a [vendor] with a known name."

While the standards of egg, tuna, and lox and cream cheese still reign supreme in party sandwich circles, Byrne says some of the newer trends include vegetable wraps and mixed sandwiches, like a salmon, tuna and egg combo, with an olive to neatly and tastefully cap it.

If you're in the hunt for a good sandwich provider, be sure that fresh is their mantra, advises Byrne.

"Party sandwiches go down well with everything, but they have to be fresh," she says.

"Ours are always fresh and we customize [them] to what clients want."

Those looking for a fancy fruit alternative can turn to Edible Arrangements which blends together scrumptious arrays of such fruits as honeydews, cantaloupes, grapes and strawberries, and arranges them in a bouquet. These function as a delicious dessert, and if you wish, a centrepiece too.

"It's a lovely centrepiece, and some people don't know whether to eat it or just look at it," says Nadeem Hassen of Edible Arrangements.

Hassen says the most popular arrangements today are the ones that combine the greatest variety of fruits.

☐ Kosher
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And for the sweet tooths out there, fruits dipped in chocolate are also a hit.

"We have a new feature of dipping bananas in dark and white chocolate, and that has been very popular," he says.

"Customers are welcome to be involved in the bouquet in order to create what they want in it."

When selecting fruit arrangements, Hassen advises to make sure the provider prepares them fresh daily, and that they do not add preservatives or sugar.

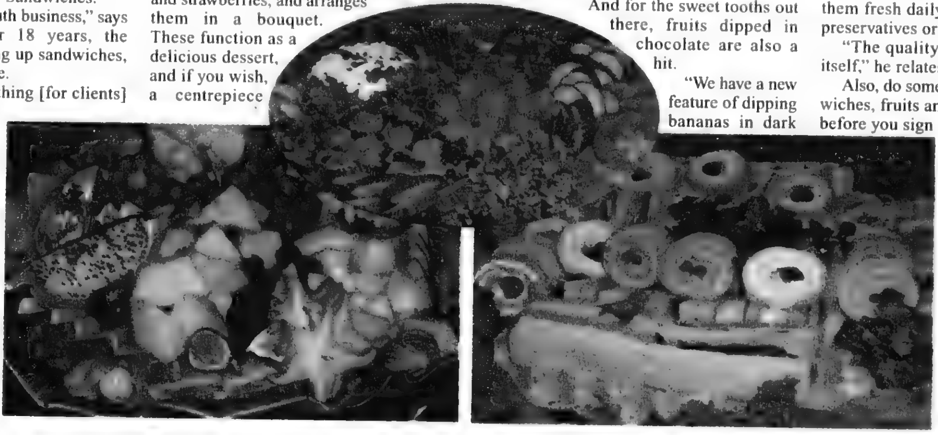
"The quality of food should speak for itself," he relates.

Also, do some taste testing of party sandwiches, fruits and any other specialty food before you sign up a vendor.

"When customers walk into the store, we give them free samples to get a real feel of the different edibles," Hassen says.

To contact Lesley's Party Sandwiches, call 905-660-0551 or visit www.lesleyspartysandwiches.com.

Get in touch with Edible Arrangements by calling 905-731-7316 or logging on to www.ediblearrangements.ca



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Klezmer can add flair to your simchah

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

If you are in the market for some live music at your next simchah, consider trying a versatile klezmer band that can play both traditional and modern tunes.

"Klezmer brings an authenticity, and reconnects us to the music that our Ashkenazi forbearers created and celebrated for centuries," said Jordan Klapman of Klapman's Klezmer Band (416-588-0854).

"It's very evocative."

Klapman, who has been playing Yiddish music for 20 years, says it is important to think about your event specifics in order to select an appropriate band.

"[The band should be] interesting and varied," said Klapman. "[It] also needs to be very responsive to what happens, and be willing to adapt on a dime and change [its] program."

Klapman's Klezmer Band, he said, does just that.

"We're the only band in town that plays authentic klezmer music, and we are also good at playing a wide variety of other kinds of pop music without being a rock band," Klapman said.

He described what he offers as a "full-service simchah band." This means the band can adapt to what is needed at the reception, cocktail hour, dinner, dance, and any other time.

In the course of one evening, this adaptation can include a switch in the number of band members.

For a ceremony, Klapman's Klezmer Band can be as small as a duo, which would include Klapman on the keyboard and another musician switching between flute and clarinet. The band can grow to seven or eight members for a larger sound.

Klapman also plays keyboard for the Yiddish Swingtet (416-651-7521), another versatile band that mixes klezmer with classic swing.

"We try and make music that suits the mood and fits the right mood," said Jonno Lightstone, the band's clarinet, saxophone and flute player.

"Klezmer provides the freilech kind of sound that people like to dance to, the feeling of a joyous Jewish occasion. Swing is the music that set the mood for dancing or background music," Lightstone said.

"We bring an intimate sound that is very heartfelt."

Jordan Klapman

In addition to Lightstone and Kaplan, the trio also includes Tony Quarrington on guitar and mandolin. Lightstone says the Yiddish Swingtet can also add a singer, or drums and bass if the client wants more of a dance band.

"We play swing because klezmer is not always what's required," Lightstone said. "We try to be as versatile as we can."

Kaplan added that in the last few years, he has received fewer calls for strictly klezmer events.

"People want more world music," he said.

Whether you are looking for a dash of the traditional or a full evening of klezmer, the Yiddish Swingtet and Klapman's Klezmer Band can suit your individualized needs.

Other bands advertising in this supplement are: The 42nd Street Band; Fern Lindzon Musical Entertainment; Flying Bulgar Productions; The Kenny Simon Band; The Sky's Band; The True Sound Band.

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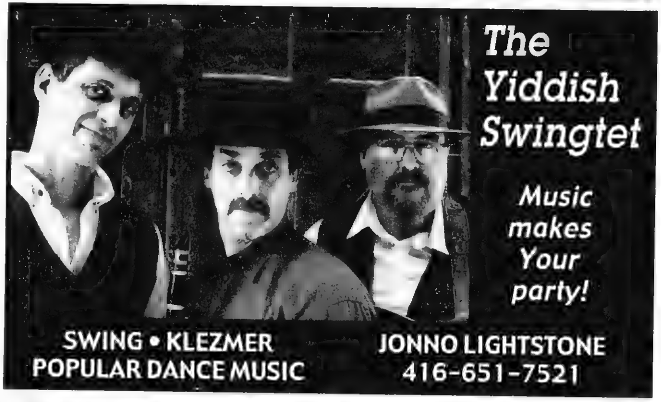

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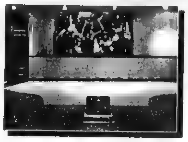

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Baycrest, Hilton Suites offer finest in kosher catering

By **BARBARA SILVERSTEIN**
Special to The CJN

When it comes to kosher catering, people consider Baycrest to be "one of the best kept secrets in the community," says Sharon Bizouati, manager of Baycrest Terrace food and nutrition services and manager of Baycrest Hospitality Services (416-785-2500, ext. 2477).

She notes that some 15 years ago, the catering service was introduced to generate revenue for the world-renowned geriatric centre, located at 3560 Bathurst St.

"One of the nice things about our service is that when you cater with us, the money stays at Baycrest Centre."

Baycrest Centre

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Bizouati, who has been working in Baycrest food services for 32 years, was asked to develop a catering package. In addition to her nutrition science degree, she now has a certificate in event planning and management from George Washington University.

The service started when someone wanted to rent Baycrest facilities for a wedding, she recalls.

"It has grown into a full-fledged hospitality service. We have our own staff. Without the support of my dedicated staff, the events would not be as successful as they are."

She notes that offering this service made good business sense. "We were often able to use the Baycrest facilities to hold events. We have the capability of catering events for up to 500 people."

With up to 500 functions taking place each year, Bizouati advises people to plan ahead.

Baycrest offers excellent venues for conferences, weddings, hennas, and bar and bat mitzvahs, family reunions, Passover seders, donor events and birthday parties, says Bizouati, adding that Baycrest does outside catering and is one of the designated kosher caterers for the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts.

Hilton Suites

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"We just catered the post-concert dessert reception for 500 for Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel [Beit Halochem Canada] at the Toronto centre for the Performing Arts."

She says prices for catering at Baycrest are competitive and the menus are customized.

"I meet with the clients to plan the menu. Everyone is different.

Stations are also very popular, she says. "A lot of people love our stations. Our smoked brisket is the best in the city. We have people call us to find out where we buy it."

Baycrest Hospitality provides one-stop shopping, she says.

"We offer referral to florists, entertainment services and other resources in the community," Bizouati says.

"Once we do an event, we maintain a relationship with our clients. We get a lot of repeat business and a lot of referrals.

"The biggest reward of an event that been successful is seeing the clients and their guests happy."

For a truly elegant affair, there's nothing comparable to a hotel, according to Siena Pang, director of catering and conference services at the Hilton Suites Hotel (905-470-8500) in Markham.

A hotel is a prestigious venue with the Hilton Suites offering both elegance and very attentive service, she says.

"Our gorgeous atrium garden and patio gardens are wonderful settings for pictures too."

The Hilton Suites, located at the south west corner of Warden and Highway 7, offers kosher catering.

"The kosher caterer comes in to make the kitchen is kosher a day before the event," she explains.

If the space is not available the day before, the kashering is done the morning of the simchah, she adds.

Generally, food for bar and bat mitzvah parties tends to be Jewish style, while the market for kosher food tends to be for weddings, she notes.

"We can accommodate people's kosher caterer, or we can recommend the caterers we have worked with. We know their standards, because we have worked with them. The mashgiach is on-site to supervise."

She says that clients work directly with the caterer to arrange the menu, and the hotel charges a facility fee to cover the room rental, servers and standard hotel linen. Plates must be rented separately, and clients are charged on a consumption basis for alcohol.

Most of the larger events take place in the Hilton Suite's conference centre, a free-standing structure connected to the hotel, Pang says.

"We have different size rooms. The rooms most commonly used for large parties are in the conference centre. Everything is done under one roof. The ceremony, cocktails and the reception."

The conference centre banquet hall can accommodate up to 800 people for dinner and dancing, while corporate events can be for a group as large as 1,000 people.

The 14,000-square-foot ballroom is very elegant, Pang says. "It has chandeliers and 20-foot high ceilings," she notes.

The hotel offers smaller size banquet rooms for parties of 200 to 250 people and smaller.

The cocktail reception is often held in the conference centre's elegant foyer, which has floor-to-ceiling windows, she says.

One of the advantages of holding an event at a hotel is the convenience for out-of-town guests.

"They don't have to worry about transportation," says Pang.

"We can also arrange special banquets like welcome and rehearsal dinners and the send-off breakfast or brunch. We can customize any meal."

She adds: "The Hilton Suites offers convenience. Everything can be done in one place. You can house guests here, hold the ceremony here and the celebratory meals. Everything can be done under one roof in the most elegant surroundings."

Other kosher venues advertising in this supplement are Beth Tikvah Synagogue; Copper Creek Golf Club; Toscana Banquet & Conference Centre and Hilton Garden Inn, Toronto/Vaughan; Four Seasons Hotel; Gladstone's Wine Bar & Grill; King Solomon's Table; Park Hyatt Toronto; The Royal Banquet & Convention Centre, Bellvue Manor.

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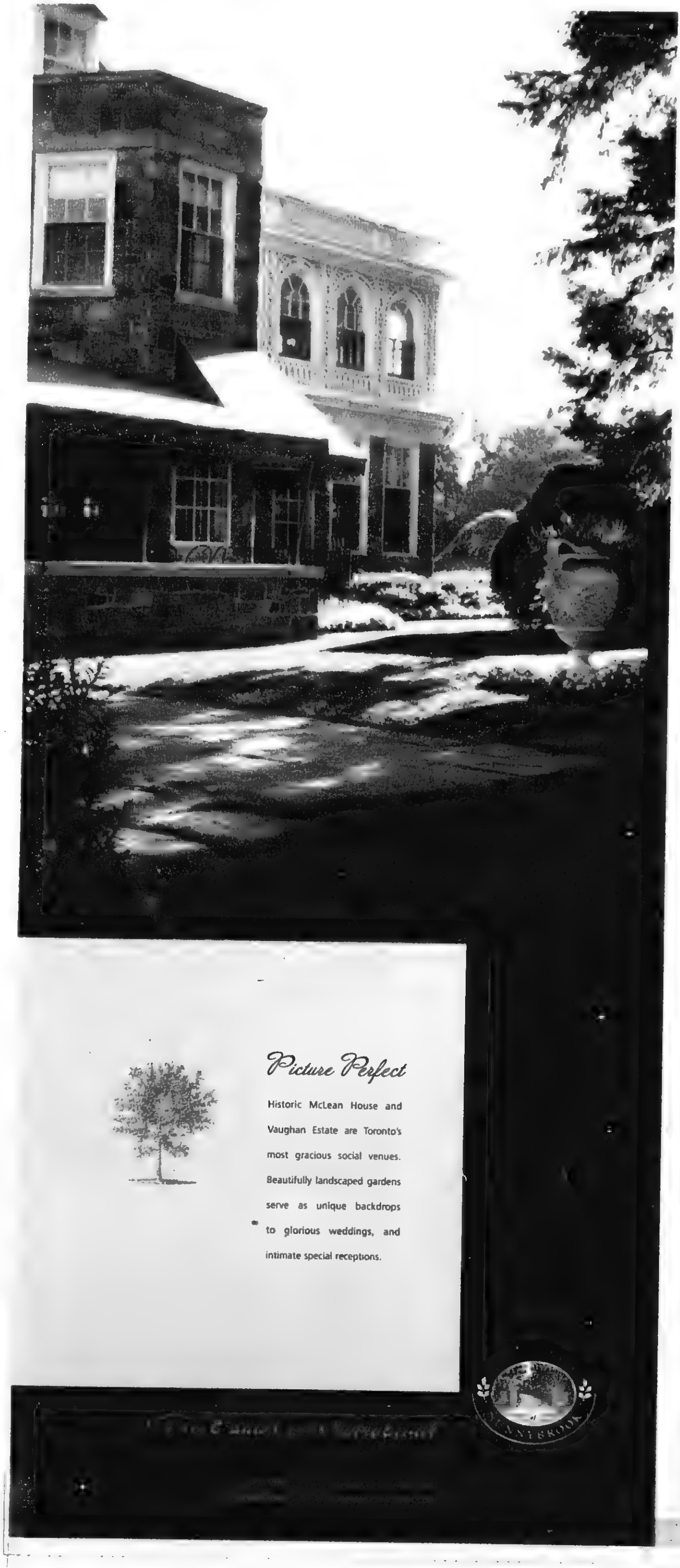
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Historic McLean House and Vaughan Estate are Toronto's most gracious social venues. Beautifully landscaped gardens serve as unique backdrops to glorious weddings, and intimate special receptions.

PARTY PLANNER

Party it up with arcades and NASCAR racing

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Dave and Buster's (905-760-7600), a large restaurant and entertainment facility in Concord, is a popular venue for bar and bat mitzvahs, birthday and sports team parties, and an ideal setting for corporate meetings, team building and company banquets, says special events sales manager Mary Patrick.

The big attraction for both kids and adults is the extensive video arcade with more than 100 games and simulators, says Patrick. "Everyone has such a great time. We get lot of repeat business, especially from families who hold bar and bat mitzvahs here. They say it's the most fun they've had."

Dave and Buster's (www.daveandbusters.com), which is located at 120 Interchange Way in Concord, at the southeast corner of highways 400 and 7, is open every day of the year. The 65,000-square-foot facility can accommodate up to 2,500 people or hold several private events simultaneously, says Patrick. "For a party of 2,500 we'll close the building to walk-in guests."

She explains that children under 19, whether they're with family or attending a party, can play the games until 10 p.m. on weekends; after that time – it's an hour earlier on week nights– Dave & Buster's becomes a bar so minors must leave the premises or go into one of the self-contained party rooms.

The Show Room is one of the most popular party rooms for bar and bat mitzvahs, says Patrick. "It has a private bar and washroom and full audio capabilities. It can accommodate 170 people for dining and dancing or 300 people theatre style."

The restaurant also provides its own security, she adds. "We can even have the ceremony here in a separate room."

She says families can book their own disc jockey, or Dave and Buster's can make the entertainment arrangements, which can also include such novelty items as chocolate fountains and ice cream carts.

She says meals are generally kosher style. "We respect the tradition. We can serve fish and make arrangements for strictly kosher meals to be brought in."

People generally purchase a meal and the power card package for parties, she explains.

The restaurant also offers birthday package for children 12 and under with meals starting at $5.99; parents purchase power cards, usually in the $10 to $20 range.

People have the choice of holding the party in a more public space or renting a private room for $25 per hour, which can accommodate up to 32 people. The fee includes the use of the billiard tables and shuffle boards in that area, says Patrick.

Hockey and other sport teams packages are also available, she says, noting that the restaurant's policy for all parties with minors is to have a four to one, child to adult ratio.

Patrick says the parties are so successful that Dave and Buster's gets a lot of referrals as well as repeat clients for the bar or bat mitzvahs of other children in the same family.

NASCAR racing at the Vaughan Mills Mall.

"It's such an honour for me when they call to book the next child's party. It's the biggest compliment we get paid."

For the ultimate bar or bat mitzvah or kids' party, why not consider an indoor amusement park? NASCAR (National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing) SpeedPark (905-669-7370) at the Vaughan Mills Mall at Highway 400 and Rutherford Road, is the first Canadian location for this American-based race-themed attraction.

NASCAR SpeedPark, a 60,000- square-foot playground with indoor and outdoor go-cart tracks, also offers such activities as silicon motor speedway simulators, an interactive arcade with more than 70 games, slot car racing and laser tag, says Domenic Buttiglieri, general manager of NASCAR SpeedPark in Vaughan Mills.

"We are NASCAR's official family fun park. We have something for every age group."

Continued on page B38

Pamper yourself with **spa and salon** treatments

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

A lady simply cannot get through the daily grind without a few of life's little pleasures. One such pleasure most certainly is the salon and spa. In an environment where pampering and primping is the norm, all the stress and cares of the day disappear.

For one of the city's finest salons, head to Cattiva Hair & Esthetics (416-239- 7741).

Located at 270 The Kingsway in the Humbertown Shopping Centre, the full-service upscale salon offers every imaginable esthetic service from hairstyling and waxing to manicures and pedicures, as well as all hair services.

In its fifth year, Cattiva is the second endeavour of Ernie Viggiani and Al DiMarco, who previously owned Capelli Salon in Bayview Village. "We have been working in the hairdressing and salon industry together for years," says Viggiani.

Ernie Viggiani, left, and Al DiMarco of Cattiva Hair & Esthetics.

Specializing in hairstyling, the Cattiva staff is expertly trained in hair services such as cutting, styling, colouring and extensions. Viggiani notes colour-correction is one of the salon's best services. At Cattiva, hair can easily be redyed from a previous colour disaster.

At Cattiva, the staff is extremely knowledgeable and welcoming. "We are by no means quiet," says Viggiani, laughing. "Our staff is known for being very warm."

The salon offers special consultations with clients. A consultation will ensure that the look you want is the one you walk out the door with for weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs or other simchahs. Special packages for bridal or simchah parties are available.

For a bit of a different kind of retreat, head to Uptown Spa (416-449-4044; www.uptownspa.com). Located at 801 York Mills Rd., Suite 311, at Leslie Street, Uptown has been offering a wide array of specialized spa services for the past 12 years. A complete day spa, Uptown offers everything from massage and botox injections to laser hair removal. The spa also offers manicures, pedicures, facials and hair services, among other esthetic services.

The 6,500-square-foot facility includes a hair salon and several massage and treatment rooms, as well as spacious lounges – both public and private.

And if throwing a spa party is what suits your fancy, Uptown will prepare the lounges with anything you have brought, from wine and desserts to snacks. "We'll even serve you wine while you get your nails done." says owner Anne Sorenson.

Among the spa's services, Sorenson cites the "double-peeling" facial as one of the most innovative and popular. By providing a deeper exfoliation, the double-peeling facial completely smooths and freshens the face. As well, Uptown carries high-quality skin-care products from Guinot, Sothys and other companies. Gift certificates are available as well.

Owned and operated by Sorenson, Uptown Spa maintains a comfortable and laid-back atmosphere while offering premier service. A staff of 40 are there to cater to your every need. They have been with the spa for years, and all of them have great relationships with their clients.

"What our clients repeatedly comment on is that we are just so nice," Sorenson says. "Our clients really love it here."

Whether you are preparing for a special event or are simply in desperate need of some "me" time, spending the day at either Cattiva or Uptown Spa will help lighten your load.

Another esthetics place advertising in this supplement is: Hairafter Hairstyling Ltd.

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By DEBORAH STERESCU
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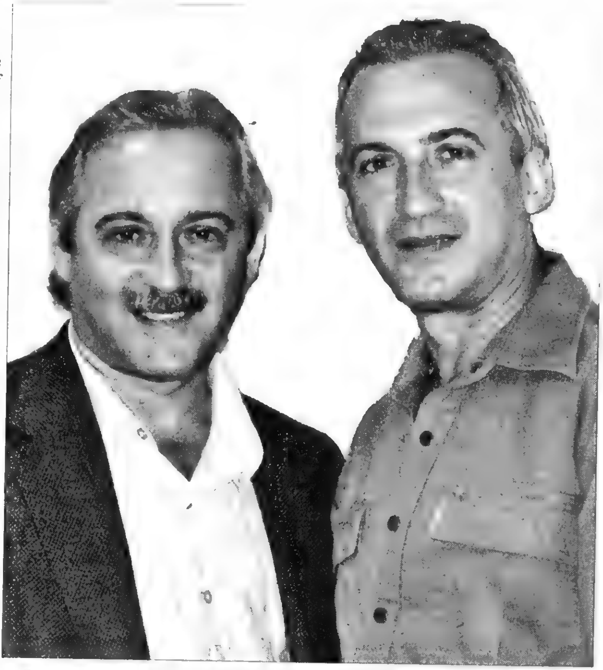

Paul Laszlo, left, and his brother Andrew Laszlo of Twins Photo & Video

A videographer is one of the most important features of any well-planned festivity.

After years have passed, the food and presents disappear, but the video remains to remind people of great times that were shared.

Where does one look for a top rate videographer to record that special event?

Videoproductions by Josh (905-709-9277) and Twins Photo and Video (905-707-2385) are two options for professional or personal needs.

Videoproductions by Josh is run by Josh Israel, who has been in the business for 28 years. He prides himself on the fact that he does his own camera and editing work, which lends him "more control" when it comes to ensuring that the video is of a high quality.

Videoproductions specializes in family events, particularly bar/bat mitzvahs and weddings. The company has done more than 2,800 major family events, of which 95 per cent have involved the Jewish community in Toronto.

Israel uses high definition video, he says, which creates more natural colours, better clarity and sound. The super wide lens of his cameras brings "a totally amazing" image, making certain that the video is the most valuable service of any Jewish event.

He says he has covered seven different events for one family, spanning over three generations.

Twins Photo and Video, in keeping with the theme of family events, is run by two twin brothers from Budapest, Andrew and Paul Laszlo, who have been in the business since 1981.

They cover events in both photo and video, from bar mitzvahs to brit milah, using strictly high-end digital equipment (with three exceptional quality digital cameras).

They hook up the cameras to microphones, which Paul says, is "very important", as the result is perfect sound with no background noise.

The family-run aspect of the business is important to Paul and Andrew, as they feel that their personal touch goes a long way in relating to different families on their special occasions.

Paul says that his business is run from home so he does not have to charge customers for his rent of a studio.

Videoproductions has a comprehensive website, where a video and shopping guide can be found, offering customers tips on how to find the right videographer for them.

For Videoproductions by Josh, one must consider booking two years in advance for bar mitzvahs, and one year before a wedding. Twins Photo and Video service can be secured up to six months in advance for any simchah.

For more detailed information consult: www.videobyjosh.com and www.twinsphoto.com.

Other videographers advertising in this supplement are: D.M.S. Video Productions; Hitide Productions; Lisa Productions; Redstone Pictures; Photo Montages; Video Affairs; Video Excellence.

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Today's cruises exceed expectations

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
Special to the CJN

"There is no better way to travel," says Sheldon Saul of North York Cruise Ship Centres (416-492-2789; www.northyork.cruiseshipcenters.ca). It's not an empty boast: cruises consistently earn the highest satisfaction ratings of any leisure vacations, he says. Whether for a family occasion, corporate event or just a private getaway, cruising has changed – for the better.

"Cruising used to be for the wealthy," Saul admits. But these days, starting at $299, with meals included, no "hidden" costs like car rentals, and no extra hassle of finding restaurants and other amenities in confusing foreign destinations, cruises are becoming more and more popular with ordinary families looking for a truly relaxing break.

Cruising is no longer just for the wealthy

Activities for every family member from the youngest to the oldest include supervised day camps, ice skating, lectures and wine-tastings, so a cruise can also mean a worry-free break all the generations will enjoy.

"Grandparents are celebrating their 50th anniversaries with their families on cruise ships," says Saul, renewing their vows in the ships' chapels.

Nicole Bursey, the company's sales manager, says that "if somebody is looking to celebrate a special occasion, instead of partying at home where it's one night of memories, they'll spend two weeks in the Mediterranean and have a lifetime of memories from it."

Families often book six, seven or even eight cabins together to travel at times when they're all free, like winter vacation or March break. "You unpack once," Saul says, then "wake up every morning and you could be in a different part of the world."

The ships themselves have also changed, becoming airier and more spacious. "People were always afraid… they were going to be confined," Saul says. Newer ships are building up to 90 per cent of their outside staterooms with private verandas, so there's plenty of fresh air and privacy. "You'd be hard-pressed to find a hotel resort nicer than the cruise ships they're building today."

And today's destinations are new, too. "Wherever there's water, there's a cruise ship." Cruises can last anywhere from three days to 300 days, stopping in at the Galapagos Islands, Australia, Europe or Beijing. "World cruises are very popular," lasting anywhere from three weeks to six months, says Saul. "They're the first to sell out."

North York Cruise Ship Centres specializes in family and group travel, and also offers hosted tours, meaning you're not just getting on a cruise and going by yourself. Themed tours accompanied by a consultant from the travel agency tie the whole experience together into a meaningful package.

A Jewish Heritage cruise of the Mediterranean is already almost full for September 2008. With stops in Israel, Egypt, Greece and Turkey, the cruise includes private excursions as well as special pre- and post-cruise hotel accommodations. Everything's planned in advance for a seamless vacation, and many clients eagerly sign up for their next hosted cruise as soon as they get home. "We did one with 60 people to Asia… in July, we're going to Scandinavia with many of the same people."

Although it's easy to find cruise "deals" on the Internet, Saul says that booking through a travel agency, you'll get more than just a ticket. "We're all humans. Things happen on vacation… we pride ourselves in making sure things get resolved." With North York Cruise Ship Centres, "there is someone there on their behalf."

Online, clients "may be able to save three to four per cent, but they're sacrificing service." And Bursey points out that even those great deals may not be such a bargain. "You're often getting what nobody else would buy."

An agency also lets you plan around special needs, like family and group bookings, which are difficult or impossible to organize alone on the Internet. "We offer family cruises for bar mitzvahs, weddings, anniversaries, honeymoons and family reunions" Saul says. For parties from four to 400, with special service for incentives and corporate events, they'll make sure your group gets just the right cruise experience.

As a cruise specialist, North York Cruise Ship Centres is in a unique position among travel agencies, says Bursey. "Because we sell so many, every single day, we're very up to date in what's happening with a cruise line or one particular ship, much more so than an agency that sells one cruise every two months."

Cruises for bar mitzvahs, weddings and honeymoons

A franchise of a larger international company, the company has built its business on strong relationships, not only with clients but also with all major cruise lines, including Royal Caribbean, Celebrity and Oceania. There's even a one-day sale –"our busiest day of the year," says Saul – coming up in June on Princess Cruises.

After 10 years in the cruise business, Saul sees his job as matching clients with the right cruise for their budget and needs. "Not every ship is for every person… there are hundreds of cruise ships – we put them on the ship that will exceed their expectations."

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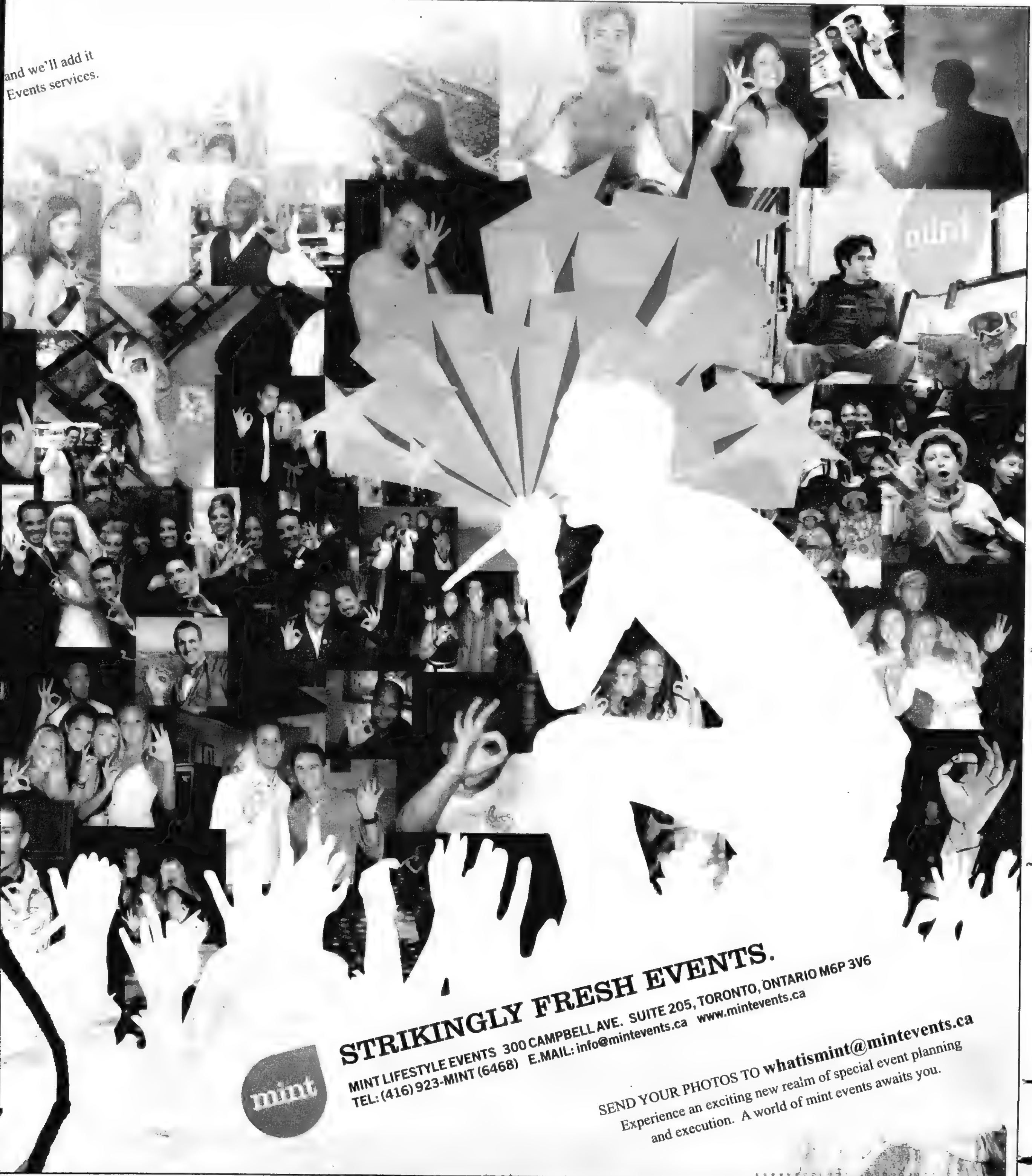

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For a memorable event, try **animation** or **animals**

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

If you are looking for a truly unique entertainment option, you may wish to consider seeing eye to eye with a bantam chicken or watching your head on the big screen, bobbing along to Sir Mix-A-Lot's *Baby Got Back*.

Whimz and Dance Heads are two entertainers that are gaining popularity and guaranteed to make your event stand out.

The concept of Dance Heads combines lip-synching, karaoke, popular music and animation to create a one-of-a-kind experience for any gathering.

One to three guests at a time can sing or bob along to a catchy song while their heads are superimposed on professional dancers' bodies and animated backgrounds.

Daphne Schuyler and her husband Glen brought Dance Heads to Canada in March 2005 after watching the magic at a Miami trade show.

When asked what type of event is perfect for Dance Heads, Daphne replied, "anywhere there are people, and people of all ages."

Dance Heads serves parties and gatherings for as few as 10 to as many 1,200 people, including corporate events. One-third of the Schuylers' business comes from bar and bat mitzvahs. Though they have not done weddings yet, Daphne said Dance Heads is ideal for the down time between the ceremony and the reception.

"We are great at bar mitzvahs because people book us for the kids, but it's the adults and parents that get in on it and have fun," Daphne said.

"The beauty of it is you don't need any talent," she said. Dance Heads uses the original singers' voices in their 21 songs and records no audio.

After the segment is recorded, the guests watch their masterpiece on a projected screen. At the end of the event, all guests receive a DVD of their performance and the host gets a master copy of the entire event.

"When they see the whole picture, that's when they really 'laugh till they cry,'" said Daphne, quoting the Dance Heads motto.

She added that you really have to watch the phenomenon to understand it.

Demos are available on the website at www.danceheads.com. Dance Heads Ontario can be reached at 1-866-366- 1983, and while Daphne has bookings into 2008, she suggests calling two weeks before your party. Dance Heads also has offices in Quebec and Western Canada.

For an even more unusual party experience, consider Whimz, a program that lets you see, interact with and learn about live animals.

Whimz can host a party at your home or hold it at the studio at St. Clair Avenue and Bathurst Street. Birthday parties can accommodate up to 25 children, and the birthday child helps choose up to eight animals for the party.

Whimz has about 65 unique creatures, including a hedgehog, chinchilla, bantam chicken, scorpion and ground squirrel.

"The snake always wins the popularity contest," says Whimz owner and founder Lynn Kaplan.

Talent isn't needed for Dance Heads events.

Kaplan, who founded the program 12 years ago, has a background working with both children and animals, as she worked at Jewish camps and led trips to Israel. While there, she took care of animals on a kibbutz.

Creating Whimz allowed her to combine these interests. The program now serves any type of event, including children's and adults' birthday parties, weddings and bar mitzvahs, Purim and Chanukah parties and large Shabbat dinners. Whimz also has a variety of camp, school and studio programs. In addition, it provides animal education in the community, including talking about Jewish ethics with regard to critter care.

"Of all the animal companies, we are the only one that offers parent and tot classes," Kaplan said. This studio program allows children as young as 18 months to get comfortable around fauna with their parents.

The animals are still a hit, even with more squeamish children, Kaplan says.

"The program is presented in such a gentle manner and the staff are so attuned to the kids."

She said children who are afraid to touch the snake at the beginning of a party are often holding it at the end. "They really build their confidence and it's amazing."

Whimz can be reached by calling 416-656-7894 or by visiting www.whimzonline.com.

Other entertainers advertising in this supplement are: Mint Lifestyle Events; Bobby Motta, Magician; Swaye Entertainment.

This little boy enjoys the animals at Whimz.

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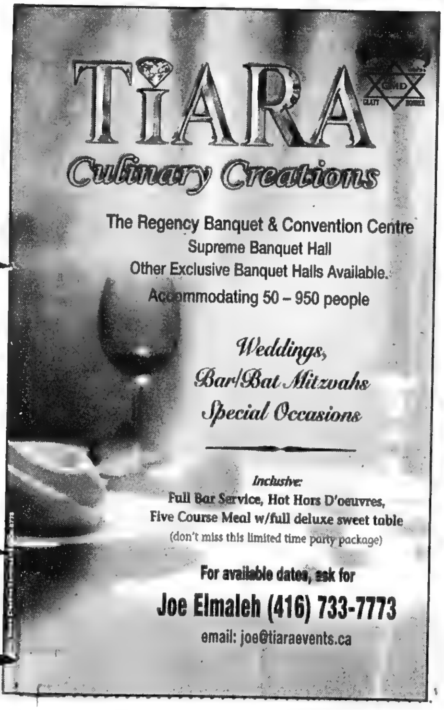

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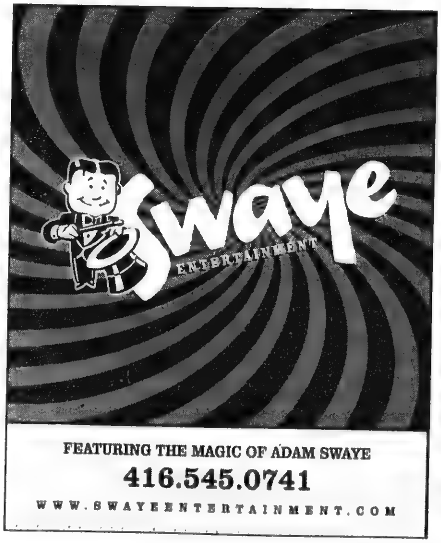

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Host or Guest: buy it all for less

By **JENNIFER M. MACLEOD**
Special to the CJN

Whether you're planning a party or going to one, the big question is always how to find that distinctive, high quality touch for the best possible price.

Husband and wife team Chuck and Barbara Elnekave of The Israeli Source (905-482-2025; www.israelisource.com) have the answer: save money and support Israel, too.

The formula for savings is a simple one: cut the middleman."I try to buy as much as possible directly from Israel," says Chuck.

The Israeli Source offers a "big-box, active" shopping experience in its 4,000- square-foot Doncaster Avenue warehouse-style store. "We're definitely not a boutique, and our customers aren't paying a premium for pretty shelving units."

If you're planning a simchah, you'll want to stop by to check out The Israeli Source's prices and service on items such as personalized benchers or kippot.

For either item, there's a price range for any budget and personal style, from very basic to more elaborate keepsake items that guests will cherish for years.

They also offer chupah rentals and other essential items like tallitot, tefillin and kittels (white coat worn by grooms).

For guests puzzling over gift decisions, The Israeli Source offers a variety of fine books and Judaica in traditional or modern designs. No matter what the occasion, you'll probably find the perfect gift.

Starting at $30, around the same price as a box of chocolates, Shabbat, holiday or simchah guests can present their hosts with a distinctive gift basket in one of several styles.

There are also baby baskets that include clothing items or Jewish-themed toys like a plush sefer Torah.

Books make a great bar or bat mitzvah gift, and The Israeli Source offers many such as Haggadahs, books on Halachah, and sets of machzorim for the holidays; there are also beautiful coffee-table books. Anthologies and boxed sets make great gifts, and children's books are also available, both old favourites and new classics.

For a great wedding gift, they even carry today's hottest Shabbat-table item: kiddush fountains. Make the blessing, pour wine from the cup into the top of the fountain and it flows into up to a dozen matching small cups waiting beneath.

Standard kiddush cups are also available, along with unique and beautiful havdalah sets, challah boards and knives, menorahs and other Judaica gifts in almost every style.

Elnekave takes pride in the store's selection of today's finest Judaica artists: avant-garde coloured aluminum menorahs by Avi Sidler and textile art (challah covers, tallis bags and more) in silk and organza by Ronit Gur.

Apart from elaborate copper and fused-glass constructions in the well-known Gary Rosenthal collection, all featured artists are Israeli. "I'm there on sourcing trips about twice a year," says Elnekave, meeting with wholesalers and also "with some of the artists just to see what they have that's new."

Besides supporting the Israeli economy, Elnekave says it's pure economic sense. "Basically, every time [an item] passes through someone's hands, the product's going to end up costing more …we're trying to source it as directly as we can so the customer can end up saving money." He also buys large quantities wherever possible to increase the savings.

"People coming in here are just amazed by the prices," says Elnekave, and in the $1\frac{1}{2}$ years that the store has been open, customers have quickly become very loyal. "It's not something they're used to… seeing prices like this."

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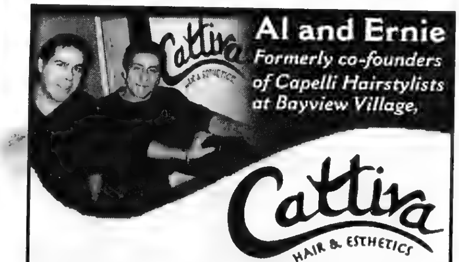

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Copper Creek Golf Club makes affairs to remember

Copper Creek is a very unique setting.

By JENNA ROSMAN
Special to The CJN

For an elegant affair, where beauty and landscape is as important as the quality of the cuisine, Copper Creek Golf Club in Kleinburg will not disappoint, says Doug Collier, its director of food and beverages.

"It is a very unique setting. It is an oasis from the everyday. When you turn into the driveway, all of the landscape and the greens of the golf course itself and then all the landscaping surrounding the club house are really beautiful. It really takes you away from where you think you are," Collier says of Copper Creek (905-893-3370).

Just outside the 40,000-square-foot clubhouse venue sit several ponds, many with fountains, amid lush gardens that overlook the Humber River Valley.

"There are lots of features that you really would not find in a traditional banquet hall," he says.

The venue has two ballrooms, the smaller of which overlooks the golf course and can accommodate up to 120 people. The larger ballroom has a capacity of up to 500 people.

Ceremonies can take place indoors or outdoors on a stone terrace.

The venue is equipped with a fully supervised and full-service kosher kitchen. The menu for both the kosher and non-kosher functions has an Italian influence, says Collier.

However, each event is unique.

"We try to be creative and we customize the menu for each individual event," he says.

Copper Creek Golf Club's renowned executive chef, Gianpiero Tondina, has received many culinary awards, including the esteemed Escoffier Award for chef of the year in 2002. (Escoffier Award recipients are chosen by other such executive chefs throughout Ontario, Collier says.)

The kosher menu features an extensive choice of entrees, from slow-roasted, herb-crusted rack of lamb to Cornish hens stuffed with garlic mashed potato with red wine demi glaze, to citrus-crusted halibut with roasted red pepper salsa.

Options for desserts include a dessert buffet, with a waffle station, and a frozen banana lollipop station.

The venue is ideal for a wedding, says Collier.

"We have a bridal suite that can be used throughout the day, and we also have a locker facility, so the bride and groom can spend their entire day here - they can shower, get ready and do their hair and make up here," he says.

For more information on Copper Creek, visit www.coppercreek.ca.

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MINT produces events of exceptional imagination

MINT Lifestyle Events has officially arrived on the Canadian special events scene.

Canada's first-ever "boutique" entertainment service, MINT (www.mintevents.ca) offers a fresh, new approach in specialized event consultation, planning and production.

"It's almost a form of holistic entertainment," says MINT creative director Jeff Kahane. "We want to understand the people that we service, their lifestyles, hopes and dreams, in order to hone in on the optimum experience to excite the senses."

MINT is the brainchild of Jared Florence, Noah Cappe and Jordan Fogle. As the architects behind Mandell Xtreme, Superfly Entertainment and Lobby (Toronto's chic restaurant and lounge), these three have been at the front line of Toronto's event production community for more than two decades.

Now, along with veteran creative director Jeff Kahane of Eyecon Creative, Florence, Cappe and Fogle have combined their broad range of expertise in the private events arena to bring exceptional credibility, originality and a vibrant energy that will elevate the client experience to an exceptional level of service, quality and satisfaction.

Whether you're planning a large corporate function, a small private party, an arts festival or product launch, MINT will deliver unparalleled performance and ensure that your event is as exquisite as it is exclusive.

This wedding party seems totally satisfied with the results.

This entails anything from a quarter-million-dollar "branded" bar/bat mitzvah and a forthcoming Wonka-meets-Seuss extravaganza that will benefit entertainment programs for Sick Kids Hospital to an engagement party featuring Sir Elton John. MINT also offers a lifestyle component to their business, which includes the services of a fashion stylist, a spatial stylist, event branding and graphic design.

Unique to its model, MINT will also promote its own series of lifestyle events that will not only be geared to the obvious crowd of stimulation-seeking teens and young adults but for the first time will also reach out to older singles, young married couples and families in the hope of revitalizing physical human socialization as a backlash to the de-socialized computer dating, online shopping world to which we've all become accustomed.

The MINT mandate guarantees that it will produce events of exceptional imagination, energy, and style, within any budget – elevating the client experience and ensuring every celebration is as unique as the people behind it.

With cutting-edge creativity and keen insight into the latest trends in entertaining, MINT will cater to clients who truly demand the exceptional.

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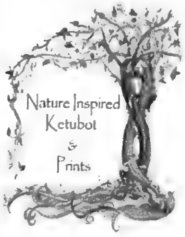

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Party favours help preserve memories

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

In all of the excitement of a party, special moments often fly by quickly.

To help hold memories forever, many hosts now give away party favours that act as keepsakes.

For example, Eventworks specializes in on-site digital photos, a novelty item that captures memories and is a fun hit with guests of all tastes and ages.

"If you're going to give something away, photos are something that everyone keeps," says Ariel Platt, co-owner of Eventworks.

"Whether it's simple or classy, everyone gets excited about it."

Platt notes some people like to incorporate the photos with their party theme.

"In 2007, a lot of people have been into James Bond, so we've custom designed our borders to relate to that theme," Platt says.

"Some people may want the colour [theme] of the night in the photos, or for [the colour] to be consistent with the invitation. If it's specific or general, we can come up with it."

In addition to photos, Eventworks provides other novelty items, including t-shirts, key chains and magnets.

No matter what party favour you fancy, be sure to check out your vendor's past work.

"Go online to see samples," Platt advises.

"And you want to make sure that [the vendor] has the proper equipment and a lot of experience in producing a high quality product."

If you want to seek out the best party favour for your affair or have your event planner look after it, a one-stop party shop is a good place to visit.

A Tyme To Party is such a shop.

In business for more than 10 years, the 6,000 sq.ft. store has a host of party favour products, from blow-up guitars, to flashy necklaces.

"If it's the party planner or the actual [party host], they can come in and we'll sit down with them to find out what they want within their budget," says Andy Sermer, manager of Tyme to Party.

When shopping around for party favours, Sermer says it's important to find a store that makes customer service a top priority.

"What differentiates stores is the service," Sermer says.

"For instance, we'll [serve] people as soon as they come in, and we will carry all the items they buy out to their cars."

If the party favour vendor is at your event, such as the case with Event Works, then customer service is also integral.

"It's not enough to just take a photo," Platt says.

"Our staff is outgoing and friendly, which is really important for your guests."

Platt and Sermer agree that it's necessary to realistically gauge how many party favours you will need and to base this not only on the number of people at your affair, but on budget.

Party favour items and vendors get bought and booked quickly, so leave yourself a good six months in advance to arrange for them.

To learn more about Event Works, visit www.eventworks.ca or phone 416-482-3984.

Connect with a Tyme to Party at www.tymetoparty.com or by calling 905-737-2789.

Another party favour place advertising in this supplement is: Dog Tags By David.

Cayne's bridal registry has a full refund policy

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

For the bride and groom, selecting a place to register can be tricky. Cayne's The Super Housewares Store can provide all of a couple's domestic needs.

The store has been around for 21 years and features mid to high-end appliances that are built to last.

"But we sell [them] at everyday, ridiculously low prices and that's our reputation," said owner Jerry Cayne.

"There's no one that can touch us on that. In terms of quality and prices, we offer substantial savings," he said. Cayne noted that Cuisinart, Braun and Kitchen Aid are among the top-quality brands the store offers.

When a couple chooses to register at Cayne's The Super Housewares Store (905-764-1188; www.cayneshousewares.com), they come in, often with other family members, and meet with a consultant.

"We don't rush them. We try to offer them guidance as to what their basic needs are going to be, not what everyone else wants them to get, but what's best for them," Cayne said.

The pair receives a "bride bag" filled with goodies for both the bride and groom, said Cayne, including cookbooks and coupons.

He said the advantage to working and building a relationship with someone at the store is that the consultant will update the client as new products come into the store or as the client's needs change. Change is common, he said, when the couple registers more than a year before the wedding.

"We try to make it as stress-free as it can be," he said.

"It is a little stressful for a lot of brides. It's to their advantage to speak to someone here and get to know them."

An important thing to consider when choosing a place to register, Cayne said, is what happens when the couple receives a gift they don't want. Often, stores will only give a credit note for that gift, and the newlyweds will have a pile-up of potentially unusable slips. Cayne's The Super Housewares Store has a full refund policy for any gifts the bride and groom deem unfit.

Cayne also said that it is important for the twosome to consider the look of their "ultimate" home. His store's appliances are going to last a long time, he said, and shouldn't one day clash with something in the rest of the house.

Brushed stainless steel is currently a popular choice for appliances, for example, but Cayne said that if the bride and groom want an all-white kitchen one day, this may not be a good fit.

There is no magic time to register in advance of the big date, Cayne said, although he suggested at least a month before any type of party or shower is held.

Aside from appliances, Cayne's The Super Housewares Store also sells bed and bath products, cutlery, tablecloths, general gifts and a wide variety of kitchen and bakeware.

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Look for experience when choosing an invitation maker

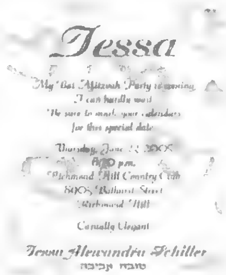
By JENNA ROSMAN
Special to The CJN

Invitations are the first glimpse a person will see into your affair.

Barbara Mortfield of Barbara Mortfield invitations and Gilda Lefton of Stationery Plus have both been in the business of making invitations for decades.

Mortfield (416-590-0515; e-mail cameoinvites@rogers.com) has 39 years of experience making invitations "I'm very reliable, helpful, and I give my opinion freely and people generally are very pleased to deal with me," she says.

Mortfield has created bar and bat mitzvah invitations for the children of couples for whom she created wedding invitations.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Tessa Alexandra Schiller

"It's generational," she says. "By and large [most of my business] has come from word of mouth [from previbus customers]."

Mortfield says the one thing that has changed significantly since she started, almost four decades earlier, has been the emergence of bar and bat mitzvah invitations in the Canadian market, around 20 years ago.

"[Before then] you had to use the invitations that people used for weddings, which were very bad and very fancy," she says.

"When I did my son's bar mitzvah, I had to use a wedding invitation. It was made of vellum and had a gold edge – it was horrible."

Eventually, due to pressure from Mortfield and others in the field, Canadian suppliers turned their attention to bar and bat mitzvah invitations.

According to Mortfield, the key to a beautiful invitation is in the type of paper used, which can include vellum, linen and Japanese paper.

Current wedding invitations are very "classic" and "have become a lot simpler," she says.

Speaking of earlier wedding invitations, which revolved heavily "on designs [featuring] orchids, flowers or candles," current invitations are "quite distinguished looking," she says. "They've become larger, too. We're using a lot larger-sized invitations than before."

Mortfield creates invitations to fit any budget and says that an invitation "can look expensive, but it doesn't have to be expensive."

Lefton (905-881-5588) has been making invitations as well as seating cards, kippot, wedding favours and seating card holders for close to 28 years.

She says the style of invitations and stationery is constantly evolving.

"As everything else, there are trends, there are things that are traditional that never go out of style, there are things that are contemporary and modern and there are things that do fade away and then come back again," she says.

Lefton says that in addition to the sizes and shapes of invitations, the style of the invitation has changed as well.

While overlays, she says, "still haven't had their day yet," traditional ribbons are still being used "not necessarily as bows, but as ribbon trim or a ribbon tie."

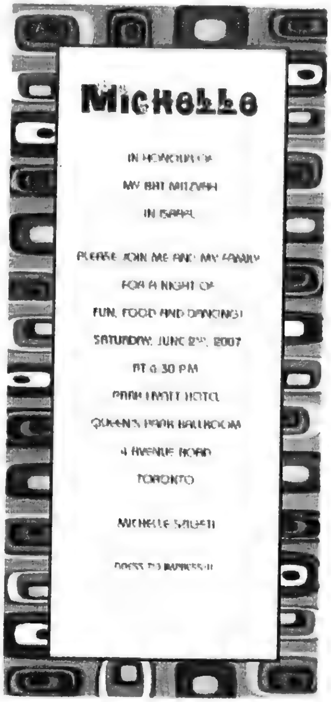
Lefton says that custom-made invitations aren't as expensive as people think.

"Custom only means that I arrange something special for that client. So we change something around from that book invitation. We do things that make them unique for that client, if that's what they want," she says.

Mortfield and Lefton both say that clients should look for experience when they are choosing a business to create that perfect invitation.

"Some people don't take much notice of the experience of the dealer until sometimes it's too late. Someone with experience… can cope with things that go wrong such as unexpected delays, unexpected manufacturing situations or changes in paper," Lefton says. "Someone inexperienced really comes up against a wall and can't really react as well."

Another invitation place advertising in this supplement is: The Printed Word.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Make your event stand out at the **Fairmont Royal York**

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

The Fairmont Royal York has 78 years of experience and is still finding innovative ways to make your event memorable and unique.

The hotel's new wedding package, set to launch July 1, is tailored to the modern client's desire for options and flexibility.

"We're very excited about the launch of it," said conference services and catering director Fernando Teixeira.

The package, which can be customized for any large social event, focuses on choice.

The reception can have many different interactive stations, where chefs prepare food in front of guests. Drink options can be tailored as well, perfect for a bar or bat mitzvah, where there are more children.

As for desserts—"miniatures are now the thing," said Teixeira. "We're incorporating a dessert station that factors a lot of that into it, as well as more of a sweet and savoury aspect." He described options like grilled cheese sandwiches as becoming more popular late at night.

Fairmont's executive chef, David Garcelon, joined the hotel a year and a half ago, and since then the menu has been revised "from top to bottom," Garcelon said.

"One of the great things about the Royal York is we're one of the only hotels in the city, if not the only hotel, that has a full pastry shop with 15 people."

Because guests don't often see that caliber of pastry, Garcelon said, they want to sample as many different things as possible, which makes miniatures a great choice.

"Whenever possible we meet with the client," he said. "We really get to know what they want. A great number of our events don't come from the banquet menu or from the wedding packages—that's sort of a starting point…with the customer nowadays it's all about choice."

For large events, a chef's table is held in the kitchen, where event planners or the family can see the exact plates that will be served, discuss any changes they want and have photos taken so the end result is exactly what they pictured.

The ceiling at the Imperial Room is over 20 feet high.

The Royal York holds about 250 large events (for more than 100 people) annually. About half of those are "kosher-style." If clients want full kosher catering, the hotel refers them to GMB Culinary Productions, with whom they have worked for the past seven years.

"It's really quite seamless," said Teixeira of the process. The hotel has about 10 GMB-catered events a year, and more that require just a few kosher plates.

"We're cautious because although it's a kosher event, it is a representation of the hotel," he said. "We need to make sure we have a partner that we're comfortable with, that will represent us in the best light."

Beyond the kitchen, both Garcelon and Teixeira agreed that as a venue, the Fairmont Royal York is second to none.

"You've got the great ambience of the hotel and the presence of the hotel, the address, the stature—our ballrooms are rooms of castles, they're not function rooms," said Teixeira.

He described the Concert Hall and Imperial Room as the two most popular choices, each with ceilings over 20 feet high.

"The presence of this building, the fact that it's part of Toronto's landscape, we think—and people tell us—that there's still something to be said for having your event at the Fairmont," said Teixeira.

"We did over a millio[illegible] meals last year, but the most important events we do are the social events," said Garcelon. "They're so important to our status in this city and our position in this city, and we take that very seriously."

The Royal York boasts many different rooms, and is sure to have something to fit parties of any size. The hotel is so in-demand that Teixeira suggested booking a full year in advance. In special circumstances, he said, a two-year advance reservation can be made.

For more information, visit www.fairmont.com/royalyork or call their reservation line, 1-800-257-7544.

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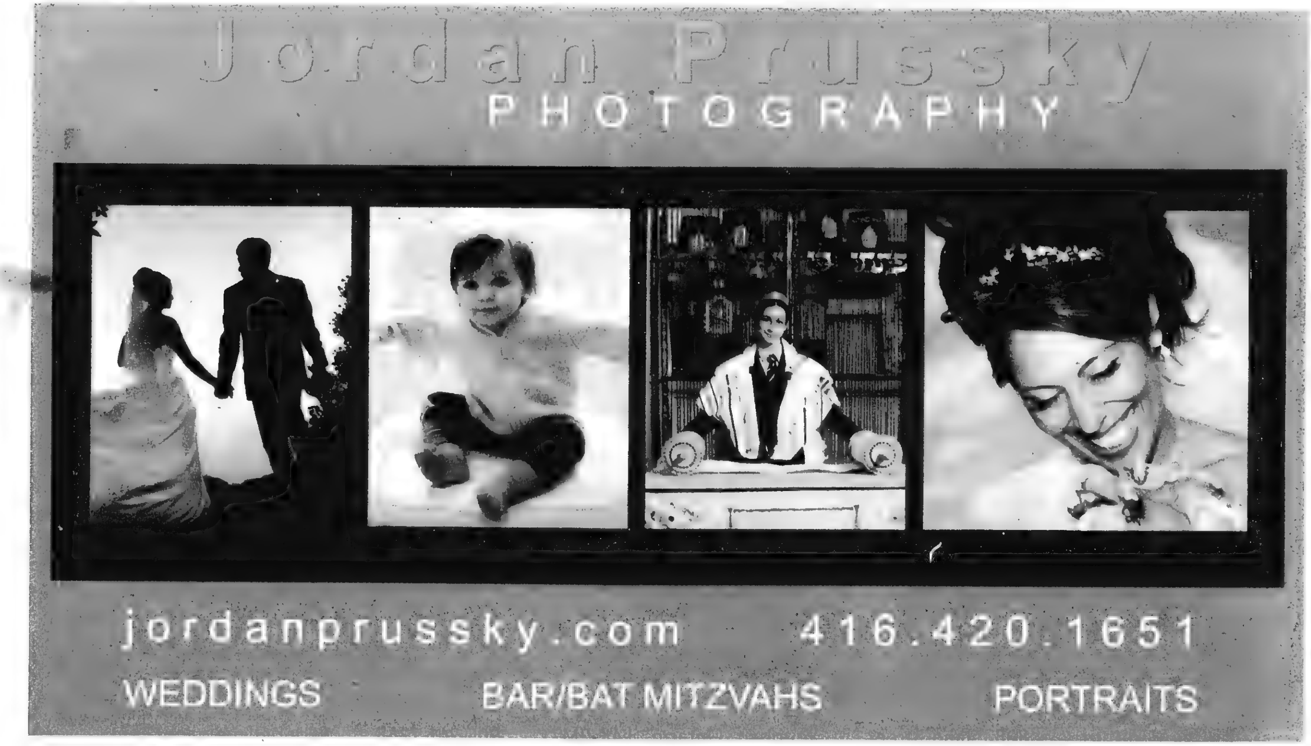

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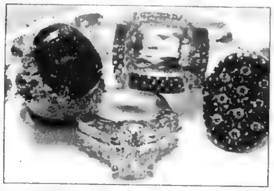

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One-stop shops have a range of supplies for any party

By KYLE GORDON
Special to The CJN

From balloons to baskets, cutlery to candy, the following two shops have a range of party supplies to compliment any simchah.

After spending countless hours in the kitchen cleaning dishes after a Pesach meal, Mel Grevler figured there must be an easier way to entertain.

Grevler explored the disposable wares industry and in 1990, opened Party Supply Depot Ltd. (905-764-5457), located at 92 Doncaster Ave. in Thornhill, as an answer to his washing woes.

Seventeen years later, Grevler's store is home to an extensive range of products including napkins imported from Europe, an assortment of balloons and more than 32 colours of disposable drink and tableware.

"Some of our tableware is so good, people say they put it in their dishwasher," Grevler said.

From the cheapest paper plate to the more expensive microwavable plastic, Grevler said he does his best to ensure his store has a broad selection of products, with pricing that meets everyone's budget.

"We do our best not to forget the basics. That's what we built our business around," Grevler said.

Party Supply Depot is not just for adults. Kids are also encouraged to come in and create their own loot bags from the huge variety of goodies, he said.

"I've had kids come in when we first started who were four, five and six-years-old and now they are bringing their own children in," he said.

"We're not just a party stop, we're a place to stop and chat to friends," Grevler added.

Elaine Levison of Geri's Eatin' Centre (416-445-5504), also has loyal customers returning to her store year after year.

"We've had the same customers coming to us for 29 years," said Levison about her family-run business at 1875 Leslie St. Unit #5, in North York.

Levison's sister established the health food bulk store in 1979. Six years later, Levison and her daughter, Randi Basian, purchased the store and branched out into bulk giftware.

Geri's Eatin'Centre creates gift baskets and trays for all occasions including birthdays, anniversaries, baby showers, weddings and corporate events.

Their baskets vary from the Party Basket with salsa, tortillas, chocolates, cookies and gourmet cocoa, to their Corporate Classic basket containing chocolate truffles, roasted nuts, pasta, herbed oil, antipasto and crackers. Modifications can be made to all baskets to accommodate kosher, low fat and diabetic diets.

Levison and Basian are constantly in search of suppliers who can provide them with unique items to include in their baskets and trays.

"We can't have everything original, but we try to source out original things that are not outrageous in price," said Levison.

Geri's Eatin' Centre was the first store in Toronto to carry Miss Vickie's potato chips. But, there is one item in particular that has customers coming back for more: their No. 1 selling item – Crunch candy.

"Everyone who gets it comes back for it. There isn't one person who has tried it and didn't say 'wow'," said Levison.

For more information on Geri's Eatin' Centre visit: www.torontobaskets.com.

Other one-stop party places advertising in this supplement are: Dynamite Parties and Novelties; Incredible Novelties Inc.; Tyme to Party.

Party places provide fun for the whole family

Continued from page B26

The Mini-Motor Speedway is NASCAR's "premier track offering," he says of the 746-foot oval road course featuring scaled-down Nextel Cup style cars. He describes a second outdoor track called SlideWayz as " slick and tough with a highly polished surface."

The third outdoor track, the Family 500, is a 606-foot-road course featuring single and double seater cars; the driver of a single seat vehicle must be a minimum of 52 inches, says Buttiglieri. "If you're over 40 inches you can go as a passenger. We're all about family fun."

Indoors, The Qualifier provides a 56-foot-starter track for younger car drivers, he explains. "The junior track on the main level is for children 40 to 54 inches tall, while The Champion's Track, an indoor-elevated, figure-eight track, is for adults and children who are a minimum of 54 inches."

Buttiglieri notes that there are also rides for children 36 inches and taller – a carousel, Pro-Tow and Junior Speedway.

He points out that there are a variety of ticket options for guests. Walk-in customers can purchase the park's wristband for $30, allowing them unlimited participation in all the racetracks and attractions, with the exception of the Mini-Motor Speedway and the NASCAR Silicon Motor Speedway simulators. Individual tickets, ticket packages and group packages are also available.

Birthday parties for 11 children start at $349, he says. The price includes lunch, unlimited rides, a roll of tokens for the arcade and the use of a private party room for 1½ hours.

The restaurant offers grilled items like hamburgers and hot dogs as well as pastas and pizzas, says Buttiglieri. "We can [bring in food for] a kosher party.

"We cater to all groups of all sizes, whether it's a birthday party or corporate event," he says. "We have four party-room facilities. Each room exceeds 500 square feet. We can do parties for 300 people. We can tent the outside area. We're very flexible."

Other party places advertising in this supplement are: Artistic Way; Keri's Dancin' Kids; WHIMZ Live Animal Programs.

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The Pickle Barrel offers all-inclusive party packages

By ASHLEY SPEGEL
Special to The CJN

It's impossible to resist the Pickle Barrel's delicious party sandwiches, and that's one of the reasons why the restaurant's catering sector has become so popular with Torontonians.

From backyard barbecues to bar mitzvahs, the Pickle Barrel (416-493-4333; www.picklebarrel.ca) is guaranteed to tickle your taste buds with its vast catering menu.

"Our events provide a friendly, warm and comfortable atmosphere," said Sheryl Ross, Pickle Barrel's events co-ordinator.

The franchise's banquet halls, located in the Markville Shopping Centre and in the Rose Room at its Leslie Street location, are ideal for large simchahs, including family brunches and engagement parties, and are tastefully decorated to reflect the mood of your event.

After undergoing a recent renovation, the Markville hall has a modern, contemporary feel, with cherry wood and brick walling, and hanging glass lighting with wood trim. "It's beautiful and classy," Ross said.

It's stressful organizing an affair on your own, which is why the Pickle Barrel has Ross to organize everything, including the entertainment, décor and menu, to make certain your occasion is a memorable success.

"I'm the party, events and banquet coordinator, and I'm there from the beginning of planning to the end of the function," she said. "The all-inclusive packaging we provide is very convenient because all your party necessities are available at one place, and everything comes together with ease."

The Pickle Barrel provides a friendly, and comfortable atmosphere.

Packages include china, tables and chairs, linens, flowers and centerpieces, serving staff, bartenders, tents and dance music.

The Pickle Barrel serves dairy and fruit platters, salads, party sandwiches of egg, tuna, salmon, and lox and cream cheese.

Another crowd-pleaser is sautéed skewers of grilled beef, chicken and salmon with teriyaki or peanut dipping sauce.

"Personally, the brunch is the best meal Pickle Barrel Catering has to offer on its catering menu," said Ross. "It comes with an omelette station, a waffle bar, warm blintzes and French toast, bagels, a dairy platter with smoked salmon, a fruit platter, and sweets and cookies."

Throughout its 30 years of business, the Pickle Barrel has continued to impress patrons.

"We have the best venues and food for the best value," said Ross. "Everything PB catering provides its clients is consistent and incredible [and] at a great and affordable price point."

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The Pickle Barrel serves up dishes of many varieties including salmon.

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A gift of jewelry is a token of love

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

A gift of jewelry is a token of strong and lasting love.

Toronto jewellers Eileen Silberzweig of Eileen's Pearls (416-630-1463), and Lilliane Moses, of Lilliane's Fine Jewellery (416-920-7676; www.lrfjewels.com) have their own specialties in the world of jewelry and are pleased to share their knowledge if you're looking for a special gift.

Silberzweig specializes in pearls, restringing and restoring them, as you might expect from the name, but she also repairs all other kinds of jewellery. Working out of her home, she started the business 30 years ago, and is a member of the Canadian Jewellers Association.

There are freshwater and natural (or ocean) pearls. The freshwater are smaller than the ocean variety.

Pearls have been held in high value as far back as biblical times. In Canada, they are treasured gifts for brides, and for Mother's Day. They are also valued for anniversaries and birthdays.

Pearls are graded for shape, colour and size. A perfect pearl is perfectly round, and of one colour with no blemishes or spots.

Eileen Silberzweig shows off her fine pearls..

Since cultured pearls are grown by oysters in nature, most have blemishes: spots, bumps or pits on the surface. The fewer blemishes, the more valuable the pearl. Those with none at all are rare.

It is also rare to find a perfectly round pearl: the rounder, the more valuable. However, Baroque pearls, which are asymmetrical, appeal to some people because of their unusual shape, and often cost less than round cultured pearls.

Cultured pearls come in a wide range of colours – black, white, grey, silver, yellow and rose. While colour is a matter of preference, light-toned pearls tend to look best on those with fair skin, and creamy tones on those with darker complexions.

Cultured pearls are measured by their size in millimetres. All other factors being equal, the larger the pearl, the more valuable: it is hard for an oyster to grow a pearl more than five millimetres in size. The most popular size sold around the world is about seven millimetres.

Most of the biggest ones come from the South Seas or Australia. Mabe pearls can be as big as 30 millimetres.

Most of what leaves Moses' store is either customized or redesigned older jewelry – for example, an antique ring with a new, updated pattern. Her niche is custom design, with everything in the shop handmade, or a one-of-a-kind original.

She works with a wide range of materials: precious and semi-precious stones, pearls, silver, gold and fine platinum.

And she caters to the individuality of their clients. A visit to her website shows a great variety of designs, many of them highly original.

A gemmologist is on the premises at all times; and Moses herself is a professional gemmologist. The staff are knowledgeable about current trends as well as materials.

Moses has been in her Hotel Intercontinental location for 18 years. Most of her business is repeat clientele, now into the second generation.

"We don't need to advertise," she says. "Word of mouth is our major form of advertising. We keep our expenses low for the sake of the consumer.

"A piece must not only be beautiful in its own right, in the showcase," says Moses. "It must also look good on the client."

Another jewelry place advertising in this supplement is: Gold Step Jewellers Ltd.

Shown above is a customized plasma wall featuring thirteen 42" panels.

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Advanced PRODUCTS GROUP

Rental firms supply crucial party components

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

When it comes to planning a party, rental companies – such as linen and audio-visual equipment suppliers – have the products you need when you need them.

Debbi Farkas of Around the Table (416-630-6704, www.aroundthetable.ca) says her company specializes in high-end linen rental, mainly tablecloths and napkins. With close to 10 years in business, it's one of the leaders in its field.

Farkas does most of her buying in Europe, bringing a European flavour to the Canadian market.

She says this is fun for her as a buyer, and gives the company a competitive edge.

Europe's colours, she says, are three or four years ahead of North America's, and in general, Europe still leads in design.

"In any case," Farkas laughs, "I have to buy in Europe now. Clients expect me to have this edge. I can't change."

Around the Table offers a great variety of patterns and colours in napkins, tablecloths and overlays. And its website has special sections devoted to bridal and corporate linens.

Around the Table offers service as much as product. Today's linen selection is so huge, it can be overwhelming, so Farkas and her staff like to guide clients through the process of making a choice. They enjoy working with people.

She and her staff are also familiar with the venues in the city. They know what linen fits what size of table, and they can advise clients on what colours and designs work best in each hall according to its decor. In fact, she puts staff through a course in which they see all the major venues and learn what fits where.

Farkas checks with clients constantly to make sure the order is correct down to the smallest detail. This helps the event planner as well as the client. Likewise, it helps both client and event planner that she's always on time.

Farkas also mentions quality control. This can be painstaking: organza, for example, is always double-checked, because it's hard to find holes in it.

Saul Keshen of Giant Screen Systems (416-784-4454, www.giantscreensystems.com) started out in electronics sales.

"I got so many rental requests, though, that I decided to open a rental business," he says.

Giant Screen Systems is now in its 24th year renting screens, projection and lighting systems, sound systems, and cameras. Seventy per cent of its rentals are based on large screen formats, and 30 per cent on sound systems. It carries up-to-date product lines, such as high-definition TVs and wired or wireless mikes.

Its clients are corporate and private, for parties and other events. Corporate and organizational functions are most common, but it also serves plenty of private events.

And the company can record your event for you.

Rental fees include technicians to set up and operate equipment on site, and to take it down when your event is over.

"Teaching is also part of the package," Keshen adds.

Giant Screen Systems can be booked anywhere from four or five months ahead to one day ahead.

"We're adaptable," Keshen explains.

Indeed, he places adaptability high on his list of desirable business qualities.

No two events are exactly alike, so to succeed, he has to fit to each situation as well as he can, he says.

Foresight, however, he ranks even higher.

"This comes largely from experience," he adds. "It's good to adapt to the unexpected – but even better to expect it on the basis of previous experience, and plan for it."

Other rental companies advertising in this supplement are Gawenda & Co. and Chair-Man Mills Inc.

Find the perfect venue - online!

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
Special to the CJN

Looking for a location for their next party or special event, most people are stuck with one of two solutions. Either rely on word of mouth – and end up with the same venue everybody else has used – or search blindly in the Yellow Pages or on Google, struggling against the hype to find a distinctive spot that reflects the occasion.

John Fruitman has a better answer: Venue Source (www.venuesource.ca; 416-238-5555), an online directory that lets you narrow down your search so you get results that are exactly what you're looking for.

The site offers "comprehensive listings on all of Toronto's finest venues," Fruitman says, and allows very specific searches on "everything from capacity to atmosphere type, catering, amenities like free parking or kosher catering.

"For a bar mitzvah, people may want it to be a little more casual or fun… or brides may be looking for an historic mansion…or you can make the search specific so it will only display historic venues in Toronto that can accommodate up to 50 or up to 200 guests."

When you click the Search button, Venue Source will only show those venues that match your criteria.

You're not choosing blindly, either. Once you've found a few locations that seem to match what you're looking for, Venue Source offers 360-degree Virtual Tours.

Just click the "concierge" image in any venue's listing and you're treated to a crystal-clear scrolling panoramic "tour" of the entire location, fully decorated as it would be for an event..

If more than one hall (or deck, or outdoor area) is available, these can be selected from a drop-down menu and then they scroll past in the same way. You control the speed of the tour by clicking and dragging your mouse.

There's also a gallery of still images for each venue, and once you've decided that you'd like more information, full contact details are also available with a single click. Another click takes you to the venue's own website, where you can often find more details like menus and pricing.

The site currently holds information about approximately 150 advertiser venues, with more being added all the time. Either the venue contacts Fruitman or, if a user makes a specific request, he will make the call and invite the venue to take advantage of Venue Source's tens of thousands of visitors monthly.

New listings on the site are highlighted and include a number of harbour cruise ships, Toronto's Botanical Garden and even the Royal Ontario Museum, which is available for groups ranging from 10 to 1000.

"Searching for a perfect venue can be very daunting," Fruitman says. It involves numerous phone calls, travel and other planning before reaching a final decision. By providing important information, like capacity and whether or not it allows outside and/or kosher catering, up front, Venue Source spares users' time and frustration, "We get a lot of emails from people who thank us; it's saved them days and days of research."

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King Solomon's cuisine is **healthy and delicious**

By **ERIC LAYMAN**
Special to The CJN

King Solomon's Table is a quality caterer that offers excellent kosher food, either in its banquet hall or in an outside venue.

King Solomon's Table (416-630-1666; www.kingsolomonstable.com) caters events that range from gala to intimate, at various different types of venues, including homes, offices, seniors' residences and nightclubs.

As an in-house caterer, King Solomon's Table is popular for brises, baby namings, bar and bat mitzvahs, engagements and wedding receptions. Simchahs of different kinds constitute 95 per cent of its business, says King Solomon's general manager, Joe Elmaleh.

On Saturday evenings and Sunday at lunchtime, King Solomon's Table is not open to the public, as it is reserved for catered events.

Clients may redecorate the banquet hall and bring their own entertainment. King Solomon's Table seats 310. Although it is one large room, it can be partitioned. And wheelchair access, with handicap-accessible washrooms on the main level, make this location welcoming for everyone.

King Solomon's Table has been open since 1993. In the years since, they have accumulated a creditable track record in the catering industry, marrying wisdom with innovation.

King Solomon's offers a variety of menus, with prices that accommodate a full range of budgets, from lavish to modest. They will even custom-design a menu for you – and have fun working on it.

On one occasion, they were catering a 60th wedding anniversary. To convey the feeling that the celebrants were still youthful in spirit, they hit on the idea of using hamburgers, the ultimate "kids' food," in a sophisticated format: canapé-sized mini-hamburgers as hors d'oeuvres, Elmaleh says.

It has become a cliché to say that people are more health conscious than they used to be. But they don't just want food to be good for them: they demand that it be as delicious and tasty as the "bad old" favourites with their high sugar, fat and salt content.

"Kosher cuisine," as Elmaleh points out, "has long since broken free of old stereotypes. Knishes? We don't serve 'em."

Menus feature a variety of fresh ingredients. Soups and desserts are created daily in-house. Main dishes are international and include such favourites as Sicilian Steak and Thai Chicken Monsoon. There's a tempting pasta selection and a Chinese buffet. The takeout menu is extensive as well.

Elmaleh advises booking six months to a year ahead, but you can reserve further in advance if you wish. "If you want an exact date, book further ahead," he recommends.

King Solomon's offers a variety of kosher menus.

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Toscana Banquet Centre provides multimedia facilities

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

☐ Fully Kosher Facility
☒ Separate Kosher Kitchen Available
☐ Kosher Event Catering Available
☒ Capacity up to 100 People
☒ 100-300 Person Capacity
☒ Over 300 Person Capacity
☒ Wheelchair Accessible

If there is an emerging buzz phrase in the world of venues for special events, it's "one-stop shop," says Reetu Gupta, director of sales and marketing for the Easton's Group of Hotels.

"People want a venue that has everything," she says.

"That means you don't have to call a separate company to do the lighting, chair covers or DJ. It can all be done within the banquet facility."

This one-stop paradigm is the mantra of the Easton Group's Toscana Banquet and Conference Centre (905-660-5200; www.toscanabanquethall.ca), which is attached to the Hilton Garden Inn.

The new facility in Vaughan offers a variety of rooms for affairs, with the capacity to host everything from weddings and bar mitzvahs to beauty pageants and business seminars.

The attached hotel has 155 rooms and offers preferential rates if guests from your party stay there.

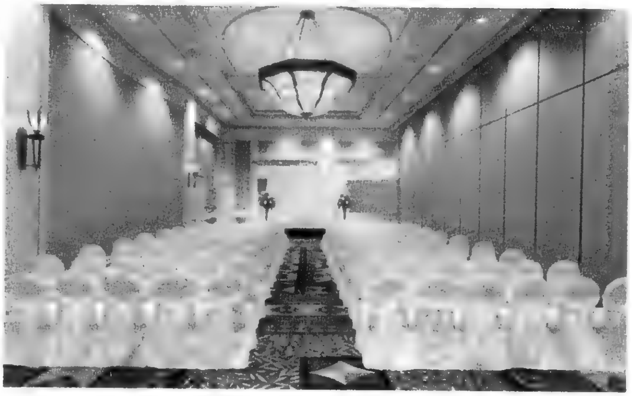
Gupta notes that Toscana co-ordinators will work with clients and/or their party planners to put the entire party together, from the décor and lighting to cuisine and room setup.

"The co-ordinators will stay there all night at the party to help and be the liaison between the client and the vendors to make it easier for them," she says.

She says the one-stop-shop philosophy is a growing trend in venue circles and as such, a growing number of banquet halls are providing multimedia facilities.

For instance, drop-down screens for visual presentations, surround sound and state-of-the-art lighting are becoming more commonplace.

"People want venues that are funky," says Gupta.



The new facility in Vaughan offers a variety of rooms for services including weddings, bar mitzvahs, beauty pageants and business seminars.

"So rather than having to bring in a separate vendor to do the lighting and décor, PinSpot lighting, for example, can be used to light up the room."

To that end, at a recent affair at Toscana, the PinSpot lighting illuminated the room with shades of pink and orange to create a dusk ambience, and as the night went on, the colours changed to blue and purples, to symbolize the onset of evening.

Before party time, it's important to visit the venue more than once and to ensure the intended room for your party accommodates your guests, Gupta advises.

Sit-down meetings with the event co-ordinators are also key.

With respect to customer service, Gupta emphasizes that the customer needs to be catered to.

"The venue has to work towards what the clients want and what they are comfortable with," she says.

While certain days of the week can increase your chances of availability, it's still recommended to book six months in advance.

Gupta notes the Tosca has a kosher kitchen and party hosts are free to bring in the kosher caterer of their choice.

The facility is currently offering $1,500 in upgrades for weddings booked before June 30, 2007.

Advertisement

Of many classy venues, the Granite Club is in a class of one

So many venues to choose from, so hard to choose just one.

Or is it?

"Unique" is arguably the most overworked word in the banquet/catering vernacular. Many bandy it about, but can any one player truthfully wear its mantle? Is any venue truly in a class of ONE?

Let's look at the facts and figures.

ONE has a history that dates back prior to Confederation. That's old. That's *really* old. In a good way. Older than your great-great-Bubie. That isn't just a track record, that's a legacy. Think they have enough experience to handle your function?

ONE is young enough in spirit to spend $3 million upgrading its historic premises with state-of-the-art amenities. And forward-thinking enough to bring gustatory innovation to a new level: many of the culinary trends showcased in the city's leading restaurants originated in its kitchens. (As it happens, the aforementioned really old place and this really new place are one and the same).

ONE sits on 22 acres of land recently certified by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, and blooms with exquisite flora that would be the envy of many botanical gardens. No need to add greenery when it's already in house.

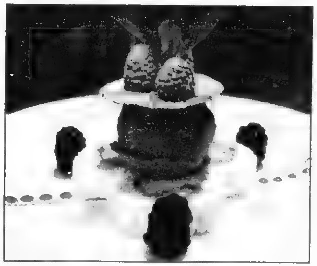
ONE boasts not one, not two, but *three* landscaped terraces. No need to decide between celebrating inside or outside; at this venue, you do both.

ONE takes literally the ubiquitous offer of exquisite European cuisine by employing a culinary staff of 150 headed by European-trained chefs of the highest pedigree, from Executive Chef Nigel Didcock to Pastry Chef Renato Del Sol and a variety of other specialists, each a master of his or her craft.

ONE treats the concept of field-to-table freshness not as a perk but as an *obligation*, with fresh domestic produce arriving daily and fresh fish flown in from Europe thrice weekly.

ONE photographs each and every dish it prepares, then keeps the photo on permanent file (Pressure? What pressure?)

ONE declines to refer to its culinary creations as works of art, instead offering *real* works of art in the form of a permanent onsite gallery featuring works by noted artists.



ONE is traditionally private, but for special events welcomes the community and members alike.

ONE precludes the need to whittle down your perfect-world wish list to a realistic size. (At this venue, you simply add to it).

MOST will tell you the sky's the limit; here, it's just a good start.

MANY preach service and satisfaction. **ONE** etches it in Granite.

www.graniteclub.com

Giveaway gifts are simchah mementoes

By ASHLEY SPEGEL
Special to The CJN

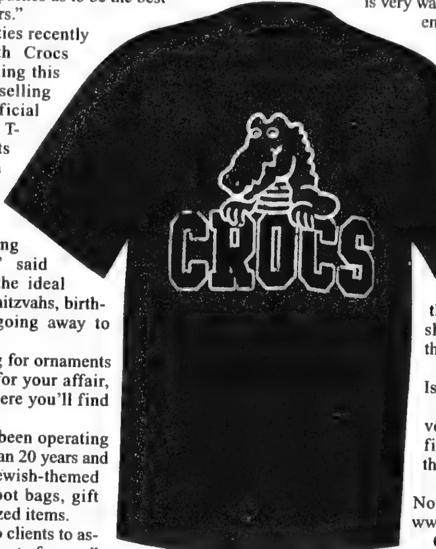
Free stuff is good stuff, and party favours are guaranteed crowd pleasers and mementoes for guests at your celebration.

"Incredible Novelties understands the special events market, because we see what the kids and adults need at parties," says Saul Sacks, one half of the duo that runs Incredible Novelties.

"We see how the products are used at parties, and that gives us a competitive advantage in the industry."

For seven years, Saul and his partner Dan Jankelow have been putting smiles on client's faces by delivering a vast array of knick-knacks and unique apparel at simchahs and other social events. You can thank them for the iPod pillow and NBA waste basket you won last week at your cousin's bat mitzvah, both earned through your shameless John Travolta impersonation on the dance floor.

"We're continuously updating our clients with newest, greatest stuff, and we set the trend for the business," said Sacks. "Seeing how satisfied we make clients and the value they gain out of our service is so rewarding, and it's that satisfaction that pushes us to be the best party favour providers."



Incredible Novelties recently signed a deal with Crocs apparel, and beginning this summer, it will be selling everything from official Crocs footwear to T-shirts, to clients looking for that extra edge at their family affairs.

"We've very excited to be carrying this new product," said Sacks. "Crocs are the ideal prize at bar and bat mitzvahs, birthdays and for kids going away to summer camp."

If you're searching for ornaments with a Jewish twist for your affair, Israel's Judaica is where you'll find everything you need.

The company has been operating in Toronto for more than 20 years and has a wide array of Jewish-themed toys and treats for loot bags, gift baskets and personalized items.

"We sell giftware to clients to assemble into their own party favours," said Amit Bitnun, the manager of Israel's Eglinton location. "We help with personalizing kippot and benchers, [and] we engrave giftware and rent chupahs."

Mezuzahs, tzedakah boxes, kosher cookbooks and videos are just the beginning of what Israel's Judaica has to offer, and Israeli-themed tchatchkes are the retailer's forte.

Its locations in Thornhill and on Eglinton Avenue West are in the heart of Toronto's Jewish community, and both supply Judaica to suit the lifestyles and educational needs of their neighbourhoods.

"Because it's a family-run business, the atmosphere is very warm, friendly and loyal," said Bitnun. "As employees, we care for each other and for the business, and it's reflected in the way we work and interact with our customers."

Reliability, value and excellent customer service are essential when selecting a party favour supplier for your special event, and Incredible Novelties and Israel's Judaica are ideal merchants to turn to.

"We provide the client with the best value for their dollar," said Sacks. "We know what the kids want and how many prizes should be allocated to each party, so there's no money wasted."

Bitnun says the same applies to Israel's.

"Price-wise and variety-wise, we're very well stocked, and clients always find what they need in accordance with their budget."

For more information on Incredible Novelties, call 905-881-9900 or visit www.incrediblenovelties.com.

Contact Israel's Judaica at the Eglinton location at 416-256-1010 and the Thornhill location at 905-881-1010, or visit www.israelsjudaica.com.

Another gift store advertising in this supplement is The Israeli Source.

Crocs shirts and iPod pillows are some of the novelty items provided by Incredible Novelties.

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Rabbi performs humanistic ceremonies

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Eva Goldfinger, the first humanistic rabbi in Canada, conveys her passion for Judaism when officiating at wedding ceremonies and bar/bat mitzahs.

A rabbi at Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, Rabbi Goldfinger, 56, says that she wants people to feel the "joy and the embrace of the Jewish people."

Ordained last year at the International Institute of Secular Humanistic Judaism in Farmington Hills, Mich., she said in an interview that humanistic Jews are concerned about the continuity of Judaism, but "we don't pray. We act as if no supreme power is guiding our lives.

"We're very respectful, however, of every mode people choose to express their Judaism. The only thing we don't tolerate is intolerance."

These beliefs may seem like a huge departure from her upbringing in a chassidic family that escaped Hungary in 1957, but the graduate of Bais Yaacov High School said that "I did follow in their footsteps. I just took a different path – a more rational way to express my feelings."

The director of life cycles and adult education at Oraynu, Rabbi Goldfinger said that the congregation has 120 member families and continues to attract new members.

"We have holiday services, adult education programs, youth groups, a Sunday school and a very strong one-year-long bar/bat mitzvah program, which includes an independent research project on a Jewish subject."

Projects have included a study of Jews in medieval Spain, a biblical look at Jewish holidays and an analysis of Holocaust resistance. "These kids come from families that question things, and they typically look at topics in an intellectual way.

"Humanistic Judaism is about Jewish culture, philosophy, ethics, and our place in history. We have a strong identity as Jews, but we're not theistic. We try to convey that to our youth."

She performs wedding ceremonies for anyone who is Jewish and wants a ceremony consistent with who they are, she said.

Rabbi Eva Goldfinger

"If people are interested in expressing their Judaism, I want to make sure we include them in our community. We don't want to lose someone who wants to be Jewish."

When a couple approaches her about performing a wedding ceremony, she asks about their interests and talks about nontheistic traditions, she says.

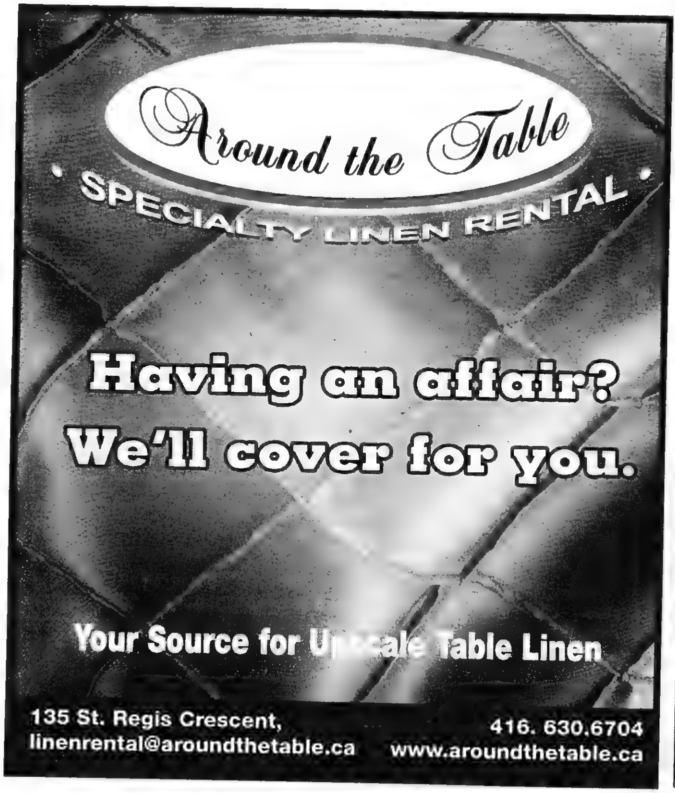
"If the couple chooses to be married under a chupah, I explain that it is a symbol of inclusivity and that it creates an environment in which parents embrace their children.

"I then write a marriage ceremony for them, and include as little or as much Hebrew as they desire. For the first blessing we express our gratitude for the eternal unfolding of the seasons that has brought us to this momentous occasion. That blessing addresses everyone's spirituality," she says.

She also offers a "gorgeous" candlelighting or wine ceremony, in which parents light candles or fill a glass, and pass them on to their children. "In this way, they're passing on their values and heritage. It is very spiritual and nontheistic."

The wedding package includes a ketubah written in Hebrew and English, or English only, she says.

Rabbi Goldfinger can be reached at 905-889-7450 or at evagoldfinger@rogers.com.



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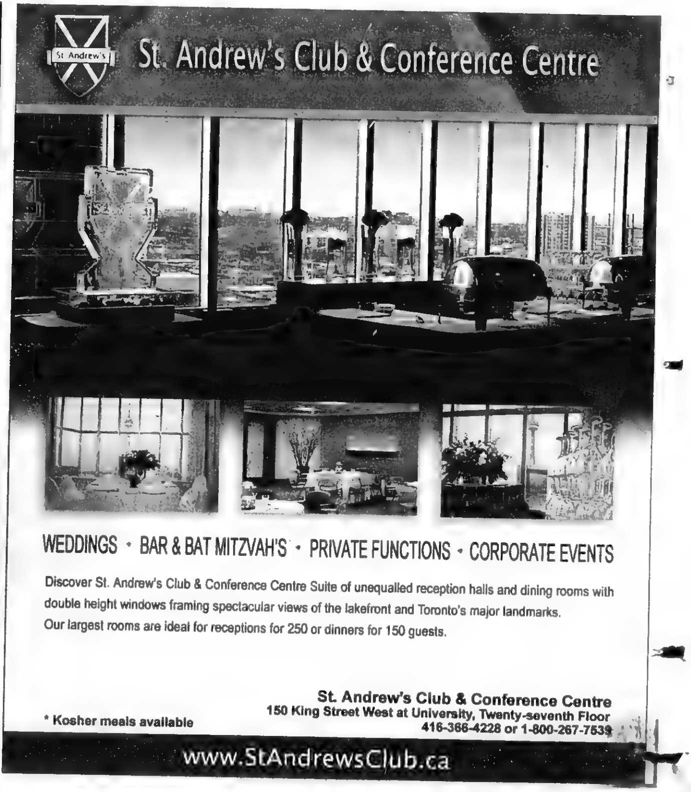

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A service for those who don't like online dating

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Dinnerworks is a personal networking service for single adults of all ages. The company orchestrates intimate group dinners, interactive social events and one-on-one matchmaking.

Founder and original Toronto franchisee Liisa Vexler began operating in the Toronto singles market in 2002, and current owner Susan Kates took over in 2003.

Kates – newly single herself at the time – noticed a Dinnerworks ad for participants in a local newspaper. She had just left a 20-year career in marketing to live out her passion to teach cooking.

Susan Kates

"I thought what a neat way for singles to get together," explains Kates, who is a recent newlywed, but didn't meet her husband through Dinnerworks.

"I was looking for clients to come to my cooking classes, so I approached Liisa. We tried it and people loved it. After about a year of doing the cooking demonstrations for the Dinnerworks community in my home, Liisa approached me to take over the Toronto franchise.

"The way that it works is people go out for dinners in groups. [They may group people based on age or sometimes a theme, such as an interest in travel.]

"I saw that there was an opportunity to be a matchmaker; I had a database, so I did some matches. I was very successful with the first few matches. One couple is married with a baby."

Feeling a need to learn the ins and outs of the business, Kates flew to New York to attend a four-day certified program offered by the Matchmaking Institute and operated by well-known American matchmaker Lisa Clampett.

"The course teaches you about the industry," she says. "One of the problems about matchmaking is people [take advantage of] the vulnerable; I wanted to do something reputable with integrity, which is important to me.

"This is a service for people who don't like online dating. The problem with online dating is that there is a lot of lying and cheating that goes on. This is a lot more real – people like to meet face to face. Nobody is going to participate in Dinnerworks if they aren't really single because there are just too many instances where they are going to run into somebody they know. The six degrees of separation totally apply here. I don't need to ensure people are single – they are going to be."

Kates says a large number of people in the Jewish community are interested in the dinners, events and matchmaking service, and she looks forward to the opportunity of working with Jewish singles.

She says that for the most part, dinners are held in owner-operated "trendy" restaurants and she has access to kosher restaurants when requested.

About 80 per cent of Kates' business consists of events such as barbecues, holiday parties, wine tastings, cooking classes and the restaurant dinners.

The other 20 per cent is devoted to matchmaking. The cost of the matchmaking is approximately $1,000 and is paid for by the party who initially requests the service.

For the dinners there is a service charge for every evening you attend. The cost is in and around $50, but varies according to how many dinners you plan to attend. The service charge covers the setup, a hostess who stays only to introduce the clients, and a welcome cocktail. At the end of the meal, all the daters are responsible for paying for their own consumption.

Under Kates, Dinnerworks has grown to cater to singles not only in the Greater Toronto Area, but throughout southwestern Ontario, Ottawa and Vancouver. She organizes three or four dinners per week and one larger event.

"Dinnerworks is always evolving and addressing the needs of the community as well. I take suggestions from my clients and see what they are interested in. We are very proactive that way," says Kates.

For more information about Dinnerworks contact Susan Kates online at www.dinnerworks.ca or call 416-483-1312.

A consultant helps you plan the perfect party

By ASHLEY SPEGAL
Special to The CJN

Party consultants are essential resources when you want to see your simchah dreams become a reality. In addition to having a multitude of connections and ideas, a consultant will act as a mentor and confidant and provide a shoulder to cry on during those stressful times of doubt and panic.

"It's about working as a team and being comfortable enough to call me up at any time and feel secure knowing I'm there for them," says Rickie Bessner, who's been putting together parties for more than 15 years with her business partner Fern Cohen. "I'm there for my clients, to make sure things work for their simchah the best they can, and I'm there every step of the way for the entire family."

Bessner and Cohen formed their partnership after working together at the same event company. The two are a perfect fit, Bessner says, because they share similar ideas and philosophies, and value the close relationships they establish with their clients.

"Building a respectful relationship with the clients is so important," she says. "At the end of the night, when you see everyone happy, and I receive an abundance of thank yous and appreciation, it's so fulfilling."

Since every family is unique, it's important to find the right party planner to help arrange a celebration that reflects your values and beliefs.

Marla Kay has been working the party circuit for 20 years and prides herself on her ability to alleviate her clients' anxiety levels throughout the event planning process.

"After working in the industry for so long, I don't get stressed out because I can't," she says. "It's nice to put your party into someone's hands who has the experience to put it all together, and you know everything will be accomplished without worry."

Kay enjoys working alongside families to create their picture-perfect parties, and sharing her enthusiasm with her clients is her favourite aspect of being a co-ordinator.

"Being an event planner is a personal thing because a lot of emotions are involved between you and the family, and it's not just a business," she says. "It's the excitement that [goes] into planning the party that makes it great, because you share in the excitement together."

Connecting with your party planner is the first and most important step before hiring one to take on the job. You'll want to spend those countless hours of kvetching to someone who understands your concerns and can help you deal with your fears.

"I'm their support group," Bessner says. "I'm there to take the worry off my clients and their guests at the function because that's my job."

Years later, when flipping through your son's bar mitzvah photo album, you'll smile and be grateful that you found the co-ordinator who made it all happen.

And, like some of Kay's clients, you'll want to relive the excitement all over again.

"What's very flattering is that I've come full circle and I'm now doing weddings for the bar mitzvah boys I've worked with," Kay says. "It's very sweet."

For more party planning information, call Rickie Bessner and Fern Cohen at 905-731-2005, or Marla Kay at 905-882-2042.

Other party planners/consultants advertising in this supplement are: 2 Steps Ahead Events; Sharon Goodman — Wedding & Party; Heidi Gruenspan; Judy Stein Consulting & Associates; Gayle Kertzman; Not Just Eventz; Cherry & Baker & Associates; Shaindy Cohen Goldstein, Consultant; Tamara Temes, Bridal and Party Consultant; Up & Coming Events; B'Dazzled; C&C Eventz; Paramount Outings.com.

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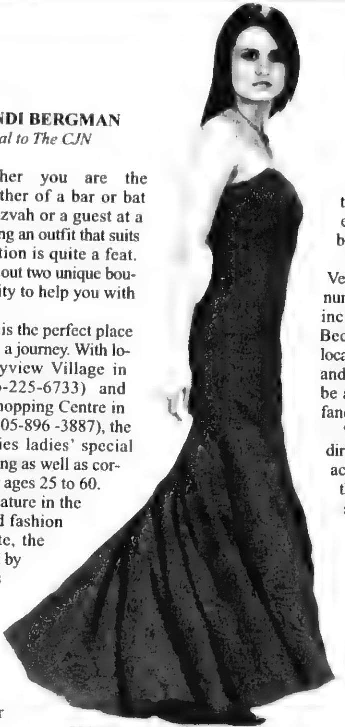
Lots of possibilities when you want to dress up

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN



K.Barketti clothing is exclusively designed for the boutique.

Whether you are the mother of a bar or bat mitzvah or a guest at a simchah, finding an outfit that suits you to perfection is quite a feat. We've scouted out two unique boutiques in the city to help you with your search.

K. Barketti is the perfect place to start on such a journey. With locations at Bayview Village in Toronto (416-225-6733) and Square One Shopping Centre in Mississauga (905-896 -3887), the boutique carries ladies' special occasion clothing as well as corporate suits for ages 25 to 60.

A unique feature in the mass-produced fashion industry of late, the clothing carried by K. Barketti is exclusively designed for the boutique. "We can guarantee that you will never come to a party and be wearing the same thing as someone else," says Terrie Walia, the boutique's owner.

K. Barketti's head of design, Velika Kosteski, has dressed a number of Canadian celebrities, including singer Amy Sky. Because the design team is located in Toronto, styling, sizing and creation of the dresses can be adjusted according to your fancy.

"Customers can work directly with the design team to achieve the look they want for their special occasion." Walia says.

Kosteski can also create custom designed dresses by appointment. In store, K. Barketti carries sizes 2 to 26, and other sizes can be ordered by measurement.

"Customers are all different, so there can't be a limit on what sizes we make available to them," Walia says.

Tending toward the classic, the design team tries to stay away from ostentatious trends. "Special occasion clothing should not be too wild," Walia says. "We have lots of soft colours like pastel pink, a muted lime green, as well as browns in the store at the moment."

For mother-of-the-bride suits, brocade and dupioni silk are among the favourite fabrics. "A very classic look [is best for] this type of suit," Walia says.

Whether they have already designed it or will design it exclusively for you, the team at K. Barketti can make your dream outfit a reality. For more information, visit www.kbarketti.com.

For a completely different take on women's fashion, head to One Funky Avenue (416-784-1234), which is located at 1912-A Avenue Rd., Unit 1. A brand new addition to the Avenue shopping area, One Funky Avenue offers an eclectic mix of vintage consignment clothing, as well as jewelry and Judaica.

"I've been shopping in Kensington Market and on Queen Street since I was 15. That was the type of atmosphere I wanted the store to have," says Annette Hoffman, the store's owner, who has a background in real estate and speech writing. "The unique feel to this store is very much a part of who I am."

The store is equally split between the consignment shop and the "bling bling" room, and the items carried by Hoffman are anything but ordinary.

"In the consignment shop, I carry everything from a Chanel dress to a Gap T-shirt to Stuart Weitzman shoes," she says. "People really love the idea of consignment, of getting something back for their clothes."

Hoffman carries newly designed handbags as well, and in the "bling bling" room, you'll find one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces as well as various Judaica including kiddush cups and menorahs.

"I carry a mix of Israeli and locally designed jewelry," Hoffman says. "And while you're there, you can pick up a bar mitzvah gift!"

The atmosphere at One Funky Avenue is not only unique; it is extremely warm and welcoming as well.

"Some customers take their shoes off before coming into the store," Hoffman says with a laugh. "That's how at home they feel."

Hoffman will continue her special occasion speech writing from the store. Kick back and relax – at One Funky Avenue your every need will be taken care of.

Another fashion place advertising in this supplement is: Gasti's Boutique.

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Liberty Group has a venue to suit your needs

By **ERIC LAYMAN**
Special to The CJN

Are you planning an event and aren't sure exactly what kind of venue will suit you? Call Liberty Group (416-542-3789 or 416-LIBERTY) or visit www.libertygroup.com. One call will open up a range of possibilities.

Founded in 1987, the Liberty Group's first venue was PM Toronto, a bar on Carlton Street, east of Church Street on the north side, says Liberty's director of sales and catering Robert Rosset.

Near Maple Leaf Gardens, it drew a clientele of athletes and fans and was one of Toronto's first "sports bars."

Since then, Liberty Group has continued to set trends.

It offers what Rosset calls "a portfolio of venues": Liberty Grand, Live@Courthouse, Rosewater Room, Rosewater Supper Club, C-Lounge, and Phoenix Concert Theatre. They're also involved with Harbourfront hospitality services and will take on two new venues in the fall.

"We don't do the same thing twice," says Rosset. "Each locale is unique, with its own special blend of food, ambience and/or entertainment."

Here is a sampling of Liberty Group venues:

The Liberty Grand

- Formerly the Ontario Government Building at the Ex, the Liberty Grand Entertainment Complex was built in 1927. The complex offers culinary distinction in a 1900s-Renaissance setting, with a spectacular lakefront view. Ideal for weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, anniversaries and corporate events, it has various rooms that can host from 150 to 3,000 people.
- Live@Courthouse is located in Toronto's historic 1852 courthouse building. The elegant Courthouse Chamber Lounge was once the home of Toronto's Arts and Letters Club and the watering place of the Group of Seven painters. The Courthouse Market Grille offers a more informal setting.
- Minutes from the financial district, the Rosewater Supper Club is in the former Consumers Gas building (1854). It has won three DiRoNA (Distinguished Restaurants of North America) awards for 2003, 2004 and 2005. The main dining room accommodates 100 for dining and 300 for cocktails. The mezzanine can accommodate up to 60. Above the supper club, the Rosewater Room, just opened, accommodates 200 guests.
- C-Lounge unites indoor and outdoor spaces, marrying features of spa and night club. You can sip a refreshing drink while having your hair or makeup touched up.
- The Phoenix Concert Theatre changed Toronto nightlife by introducing multi-rooms and multi-formatting, and it's hosted celebrities such as Rush, Sarah McLachlan and Nelly Furtado.

While none of Liberty's venues are kosher, all can accommodate kosher caterers.

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Add some **oomph** to your wardrobe

By **RANDI BERGMAN**
Special to The CJN

Lingerie isn't something you have to keep a secret anymore. If you are looking for something to add a little feminine oomph to your wardrobe, the best place to start is underneath your clothes.

Tryst Lingerie (416-484-6678), at 465 Eglinton Ave. W., is a perfect place to find such goodies – in every size, shape and colour! Whether you are shopping for special occasion lingerie, sleepwear or a bra that fits perfectly, Tryst offers an unbeatable selection matched only by the superb customer service.

Carrying brand name sleepwear and bras with labels such as Betsey Johnson, Oscar de la Renta, Princess Tam-Tam and Chantelle, Tryst, which is co-owned by the mother and daughter team of Louise Sommers and Shayna Tilbrook, offers high-quality lingerie at accessible prices. And since nearly every woman is more than aware of the trials and tribulations that go into finding a bra that actually fits, you'll be happy to know that Tryst is not only home to an extensive selection of bras (AA-JJ cups and 28-52 back), but also to some of the best bra fitters in the country.

Shopping at Tryst is like hanging out with friends. "We really love our customers," Sommers says. "We always want to make them feel as comfortable and as catered to as possible."

A unique feature of the boutique is that it hosts private lingerie parties for its customers – a perfect way to celebrate a birthday or upcoming wedding, or just to have a good time. Party guests munch on treats while Tillbrook gives an exclusive (and I believe crucial) lesson in bra fitting. Guests also receive complimentary bra consultations.

Louise Sommers, left, and Shayna Tilbrook.

"Starting with the right undergarments makes all the difference," Sommers says. With such a selection and the expertise to go with it, Tryst makes it virtually impossible to go wrong!

Another fantastic boutique to visit for all things lingerie is Underwraps Lingerie (416-782-5779). Located at 3183 Bathurst St. just north of Lawrence Avenue, Underwraps has been carrying high-quality robes, nightgowns, pajamas, shells, slippers and loungewear for more than six years. To compliment the lingerie, Underwraps also carries unique lines of silver and costume jewelry as well as jewelry boxes.

Carrying only the best in sleepwear, Underwraps imports designs from Italy, France and Switzerland. Fabrics are100 per cent European cotton and silk.

"Our sleepwear is just delicious to sleep in," says owner Judy Mann.

Underwraps also carries a wide array of lingerie styles for brides. "We have everything from a very feminine ruffled look to a clean and tailored silhouette," Mann says.

Referring to seasonal trends, Mann says that for spring they are seeing "very feminine colours like pastel pinks and turquoises. Complimenting these colours, we are also seeing a lot of very rich browns."

Citing brown as a major colour for the season, Mann says brown will be popular into next fall.

Underwraps caters to a wide range of customers and has sleepwear for everyone. Whether your preference is for short, long, sleeveless, capped-sleeve, long-sleeved or 2-piece, Underwraps has it. In addition, these options are available in sizes extra-small to double extra-large. With such a selection, the only trouble will be choosing what to buy!

With the advantages offered by boutiques like Tryst and Underwraps, shopping for lingerie is no longer a necessity – it's a pleasure!

Couples from abroad getting **married in Israel**

By DINA KRAFT
JTA

In recent years an increasing number of Jewish couples from abroad looking for an alternative to a formal wedding at home or a more typical remote destination in the Caribbean or Tuscany have decided on Israel as the place to break the glass and officially start their lives together.

"We are very casual and would not have had a black-tie wedding," said Gena Bresgi, 23, of New York City, who was married last year in a large glass hall amid the lush gardens of a kibbutz. "Our wedding had a nice feel, very relaxed. There was not that high pressure."

It was her husband's first visit to Israel, and together the two families toured the country. Close friends and relatives who came used the wedding as part of an Israeli vacation, too.

With relatives around the world, Israel proved to be an ideal place to gather, Bresgi said.

"I have a lot of family in Israel and all over the world," she said. "This was a more central meeting place for everyone."

Some couples marry in candlelit caves, others choose a chupah wrapped in gauzy silk and lilies on a beach or a rooftop overlooking Jerusalem's Old City at sunset.

Beyond the dramatic settings, gourmet food, guaranteed good weather between May and late September and informal feel, Israeli weddings tend to run just a fraction of the cost of a wedding in the United States, Europe or Australia.

For example, couples said they paid about half of what they would have for weddings in the United States and about a quarter of what they would have in England.

The help of a bilingual wedding planner can reduce the stress considerably, recent brides and grooms said. Also, venues in Israel tend to be one-stop shops, providing not just the setting but also the design of the event, florists and catering.

Israeli weddings tend to run just a fraction of the cost

Of course, there are cultural differences. The lack of formality may puzzle those living outside of Israel and expect, for example, to be served by waiters and have the chupah start on time – neither of which happens at a wedding in Israel. But as the number of foreign Jews coming to Israel for weddings increases, more venues are learning to cater to their needs, from adding enough chairs for all the guests at the chupah – Israelis usually stand – to making sure the musicians or disc jockeys keep the volume within reason.

Joan Summerfield, a wedding and event planner who started Anglo Israel Events Ltd. in 1993, said the political situation plays a role in weddings from abroad as it does with tourism in general.

Summerfield noted that after the Lebanon war last summer, there was a brief drop in inquiries. But she said her weddings were not cancelled because of the fighting. Those with plans for weddings in the north did what other Israelis did – they moved their celebrations southward.

Summerfield, originally from England, said having a planner was almost essential in helping a couple from abroad navigate the Israeli-overseas divide.

"You really need someone to bring it all together," said Summerfield, who helps oversee all aspects of the celebration.

Shani Falik Roth, an event planner who runs the company Eventfully Yours, says she helps couples with everything: venue selection, caterers, invitations, photographers, florists, benchers, hotels, touring arrangements and hospitality bags.

Roth also helps couples and their families grappling with differences in the Israeli culture, including the aversion of some Israeli vendors to signing contracts.

"There is a lot of explaining, a lot of hand holding, a lot of expectations that need to be managed. Otherwise there can be disappointment," she said.

"People think things will be more western, more similar to where they come from. We find our job includes explaining things, especially how and why things are different yet special in Israel."

Judy Krasna, who runs Celebrate Israel, a website that helps people from abroad plan events, says couples also are drawn to Israel for the intimate, more meaningful wedding experience it can provide.

The number of guests who come tend to be smaller because of the distance, so those who attend typically are among the couple's family and closest friends.

Krasna has seen two trends recently: those who want to marry in Jerusalem, specifically near the Old City for the historical and spiritual connection, and those who seek natural outdoor settings, from national parks to beaches or even near archeological sites.

"Israel offers so many venues," Krasna said, noting two of her recent favourites – the northern coastal town of Rosh Hanikra, where the bride and groom can ride to their wedding on cable cars overlooking cliffs and the Mediterranean below, and Neot Kedumim, a biblical landscape preserve where the couple and their guests walk down a torch lighted pathway lined with pomegranate and fig trees and quotes about love and marriage from the Song of Songs.

Debbie Goldman, 22, of Manchester, England, is planning an August wedding in Jerusalem along a promenade overlooking the Old City. She and her fiancé decided to marry in Israel after becoming engaged here and attending the weddings of several friends.

They were impressed by the casual ease and meaningful settings.

"It's a different type of wedding altogether, much more spiritual, not so formal like an English wedding," she said.

After seeing her sister deal with the stress of planning a wedding closer to home, Goldman is relieved to have Krasna's company help her make the arrangements.

Even for the usually thorny bureaucracy of Israel's Orthodox rabbinate, which oversees issues of marriage in Israel, there is help from a new non-governmental organization called ITEM, the Jewish Life Information Center. The centre aims to help Jews from Israel and abroad navigate the rabbinate and its regulations.

Through its website, couples can register online and find the information on the documentation they will need. ITEM will prepare their file and bring it to the rabbinate for approval.

"We want people to have a meaningful event," said Rabbi Set Farmer, who founded the centre. "We don't want the rabbinate to be a stumbling block for them or an obstacle."

The centre also provides information on motels in Israel for couples who return for the ritual circumcision.

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Tips for honeymooners on cruises or travelling abroad

Whether a couple has a modest reception or a gala function, they welcome a break after all the preparations involved in planning their wedding. They also look forward to getting away from the regular routine and having some time to enjoy each other's company away from their career and social commitments.

For all of these reasons, cruises have always been popular honeymoon choices. In addition to being exciting, a cruise is a relaxing way to vacation.

Some couples, on the other hand, also make plans to live abroad for two or three months following the honeymoon. For instance, a couple who have just graduated from university may decide to take a few months and explore another environment before settling down to domesticity at home.

According to Foreign Affairs Canada, cruise ships are among the safest forms of transportation and entertainment. Nevertheless, the government advises Canadians to take certain precautions to ensure their well-being during a cruise. Couples travelling abroad and living in a foreign country are also cautioned to heed the following government tips.

Cruise is a relaxing way to travel

- Purchase travel and health insurance, including coverage for accidental injury and medical needs. The provincial health plan may cover very little, or even nothing.
- Carry your valid Canadian passport when in transit to another country to join the cruise. Keep a photocopy of your passport's identification page.
- Leave a copy of your itinerary, passport ID page, and travel and health insurance policy with family or close friends in Canada.
- Keep cash and valuables in the ship's safe, not in your cabin.
- Minimize signs of wealth in your jewelry and clothing to avoid becoming a target.
- Always check the ship's departure time before going ashore. Protect your safety during shore excursions by checking if your tour guides are reputable and insured.
- Contact your physician or CLSC a couple of months before departure to determine your need for immunizations and preventive medication and other health measures to avoid illness.
- Watch what you eat and drink. Tell the cruise line if you have dietary needs. Always drink only bottled water while ashore. If need be, inquire if the ship has handicap-access before booking.
- Always bring an extra pair of eyeglasses in case of breakage or loss.
- Learn the laws and study the customs of countries you will visit.
- Stay safe by participating in lifeboat drills. Ensure that there are enough life jackets in your cabin and become familiar with evacuation procedures.

Foreign Affairs Canada has prepared a booklet titled *Bon Voyage*, telephone 1-800-267-6788 or visit Consular Affairs Web site: www.voyage.gc.ca for more information.

Here is a list of things a traveller should check, according to Consular Affairs.

- travel report for your destination country
- itinerary and budget
- health and travel insurance
- passport expiry date, and make copies
- entry visas and departure tax
- vaccinations, medication, prescriptions, medical certificate, supplies, extra pair of glasses
- flight preparation
- registration with the Canadian government office abroad (online)
- dual citizenship: is it an issue?
- money: local currency, traveller's cheques, etc.
- rules for bringing back goods: receipts for purchases, special arrangements for food, animals, plants, etc.

Travel with a checklist government advises

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Dinner parties raise funds for youth aliyah projects in Israel

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Pictured, seated are Robyn Greenspan, left, and Jeannie Sklar. Standing are Arna Kant and her husband Sam.

On a Monday evening in late spring, dozens of women of all ages are milling around a gracious home in Forest Hill. Everyone seems to be engaged in conversation.

The excitement in the air is palpable as the women gather in the foyer greeting friends or wandering around the main floor sipping white wine and drinking in the elegant surroundings.

The women are attending the fourth annual At Our Table, a dinner party organized by Tzedakah chapter of Toronto Hadassah-WIZO to raise funds for youth aliyah projects in Israel. This event has drawn some 220 supporters who have come out, as the invitation read: "to celebrate the joy of entertaining."

The evening includes an elegant buffet dinner, and presentations on design and entertainment trends by well-known experts. This year, Craig Gruzd of Designing Trendz, a full service event-planning company, and television personalities Nik Manojlovich and Debbie Van Kiekebelt are the presenters.

At Our Table is the brainchild of event co-chairs Robyn Greenspan and Jeannie Sklar. About four years ago, the two women were brainstorming to find a novel way to raise money for youth aliyah. "We wanted to do something different, something that our peers would enjoy," recalls Greenspan.

"We came up with the idea of having an intimate evening in a home. We were excited and nervous. This was something we hadn't done before."

As for finding a venue, Sklar suggested that Greenspan offer her house and they approached her next-door neighbour about using her home as well. She happened to be the mother of one of the Tzedakah chapter members.

At the first At Our Table there were demonstrations by celebrity chefs. The women separated into two groups to see the presentation given at each house and then switched places, Greenspan recounts.

"It all came together beautifully. The first evening was such a success we knew we had a winner. People loved the intimate warm feel of the evening."

The first year 125 people attended and the chapter raised $30,000, says Sklar, noting that they were able to get a lot of donations and community support. "We were amazed at how generous and open people were. "

Everyone in the chapter did what they could to get the community involved, says Greenspan. "The members [asked for] for donations, and we were able put together great raffle prizes from the get-go. It was surprisingly easy to get the donations. People liked the idea."

They continue to get corporate donations, which include raffle items, flowers, food, and printing, says Sklar. "The presenters give their time and energy "

The next year, Greenspan and Sklar decided not to tamper with their recipe for success. Two members of the Tzedakah chapter living across the street from each other opened their homes to 150 women, says Greenspan. "We sold out within a few days. People knew that space was limited so they replied as fast as they could."

The third year – the event was co-chaired by Susan Lindzon and Gali Azour – the chapter was able to get one large house with a tented backyard, says Sklar. "That made it possible for us to increase our numbers that much more. We had 220 attending and we still had to turn people away."

This year another large house was offered for the event and one of the corporate sponsors, Downtown Fine Cars covered the cost of tenting the backyard, she says.

All the catering was provided by Food Magic. "We're got the ingredients and they took care of preparations."

Sklar says the generosity of people and corporations is overwhelming, pointing out that all their printing which includes invitations, raffle tickets, programs and corporate packages, is provided by Paper Ideas. "Sam [Kanter of Paper Ideas] is so enthusiastic about this event, he already has a design for next year's invitation."

She says At Our Table raised $70,000 this year. "Last year we raised $60,000. It jumped from $30,000 the year before to $60,000 last year. This year, we're very excited that we've surpassed all our previous goals."

She says they rely a lot on corporate donations to keep the price of the dinner tickets affordable.

The evening is a labour of love and dedication, says Sklar. "For this evening to come together, it takes months and months of work with the co-chairs, vice chairs and the whole committee. We started working on this year's event last June.

There's approximately 15 committee members working with support from the entire chapter, she explains. The committee is further broken down into smaller committees that are responsible for such things as corporate sponsorship, food, raffle donations, gift bags, decor and technical support, "They all work within their committees and they're always liaising with Robyn and myself. Robyn sand I talk almost every day."

Sklar says the work is very gratifying. "Putting on an event of this scale is quite an undertaking, but working on such a worthy cause never makes us feel burdened in any way.

"It's truly a pleasure and an honour to raise this money because social services in Israel is so strapped. The country has so many competing needs for money and so we're thrilled to be able to make such a contribution."

About Life

Dear Ella,

My son recently got engaged. I know this should be a very happy time, but it has been nothing but bad feelings and fighting since the announcement. Noah, who was once a kind, respectful boy is being swallowed up by his fiancee's family.

My husband and I have worked very hard all our lives. We live a modest lifestyle. Noah is marrying into a wealthy family and the wedding plans have gotten out of control. Sandi's parents expect us to split the cost of the wedding. Normally, I would not have a problem with that, but the extravagant affair they are planning is way over our budget. Noah is angry with us. He claims we are being cheap at his expense. This has caused so many hurt feelings and is ripping our family apart. I don't know what to do.

Wedding Woes

Dear Wedding Woes

First, congratulations on your son's engagement. There are a number of things you need to do. The first is making your son understand your situation. You have to remember how caught up he is in this. Sure, he wants the best wedding for his new bride and himself, but he is losing sight of what's really important: family.

Is he embarrassed that his family is not of the same means as Sandi's? Is there a reason he would have thought that you could contribute half the cost? You need to sit down with him when tempers are not flared and lay your cards on the table.

In the past, many of the wedding expenses were paid for by the bride's family. Today, that is not the case. Usually, families discuss expenses and it is certainly not unheard of for the bride and groom to pitch in as well.

That being said, you can't expect Sandi's family to have a modest wedding when they want and can afford a lavish one, but you need to set guidelines about what your role is in this.

Meet with Sandi and her parents. Tell them what you have allocated to spend on the wedding and ask them how many guests this will cover. You may not be able to have as many people as Sandi's side. Offer your help (not financial) in any way you can.

A wedding does not have to put you in the poorhouse. With a little honesty and understanding, it should be a happy time for everyone.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN.*, e-mail: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

PARTY PLANNER

BEAUTY SHOP

By
STACEY MICHAELS
AND
FRANCINE BIRKEN

Dedicated in memory of Carol Wise.

SUMMER MAKEUP 2007

Summer is the most rejuvenating time of the year. A natural, low-maintenance look is what we all strive for, although the nude makeup look is a lot harder to achieve than the painted face. Still, "less is more" is our best motto, as the heat and humidity can cause heavily applied makeup to become streaked and matted.

We are also more health and beauty conscious during the hot months. As the shorts and T-shirts come out of the closet, we realize that those extra five pounds have to go.

Why not wake up 30 minutes earlier and have a brisk walk? Be sure to get your heart rate up to increase your circulation and strengthen your heart and respiratory muscles. Aerobic exercise should be done for a minimum of 20 minutes, to help burn fat. A low-fat diet will also help you achieve your goal. Drink lots of water, eat lots of fruit and vegetables, and remember, if you keep fit, your body will function better.

Enchanting
CELINE DION
PARFUMS

Enchanting is a sophisticated new fragrance.

It is equally important to protect your skin from the harmful rays of the sun by using sunscreen with at least a 15 SPF. We know a suntan looks and feels great, but try a tan in a bottle or some of the new and wonderful bronzers. It is imperative to cleanse your skin thoroughly, follow with a skin refresher to suit your skin type and make sure to use a lightly formulated moisturizer. A great summer makeup look can only be achieved with good skin, so the sooner you get started the sooner you can enjoy this wonderful time of year.

Toronto-based plastic surgeon **Dr. Atul Kesarwani** believes that although a healthy lifestyle, with proper diet and exercise, is the key, cosmetic surgery may have a role to play in kick-starting your change.

Breast enhancement with implants or lifts that tighten the skin can make you feel better, Kesarwani says. He has a reputation for performing natural-looking breast surgery, after taking the time to understand exactly what the patient is looking for and helping her make the right decision. The new cohesive gel implants look and feel great and are considered safe and long-lasting.

Another procedure, a tummy tuck, will eliminate loose abdominal skin, remove fat and tighten muscles. The decrease in dress and pant size will encourage you to look for a new wardrobe, and the results will last a lifetime.

Commonly performed at Kesarwani's Cosmedical Clinic is the "Yummy Mummy" procedure in which breast augmentation and tummy tuck are done together after moms have finished having their kids. Doing both procedures together will provide a more complete result, with a single recovery period that involves less down time than people think.

Liposuction is another way some people choose to recontour the body shape. It's done by removing fat from areas that are resistant to diet and exercise. Thinning the layer of fat from bulges on your thighs, tummy, and even arms, buttocks or neck, can help you feel better about the way you look.

You can consult Kesarwani at the Cosmedical Rejuvenation Clinic, www.cosmedical.ca.

Maurice Fiorio tells us that summer can't come soon enough for most of us. So it's time to get a "head" start!

Heavy fringe – although it started this winter, the wicked looking fringe trend is most prominent as we go into spring and summer. Taking their inspiration from people like Michelle Pfeiffer's strong and rebellious character in 1983's *Scarface*, these bangs are showing up everywhere.

Waves of any length are also in. The more natural looking the better. A short, layered look with lots of texture and a longer bang is cool for the summer.

If it's colour you're after, here is what you should know. While all colours are acceptable, it has been said that warm shades of brown are hot for summer this season. If you are inclined to go red, try out a warm brown instead.

HAIR: Experience nature's beauty with Summer Solstice, the **Goody** hair accessories collection for summer, which evokes the tranquillity of the warm season. The earth inspires the collection's materials, which include shells, cottons and light linens, and wood that adds a distinct look to the collection and is sure to be the ideal accent for your favourite summer outfit.

Harsh external conditions such as pollution and seasonal climate changes are among the many factors contributing to itching and sensitive scalp, which is why **L'Oréal Professionnel** created Sensi Balance, designed to be remarkably effective in de-stressing, soothing and moisturizing the scalp, leaving hair shiny, beautiful and easy to manage. Sensi Balance is comprised of two products: sensi balance shampoo and sensi post-treatment.

Continued on page B53

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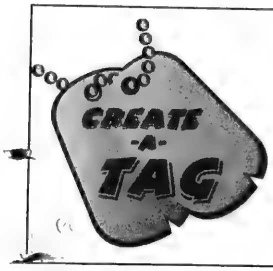

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ALL OCCASIONS

BEAUTY SHOP

BY
STACEY MICHAELS
AND
FRANCINE BIRKEN

Dedicated in memory of Carol Wise.

Continued from page B52

L'Oréal Professionnel is launching Hairmix, the first line of professional hairstyling products exclusively for very thick, dry and hard-to-manage hair. Hairmix is available in four different formulas to suit every type and length of hair. To tame and nourish unmanageable hair, try Sublime Shine; to nourish and soften the curls, try Spiral Splendour; to properly define and lend a finishing touch, try Glam Definition; and to nourish, protect and give a smooth effect, try Supreme Smooth.

Down Under Natural's introduces Fruit Kicks Replenishing Haircare, an innovative new line that bursts with the natural benefits of acai berry and blueberry, formulated to restore and protect hair from environmental pollutants. It's available in Moisture Therapy, Colour Therapy and as a 2-in-1 shampoo.

STACEY'S TIPS

SPA AND SKIN CARE: Aging is not just about wrinkles. **Dermaglow** presents Dermaglow Radiance RX, a system of four highly advanced skin care treatments with bio-available vitamin C, marine algae and advanced whitening complexes that transform aging skin into radiant, youthful skin with exceptional tone and texture, providing a safe and less expensive at-home alternative to treatments at the dermatologist's office.

Discover the true meaning of beauty sleep with the newest product by **Lancôme** – Bienfait Multi-vital Nuit high potency night moisturizer with micro-nutrients, an advanced nighttime moisturizer specifically formulated to help skin renew itself and optimize its moisture balance while you sleep.

To complement this, **Lancôme** has created Secret de Vie Yeux Ultimate Cellular Reviving Eye Cream, the regeneration cream that makes skin more luminous and visibly younger. Dark circles and puffiness just fade away.

Lancôme also introduces Hydra Zen Neurocalm Eye Contour Gel Cream, a soothing eye contour cream that helps revitalize the eye zone; provides intense, immediate and long-lasting hydration; relieves environmental and emotional stress; and boosts microcirculation and the draining mechanism, to reduce puffiness and leave the eye area soft, smooth, supple and comfortable.

Lise Watier is pleased to present the new and improved Solution Express 3-in-1 Cleansing Cloths that are a breath of fresh air for busy women who want practical, high-performance cleansing in an ultra-soothing and moisturizing formula. **Lise Watier** also went to great lengths to make Solution Express hypoallergenic and safe for those who wear contact lenses.

Introducing a sunscreen with skin care benefits! **KINeSYS** Performance Sunscreens are the next big thing in the war against sun-induced skin damage and premature aging. They are completely alcohol and oil free. **KINeSYS** uses a gentle silicone-based skin conditioner and emollient that leaves the skin soft and silky, dries quickly and leaves no residue. **KINeSYS** provides protection from UVA and UVB rays, is hypoallergenic and non-comedogenic, and can be safely applied to even the most sensitive skin on the face and body without the risk of drying, rash or irritation. In addition, **KINeSYS** Performance Sunscreens also include a product especially for kids and are now available in 30-ml minis! Each little bottle contains almost 200 sprays in it! Perfect for the purse, diaper bag, pocket while jogging or cycling, and, of course, travel.

LANCÔME
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Lancôme's Bienfait moisturizer helps skin renew itself as you sleep.

Healing Garden is about to prove that a dose of apple and acai berry a day keeps fatigue away, with the introduction of a new aromatherapeutic scent from the **Healing Garden** energy line, the apple and acai collection. This new collection nourishes the skin because it has the sparkling fresh fruit essences of two of nature's most powerful antioxidants, together for the first time in one skin-reviving collection. The collection includes apple and acai 2-in-1 antioxidant body wash with lotion, apple and acai antioxidant body lotion and body mist.

Something extra sweet is coming to the world of organic beauty with the new **Healing Garden Organics** pomegranate and vanilla collection, a new line of good-for-the-skin and good-for-the-senses products that utilize two of Mother Nature's most beautiful ingredients, pomegranate and vanilla. The collection includes pomegranate and vanilla body lotion, body mist and body wash. Try it today!

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Lab Series Skincare for Men helps men take control of their skin with an advanced team of three targeted products formulated to keep skin looking clearer and shine-free longer. This three-product regimen begins by cleansing away dirt and oil build-up using Oil Control Face Wash. Follow with Oil Control Towelettes to help tighten pores and purge them of surplus sebum. Finally, Oil Control Daily Hydrator supplies the oil-free moisturization needed to keep skin optimally balanced, while eliminating the appearance of shine and diminishing the look of pores for a fresh, matte finish.

Canada is the first country to launch the new state-of-the-art **Airplus** and **Airplus for Her** My Arch, a custom, heat-mouldable orthotic arch for men and women designed to provide added comfort and support to feet. Other new products in the **Airplus for Her** product line extension include Gel Steppies, which provide extraordinary forefoot cushioning that improves shoe fit and is guaranteed to stay in place; My Footprint, fun and comfortable foam insoles in six unique designs including leopard and zebra to put bounce in your step; and the aloe-infused Ultra Moisturizing Sock, an ultra-comfortable sock that provides the ultimate spa experience to soothe and comfort feet.

FRANCINE'S TIPS

BLUSH/BRONZERS: Cargo Cosmetics is proud to announce its beach-inspired collection, The Big Bronzer. A complete palette of beautiful shades ranging from bronze to neutrals and sea shell pink make fake summer glows a cinch. The sheer formula allows for buildable colour.

Estée Lauder introduces Bronze Goddess Luminous Liquid Bronzer, a lustrous, long-wearing bronzer that will leave the skin shimmering with a fresh, radiant and naturally flawless finish.

Your face will glow when you sweep on Bronzing Shimmer Powder by **Estée Lauder** in Golden and Deep. This silky powder is perfect for cheekbones, the forehead and brow bones to give skin a radiant "diva" look.

Lancôme Paris is proud to present Star Bronzer, the new limited edition bamboo powder that illuminates your face, neck and body with an exotic blend of bronze, pink and gold, leaving a sunny golden glow with sensual amber tone on your skin.

Continued on page B55

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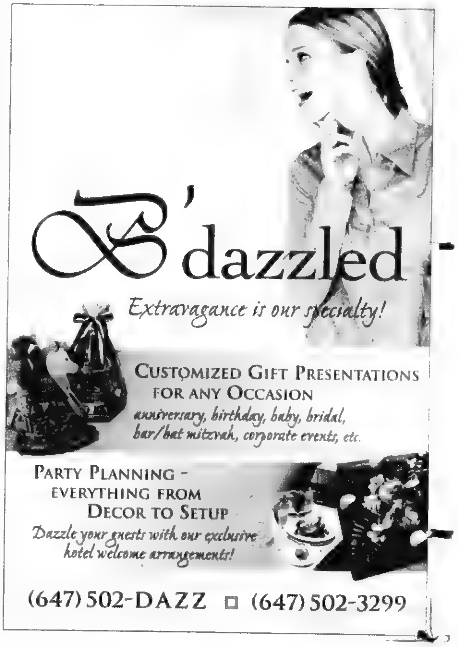
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Toronto fashionista caters to her clients

By **SHERI SHEFA**
Staff Reporter

She's only 30 years old, but it's been years since Naomi Berkel first established herself as a major player in Toronto's fashion scene.

Berkel was 24 when she opened Bella, a clothing boutique that has since been featured in Canadian fashion magazines and has attracted the attention of some of Hollywood's hottest stars, among them Lindsay Lohan, Kirsten Dunst and Courtney Cox Arquette.

"I've always been interested in it. It's in my blood. My great-grandfather was a tailor… I've always, even when I was younger, had subscriptions to fashion magazines, like *Elle, Vogue, Bizarre*, all of them. I've always appreciated designers, and I have a real appreciation for the craft," Berkel said.

After having grown up in Toronto and enrolling herself in the International Academy of Design and Technology, Berkel moved to New York when she was 23 to study at the prestigious Parsons School of Design.

When she returned home from New York, she landed a job at a clothing store she basically ran herself.

She said that after listening to her boss' clients about what they wanted, she realized that he wasn't willing to cater to his clients' needs

"I saw a great opportunity and a great space and a great location," she said.

Berkel decided that she wanted to buy the store from her boss, but first she had to get support from her father, a businessman.

"I pitched the idea to my dad. He laughed and said, 'If we're going to do this, you have to be serious about it and do all your due diligence beforehand'… He asked me to come up with a professional business plan. He approved and I opened up Bella in 2001."

Since then, Berkel has dedicated herself to making sure her store carries clothing that is fun and feminine, classic yet trendy.

"I travel every four weeks and I go to L.A., New York and Miami, and I try to find hot, cool lines that will compliment my customers," she said.

"I was the first person to bring Uggs into Canada," she said, referring to the trendy sheepskin boot that originated in Australia.

Naomi Berkel

She said that the most challenging aspect of her job is finding the collections that are right for her store.

"You have to be clairvoyant. Now, it's May and next month, I have to buy for spring/summer of next year. So you have to make sure that the trends that you're showing are conducive to your client's style," she said, adding that she also likes to give young, struggling designers the opportunity to showcase their designs in her store.

Berkel's passion for fashion is unmistakable, and she exudes this passion while discussing something as simple as a white T-shirt.

Sitting on a couch near the fitting rooms in Bella on Eglinton Avenue, Berkel jumps out of her seat to pull a James Perse T-shirt off the shelf to admire the craftsmanship that went into making it.

"It's like satin and it's phenomenal. It's cotton but it's Italian weaved. It's sewn phenomenally… To me, that's quality. It's not going to rip," she said.

"I appreciate fabrics, I appreciate clothing construction. I can spot quality. I don't buy the $6 T-shirts because they're not worth it and I would never wear it. I'm not a snob, but I like quality. Can I justify a $100 T-shirt? You're damn right I can."

Berkel, a self-described workaholic, is so dedicated to providing fashionable Torontonians with the best, that she decided in 2004 to venture into the unfamiliar world of maternity wear.

She said that she was inspired to open Kick Maternity, just a few doors down from Bella, after her sister-in-law got pregnant.

"When I went around Toronto, L.A. and New York, there was nothing that I would buy for her, being in the fashion industry and having a boutique. Everything was horrendous.

"If you care about how you look when you're not pregnant, you're for sure going to care how you look even more so when you are pregnant."

Berkel and her co-owner, Lisa Gnat, provide yummy mummies with designer dresses, skirts and jeans that a woman would want to wear even when she isn't pregnant.

As if running two designer stores in Toronto isn't time-consuming enough, Berkel recently joined forces with her friend Jodi Levstein to open Pink Heart, another boutique on Eglinton, that offers funky gifts and accessories for those who are bored with bringing a chocolate babka to their mother's house for dinner.

"I was tired of bringing wine and flowers for Shabbat. Now I bring stunning crystal wine stoppers, or a serving piece," she said, adding that the Pink Heart carries anything from cake stands and plates, to candles and chemical-free cleaning products.

The granddaughter of Holocaust survivors and a first-generation Canadian with one parent from Israel, Berkel identifies strongly with her Jewish heritage.

She speaks Hebrew, is nearly fluent in Yiddish, and speaks passionately about the idea of keeping Jewish tradition a priority for her generation.

She gives back to the community by donating to organizations such as Jacob's Ladder and synagogues – Holy Blossom Temple and Temple Sinai Congregation – and supports Israel's art community by carrying products made by Israeli designers.

"I make a point at the Pink Heart to carry a lot of Israeli designer lines because I feel like what is fabulous about Israel is a lot of the art."

She said that just two days after she opened the store, an affluent Jewish woman came in with a request for a beautiful, handmade seder plate from Israel she'd seen in a magazine.

"She said, 'I found this in a magazine. I don't know what it's called, I just know it's the most beautiful seder plate. You have to get it for me.' [The ad] only had the designer's name. And she said, 'By the way, I need it in two weeks,'" Berkel recalled.

She said she stayed up until 4 a.m. to reach the designer in Israel, and two weeks later, six handmade seder plates made their way from Tel Aviv to Toronto.

Having her hand in three stores in one of Toronto's trendiest neighbourhoods is a challenge, but Berkel wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's tough and it's exhausting and it's stressful, and you just take it one season at a time. But I wouldn't do anything else in the world. I love my stores, I love my clients, and I'm here every day, seven days a week."

WATCH FOR
THE HEEBONICS LAUNCH

KICK
MATERNITY

BEAUTY SHOP

BY
STACEY MICHAELS
AND
FRANCINE BIRKEN

Dedicated in memory of Carol Wise.

Continued from page B53

EYESHADOW, EYELINER AND MASCARA: The near naked look for eye shadow is hot for this summer's collection. **Cargo** introduces the Limited Edition Eye Shadow Palette. Selections of five easy to wear neutrals are positioned in a unique block formation in an all-in-one convenient clear package.

For illuminating eyes with a seductive shimmer, **Estée Lauder's** Bronze Goddess Collection features Pure Color Eyeshadow in new limited edition metallic shades of Bronze Goddess and Gilded Goddess.

Lise Watier presents Frozen Pearl. This ingenious new eyeshadow, which looks like an elegant pen, delivers the perfect amount of colour that glides with smoothness on the lid. This fresh formula leaves a wonderful, cool sensation on the skin, and is great for hot and humid days. Frozen Pearl dries instantly, is longwearing and is crease-free for hours!

Lancôme Paris introduces Ombre Glacée Rose Bali, for a new sensory experience. A cooling gel eye shadow, it brings comfort and hydration to the eyelids and provides lasting colour. The packaging is decorated with gold and pink and has a Brazilian bracelet attached to the tube, which becomes a trendy accessory for the summer.

Embark on an exotic journey to a mystical island with **Elizabeth Arden's** Color Intrigue Gel Eyeliner Duo in deep brown/hot bronze and black sand/blue water. Use these smooth, longwearing colours to line and define eyes. It comes with a deluxe brush for precise application.

Whether you are a movie star or not, you want movie star eyes that shine and turn heads. **Chanel** has put the spotlight on the eyes with the arrival of two new products, the Inimitable Waterproof Mascara and the Stylo Yeux waterproof long-lasting eyeliner. To all the summer brides, this is what you have been waiting for. Don't miss out!

LIPS: A new era in lip gloss has arrived – a luxurious lip gloss that has it all! **Estée Lauder** introduces New Pure Color Gloss, a new formula that offers a comfortable, glossy texture that never feels sticky and with continued use over time, will leave the lips looking smoother than ever before. Pure Color Gloss is available in two long-wearing finishes, Pure Color Gloss and Pure Color Crystal Gloss.

Rouge Wow lipstick from **Lise Watier** brings two new shades with high-pigmented colour, wonderful staying power, non-sticky texture and the unparalleled shine of a gloss, with all the comfort of a traditional lipstick.

The **DKNY** Be Delicious Shine Collection is a limited edition of flirty, scented items that light up your face and body. **DKNY** Be Delicious Lip Shine Trio is three lip glosses in three juicy shades – Fuji Red, Pink Lady and Anjou Blush. It is packaged in a three-tiered swivel pot, and you can carry this wardrobe of colour wherever you go.

FRAGRANCES: For the men who exemplify personal style and exquisite taste, **Kiton** Black is a sophisticated, masculine and tailored fragrance with a European contemporary freshness. The charismatic outer carton is deep black with a **Kiton** Black Label in black and white. It is available in an eau de toilette and after shave exclusively at Holt Renfrew.

Coty Canada introduces New, Limited Edition, Summer Fragrance. For men who are looking for the ultimate summer scent, **Calvin Klein** has created Eternity for Men Summer. This fragrance contains ocean air, coriander and watermelon, for a clean scent.

The new fragrance by **Elizabeth Arden**, Mediterranean, was inspired by Catherine-Zeta-Jones and her love of the Mediterranean. This elegant fragrance transports you to that captivating place.

A fresh new take on **Chanel's** fragrance Chance has arrived. Chance Eau Fraîche is a sparkling green, fresh fragrance ready to burst out of its bottle.

Celine Dion Parfums and **Coty Beauty** present Enchanting, a sophisticated new fragrance designed in a bottle that is tall and graceful, reminiscent of a long, flowing gown. It is a fragrance that is a reminder to every woman that she has the power of enchantment.

Be sure to enjoy the summer while taking good care of your skin. It's the first thing people will see upon meeting you, so make it look your best using our fun and exciting tips for the summer of 2007.

For makeup consultations please e-mail, fbirken@rogers.com.

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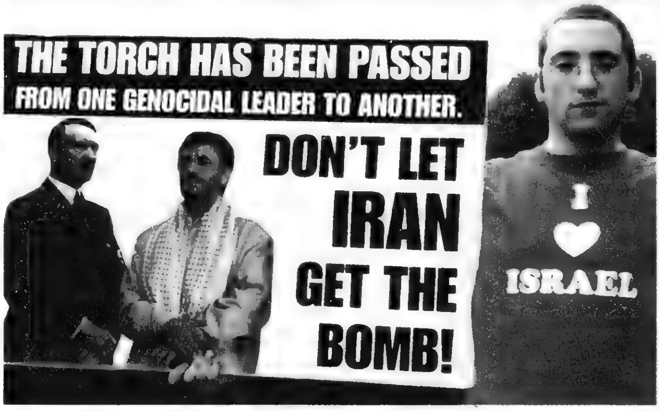
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ARGUING ISRAEL'S CAUSE

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Six Day War, a large gathering of anti-Israel demonstrators held a rally on the weekend in front of the White House in Washington. A large group of counter-demonstrators also took to the streets to make the case for Israel. *Please see the editorial on page 8.* ***[Carrie Devorah photo]***

PQ, BQ members march against Israel

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Parti Québécois MNA Daniel Turp and Bloc Québécois MP Réal Ménard led a demonstration in downtown Montreal last weekend denouncing Israel's "illegal occupation" of Palestinian land and its practice of "apartheid."

The coalition that organized the event, led by the major labour federations, the Confédération des syndicats nationaux and the Centrale des syndicats du Québec, also called on the Canadian government to revoke the charitable status of the Jewish National Fund. The coalition charges that the JNF discriminates against non-Jews in its allocation of land and is dispossessing Palestinians.

Turp is the PQ's spokesperson for international affairs and Ménard is the co-chair, with Liberal Quebec Senator Lucie Pépin, of a new parliamentary association for Palestine. They walked in the front row of the noisy demonstrators as they marched from Dorchester Square, which is across the street from the Israeli consulate,

Continued on page 22

CJN wins award

MONTREAL — For the fifth year in a row, *The Canadian Jewish News* was named the best overall specialty newspaper by the Quebec Community Newspaper Association (QCNA).

The CJN was given the award for 2006 based on the criteria that it's well written, well presented and well designed, and offers readers a wealth of information in the form of news, features, photography and opinion pieces.

Ontario PCs promise to fund faith schools

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The Ontario Progressive Conservative party has pledged to directly fund non-Catholic, faith-based schools that join the public education system if the party is elected on Oct. 10.

John Tory

Provincial PC leader John Tory made the announcement while speaking at a June 8 Habitat for Humanity event, which he attended just prior to his party's "Countdown '07" two-day policy conference in Toronto.

"I think there are some things on which you have to stand on principle, and in this case the principle is fairness to people of other faiths," he was quoted as saying in the *Toronto Star*.

"John Tory and the PC Party believe that we need to achieve more effective integration of Ontario's increasingly diverse student population into the mainstream of our province," the party's newly released platform states. "That's why we are committed to creating an opportunity for non-Catholic, faith-based schools to choose to join our publicly funded education system the same way Catholic schools have already done.

"Our policy will apply only to faith-based schools and we believe that the best results would be achieved through direct funding rather than through tax credits."

The *Star* reported that Tory said he would not bring back a tax credit for private school tuition, which was introduced by the previous Conservative government and repealed by the Liberals. It was criticized for not differentiating between faith-based and other private schools, as well as for not tying the credit to school accountability.

Continued on page 45

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W. Europeans alarmed at level of anti-Semitism — see page 32

The News in Brief

CANADA

Chevra Kadishas Meet

EDMONTON — Delegates from the United States, Canada and Britain came to the West Edmonton Mall this week for the fifth annual North American Chevra Kadisha Conference. It's the first time the conference has been held outside the United States and in a city with such a relatively small number of Jews. The Edmonton Chevra Kadisha hosted the June 10-12 meeting in honour of its 100th anniversary.

Jews Join Inquiry Call

TORONTO — B'nai Brith Canada joined leaders of Toronto's black community in calling for a public inquiry into the killing of Jordan Manners, the 15-year-old who was shot last month in the halls of his suburban high school. B'nai Brith and the GTA Faith Alliance told reporters last week they will hold a "citizen's inquest" June 12 into the killing, but they also urged the province to appoint an inquiry and a youth commissioner. Two 17-year-olds face first-degree murder charges. B'nai Brith joined the inquiry call to show that youth violence isn't limited to one group.

WORLD

Tenure Denial Urged

CHICAGO — A pro-Israel student group has delivered an 8,000-signature petition to DePaul University urging it to deny tenure to a controversial faculty member. Granting Norman Finkelstein tenure "would undermine those who support responsible and informed scholarship and debate," StandWithUs president Esther Rezner said in a statement. Harvard University law professor Alan Dershowitz has been prominent in the effort to deny tenure to Finkelstein, a child of Holocaust survivors who has been an assistant professor of political science at DePaul, a Catholic university in Chicago, since 2001. He has argued that Jewish groups "have exploited the Holocaust to enrich themselves or to justify Israeli politics." In April, his department and the school's personnel committee voted in favour of granting him tenure, while the administration voted against it. A final decision will be made this month.

Wartime Pope Helped Jews, Cardinal Says

ROME — A top Vatican official said Pope Pius XII worked behind the scenes to help Jews during the Holocaust.

Some say Pius didn't do enough, even accusing him of being anti-Semitic. But Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican's secretary of state, said Pius, who reigned from 1939 to 1958, tried unsuccessfully to save Jews by recruiting them for the Vatican security force.

Bertone made the comments last week at the unveiling of a new biography by Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli, who writes that charges about Pius and the Holocaust are part of a "black legend." He cites new documents from family archives that show Pius had close relations with a Jewish classmate in high school and that as Vatican secretary of state, he helped the boy's family escape to Switzerland.

Bertone said Pius decided not to speak out more forcefully against the Nazis because he felt it would only provoke them against Catholics and Jews, and acted "within the limits of circumstances imposed on him."

About 1,000 Roman Jews were killed in Auschwitz.

Historians and the Anti-Defamation League have called on the Vatican to declassify World War II-era documents to help settle concerns about Vatican actions during the Shoah.

Nazi Guard To Stay

NEW YORK — A former Nazi prison guard probably won't be deported from the United States because his health is rapidly declining. Andrew Kuras, 85, of Hamilton Township, N.J., is "gravely ill" and his "deportation is under review," a spokesperson for the Justice Department told Associated Press. In 2004, a federal judge stripped Kuras of his 1962 naturalization certificate and other citizenship documents. He worked at three Nazi slave-labour camps in World War II and ordered the shooting of anyone who tried to escape. He came to the United States in 1951 and became a citizen 11 years later.

Rabbi's Grave Defiled

WARSAW — The grave of a famed 19th-century chassidic rabbi in Lublin, Poland, was ransacked. Police said thieves stole the aluminum part of the tomb of Rabbi Yaakov Yitzchak Horowitz, the Seer of Lublin. Police are searching for the structure, which is used by pilgrims from around the world to place notes at the grave of the rabbi, who died in 1815.

Libby Sentenced

WASHINGTON — A U.S. federal judge last week sentenced Lewis "Scooter" Libby to 30 months in prison. Libby was sentenced for obstructing the investigation into who leaked the name of covert CIA operative Valerie Plame as part of a White House retaliation scheme against her husband, Joe Wilson, a prominent Iraq war critic. Libby, who is Jewish, was the top adviser to U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney.

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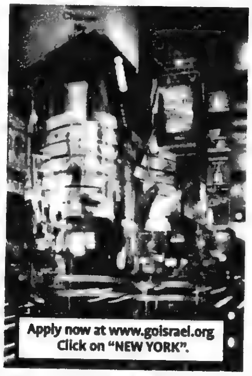

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JAFI head praises quick Canadian response to Sderot shelling

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Zeev Bielski, chair of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the World Zionist Organization (WZO), praised United Israel Appeal Federations Canada for being among the first to respond to an urgent appeal to help the children of Sderot, Israel, as Qassam rockets from Gaza rained down on them last month.

"In Sderot, I could see there was nothing I could do, so I called Canada," Bielski said at a luncheon during United Israel Appeal Federations Canada's (UIAFC) annual general meeting in Montreal. "That was the solution."

As a result of an influx of $2 million from Canada, he said, 8,200 children from Sderot, which borders on Gaza, will be able to spend one week in camps over the next two months, out of harm's way.

Others responding to JAFI's call for help have included United Jewish Communities (UJC), representing U.S. federations, and other federations around the world.

Bielski was named head of the Jewish Agency two years ago, after serving 16 years as mayor of Ra'anana, a city north of Tel Aviv.

At the luncheon, Bielski, who was born in 1949 in Jerusalem, was relaxed and affable as diners watched a brief JAFI video on the crisis in Sderot and listened to him describe the mood he witnessed there as Hamas rockets fell.

"It was almost too much," he said. "Your whole life there revolves around the 18 seconds it takes for the rockets to fall. It's like Russian roulette, and the children are paying the price.

"It's very sad," he said, since there does not appear to be a clear solution to the continuing bombardment by Hamas.

He said one of the priorities for the Jewish Agency now is to find suitable employment for the many Ethiopian Jews who are members of the professional classes.

"Lawyers and accountants can't find jobs," he lamented, but told an amusing anecdote about how he helped secure job interviews for Ethiopian candidates with the CEO of Bank Hapoalim. The CEO's receptionist was completely incredulous that her boss was interviewing immigrants for jobs, Bielski said.

Zeev Bielski

During the luncheon, Australia's Mark Leibler, chair of the Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal board of trustees – Keren Hayesod is a fundraising arm and, along with the WZO and the UJC, a constituent body of JAFI – cited the positive relationship between Keren Hayesod and UIAFC as something that must be preserved and enhanced as the Jewish fundraising world is determined to be more transparent and accountable in its work and processes.

Canada has been a model for those goals, Leibler said. In particular, he praised the fact that funding for JAFI has become part of UIAFC's "core" budget.

He said UIAFC has delivered a complex and sophisticated model for fundraising that serves as an example for the rest of the world.

Leibler praised three Canadians in particular for their activities in Keren Hayesod: the late Phil Granovsky of Toronto, its founding board of trustees chair; and Julia Koschitzky of Toronto and Harvey Wolfe of Montreal, who also held that position.

Leibler praised outgoing UIAFC president Stanley Plotnick, who is joining Keren Hayesod's world executive, for his "warmth, charm, good humour and clarity."

Plotnick, in his outgoing remarks as president, noted that over the last two years, UIAFC was obliged to work in the context of federation structures being redefined in an effort to eliminate "overlapping" of fundraising and advocacy activities.

"The lay and professional leadership… are the true heroes of Canadian Jewry," he said.

Plotnick is being succeeded as UIAFC president by Barbara Farber of Ottawa.

Farber is CEO of Leikin Group, a family-owned real estate development and property management company.

She has served as a Canada-Israel Committee executive board member and, for several years, as treasurer and vice-president for administration for UIAFC.

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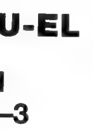


Greater Toronto Area

Leaders and responsibility

From the editor's desk

Very few pundits could find anything positive to write about Israel's decisive defeat of the five Arab armies it fought in the Six Day War 40 years ago.

That the victory prevented Israel's enemies from achieving their war aim, namely, destroying the Jewish state, somehow escaped most of the insightless commentary that filled newspapers and magazines last week.

One of the key motifs that emerged in the 40th-anniversary coverage was how the war was an additional chapter to the book of misery written by, for and about the Palestinians. The image that was painted was of a people displaced yet again, tolerated but not accepted amidst fellow Arabs, who cared not to ease Palestinian burdens but rather to also add to their suffering the condition of permanent statelessness. And of course, the Jews were responsible.

In the ensuing 40 years, two generations of Palestinians have grown into adulthood. But the decisions of their leaders – current and former – who purported to lead them, compel us to ask: why are they not, too, responsible for the Palestinian situation?

Why, after 1967, was Israel always blamed for Palestinian suffering? Why, since 1967, have Palestinian leaders – not to also mention the countless "host" Arab countries in which the Palestinians reside – escaped any sense of responsibility for the plight of their people?

What values have these leaders instilled after 40 years into their people? At what point along the long line of the past many years were Palestinian leaders expected to try to foster in their people values of mutual respect, tolerance and coexistence?

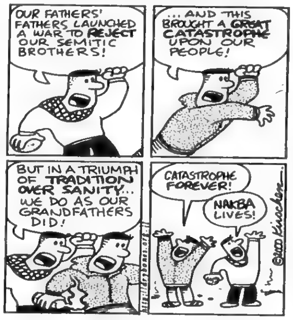
Last week's ledger alone of outrageous decisions by the Palestinian leaders is illustrative. It should be sufficient for enlightened, compassionate people around the globe to call them to account.

Palestinians trying to kill Israelis. Saturday, four Islamic Jihad gunmen breached the heavily fortified Gaza-Israel border at Kisufim, entered an empty army base looking for soldiers to abduct. Israeli forces engaged them, killing one. The other three escaped back to Gaza.

The attackers approached the border fence in an armoured jeep marked with "TV" and "PRESS" insignia. Thinking the vehicle was occupied by foreign press, the Israeli soldiers withheld fire.

The attempted abduction Saturday came almost a year after Hamas terrorists attacked an Israeli army base in the Negev, killed two soldiers and captured Cpl. Gilad Shalit on June 26.

Dry Bones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As for Shalit, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Jakob Kellenberger, on the weekend criticized the Hamas kidnappers and their leaders for refusing to divulge any information regarding his whereabouts.

But wait.

We learned on the weekend that it was not only the extremist Hamas group involved in Shalit's kidnapping. The *Jerusalem Post* revealed that two of the individuals suspected in Shalit's kidnapping, Muhammad Azmi Farawneh and Majdi Tayseer Hammad, had long been on the payroll of the mainstream, Fatah-run Palestinian Authority (PA). The two were killed by a subsequent Israeli retaliatory action, but their families have been receiving and lately quarrelling, too, over the special PA pension payments on behalf of their deceased terrorist kin.

Palestinians trying to kill other Palestinians.

Less than two days after a ceasefire went into effect in the southern town of Rafah, in the Gaza Strip, rival Fatah and Hamas began shooting at each other again. One member of Hamas' military wing and one member of the pro-Fatah National Security Forces were killed. Some 45 people, mostly civilians, were injured.

Dr. Muawiya Hassanein, head of emergency services in the Palestinian Health Ministry, told the *New York Times* that Hamas and Fatah had kidnapped and tortured rival members and that several Palestinians had been shot in the legs. At least 50 Palestinians, Hassanein said, were killed in fierce fighting in May between the factions, which share power in a unity government.

In the weekend intra-Palestinian violence, two people were thrown to their deaths from 15- and 12-storey roof tops. Early Monday morning Palestinian gunmen opened fire on the house of Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas. No one was hurt.

The chronicle of intra-Palestinian killing, extortion and torture continues unabated, even to this day.

The time is long overdue to hold Palestinians themselves and not the Israelis to account for the lawlessness of their society. Their leaders have taught, primarily, only hatred. And in a climate of constant hate, it is not surprising that tendrils will grow distorted.

– MBD

Fake paper assails *Sun*'s 'anti-Arab poison'

By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — The *Vancouver Sun*'s so-called "Zionist line" came under attack last Thursday from a group identified as the Palestinian Media Collective.

According to the collective's new release, it distributed 12,000 copies of a fake edition of the *Sun* to morning commuters at transit hubs in Vancouver and Victoria. Its goal, the statement said, was to "point out the anti-Palestinian bias of the newspaper."

The bogus paper featured satirical articles and spoof ads of Chapters and Intel laced with the word "apartheid." The front-page cover image depicted an Arab man standing in the path of a bulldozer. The caption for it read: "Israeli military bulldozer brings the many gifts of civilization to a primitive resident of Nablus in the West Bank."

"We have provided a truth-telling antidote to the anti-Arab poison of the CanWest chain," said Palestine Media Collective spokesperson Earl Zatz Handel. "Our biggest challenge was writing parody articles that were more outrageous than CanWest's actual coverage."

The *Sun* is published by Pacific Newspaper Group, a division of CanWest MediaWorks. Friday's *Vancouver Sun* featured an article responding to the lookalike edition in which *Sun* publisher Kevin Bent said the group took "advantage of our brand" and that the paper may pursue legal action.

"We take these things very seriously," Bent said. "We'll go down the path of taking an appropriate amount of legal action."

He added that the *Sun's* coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been fair.

"I think our job as a newspaper… is to be balanced, fair and accurate with our reporting. I think that's what we strive to do every day," he said. "I feel pretty good that our reporting on the Middle East is on the mark."

Canadian Jewish Congress Pacific region vice-chair Richard Kirland said that the protest is "a copyright issue. I'm waiting to see how the *Vancouver Sun* legal crew handles this."

He added: "The world will always be filled with people who feel the earth is flat. In this one, it's an individual who wants to create a legal issue with a Canadian newspaper, and that's their business. It's too trivial to even go there."

Greater Toronto Area

New RA head favours 'big tent' Conservatism

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi David Seed has just begun a two-year term as president of the Rabbinical Assembly's Ontario region at a time when some people think the Conservative movement is steadily moving toward the ideological left.

But the 50-year-old rabbi views with equanimity any potential local fallout from the announcement in late March by the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) – the Conservative movement's flagship institution in New York – that it would admit openly gay and lesbian students to its rabbinical and cantorial school.

Rabbi David Seed

Rabbi Wayne Allen – Rabbi Seed's predecessor as president of the organization – told *The CJN* at the time that he felt the decision was "an abandonment of traditional Judaism, and as such I can have no part of it."

Rabbi Seed, who is associate rabbi of Adath Israel Congregation, likewise describes himself as "traditional in terms of my outlook" with "an appreciation and respect for tradition."

Speaking for himself, not the RA, Rabbi Seed said in a recent interview that he does not agree with the JTS decision, "but at the same time… we're not saying [gays and lesbians are] somehow not a part of the Jewish community. Each of us is created in the image of God regardless of [his or her] sexual orientation."

The rabbi, who received a master's degree in social work a year after his 1983 ordination from JTS, said he grew up in the Conservative movement.

"While I might not agree with all the decisions, I think the movement has a particular and important role to play in the Jewish community at large for all Jews," he said.

"As long as people on both sides see that there is respect for each other, then I think there will be a role to play, regardless of which end of the model you happen to subscribe to."

He said he has not seen any indication from JTS' chancellor-elect Arnold Eisen that the "big tent" pluralistic model of Conservative Judaism is about to change.

Rabbi Seed also said that affiliated congregations in Toronto are not as homogenous as they're sometimes made out to be.

"There are many variations amongst congregations here," he said. "I think some of our differences mirror some of the differences we may find throughout the movement as a whole. There are some congregations where women will have an aliyah and read the Torah, and others where they will not."

Full egalitarianism, however – where women are accorded the same ritual honours as men including being counted in a minyan – is the exception rather than the rule in the Toronto area, with only two egalitarian congregations in the GTA: Beit Rayim Synagogue, and the smaller, newer B'nai Shalom Congregation of Halton Peel, which has about 20 families.

Rabbi Seed expects much of his work as president of the RA's Ontario region will involve routine administrative duties as well as interaction with other community organizations.

The RA offers a basic Judaism course for prospective converts and runs a school for shamashim. One aspect of his role, he said, is "being a cheerleader for all the good programs and things that we do."

As well, he said, he is hoping to "move forward" the plans for a Conservative mikvah in Toronto. Currently, Conservative rabbis use the Reform mikvah at Leo Baeck Day School in Thornhill.

Notwithstanding his gratitude to the Reform community, "we do think it's a reflection on our movement to be able to have our own mikvah as well," he said. "It's a need that only grows from year to year."

As part of an international organization comprising approximately 1,500 members, Rabbi Seed will also interact with counterparts in other regions on issues such as the standardization of conversion under Conservative auspices.

He also serves on the RA's resolution committee, which prepares resolutions on issues such as support for the State of Israel, and is involved in a seminar for rabbis on "Rabbinic Power and Tikkun Olam" being held in Toronto this October. It will be the first of six such seminars being held by the RA in South America, the United States, Israel and England.

Same-sex commitment ceremonies have not appeared on the RA's agenda here, and to the best of his knowledge, he said, none of the approximately 30 Conservative rabbis in the region, which includes Montreal, have been approached to perform such a ceremony.

"We have a common understanding in terms of the type of ceremonies we will officiate at," he said.

In addition to the movement's ban on officiating at interfaith weddings, Rabbi Seed noted that "on a regional level, we will not officiate at a ceremony for a wedding where the meal afterward will not be kosher. This is a regional standard we have, because we believe strongly that the meal afterward should be in keeping with the ceremony in terms of it being a seudat mitzvah that is in keeping with the religious ceremony."

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The following By-laws will be presented for approval:
Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care By-law No. 23
The Baycrest Day Care Centre By-law No. 6
Baycrest Hospital By-law No. 16
The Jewish Home for the Aged By-law No. 7

The above by-laws contain housekeeping changes that harmonize procedures and governance structures among the Baycrest corporations. The by-laws include the following governance changes: a phased-in reduction of elected directors to fourteen, provision to appoint one Vice Chair instead of several, a quorum of twenty-five voting members at members meetings, the elimination of an executive committee, a reduction in the number of standing committees, and the creation of an Advisory Council to the Chair of the Board and President and Chief Executive Officer. The by-laws empower the corporations to indemnify a director for expenses related to anticipated claims and proceedings against the director personally, subject to board approval.

Apart from the other by-laws and pursuant to the Public Hospitals Act, Baycrest Hospital By-law No. 16 does not enable members to vote by proxy. The by-law provides that the directors of Baycrest Hospital are, ex officio, the directors of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. By-law No. 16 contains further changes regarding the participation of nurses on committees, the election of nurses, and the appointment process and duties of the Chief Nursing Executive.

Geriatric Health Care System · Research Centre for Aging and the Brain · Centre for Education on Aging · Baycrest Foundation

Brosh gives Six Day War history lesson

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

It's been 40 years since Israel's stunning victory during the Six Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem, and Petah Tikvah Congregation in Toronto was one of the many organizations that celebrated the milestone.

About 200 people gathered June 6 to hear Ya'acov Brosh, Israel's consul general in Toronto, speak about Israel's famous battle with Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

Brosh took the gathering back to a time when Israel was surrounded by hostile Arab neighbours who were determined to wipe it off the map.

He described how then-Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser openly prepared for war and influenced neighbouring countries to join the fight to destroy the Jewish state.

Prior to the war, Nasser expelled the United Nations Emergency Force from the Sinai Peninsula, blockaded the Straits of Tiran to Israeli ships and had troops stationed in Sinai near the Israeli border. Syrian troops were also preparing for battle near the Golan Heights.

Israelis feared the prospect of going to war with an enemy that outnumbered them by the hundreds of thousands, but they knew their best chance to win the war would be to launch a pre-emptive strike on the Egyptian air force.

Despite Israel's promise that it would not attack Jordan unless provoked, Jordan attacked Jerusalem.

In just one day, Israel destroyed nearly the entire Egyptian and Jordanian air forces, and half of the Syrian air force.

Six days later, on June 10, the war was over, Israel was victorious and had captured Sinai, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, tripling its land mass.

"When we think about the unbelievable results of this war, we shouldn't forget that there were many heavy battles where many soldiers lost their lives," Brosh said.

"After the 1967 war, Israel offered to give back most of the territories for real peace. The Arabs said no. Most of them keep saying no until today."

He read from an announcement that was published by Hamas last week to illustrate that the rhetoric against Israel has not changed since the war.

It outlined Hamas' objective to rid the world of the State of Israel and liberate it from Jewish rule.

While the desire of Israel's enemies to see the destruction of the State has remained constant, the negative media bias against Israel has become more pronounced, he said.

"If this would have happened today, the media would have said it was an unnecessary war," he said, referring to the popular view that last summer's war with Hezbollah was unnecessary.

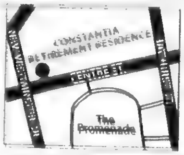
"We are willing to give on some of our historical monuments. We are willing to help to establish, for the first time, a Palestinian state."

But, he said, if it will be a state built on the foundation of producing more terrorists with the intent to destroy Israel, the Palestinians will achieve nothing.

"They will suffer so much more if they choose to continue this way. If they choose peace, they will find us willing to have peace with them, and we will strive for a better future for all of us."

Ya'acov Brosh, left, is presented with a plaque by Max Benaim on behalf of Petah Tikvah Congregation. [Joe Cohen photo]

BIBLE THUMPERS: **At the recent National Bible Contest in Montreal, Associated Hebrew Schools' middle school students Zachary Zarnett-Klein, middle, won the grade 5/6 division, while David Ripsman, left, placed third in the same division, and Alexander Maged, right, was third in the grade 7/8 division.**



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An ever larger, looming menace

One of the most surprising, yet interesting, developments to emerge from the recently concluded G-8 summit meetings in Germany was the suggestion by Russian President Vladimir Putin that a missile defence system be deployed in Azerbaijan in order to counter a possible launch of long-range Iranian missiles. The suggestion was intended to stand in lieu of an American plan to place the anti-Iranian defensive shield in Eastern Europe.

Putin's proposal is now being weighed in Washington.

But it was significant for a number of reasons, foremost of which, perhaps, was that it was evidence, finally, that the Russians also understand and are starting to worry about the grave, far-reaching, global harm posed by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Putin should be worried by the Iranian regime, as should all of the G-8 leaders.

Last month, the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors conducted a surprise visit to the Iranian reactor located in Natanz and found some 1,600 centrifuges for the advanced enrichment of high-grade uranium. A report last week updated the estimated number of working centrifuges at 2,000.

The revelations by the IAEA inspection team preceded by a few days the shocking but robustly iterated threat by Ahmadinejad that "the countdown button for the destruction of the Zionist regime has been pushed by the hands of the children of Lebanon and Palestine."

The expressions of offence and outrage at this latest anti-Israel salvo by Ahmadinejad were immediate.

"Such remarks are incompatible with the dialogue between cultures and civilizations to which we are committed, and with Iran's aspiration to play a regional role of primary importance," said Bernard Kouchner, the French foreign minister.

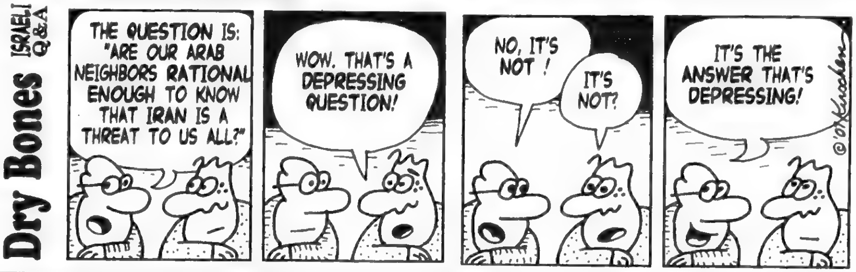
"Iran has yet again defied the request of the international community embodied in the second UN Security Council resolution, and that raises the prospect of a third resolution in order to increase pressure on Iran and get it to understand that the international community is serious that it needs to suspend its enrichment program," said Stephen Hadley, national security adviser to U.S. President George W. Bush.

On Sunday, Iran's deputy interior minister on security, Mohammed Bager Zolghadr, reportedly threatened to send oil prices to $250 (US) a barrel, block the Strait of Hormuz to oil exports from the Gulf and attack both American and Israeli interests throughout the world. The rulers of Iran boast about their missiles even as they secretly develop the nuclear warheads that those missiles are intended to deliver.

If a third sanctions resolution against Iran does materialize at the Security Council, we urge Canada to support it and help drive the point home that the menace looms larger by the day.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Objecting to Canadian prime minister Pierre Trudeau's description of Israel's invasion of Lebanon as an act of aggression, Canadian Jewish Congress president Irwin Cotler called the invasion a necessary act of self defence, in accordance with international law. The Canada-Israel Committee echoed Cotler's opinion, saying it was "dismayed" by Trudeau's words.


Dry Bones
ISRAELI Q&A
THE QUESTION IS: "ARE OUR ARAB NEIGHBORS RATIONAL ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT IRAN IS A THREAT TO US ALL?"
WOW. THAT'S A DEPRESSING QUESTION!
NO, IT'S NOT !
IT'S NOT?
IT'S THE ANSWER THAT'S DEPRESSING!
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Qassams are professionally manufactured

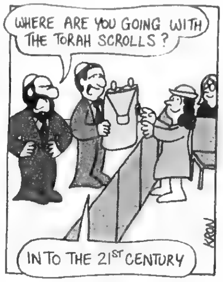
The headline "Sderot residents cope with attacks" (*CJN*, June 8) does not do justice to the article, which describes the unbearable conditions under which Sderot's residents live today. More than half of Sderot's 24,000 residents have left the city, and many others would leave if they had a place to which they could escape.

It is not accurate to minimize the threat by calling the Qassam rockets "homemade." This may have been the case years ago, but today's Qassams are professionally manufactured by Hezbollah and Iran-trained Hamas gunmen, using military-grade explosives, which – according to Israel Defence Forces intelligence briefings – have been flooding into Gaza from Egypt. Last year an estimated 35 tonnes were smuggled across the border.

All of this is the predicted result of Israel's abandonment of the Gaza Strip and putting the safety of western Negev residents into the hands of Egyptian and European observers, who turn a blind eye to the smuggling.

Meanwhile, instead of allowing the IDF to use its full capabilities to eliminate the threat, the government of Israel makes do with plans to "reinforce" classrooms. And even this, only after being forced to do so by a Supreme Court ruling. According to the government's own estimates, the reinforcing work won't be carried out for many months.

Yossi Winter
President
Toronto Zionist Council


WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THE TORAH SCROLLS ?
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* * *

Response to Brown (1)

Michael Brown's guest voice, "The assisted suicide of CJC: does it matter? (*CJN*, June 7) was an overly critical and misinformed opinion piece.

I have been involved with Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, for more than five years and an officer for several years. I have had the opportunity to see the new bylaw being discussed at a meeting in which we came to the conclusion that the status quo governing procedure was overly burdensome and not working in the best interests of our community.

Brown's comments that the democratic base was being battered is not accurate. Regional elections remain fully intact, and, in fact, under the new bylaw, CJC regions across the country are strengthened as a result.

Michael Marmur
Toronto

Response to Brown (2)

"The assisted suicide of CJC: does it matter?" (*CJN*, June 7) is an unfair attack on our most important Jewish voice. I have spent many years volunteering my time for Canadian Jewish Congress as an officer of Ontario region and on many committees.

Streamlining an antiquated governance structure is a welcome development. While there is room for disagreement about how a large organization with a time-honoured history should be governed, the relevant question is whether the new structure will better enable CJC to fulfil its mandate. I believe that CJC's volunteer and professional leaders will effectively advocate on the important issues affecting our community even better than in years past.

Igor Ellyn
Toronto

* * *

Thanks for supporting Israel

In your paper, you published an ad in which members of Parliament and senators from all parties acknowledged that in the reunited Jerusalem each religion has control of its own holy sites and the freedom of access and worship (*CJN*, May 10).

Our community has always been quick to criticize whenever an anti-Israel stand is taken. Now is the time to praise the leaders who lent their names to the ad. I, for one, commend them on this remarkable show of support.

Nicholas Kadysh
Kingston

* * *

Elie/Candel/Lebovich family reunion

The Elie, Candel and Lebovich families from Podu Iloaiei, in the Romanian province of Moldavia (near Iasi), began arriving in Canada in 1907 and settled in Toronto, Hamilton, Detroit, Boston and Rochester.

The next generation grew to include the following families: Ely/Elias, Richter, Tishler, Rubin, Pazner, Lipchitz, Appel, Moses, Weingarten, Cohen, Philips, Isenberg, Lebow, Sternberg, Taubman and Goldstein.

A reunion is being planned for sometime in August to celebrate the family's 100th year in North America. We would like to invite all descendants of the original families.

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Response to U.K. boycott threat

By BEN HARRIS
JTA

Jews around the world were united last week in denouncing a major British trade union's decision to consider a boycott of Israeli universities, but they differed over how to respond to such threats.

Some want to fight fire with fire, while others are opting for an appeal

On the more combative side are figures like Harvard University professor Alan Dershowitz, who is reportedly advocating for legislation that would "devastate and bankrupt" British universities that refuse to do business with their Israeli counterparts.

On the other side are groups such as the Anti-Defamation League, which for now prefers to keep the controversy in the rhetorical realm by publishing a number of ads in major international newspapers branding the proposed boycott an act of anti-Semitism.

The differences emerged after the University and College Union (UCU), Britain's largest teachers union, ignored the warnings of its secretary general and voted May 30 to consider an academic boycott of Israeli universities.

Though most observers say the effort is likely to fail when put before the union's full membership – four previous British attempts at an academic boycott of Israel have faltered – it nevertheless appears to have inspired other British bodies to consider similar measures.

Almost immediately after the UCU move, the country's largest trade union decided to consider a boycott motion at its upcoming conference. While the UCU represents 120,000 members, UNISON has more than a million.

Ex-Briton David Newman, a political science professor at Ben-Gurion University (BGU) who was a visiting professor at the University of Bristol during the past academic year, was the only Israeli professor to address the UCU before its May 30 vote. He said the dangerous effect of the decision is the ripple effect it could have among more "serious unions," such as UNISON.

"This isn't an isolated event. It is the tip of the iceberg. There are other unions that see this as a precedent, and I think there is a whole atmosphere of 'Let's boycott Israel.'"

Both the UCU and UNISON decisions follow a resolution in April by Britain's National Union of Journalists condemning Israel's "savage" attack last summer on Lebanon and calling for sanctions against the Jewish state.

With the boycott movement appearing to gain momentum, Jewish organizational officials are at odds over how to react.

There is the oft-cited hope that cooler heads will prevail in the face of an initiative most Jews consider flagrantly discriminatory, if not abjectly anti-Semitic.

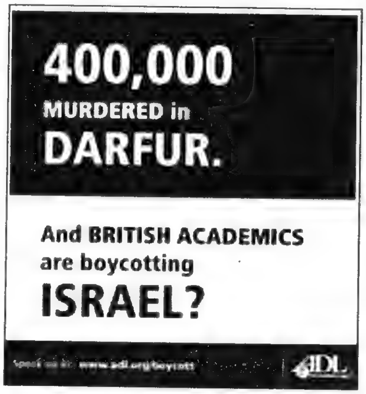
In Canada, Canadian Jewish Congress CEO Bernie Farber says it's important to keep the British unions' actions in perspective.

"The same thing happened a year ago and it was rejected, and of course the hope is that it will be rejected once again," he said, referring to UNISON's vote to consider a boycott motion.

Farber said CJC is working with trade unionists, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who support Israel in order to create a "counterbalance" to the possible boycott.

As for concrete action plans, he said Congress is keeping an eye on the situation and waiting to hear what its British sister organization, the British Board of Jewish Deputies, believes should be done in North America.

Peter Willner, executive vice-president of the American Friends of Hebrew University, the American fundraising arm of the Jerusalem institution, told JTA his organization opposes boycotts in principle and would confine its response to issuing a news release and raising awareness in the academic community.



One of the anti-boycott posters distributed by the Anti-Defamation League in the United States.

"The only way to stop all of this is to have the right people stand up and say, 'We're not going to stand for this,'" Willner said. "I think boycotts are an illegitimate tool, and especially when used against the State of Israel."

In its own press release, Hillel, the world's largest Jewish campus organization, said that the UCU's "anti-intellectual action undermines the very definition of academic freedom and strikes at the root of the scholarly enterprise," and it urged UCU members "to tear down obstacles to the free and comprehensive exchange of ideas, not to erect them. Academic freedom is essential to promoting tolerance and peace."

Similar efforts to isolate Israel have taken root among trade unions in Canada, South Africa and Ireland. In the United States, sporadic efforts to have universities divest from Israel have been unsuccessful.

Only in Britain has the boycott effort been endorsed by unions of university teachers and journalists – both groups, critics are quick to point out, that profess fidelity to ideals of impartiality and dispassion.

Newman, of BGU, said serious academics see this motion as an "annoyance" and some professors have given up their UCU memberships as a result.

"It really does puzzle me," Prof. Malcolm Grant, president of University College London and head of the Russell Group, a coalition of Britain's 20 largest research universities, said of the atmosphere in the United Kingdom.

The coalition issued a statement calling the UCU vote "a contradiction in terms and in direct conflict with the mission of a university." It echoed remarks by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who told Parliament last week that a boycott is "misguided" and a threat to academic freedom.

"Anti-Zionism appears to have taken on a sharper edge in Britain because of a historic and persistent hard-left movement," said Jon Benjamin, chief executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Many of the rank-and-file members of the UCU routinely take their cue from them, he said.

The hard left, however, is active well beyond Britain, including on university campuses in the United States. For some, the difference lies in the response of the public as much as in the efforts of boycott supporters.

Newman said it's a positive sign that much of the world has reacted negatively to the UCU motion.

"It is worth noting just how comprehensive the reaction to it has been, even from sources where you would not normally expect them to be pro-Israel," he said.

"And they're not responding because they are pro-Israel, they're responding because they think a boycott is totally the wrong thing to do. It's discriminatory, it's exclusionary, it's all these things that these people claim they defend."

He said Israeli universities should foster collaboration between Israeli and British academics, in order to show that it's mainly radical activists who support a boycott, not serious academics.

"The worst thing is when Israelis turn around and say, 'We're not going to go to Britain anymore,' because they are self-implementing the boycott more successfully than [the unions]."

In Canada, he recommends that people take an anti-boycott stand, and show that it's possible be pro-Palestinian without favouring a boycott.

With files from JTA correspondent Vanessa Bulkacz in London and The CJN's Abigail Bimman.

June 1, 2007

Ms. Sally Hunt
General Secretary
Association of University Teachers
Egmont House, 25-31 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9UT
United Kingdom

Dear Ms. Hunt:

I write to you with a heavy heart, as it is not often that I contemplate endorsing a boycott against fellow academics who are themselves innocent of all wrongdoing. However, the actions of your country, and the lessons I have learned from the British University and College Union (UCU), leave me with little choice.

This week the UCU recommended a boycott of all Israeli academic institutions, based on its opposition to Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands and its alleged violation of various UN resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention. I do not think that the UCU has accurately analyzed Israel's actions, but I gather that debate is now over and the UCU resolution recommending a boycott is in place.

Although I do not agree with it, it is incumbent on academics in the rest of the world to take the UCU's statement of principle seriously. I therefore feel obliged to point out that it is the United Kingdom that has invaded and occupied another country's territory for no reason of self-defence or any other legally recognized imperative. Whatever one might say about Israel's actions in the occupied territories, its 1967 capture of the West Bank and Gaza was in response to threatened annihilation. The 2003 British invasion of Iraq was in response to no similar threat posed by the Iraqis to the U.K.

Indeed, as you must be aware, the British invasion of Iraq in 2003 was unauthorized by the United Nations. As a result, more than a dozen prominent British international law academics have opined in the Guardian that this military venture, and the prolonged occupation pursuant thereto, is contrary to all applicable international legal norms.

Accordingly, under the UCU's governing principles an academic boycott of British universities is called for. Speaking personally, I do not endorse the notion of a nationality-based boycott of this kind, as I believe such actions unfairly target innocent persons who have nothing to do with formulating or carrying out government policy, and, in addition, they curtail free speech and free academic debate. I am certain, for example, that you do not feel personally responsible for the actions of Prime Minister [Tony] Blair and his government's forces in Iraq.

Nevertheless, the UCU principle dictates that the world pronounce you and all of your British colleagues guilty, and that we engage in an international boycott of every academic in your country until its government changes its ways. I know this sounds unfair, but it is what the UCU effectively demands.

Yours truly,

Ed Morgan,
Faculty of Law, University of Toronto,
Outgoing President,
Canadian Jewish Congress

Let not prejudice blind us

There is an awkward symmetry between Jewish prejudices against Poles and Polish prejudices against Jews. Jews tend to accuse Poles of perennial anti-Semitism. Poles often believe that Jews are forever imbued with what they call anti-Polonialism.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

When either side finds evidence to the contrary, it makes exceptions for the case in hand, but tends to refuse to modify its overall stance.

The overwhelming majority of Poles are Roman Catholics, but their prejudices are not necessarily motivated by religion. As reported last month in *The CJN*, Romuald Jakub Weksler-Waszkinel is a Polish Catholic priest who at age 35 discovered that he is a Jew by birth and, remaining a faithful servant of his church, is now promoting Christian-Jewish understanding.

But when this staunch Catholic addressed fellow Polish Catholics in Mississauga during his recent visit to Canada, many comments from the floor had strong anti-Semitic overtones. Though there were no expressions of disdain for Poland when he spoke to a mixed audience in Toronto, only relatively few Jews attended.

By contrast, it seems that, unlike Diaspora Jews who carry the unhappy memories of Poland of their parents and grandparents, Israelis, secure in their country, are often more open to the new Poland. One of Israel's former ambassadors in Warsaw, Shevach Weiss, epitomized this, and he did much to break down barriers.

The Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada, whose guest Father Weksler-Waszkinel was, is trying to do the same here.

It will be marking its 20th anniversary next year. Its aim is to break down the fearful symmetry of prejudice by exposing Poles and Jews alike to the more complex truths that don't ignore the past, yet point to many pro-Jewish sentiments and actions in contemporary Polish society and a growing understanding for things Polish among discerning Jews everywhere.

It is an uphill battle, for each side is prone to accuse the other of intransigence. Because both Jews and Poles have been the victims of Nazism and Communism, they find it almost impossible to recognize the scars of the other. Instead, they often accuse the other of having inflicted their pain.

This is an appeal to Jewish readers to recognize the complexity of the situation and learn to distinguish between friend and foe. For example, you may wish to note that, among European nations, Poland, together with Germany, is today the staunchest supporter of Israel. Israelis celebrate it. You may also wish to know of the many books and films on Jewish themes that are being published in Poland, and the numerous Polish scholars and artists who seek to disseminate accurate and sympathetic knowledge about Judaism.

Holding on to old and irrelevant prejudices makes us blind. The time has come to open our eyes.

Beyond summer camp

To go to summer camp or not to go to summer camp? This is the perennial question plaguing many Jewish teens or 20-somethings each spring. Should one slave away in a meaningless job in the city or escape to the lakeside beauty of camp? Enjoy patios and air-conditioning or bunk beds and gossiping?

I can comfortably say that my answer in years past was never in question, but this year, roasted marshmallows and sing-alongs around bonfires is not where my heart is. And while it feels strange to move beyond summer camp, it is part of the process of growing up.

Every summer since I was eight, I have left the loving care of my parents' house for the dirty confines of the wooden cabins of Camp Shomria.

Affiliated with Hashomer Hatzair, a progressive Zionist youth movement, camp quickly became a second home for me. Becoming acclimatized to the camp atmosphere was easy because my older siblings were veteran campers. I grew up with Hashomer's informal educational model of youth leading youth towards individual and collective actualization.

In exposing me to communal living and progressive thinking, Hashomer Hatzair taught me to question the world around me. Camp Shomria provided me with memorable summers, lasting friendships and a respite in nature, all of which allowed me to become the person I am today.

Jonah Brotman in Ottawa

As a veteran counsellor, I have given years of support to the movement. I have educated countless campers about almost every topic imaginable.

The cyclical nature of being a camper who is taught to be a counsellor who teaches came full circle this past year, with a year-long leadership training program that culminated for many in the program in a month-long trip to Israel during the Lebanon Crisis. The Yedid program taught these young adults how to be counsellors, just as I was taught some years ago. I knew it would be a fitting end to my camp career.

But how does one know when enough is enough? Could I not return for one more summer? This question haunted me all year. At my age, I could provide essential experience and leadership support to a younger group of counsellors.

With the average counsellor still in high school, my university and general knowledge would be incredibly valuable. On the other hand, the disconnect between the high school lifestyle and my mindset as a recent university grad is an immeasurable chasm.

I write this column on the archaic computers of Biznet Internet Café, which is found in Bolgatanga, Ghana. Biznet describes itself as the only high-speed café in town, a loose term around these parts for anything beyond a snail's crawl. Any avid *CJN* reader would remember my previous column, which spoke about my current development trip for university students to northern Ghana, where we are building an orphanage.

The trip has been an overwhelming success so far, with all participants truly gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges facing development projects. For example, in laying foundations for the orphanage dormitory we are constructing, the local contractors lined up wooden markers by pointing their arms in a line and eyeing out the measurements. Quite a difference from mechanized levellers and tape-measured lengths in Canadian construction.

But these are the realities of Africa.

Leading this trip to Ghana has shown me that my life is moving beyond summer camp. Organizing university students to support projects in the developing world has become my passion. I intend to continue my work with these children for many more years. But I have also learned that camp will always be a part of me. Running serious discussions about debt reduction, poverty and HIV/AIDS during this trip is actually similar to activities I previously ran with my campers.

So what will I miss most about camp? I guess I will find out when I return home to Toronto for the summer. But for now, as I wait for what seems like an eternity to submit this column, I cannot help but remember the lyrics of the camp song I wrote some years ago.

It goes: "I wish I could stay for life, the rest of my life. But when I have to leave you, I know you'll be fine."

Camp will be fine, and so will I.

Back to the woods

Every year, I say I won't go back. And yet, for some reason, when June rolls around, I find myself packing my bags and heading for the Northwoods of Wisconsin, where I have worked at Camp Ramah for the past four summers.

With most of my school friends spending their summers working for law firms or travelling the world, I get a bit of flak for spending mine tucked away from civilization, working with kids.

No one is more surprised than me that I keep returning to camp. Having resisted all attempts by my parents to send me to camp as a child, I would never describe myself as a camp person. It was purely for lack of other options that I accepted a job in the summer of 2003 at Ramah Wisconsin, where my older sister had already spent two summers.

Mordechai Walfish in Halifax

Upon arriving at camp, I immediately regretted my decision. While the other counsellors had six years of memories to fall back on, I was the newcomer and, therefore, the outsider. Camp was a second home to them, while for me it was a strange place.

I was annoyed by the lack of personal space and the fact that I was no longer in charge of my daily schedule and what I could eat. These feelings remained unabated for the first few weeks at camp, while I prayed daily that I would come down with mononucleosis or some other ailment that's serious enough to allow me to leave but would clear up in a few months.

But then, almost magically, I began to connect with my 14-year-old campers, and all of my previous annoyances with camp faded into the background. I quickly realized that camp provides an unparalleled opportunity to create community with youths who would likely remain strangers, or acquaintances at best, during the year.

The primary reason that I keep returning to camp is that it provides such an effective and interesting complement to everyday life. Compared to camp, everyday life is rather unco-ordinated, with far more emphasis on individual pursuits. At camp, it's impossible to undertake any self-contained task. Any decision – large or small – has an effect on others, and there's no place where you can truly escape others and be alone.

While the bubble of camp can be overwhelming, it also makes it possible to have the conversations with others that you would not take the time for during the year. At camp, there is no such thing as rushing off to one's personal activities and attempting to grow in isolation from others.

This is, of course, what makes camp unsustainable as a permanent concept. We all need the space to grow and figure things out on our own that the rest of the year provides. Camp allows you to return every year to a familiar place with the skills, knowledge, and talents you have cultivated throughout the past year. It lets you measure how much you have grown over the year and display and develop your new self in a comfortable setting.

While camp itself can't be permanent, it's safe to say that for hundreds of campers throughout the world, the ideas and memories from camp sustain them throughout the year. I see this from campers I am in touch with during the year and from speaking to youth in Halifax who can barely wait another moment to return to their beloved Camp Kadimah.

I find that camp especially sustains children who live in small Jewish communities. At my camp, most campers come from Chicago or Minneapolis, but there are quite a few who make the trek from Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa and other relatively isolated locations. Coming to camp each summer lets these campers experience the possibilities for Jewish communal life that exist and to use them as a model in their own communities.

I've also found that campers from large Jewish communities learn a lot from their counterparts in smaller ones. Often, those in smaller places take more ownership over their Jewish life, because they know that without their initiative, the community would not survive.

Camp allows for the creation and sustaining of a non-geographical community. I'm not sure how much longer I will keep returning to camp, but I am certain that the community will exist for me long after my final stay there.

The Kirshner File

Saudi peace proposals are still on the table

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Nearly three months after Saudi Arabia's peace initiative was revived and unanimously endorsed at an Arab League summit in Riyadh, the Arab-Israeli peace process remains frozen in amber.

First unveiled five years ago, the plan was presented yet again on the basis of the same broad principles – Arab recognition of and peace and normalization with Israel in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 lines, the establishment of a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital and an "agreed, just solution" of the Palestinian refugee problem.

Then, as now, the plan was plagued by poor timing, having been launched in an atmosphere pervaded by violence and pessimism, hardly a situation conducive to good will, let alone peacemaking.

In March 2002, when it was originally introduced, the second Palestinian uprising was in full swing, boiling over with Palestinian suicide bombings and roadside shootings and Israeli retaliatory strikes. These developments prompted Israel to reoccupy the West Bank in Operation Defensive Shield and signalled the last gasp of the Oslo peace process.

Five years on, the intifadah has reached a low ebb in terms of violent incidents, but the Palestinian electorate in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has turned back the clock, having elected an Islamic fundamentalist government that wilfully ignores reality. Hamas, which has been in power for the past 15 months, refuses to recognize Israel and renounce terrorism, notwithstanding efforts by its junior coalition partner, Fatah, to moderate its rejectionist views. True, Hamas has accepted agreements signed by Israel and the Palestinian Authority since 1994, but only grudgingly and obliquely.

Since the 2006 election, Hamas has tolerated attacks on Israel by Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, an offshoot of Fatah. In recent weeks, Hamas has massively violated a shaky six-month-old truce with Israel, firing scores of Qassam rockets at Israeli settlements, especially the town of Sderot, and thereby renewed its hot war with Israel.

The on-again, off-again fratricidal street battles pitting Hamas against Fatah, which have claimed the lives of almost 200 Palestinians since last year and which Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has described as verging on civil war, have exacerbated tensions. As long as the Palestinians are mired in deep internal disputes over policy toward Israel and power-sharing arrangements, and as long as Hamas exploits the strife to attack the Jewish state, Israel will be hard-pressed to consider the two-headed Palestinian Authority as a serious negotiating partner.

Saudi Arabia– a Sunni redoubt and a U.S. ally– relaunched its ambitious peace plan against the backdrop of these bitter realities and its concern that the Arab-Israeli dispute and Iranian radicalism are among the chief causes of instability in the Middle East.The Saudis seem convinced that if Israel's conflict with the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, can be settled by political means, Iran's growing influence as a Shiite power can be whittled down and contained. From this perspective, there may be a confluence of interests between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

In a recent op-ed piece in the *New York Times*, Fuad Siniora, the prime minister of Lebanon, suggested that the Saudi proposal is genuine and that military force is no panacea for Israel. "The Arab states are not seeking to wipe Israel off the map," he wrote. "Rather, we are seeking the legitimate goals of an armistice, secure borders and the ability of all of the region's people to live in peace and security." In an allusion to last summer's war in Lebanon, he added that "compromise and diplomacy" are the only answers to instability.

Jordan, the second Arab country after Egypt to sign a formal peace treaty with Israel, delivered a similar message recently when King Abdullah II told an Israeli delegation in Amman that Israel should embrace the Saudi initiative. As he put it, "Israel must adopt [it] as a foundation for negotiations, and musn't miss this opportunity to be recognized by all the area states, and truly become part of the region."

Israel's response has been tepid, though not as categorically negative as in 2002, when it flatly rejected the Saudi plan.

In a series of comments, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has heaped praise on it while not actually accepting it. He has talked about its "positive elements" and regards it as "a basis for discussions with the Palestinians." And while he is prepared to discuss the plan with Arab leaders without preconditions, he has said that he will not accept ultimatums. Israel's foreign minister, Tzipi Livni, has been relatively upbeat, too, saying that the plan's advocacy of a two-state solution converges with Israel's interests in preserving itself as a democratic Jewish state.

Ehud Olmert

Israel has not fully embraced the plan for two reasons. It opposes a return to the pre-1967 borders, hoping to retain major settlement blocs in the West Bank. Olmert has said that Israel wants to keep about 10 per cent of the West Bank, a position at odds with Arab and Palestinian policy. Olmert also opposes the repatriation of Palestinian refugees, having declared that Israel will never allow a single refugee to return to what is now Israel.

King Abdullah II

Despite its reservations, Israel has neither rejected the plan altogether nor broken off talks with the Arabs. The Saudi proposals, therefore, remain in play.

Shortly after the Riyadh summit ended, the Arab League appointed a special team, consisting of the Egyptian and Jordanian foreign ministers, to advance the plan. The Israeli government was disappointed that Arab League members that still have not recognized Israel were not appointed to the delegation. Nonetheless, Israel has agreed to cooperate, and in this spirit, Livni has visited Amman and Cairo.

Last week, she invited the Arab League representatives – Ahmed Aboul Gheit of Egypt and Abdelelah al-Khatib of Jordan – for talks in Israel. In previous discussions, Livni told them that the plan is no substitute for direct negotiations with the Palestinians, and urged them to exert pressure on the Palestinian side to cease all acts of terrorism.

In accordance with the 2003 "road map" peace plan, sponsored by the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations, Israel is demanding that the Palestinians dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism in the territories. In this respect, the Palestinians have not fulfilled their obligations. Yet Israel has not abided by the rules of the road map either, having expanded settlements and tolerated the construction of unauthorized outposts in the West Bank.

Olmert was supposed to have met Abbas last week to discuss these and other issues in an attempt to ease tensions, but their meeting was postponed, and a new date was not set. Generally, the Palestinians want to tackle permanent status issues such as final borders and Jewish settlements. Outgoing Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz agrees with this strategy. Olmert has voiced optimism that a comprehensive peace agreement is attainable within the next five years, but he currently prefers to focus on secondary problems, from the easing of security restrictions on the Palestinians to the shelling of Israeli settlements near Gaza.

On this pivotal issue, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has essentially sided with Israel. Having concluded that a comprehensive accord is not presently in the cards, she wants Israel and the Palestinian Authority to adopt a series of interim "benchmarks."

But even these modest goals seem unattainable. Israel and the Palestinians are fighting rather than talking. And that is tragic.

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Toronto among the top centres for Jewish education, says expert

Rabbi Josh Elkin cites city for strong commitment

By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA FEDERATION

When it comes to Jewish education enrolment, Toronto is a North American leader, according to a noted Jewish education specialist.

In the following comprehensive interview with Jewish Toronto, *Rabbi Josh Elkin, executive director of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE), reviewed a wide range of Jewish education issues. PEJE is a collaborative initiative of schools and major philanthropic partners designed to strengthen Jewish day school education in North America.*

Rabbi Josh Elkin

Q. Even though the niche of PEJE is day school education, it's a reality that many parents are opting for other forms of Jewish education – both formal and informal. How do you feel about that?

A. I'm a big believer that we have to have all the settings for Jewish education being the best that they can possibly be. In the global sense, I want them to be successful. We have to keep as many people as possible connected to their roots. The trend that I see is people coming forward to improve every part of the Jewish education equation. I applaud all these efforts even as I affirm PEJE's niche, which is day schools. I am very happy with a marketplace that is improving on all fronts.

Q. How would you describe the evolution of day schools across North America in the 10 years since PEJE was founded?

A. When we started 10 years ago, we were focused exclusively on seed funds and expertise for new schools. During our initial five years, we provided seed money and coaching to 60 schools, including Heschel in Toronto and the Paul Penna Day School. We've certainly seen the proliferation of schools and we've brought schools to many cities or regions that didn't have them. Over the last decade, we've seen the subject of day schools becoming more front and centre in communities across North America.

Q. How does Toronto's Jewish school enrollment of roughly 11,000 day school students and 6,000 children in supplementary education compare with other North American cities?

A. The proportion of Toronto children enrolled in day school is at the top of North America. The United States was busy at the beginning of the 20th century, cultivating a melting pot philosophy. As a result of that ethos, the day school movement got off to a slow start. Canada never had that philosophy. It was more of a cultural mosaic. In Canada, sending children to Jewish schools was what parents did.

Q. Yet for many parents, Jewish schooling is not an option. Why do you think that's the case?

A. Among the challenges that we have is to tackle perceptions that day schools are 'ghettoizing' and they are of inferior quality. Based on everything we read, the issue of 'ghettoization' and ambivalence about Judaism comes up more often than not. We have to focus on adult learning. We have to focus on pre-school programs. We have to help people fall in love with Judaism. The irony is that sometimes people of other faiths are more ready to make a strong case for faith-based education than we are.

Q. Let's discuss the question of Jewish school quality. What is your assessment of the quality of Jewish education overall?

A. Based on all the data we have, the day schools are doing an outstanding job. The overall picture is a very positive one, but we have to be able to recognize that, in an increasingly competitive world, the only way schools can go is to sharpen their blades when it comes to education quality. If you were to ask me what is the most important characteristic that day schools need to cultivate, I would say it's the ability to reflect on their own performance.

Q. Any final thoughts on the state of Jewish education in North America?

A. Epi [Dr. Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation senior vice president, Jewish Education & Identity] once said that Jewish education is the strategic plan of the Jewish people. If it hadn't been for Jewish education, we wouldn't be here today. The kind of community support for Jewish education demonstrated by Toronto shows that the Toronto Jewish community understands the future and the road to the future.

Toronto wins top prize for Israeli partnership

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG

Toronto's partnership with Eilat-Eilot has borne much fruit by beginning the transformation of the area from a totally tourist based economy to a centre for post-secondary education. Now Toronto has received first-prize laurels for its internship program at a Partnership 2000 conference in New Jersey over the Victoria Day weekend. The Partnership 2000 (P2K) program twins North American communities with those in Israel. In addition to the Awards of Excellence ceremony, the conference included an opportunity for the 45 partnerships from around the world to share best practices.

P2K PARTNERSHIP 2000

Toronto's Partnership (P2K) with Israel's Eilat-Eilot region was recently recognized as the best by The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) at a ceremony in New Jersey. Taking part in the presentation were (l to r): Adam Minsky, director, Israel & Overseas, UJA Federation; Jane Sherman, co-chair, Israel Department, JAFI; Zeev Bielski, chair of the executive, JAFI; Carole Solomon, chair of the Board of Governors, JAFI; Shoel Silver, co-chair, P2K for JAFI; Brian Schachter & Morley Brown, co-chairs of UJA Federation's partnership with Eliat-Eilot.

Toronto's strategic model of partnership, presented by co-chairs Morley Brown and Brian Schachter, was singled out by Jewish Agency for Israel chairman Zeev Bielski as one that other communities should be emulating. It was considered the best of its kind in North America.

The three-year-old internship program, in which high school graduates from Toronto volunteer for a minimum of six weeks in Eilat-Eilot, is one of Partnership 2000's "living bridge initiatives."

"We're bridging the gap between us and the community that we partner with, and building that bridge people-to-people," explains Michal Kaye, director of the Israel Volunteer Programs Centre, under whose auspices the internships are arranged.

"We're honoured to have won the prize for our community – it really relates to the hard work that has gone into it by both lay and professional leadership," says Schachter. "We took the kids out for dinner while we were in Israel recently and just listening to them talk, we could hear the connections that are being formed. That's the real reason we're doing this – to help the present and build for the future, and we saw that happen."

Participants, who are supported by a partnership team in Eilat, work in a variety of fields thanks to the close relationship between Toronto and Eilat-Eilot. "It gives us access to all kinds of amazing volunteer positions that we wouldn't have otherwise," explains Brown. "We've placed interns with the mayor's office and at Eilat's coral reef, with others running sports programs, teaching English, and volunteering with the fire department."

The program is part of a comprehensive development strategy underlying Toronto's partnership with Eilat-Eilot that also includes scholarships for higher education and new dormitories at the Eilat campus of Ben Gurion University, enrichment opportunities for gifted students and unique programs for weaker ones, and vocational training centres. As well, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto helped fund the Collier Centre, a community centre where interns now run after-school programs for the children of Eilat.

Ultimately, Kaye would like to see as many of the volunteers as possible working in UJA Federation-affiliated programs in Eilat "so they can understand where their money is going and get to know the people they are helping, and so the Eilatis will be able to connect the commitment of our community with actual faces."

And the winners are….

UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education (BJE) held its annual creative writing award ceremony on Sunday, June 3. A total of 33 winning entries were chosen from 500 submissions in Hebrew and English received from BJE-affiliated schools. The winning entries were from children in grades 1 through 8 and covered a wide range of topics in poems, fiction and non-fiction stories. Winners received a certificate and various prizes. The winning entries are available on the BJE website (www.bjetoronto.org).

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- **Faith-based schools should be within Ontario's public sphere of education.**
- **Ontario faith-based schools should be treated in an equitable manner, regardless of religious affiliation.**
- **Like public schools, faith-based schools would also meet appropriate provincial criteria and accountability requirements.**

We urge all political parties to recognize the fairness of these principles and we count on your support to make inclusive public education a reality for all of our children.
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Live generously

Holy Blossom wraps up 150th anniversary year

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Holy Blossom Temple will wrap up its 150th anniversary year this Sunday, June 17, with a tribute concert by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at Roy Thomson Hall.

Anniversary year chair Henrietta Chesnie didn't realize until after it was booked that there was a historical connection between the orchestra and the synagogue, which held its first service in 1856 over a drugstore. Fifty years ago, the TSO dedicated the second half of its opening concert to the temple on its 100th anniversary.

"We discovered that when looking into our archives," Chesnie told *The CJN* in an interview in the boardroom of the stately Bathurst Street building the congregation has occupied since 1938. "We have fabulous archives. What a treat for people to come here!" she said, referring to items that she expects will remain on display until the end of this month.

The stylish 83-year-old exudes enthusiasm for the history of the synagogue, where she has been a member for some 60 years and served as not only its first woman president but, in the early 1970s, as the first woman president of a synagogue in Canada.

"There's something awesome about 150 years of one institution, and I think people recognize that," she said.

Henrietta Chesnie

The range of programs over the past year – starting with an opening event that featured Canada's governor general, Michaëlle Jean, and followed by others such as a tour of old Jewish Toronto, a concert series, a lecture series and the creation and dedication of a new Torah – typify what Chesnie believes is Holy Blossom's greatest strength.

"We're an extremely diverse congregation. Somebody who would never think about coming to this program will love coming to that one," she said.

In May, the congregation devoted a weekend to celebrating the temple's educational history, and held a reunion of past educators, rabbis and confirmands going back to the 1930s.

Over the years, Chesnie has seen the synagogue become more traditional in its practice. As well, she said, Cantor Benjamin Maissner, who has been with Holy Blossom since 1979, "has created a congregation that is a singing and participating congregation. We sing – and we never used to. It's marvellous!"

Chesnie said the congregation today is "certainly more mainstream, as the whole Reform movement is," referring to practices such as the inclusion of more Hebrew in services and study of traditional Jewish texts. The congregation, which began as part of the Orthodox tradition, joined the Reform movement in 1921.

Reflecting on the temple's rabbis whom she has known personally, going back to Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath – who served the temple from 1929 to 1943 and who also served a role in the greater Reform community as president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations – Chesnie said that "the tradition at Holy Blossom has been to attract strong rabbis who are leaders in the community, and they have all created the image in which Holy Blossom is held in such high esteem."

Spiritual leaders after Rabbi Eisendrath included Rabbi Abraham Feinberg, who joined John Lennon and Yoko Ono at their 1969 Montreal bed-in and recording of the song *Give Peace a Chance*. He was followed by renowned scholar Rabbi Gunther Plaut, rabbis Harvey Fields and Dow Marmur, and the congregation's current senior rabbi, John Moscowitz.

Rabbi Moscowitz said he thinks the anniversary year has resulted in "a deep appreciation for the past, an appreciation for those who have built and sustained this synagogue, and I would say an equal appreciation for the need to sustain it in future decades."

On a more concrete level, the congregation is embarking on a major redesign of its building that has been in the works for the past couple of years. The building also houses the southern branch of Leo Baeck Day School. Plans are expected to be finalized after a vote in mid-July.

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Toronto's Jewish community responds to the needs of Sderot

UJA Federation sends one million dollars to besieged Israeli city

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA FEDERATION

As word reached Toronto last month that Qassam rockets were being fired regularly at the southern Israeli city of Sderot, UJA Federation immediately swung into action by sending a million dollars to the city. The money is allowing Sderot's children to be treated to a one-week respite from the rocket fire at summer camps in safer sections of the country. UIA Federations Canada also committed one million dollars to this initiative.

The camps were made possible by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), UJA Federation's overseas partner.

"We will also have trauma counseling at the camps, to help the children deal with the impossible conditions they are living under," says the Jewish Agency's Yael Raz.

"It's very rewarding to see that so many miles away, our Toronto community understands and feels so much compassion for all the pain the children of Sderot are experiencing," notes David Koschitzky, vice-chair, UJA Federation.

JAFI, with the assistance of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and other Canadian Federations, is providing other crisis assistance for beleaguered Israelis as well.

Soon after the rockets began to fall, close to 3,000 youngsters were taken out of danger and brought to amusement parks and other locations for fun activities in central Israel – leaving the trauma behind for a short time.

Fifty-two buses brought these children to Israel's best-loved water parks and other popular attractions. Twenty-five newly arrived young people from Ethiopia were also taken to a day of fun and 250 youngsters enjoyed Israel's soccer cup finals.

The complex logistics for these massive operations were handled by Jewish Agency personnel, who risked their lives day in and day out.

Camp counselors and children from Sderot prepare to leave the city for camps in safer parts of the country.
(right) Some of the damage caused by Qassam rockets in Sderot

Working closely with the local municipalities, they recruited thousands of children and made sure that there were enough accompanying counselors to provide proper supervision at all times.

About three weeks ago, JAFI produced yet another activity in record-breaking time, in which 671 Sderot and perimeter community members were brought to Jerusalem to see a performance of the Chinese Circus.

"Parents, children, singles, new immigrants and senior citizens enjoyed the fantastic antics of the circus performers. It was a pleasure to finally see joy on the faces of these people," says Ofer Baram, JAFI's public sector manager in the Southern District. "We immediately secured additional tickets from the Israel Festival to keep up with the demand. It was incredible."

The Jewish Agency, upon learning that a number of bomb shelters were in disastrous condition, provided necessities such as essential sanitary supplies, cleaning materials, fans, emergency lighting, bottled water and canned goods. At two bomb shelters, one of which serves as a youth club in a predominately Ethiopian neighbourhood, the Jewish Agency bought refrigerators and board games in the event that the residents need to stay there for an extended period of time.

Volunteers provide the heat for One HOT Day

It wasn't so much the temperature, but rather the spirit of the 120 volunteers who made Sunday, June 10 one truly HOT day.

One HOT Day, an initiative of UJA Federation's Hands on Toronto (HOT) project , brought out these eager men and women – aged 25 to 40 – all of whom were committed to delivering a day of mitzvah projects throughout the GTA.

"This particular One HOT Day was so important because we really reached out to a wide spectrum of people in need through various charities and non-profit organizations, including elderly care and worldwide humanitarian relief organizations," enthuses Natalie Glick, chair of One HOT Day.

Participants had the option of rolling up their sleeves for any one of a dozen good causes across the GTA including:

- The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living: Working with seniors to enhance the centre's gardens.
- Kehilla Residential Programme: Assisting with rooftop gardening and spring clean-up at an apartment participating in an affordable housing initiative, sponsored by UJA Federation.
- Eva's Phoenix Shelter: Volunteers helped with spring cleaning and gardening at this unique youth shelter.
- Zareinu Moveathon: One HOT Day participants volunteered in a number of ways at this annual fundraising event for the Zareinu Educational Centre.
- Just a Second Shop: Volunteers helped sort clothing at this UJA Federation-funded store operated by Jewish Family & Child Service, so that vulnerable Toronto families will have the chance to shop with dignity.

Participants in UJA Federation's One HOT Day relax at a barbecue after spending a day volunteering their services at a number of Toronto locations.

"This is really the joy of One HOT Day, being able to better not only the community, but the world as a whole; truly dedicated to tikun olam or repairing the world," adds Glick. "The energy throughout the day was electric and the volunteers are already asking how they can be more involved with HOT and with UJA Federation in general."

Glick, herself, became involved with UJA Federation one year ago through One HOT Day and says she was so moved by the experience, she began attending several UJA Federation events and was hooked.

"When I was asked to chair One HOT Day this year, I was thrilled," says Glick. "The most obvious benefit to me is the opportunity to interact with people who you may not encounter on a day-to-day basis. Whether it's the people working for the organizations we support, the actual people receiving the help, or the other volunteers, sharing a mitzvah with someone else is a wonderful feeling and One HOT Day is the perfect route. I really encourage others to get involved. They won't regret it."

For more information about One HOT Day or UJA Federation's Impact Toronto, call Miriam Weinstein at 416.631.5830 or email her at mweinstein@ujafed.org

Capital Ideas

New donation rules celebrate first birthday

By JAMIE GOLOMBEK

It's now been just over one year since the federal government changed the face of philanthropy in Canada. You'll recall that on May 2, 2006, the government completely eliminated the capital gains tax on donations of listed shares, mutual funds and segregated funds to registered Canadian charities.

Jamie Golombek

And donors have been taking full advantage of government's new rule to benefit charities and eliminate their tax bill. A recent study released earlier this month by Craig Alexander, vice president and deputy chief economist with TD Economics entitled "Donating Securities Makes Good Financial Sense," demonstrates the increased potential for this type of charitable giving due to the tax benefits.

One opportunity to really maximize the value of these new rules is to donate shares you may have received around 1999 when many Canadian mutual life insurance companies, owned by their policyholders, converted to stock companies and issued shares to existing policyholders. The shares received have a tax cost or adjusted cost base (ACB) to you of zero. Ordinarily, you would pay tax on half your proceeds but by donating these shares to charity, you pay no tax at all and get a tax receipt equal to the current fair market value.

For example, Noam received shares upon an insurance demutualization that have a fair market value of $10,000 and an ACB of zero. He is considering donating these shares to charity.

If he simply sold the shares first, he would realize a capital gain of $10,000 and pay tax of about $2,250 on the gain, assuming a top marginal rate of about 45%. His net benefit, taking into account the value of the donation credit ($4,500) less the tax on the capital gain, would be about $2,250.

If, on the other hand, the shares were donated directly to charity, Noam would still be entitled to his full tax receipt for the $10,000 contributed, but since his tax liability would be completely eliminated, his net benefit would be the full $4,500.

Finally, note that this year's federal budget also extended this rule to donation of eligible appreciated securities to private foundations.

Jamie Golombek, CA, CPA, CFP, CLU, TEP is the Vice-President, Taxation & Estate Planning, at AIM Trimark Investments in Toronto. He is also co-chair, communications committee, PAC, Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto. He can be reached at jamie.golombek@aimtrimark.com

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The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

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Jewish Life

Tradition collides with technology

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

Through A Sephardi Window

Isn't technology great? Frankly, to some, it isn't.

Advances in technology can be quite frightening. One remembers that not that long ago, television was a subject of great debate.

When television became a household item, the religious community at the time fought its entrance into the Jewish home. Television was seen as a powerful portal to an alien culture, one at odds with our own, bringing into our homes not just secularism and consumerism but a system of morals and values that conflicted with traditional Jewish ones.

The debate never ended. Today in our community, there are schools for non-TV families, schools for families prepared to strictly regulate how much and what TV is viewed by their children, and schools that merely oppose television viewing in principle.

To be sure, television is not a purely religious issue, but a societal one. Hence society censors programming and content to reflect its level of tolerance. It escapes no one that this level of tolerance continues to reach newer and newer lows all the time, as evidenced by the fact that what wasn't acceptable a mere decade ago is commonplace today.

A similar debate ensued with the advent of cellphones. With first-generation phones, one could merely converse. Second-generation phones introduced text messaging and were somewhat tolerated.

But third-generation phones have been another thing entirely. These phones can actually send and receive video clips, and one can use them to access the Internet from the convenience of a tiny screen. These third-generation cellphones quickly become unacceptable within the religious community.

Today, the technological battlefront is the Internet-capable computer. While stopping short of an outright ban on such computers, the religious community in Israel finds itself in the midst of an intense debate about them.

The Gerrer chassidic sect (by far the largest such group in Israel) has recently dispatched officials to homes of all its adherents in order to dissuade them from using the Internet. In the sect's newspaper, *Hamodia*, Gerrer leaders have called the Internet "the devil in disguise."

In contrast to the haredi approach is that of Shas, the Sephardi party under Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. He proposes that instead of an outright ban of computers, there should be laws governing the establishment of a "kosher Internet."

Under this proposal, presently being worked on by Israeli Communications Minister Ariel Atias (a Shas MK), censorship would take place at the level of Internet service providers nationwide.

This system would be akin to the model of North American television, in which broadcasters are regulated in areas of adult matter, violence and course language. Thus, the Internet, too, could be nationally acceptable.

Predictably, this sensible solution is encountering fierce opposition from civil libertarians. In order to counter these arguments about freedom of speech and expression, sites that are censored would still be available to those who would specifically subscribe to them, similar to some cable television channels. (Presumably, this would be subject to providing proof of age.)

This proposal, already before the Knesset, promises to be interesting.

Flowers from a stranger

By ELI RUBENSTEIN and DAPHNA LORBER

Guest Voice

The year was 2001. We were among the leaders of a group of multi-faith university students from Canada visiting Poland to study the Holocaust. In Poland, we were joined by students from the United States, Europe and Asia, all interested in learning the lessons of this devastating event in human history. The program, called the March of Remembrance and Hope, was in its first year. It was founded in the attempt to disseminate Holocaust education to a wider, more diverse audience.

During our visit to Warsaw, the tour guide showed us around all the significant locations where Jewish life thrived before the Holocaust, along with the many monuments and memorials concerning the Holocaust that were built in the last five decades.

One of our stops was at the Umschlagplatz, a stone and marble memorial at the very spot where the Jews were forced to line up for the cattle cars that took them to Treblinka and other sites of mass murder.

The structure is rectangular, with a few openings to the street. On the walls are inscribed the first names of many of the hundreds of thousands of Jewish victims whose last moments of life were experienced here. Parents parted from children, husbands from wives, grandparents from their families – all destined for a horrific journey to an even more brutal ending.

Our group of approximately 30 students sat around the stone benches within the monument as the tour guide described the process of rounding up Warsaw's Jews for their transport and ultimate annihilation.

It was springtime and Warsaw's trees were in full bloom.

Right in middle of the guide's presentation, an elderly Polish man – perhaps 80 years of age – joined our group at the Umschlagplatz. His appearance was ragged, and his manner made us suspect that perhaps he might even be intoxicated. In his hands he clutched a large bouquet of fresh flowers from the street – he must have just picked them himself from the trees surrounding the memorial.

The old man stood motionless as the guide continued to speak, seemingly out of place and out of touch with our presence and the purpose of our trip. He did not say a word, and we were certain he could not understand a single sentence the guide spoke, or for that matter, who we were and why we were there.

We exchanged annoyed and perplexed glances – with perhaps even a few snickers and rolled eyes – over this strange man's uninvited intrusion.

After a time, the old man moved. He deliberately walked over to a bench and placed the flowers under a section of the names of martyrs on one of the walls. He then returned to his spot, removed his hat and held it over his heart in an obvious sign of respect. He continued to listen, standing in this respectful fashion, until the guide finished his speech.

The group again exchanged glances, but this time there were tears in our eyes and our expressions held understanding. Suddenly – as if all at once – we comprehended the reason for his presence.

The guide finished, and the old man nodded to us and went on his way. But his abrupt and unexpected presence lingered with us for a long time.

In our subsequent discussion, we realized we all had arrived at the same conclusion: the old Polish man must have lived in this area during the war years. He must have been a witness to the wholesale removal and slaughter of his neighbours and friends, to the virtual destruction of an entire community.

His simple gesture was an attempt to pay homage to this enormous loss and to share with us in our act of commemoration.

We were there to study history. He had lived it.

Our group of students had travelled to Poland to visit the many silent monuments to the Holocaust scattered throughout the country, but he was a living witness.

We returned to Canada from Poland with many images and memories, but none so poignant and vivid as of this solitary and silent old man with a bouquet of flowers, his hat heid solemnly to his chest, with empathy in his heart and the weight of history in his eyes.

Eli Rubenstein is national director of March of the Living Canada and director of education for the March of Remembrance and Hope. Daphna Lorber was a chaperon on the March of Remembrance and Hope in 2001.

Jewish Life

Gifted Hungarian Jews profiled

***The Great Escape* by Kati Marton, Simon & Schuster.**

During the 1920s and '30s, a group of gifted Hungarian Jews fled from fascist Budapest and brought their distinctive outlook on life, science and culture to the United States and western Europe.

Books
Bernard Baskin

The Great Escape profiles nine of these talented individuals. Four of them were scientists who played crucial roles in shaping the nuclear and computer age: Leo Szilard, Eugene Wigner, Edward Teller and John von Neumann.

Two were filmmakers: Michael Curtiz, who directed *Casablanca* and *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, and Alexander Korda, the first film director ever knighted, who produced *The Third Man*.

Two were photographers: Andre Kertesz, widely regarded as the father of photojournalism, and Robert Capa, whose pictures of the Spanish Civil War and D-Day defined war photography for generations.

Another was Arthur Koestler, author of *Darkness at Noon*, the prophetic novel on communist totalitarianism.

In 1939, Szilard, with two of his colleagues, induced Albert Einstein to sign a letter addressed to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, alerting him to grave danger if the Germans were to create an atomic weapon.

The letter was brought directly to FDR's attention on Oct. 11, and began the process that would lead to the creation of the Manhattan Project – the top-secret government effort to build the atomic bomb. But Roosevelt had no idea that the letter was the work of three Hungarian refugees who were not yet American citizens.

The fourth Jewish member of the Budapest Quartet was von Neumann, a world-class mathematician who was one of the fathers of the digital computer. Marton makes clear that primitive computers were vital in the progress and development of the Manhattan Project.

The author points out that these nine men "were all double outsiders once they left their native land. They were not only from a small, linguistically, impenetrable, landlocked country, they were also Jews. One could argue that, in fact, they were even triple outsiders, since they were all non-observant Jews whose families had consciously rejected the shtetl for the modern, secular, cosmopolitan world that, briefly, lay glistening in front of them."

In the generation before World War I, Jews were welcomed into Budapest for their industry, acumen and creativity. There was little anti-Semitism. But much of this changed with the postwar regime of Nicholas Horthy, Europe's first proto-fascist, and the eventual Holocaust.

Between March 19, 1944, and the end of the war about 105,000 Budapest Jews perished. Sixteen thousand Jews died during the period preceding the German occupation. Almost 50 per cent of Budapest Jews were murdered.

Two of the nine Jews profiled, Korda and Koestler, found Britain more congenial than the United States. One of Korda's wives was the celebrated actress Merle Oberon.

Koestler was one of the great political writers of the 20th century. *Darkness at Noon*, the first real exposé of Stalinist brutality, published in French in 1946, sold 400,000 copies. Many persons attributed the defeat of the French Communist Party in a vital referendum to the impact of this powerful book.

Marton, her parents and other family members suffered grievously at the hands of both the Nazis and communists. Her book is a lively and engaging group portrait of extraordinary individuals who changed the nature and cultural contours of our modern society.

Greening your Jewish backyard

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Want to green your own Jewish backyard, shul or community centre but don't know where to start? There are many organizations happy to share environmental advice with a Jewish ta'am (taste).

The Jewish Highway

Start your search with the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life. Subtitled "Protecting Creation, Generation to Generation," the website is a clearing house for practical information and social action geared to the Jewish community. **[www.coejl.org]**

Here's just a sample of what you'll find:

- A program bank of almost 150 environment-based projects and activities you can bring to your synagogue, youth group, school or home. **[http://tinyurl.com/246z5v]**
- What's Jewish about Protecting the Environment? – a 32-page brochure packed with information. **[http://tinyurl.com/yw6wjz**
- Take Action: recommendations for change and lobbying. South of the border, they are working to pass the United States-Israel Energy Co-operation Act, which would establish a grant program to fund joint ventures to develop clean alternative fuels and more energy efficient technologies. **[http://tinyurl.com/ywl3av]**
- Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb's seven-point program for greening synagogues. **[http://tinyurl.com/yt49tq]**
- And even if you're not a rabbi, you can peek into the site's sermon starters. The next time you are faced with making a speech based on the parshat hashavuah, check out the related environmental messages. **[http://tinyurl.com/269kgd]**

Is it a mitzvah to be green? Manfred Gerstenfeld of the Business Ethics Center of Jerusalem has examined several environmental issues in contemporary Halachah such as whether recycling is a positive commandment. He quotes one rabbi who says that if all one has to do is to sort waste and bring it to a collection point close to one's home, throwing it elsewhere might be considered destruction and a transgression of prohibition against wanton destruction. Gerstenfeld also looks at other issues such as smoking, the wearing of fur coats and Judaism's attitude toward animals and vegetarianism. **[http://tinyurl.com/2edsnz]**

Canfei Nesharim ("the wings of eagles") wants to "inspire the Orthodox Jewish community to understand and act on the relationship between Halachah, traditional Jewish sources and modern environmental issues." Here's some advice from the section titled Enviro-Chuppah, tips for an environmentally friendly wedding:

- Educate your guests about your eco-friendly choices, through your wedding booklet, benschers and other gifts.
- Purchase sustainable wedding garments – a dress/suit that is practical to wear on other occasions
- Purchase local and organic produce for your reception. **[www.canfeinesharim.org]**

Sure what you're eating is kosher but is it healthy for you – and the environment? Hazon's Tuv Ha'Aretz program encourages local Jewish communities to buy and eat food that was grown by locally based farmers. They started off by pairing Manhattan's Congregation Ansche Chesed with Long Island's Garden of Eve Farm in 2004. Since then the program has spread to include Jewish communities in Atlanta; Berkeley, Calif.; Houston; Philadelphia; Saint Paul, Minn.; Washington, D.C.; and Modi'in in Israel – and has advice for synagogues and Jewish community centres who would like to join in. **[http://tinyurl.com/yrqnba]**

Want to find your spiritual side while working up a sweat? Then take a hike with Rabbi Mike Comins. The Los Angeles-based rabbi is most comfortable leading a congregation across deserts on foot, through forests on bikes or cross country on skis. Comins notes that there are hundreds of thousands of North American Jews who venture into the wilderness every year. "Consciously," and often unconsciously, they seek an avenue to express the emotions they feel in nature. When that path is not found – or worse, when the path found is not Jewish – the result is a disconnection between a person's deepest, spiritual moments and Judaism."

The rabbi hopes his programs will strengthen those connections. However, even if you won't be joining Rabbi Comins in a kayak, you can check out his writings about Judaism and the outdoors at his website. **[www.torahtrek.com/writings.htm]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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USYers continue rebuilding in New Orleans

> ***'It was a really moving experience. It was heart-wrenching… but it was good to know we were helping people restart their lives'***

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

They travelled to New Orleans in March to help rebuild homes, and they returned transformed, inspired by their hands-on experience in tikkun olam.

And last Tuesday, June 5, members of Toronto's Beit Rayim United Synagogue Youth (USY) offered the community a glimpse of what they encountered on their mission of mercy.

In a multimedia presentation titled "New Orleans: A Guided Tour – Past, Present and Future," the USYers, led by Ariel Greenbaum-Shinder, USY's regional director of youth activities, gave their snapshot of New Orleans to the public.

Held at Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Thornhill, the event drew a stream of curious parents, friends and community members who were interested in seeing what the USYers did and finding out what more can be done to help the residents of Hurricane Katrina-ravaged Louisiana.

Guests were also encouraged to make a small monetary donation, with all funds going toward further New Orleans relief efforts.

The CJN last reported on these USY activities on April 5, when members sat down to discuss the impact of their trip. In the ensuing months, the students worked to put together photo collages, Internet videos and music to bring their experiences back home for display.

USY youth greeted visitors to their event wearing the same hardhats and bearing the same tools they used to help fix homes in New Orleans.

Students led groups of three or four guests at a time on a tour of different displays set up in the shul's basement.

Two USYers, Simon Edwards and David Wallach, provided a running commentary to *The CJN*, explaining how they felt as they pointed out pictures of demolished houses, abandoned clothing and ruined landscapes that affected them deeply while working in New Orleans.

"It was a really moving experience," Wallach said. "It was heart-wrenching… but it was good to know we were helping people restart their lives."

Edwards echoed his friend's sentiment, adding, "We never met any of the families or people we were helping. But that was probably better, because the best type of tikkun olam is when you don't know who you're helping and they don't know who helped them… that makes it a greater mitzvah."

Though they admitted it was a very hard trip emotionally, both teens expressed unbridled enthusiasm for the next USY-led trip, planned for March 2008.

"We'll do another trip next March break," Greenbaum-Shinder said. "We can accommodate as many people who want to go. But people should understand that the cost is prohibitive… almost $800 (US) per person."

She added that UJA Federation of Greater Toronto was helpful in providing grants to help offset the costs for the trip this year, and she hoped additional funding would be available to lower the expense even more for travellers next year.

Cheri Szereszewski, youth director for Beit Rayim Synagogue, helped organize the event with the aid of her daughter, Rachel, also a New Orleans volunteer.

She expressed immense pride in her daughter and all the USY volunteers involved in the New Orleans project and hoped the event would help garner more exposure for New Orleans and drive up donations of food, clothing and books for victims of Katrina.

"They really have continued [using] this experience to make a difference in both their lives and in the world," she said. "That's what Judaism and tikkun olam is all about. Hopefully tonight, we'll be able to raise some more money to send back [to New Orleans] to carry the kids' experience forward."

To make a donation or for more information, contact Cheri Szereszewski at Beit Rayim synagogue at 905-889-0276, ext.25

Toronto USYers stand in front of pictures from New Orleans at their presentation last week at Shaar Shalom Synagogue. Pictured, from left, are Andre Ivory, Jason Freedman, David Wallach, Simon Edwards, Rachel Szereszewski and Ariel Greenbaum-Shinder. [Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf photo]

Temple Har Zion preschool to close

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

After more than 25 years in operation, Temple Har Zion's preschool is closing because of dwindling enrolment.

There are not enough children to fill the school's half-day classes, because more parents are opting for full-day programs, the temple's executive director, Karen Grimm, said last week.

"The needs of the young Jewish family today are changing, because more women are working," she said.

The preschool, which this year had 35 children, offered a morning nursery class, morning and afternoon junior kindergarten classes and two senior kindergarten enrichment classes.

At its height, it served more than 100 students.

The decision to close down after the school year ends this week was not made for financial reasons."We would back our school," Grimm said.

Rather, explained preschool supervisor Rickie Glickman, who oversees a staff of four teachers, class sizes were not optimal for socialization.

However, both Grimm and Glickman said they see the change as a "hiatus" more than a closing.

Glickman phoned all the parents by the end of May to notify them personally about the closing, and all registration deposits for next year have been returned, she said.

The parents were "very sad" to hear the news, Grimm said. She added that some parents are organizing a reunion this fall to recognize the preschool and its teachers.

Glickman lauded her teachers for their quality.

Because of the school's parent participation component, she said, "I had to hire teachers that were excellent, because every day they would be scrutinized by a different parent [who was in the class]."

As supervisor, Glickman said she wanted the children to be treated "the way I would treat my own children," and also to provide "a positive preschool experience with a strong Judaic component, but most importantly a place where, when parents left their children, they could feel confident that they were in a safe and caring and loving environment."

The administrators said it's too early to say if the temple might consider running full-day preschool programs.

In the months ahead, said Glickman, "I think we have to think out of the box and see how we can utilize [the preschool] space."

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CJC: time to stand and applaud

In a harsh critique of Bylaw 67, a new governance structure to be introduced at the upcoming Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) plenary, an opinion piece by Michael Brown in *The CJN* ("The assisted suicide of the CJC: Does it matter?," June 14) asks whether the Canadian Jewish community should "laugh or cry" over this long-needed change to CJC's governing structure.

Guest Voice

Those in our community who have been "on the ground" and part of grassroots Jewish advocacy for years know full well and understand that the changes being contemplated are necessary if CJC wishes to maintain its status as Canada's most vital Jewish advocacy organization. Instead of laughing or crying, today's leadership is making another statement: "It is time to stand and applaud the changes to CJC's governance."

The article argues that the democratic structure of CJC is being eroded, that we are in fact "assisting in its suicide." Nonsense. CJC has always been the sum of its parts. The grassroots emanated from the regions, and within the new governance model, regions remain the source of our strength for the future. Hence elections remain a vital and necessary part of regional governance.

Bearing in mind that regional chairs will sit on the new streamlined executive, there is now clearly more influence and impact for democratically elected lay leaders to have a real and ongoing influence on the Jewish body politic. In fact, the regions will have more representation in the new model than they ever had in the past.

The other changes being contemplated in Bylaw 67 address a past governing structure hampered and ill-served by procedures that, while appearing democratic on the outside, were far from it on the inside. Indeed, in the last 25 years, there has only been one election at a CJC triennial plenary, in 1995. And that one was so riddled with problems that an internal judicial inquiry had to be called. In fact, at times it was a struggle to fill vacant officers' positions and the opportunity for "amcha" to be part of that process, despite the veneer of a democratic front, was at best limited, if not non-existent.

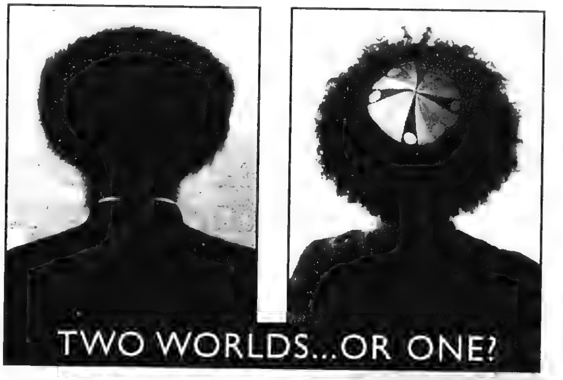
In the past, CJC comprised a national council of more than 1,000 people, a national executive of more than 125 people, and a national officers body of more than 50. This is in addition to regional councils, executives and officers that also numbered in the hundreds. The sad part was that very often they were only names on a page. Few, if any, participated or were active in the ongoing advocacy affairs of the community. Truth be told, it was a small group of officers and the appointed committees of CJC – such as the community relations committee, the Internet hate committee, the national Darfur committee or the war crimes committee – that undertook the necessary work.

Bylaw 67 ensures that the committee structure not only remains intact but is enhanced. Through Bylaw 67, a streamlined executive established through an open and apparent communal procedure recognizes and allows for straightforward flow of and access to information, as well as the ability to respond immediately to events that have an impact on Jewish communal life. It provides an ease of governance that is transparent and fully accountable to the community that funds it.

Finally, Brown suggests that Canadian Jewish advocacy is becoming "Americanized," thus playing on the reflexive Canadian aversion to all things south of the border. The Jewish community in Canada, however, knows better. Organizations such as the famed American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, and the American Jewish Congress, all operating with a similar governance structure as being contemplated by CJC, are arguably among the most influential lobby groups in the world. Why not take the very best of their governing bylaws, coupled with the very best of ours, and create a new and dynamic CJC that will be as always uniquely Canadian and uniquely Jewish?

Change is difficult. But holding on to false vestiges of the past to forgo change is not in the best interests of amcha.

Sylvain Abitbol, Incoming co-president, Canadian Jewish Congress; Barbara Bank, Past chair, National Jewish Campus Life; Frank Bialystok, Incoming chair, CJC, Ontario region; Brent Belzberg, Co-chair, Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA); Rabbi Reuven Bulka, Incoming co-president, CJC; Danyael Cantor, Executive director, Federation CJA, Montreal; Steven Cummings, Co-chair, CIJA; Gerry Cuttler, Chair, CJC, Pacific region; Michael Elterman, Past chair, CJC, Pacific region, National chair, CJC community relations committee; David Engel, Chair, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto; Hershell Ezrin, CEO, CIJA; Barbara Farber, President, UIA Federations Canada; Bernie Farber, CEO, CJC; Jo Gabay, Past chair, CJC, Quebec region; Marc Gold, President, Federation CJA, Montreal; Victor Goldbloom, Chair, CJC, Quebec region; Calvin Goldman, Honorary legal counsel, CJC; Saul Koschitzky, Chair, CJC nominations committee; Goldie Hershon, Past president, CJC; Jack Mintz, Incoming national vice-president, CJC; Joachim Normand, Regional director, CJC, Quebec region; Ed Morgan, President, CJC; Mira Oreck, Regional director, CJC, Pacific region; Arlene Perly Rae, National vice-president, CJC; Bernard Pinsky, President, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver; Rabbi Reuven Poupko, Past chair, CJC, Quebec region; Joel Richler, Chair, CJC, Ontario region; Mark Rosen, Past president, Atlantic Jewish Council; Steven Shulman, Regional director, CJC, Ontario region, and national general counsel; Ted Sokolsky, President, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.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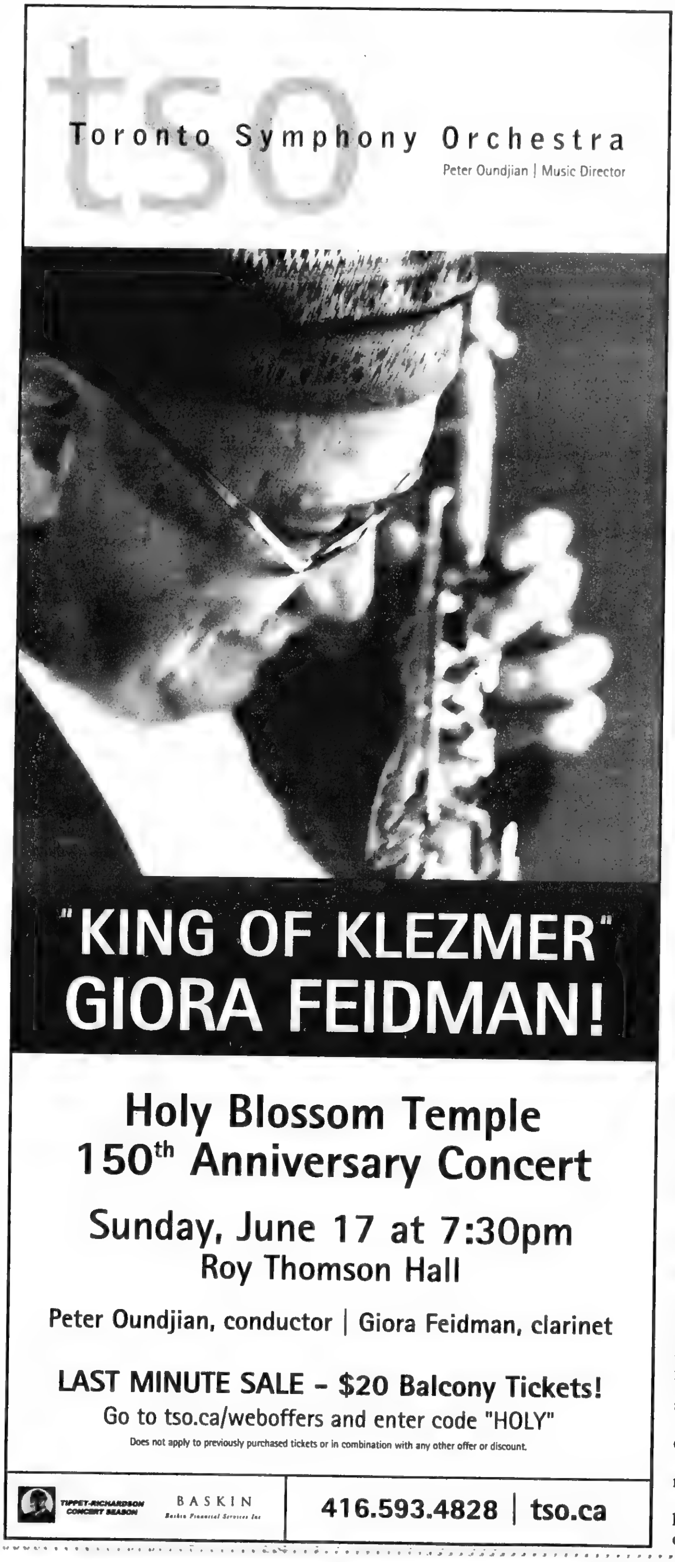

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Greater Toronto Area

Judaica store marks a quarter-century

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Israel's The Judaica Centre opened its doors in Toronto 25 years ago and business is still booming – locally and abroad.

In 1982, owner Israel Kaplan left his family business, the Negev Book Store and Gift Shop, to start something new.

"I felt for the longest time that what we considered the downtown part of the city, Eglinton, which is a very large Jewish community, was underserviced, and I felt that we could do a lot, both in Jewish literature and in artifacts," said Kaplan, who is 60.

The Judaica store now offers everything from kippot to kosher candy to chupah rentals.

And until June 17, the store is having a major sale for its anniversary. Up for grabs is a free trip to Israel. Any purchase over $25 gets you a raffle entry for the draw to be held on Chanukah.

From the start, Kaplan's goal was to have a store for Jews from any background.

"Because we positioned ourselves in the city as being open to the entire spectrum of Conservative, Orthodox, Reform and totally irreligious, that makes us unique," he said.

"It's a very comfortable environment," added his wife, Susie, who came on board 15 years ago and runs the wholesale operations.

Kaplan said his staff are trained not to discriminate against anyone who comes into the store. For example, staff learn to sell a tallit to a woman, something that may be uncomfortable for some of them.

Israel's opened in a 1,000-square-foot store on Eglinton, a few blocks from its current location just west of Bathurst Street, at 870 Eglinton Ave. W. Since then, the store has moved twice and expanded greatly. Israel's has a second location at 441 Clark Ave. W. in Thornhill, managed by the Kaplans' son David.

Kaplan believes it is important for smaller Jewish communities to be able to access Judaica products.

The business takes orders from across the globe on its website, israelsjudaica.com, and has products in large chain food and card stores.

Kaplan also regularly holds a book-fair-like event, shipping books and gifts to cities across the country, including Vancouver, Winnipeg and Regina.

Among the store's best-selling items are kippot, cookbooks and greeting cards. Also popular is kosher candy imported from Israel, products from companies that do not have a hechsher in North America. For example, Wrigley gum products are sold by the store's subsidiary, Israel Candy Company.

In addition, keeping up with the times is crucial to business, Kaplan said.

"Stores like ours… are providing the community with modernisms…

"Today, for good or for bad you can buy a knitted kippah that has the [Toronto] Raptors on it or Batman… There may be some people who are against that kind of stuff because it might be a dilution, but how else do you reach out to kids and to the public?"

The Kaplans have seen other changes over the years. When the store opened, Kaplan said, it was rare to see someone on Eglinton wearing a kippah. Now, this is not the case.

Generally, the demand for more religious and ritual items is greater at the Thornhill store, but he said there is starting to be a noticeable shift downtown.

Israel and Susie Kaplan

But no story about Israel Kaplan is complete without a mention of his activism in his namesake country.

"A lot of people come into the store and they say that they love shopping here because of him, because of what he stands for, and they believe that's why they should be supporting the store, because of all the work that he does for Israel," Susie said.

Her husband is vice-president of the Toronto Zionist Council, and the couple visit Israel often. Their two daughters live there and they have staff and business contacts overseas.

"I didn't take up golfing 10 years ago… I took up getting involved in Israel," Kaplan said.

When his family was young, his mother would bless his children by saying, "May you be a leader in Israel."

"I trained my kids to laugh at it, I saw it as a joke," he remembered.

"When she died and I became involved in matters of Israel, only then did I know what she was talking about, because as an adult, I took a more active role and found out that our leadership was very lacking."

A highlight both in the Kaplans' Israel involvement and in their store history was the "Israel Mall" they brought to Canada in the summer of 2002, to showcase Israeli products.

Kaplan made sure to foster connections among Canadian buyers.

"That was very important for me, that it wasn't just like a beginning and an end… but there would be continuous exports out of Israel to help these guys."

The possibility that he and his wife will make aliyah in the next two years is "very real," Kaplan said. But the landmark store won't be closing its doors anytime soon.

"There's so much more we can do, so many different areas we can go into," Susie said.

Quebec mayor reassures chassidim after arson

By **JANICE ARNOLD**
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Val David Mayor Pierre Lapointe came to an Outremont synagogue last week to reassure chassidic summer residents that the Laurentian village is still a safe place for them despite the arson of a family home there.

Lapointe made the visit the day after a house in an enclave of about 110 dwellings owned by Satmar families was destroyed in an overnight fire June 5.

He told them at the closed-door meeting that his council has "zero tolerance" for anti-Semitism and will do what it can to ensure Jewish residents' safety. He said he will see that any apparently hate-motivated incidents are looked into, although policing of the vast Laurentians is limited.

An attempt was made to set the same house ablaze on the previous Saturday morning, but that fire was contained quickly by firefighters. Damage to the two-storey house, which was a year or two old, is estimated at more than $200,000. None of the homeowners was in the vicinity at the time of either incident.

The provincial police, the Sûreté du Québec (SQ), determined that the fire was deliberately set, but had not designated the incident as a hate crime at *The CJN*'s deadline. No evidence was found of anti-Semitic intent, such as graffiti or a note, nor had any threats been received.

But there is no question in the mind of Meyer Feig, director of the Jewish Orthodox Council for Community Relations and a Satmar community member, that this was an attack on the highly visible community.

"Was it anti-Semitism? That is the million-dollar question. In my gut, I feel that it was. But the police have their criteria," he said.

Feig visited the site after the first small fire. He saw attempts to ignite motor-oil-soaked furnishings in three rooms on the first floor.

Last summer, he said there was some troubling harassment of the community's children, such as having paintballs and rocks thrown at them, as well as slurs uttered.

"We called the police [the SQ], but it took 30 to 45 minutes for them to get here. They told us they are patrolling seven municipalities with just three cars," Feig said.

Feig appreciated the mayor's gesture. "He said he stands in solidarity with the community. He told us not to be afraid to come back, because that would be caving in to the demands of [the perpetrators]."

The Satmar neighbourhood is located in the Prefontaine sector of Val David, about 80 kilometres north of Montreal. Val David, which has a year-round population of 5,000, is a popular vacation and recreational destination, and home to a number of people in the arts.

Chassidim have been living in the area in significant and growing numbers since the late 1970s. By late June, much of the community decamps to the country, living in areas with their own synagogues and schools.

Alex Werzberger, president of the Coalition of Outremont Chassidic Organizations, said it might be natural to assume the incident was motivated by anti-Semitism, but he said he can't draw that conclusion definitively.

Werzberger, a Satmar chassid himself who has had a country home in neighbouring Val Morin for decades, noted that crime, such as theft and vandalism, is rife in the area and the neighbourhood where the fire took place is isolated.

"Was it hate or just vandalism – who knows? But the suspicion is always there, especially now when a certain atmosphere has been created," he said, referring to the debate in Quebec over accommodating religious differences, which has put chassidim under scrutiny.

Canadian Jewish Congress said it is deeply concerned by the setting of a chassidic home on fire, and it expressed appreciation of the reaction of the police and mayor. However, it's not explicitly calling it a hate crime for the time being.

"Arson, by definition, is not an accident or a coincidence," CJC, Quebec region, president Victor Goldbloom said in a statement.

"It is therefore a concern to the whole of society. The police have responded vigorously, and we hope that the perpetrator or perpetrators will rapidly be brought to justice.

"Congress expresses its appreciation to Val David Mayor Pierre Lapointe for his sense of civic responsibility and his sensitivity. We offer him and the police our full co-operation."

A $5,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction is being offered through the Sun Youth Organization. Director Sid Stevens described the anonymous donor as French-Canadian.

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The CJN regrets the error

Quebec-Israel Committee expresses 'deep disappointment'

Continued from page 1

along busy St. Catherine Street to Complexe Guy-Favreau, a federal building.

One man in front held a Hezbollah flag in his hand.

The approximately 1,000 marchers stopped in front of the Indigo bookstore to call for its boycott because majority owners Heather Reisman and Gerry Schwartz established the Heseg Foundation, a fund to support former Israel Defence Forces members who have no family in Israel. According to a flyer distributed, the Israeli military has committed war crimes and these lone soldiers tend to come from abroad.

Also in the march was Amir Khadir, co-leader of Québec solidaire, the new sovereignist party that ran candidates in all but one riding in the March election, and Eleni Bakopanos, former federal Liberal MP and current Liberal candidate in Ahuntsic.

The PQ and Québec solidaire endorsed a declaration issued by the coalition at a press conference June 6, along with 30 other Quebec groups that condemn Israel's 40 years of alleged occupation, violations of international law and Palestinian rights, and defiance of United Nations resolutions.

The declaration calls on the federal government to demand that Israel immediately withdraw from the West Bank, Gaza (which it calls "an open-air prison"), east Jerusalem and the Golan, and dismantle Jewish settlements and its "wall of shame," the security barrier.

It also urges the Harper government to restore aid to the Hamas-dominated Palestinian Authority, Israel to stop its "target assassinations of Palestinian leaders and arbitrary arrests of Palestinian parliamentarians," and the right of return or compensation for Palestinians, as well as the de-listing of Jewish National Fund.

The coalition does not denounce Palestinian terrorism and makes only a passing reference to Israel's security concerns.

Among the other signatories listed are unions representing public school and CEGEP teachers, the Fédération des femmes du Quebec and La ligue des droits et libertés.

In an interview, Turp said the PQ's "balanced" policy on the Middle East has not changed, but that the party feels it is "very important to show solidarity with the Palestinians."

He deplored Israel's "numerous" violations of international law and UN Security Council resolutions going back to No. 242, its repression of the Palestinians and its ignoring "the very clear" ruling of the International Court of Justice against the security barrier.

Speaking before the march, Turp said he would feel "uncomfortable" if Hezbollah symbols were displayed.

The Bloc and the federal Liberals are not listed as endorsers of the declaration. Ménard said his party did not sign because it believes a broad-based international conference must be held to end the conflict. But otherwise he said the Bloc agrees with the substance of the declaration.

PQ MNA Louise Harel, who walked beside Turp, was to present a petition, similar to the declaration, to the National Assembly last Friday, but Turp told *The CJN* this did not happen.

In his remarks to the demonstrators, Turp, a Université de Montréal law professor, emphasized Israel's non-compliance with international law and the UN.

He briefly mentioned Israel's security and said the PQ "condemns all terrorism."

Khadir told the demonstrators that Israel's actions are "a shame for all humanity" and called for an international campaign against Israel similar to that which toppled apartheid in South Africa.

Pamphlets urging "boycott Israeli apartheid" were distributed beginning with Israeli products sold here, such as wine.

Turp told *The CJN* the PQ has taken no position on a boycott of Israel.

Actor Pierre Jasmin, president of Artistes pour la paix, stated that Israel's security barrier is "a crime against humanity."

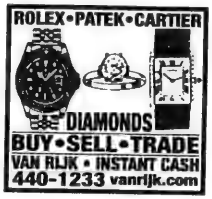
Walking in front of the marchers were artists Devora Neumark and Tali Goodfriend, dressed in black and their faces veiled, who carried an uprooted Russian olive tree, symbolizing, they said, the displacement of Palestinians.

The marchers stopped in front of Place des Arts to set up a mock roadblock. Three people in army uniforms forced three others wrapped in Palestinian flags face down onto the pavement.

Executive director of the Quebec-Israel Committee, Luciano Del Negro, said the expressed its "deep disappointment" that the parties would associate with the coalition's position which he described as "obscenely and virulently anti-Israel."

The demands made will "manifestly not do anything to promote dialogue or the peace process," and are particularly "outrageous" at a time when Israel is being daily shelled by Hamas-backed factions.

"These people are more intent on delegitimizing Israel than resolving the conflict," Del Negro said.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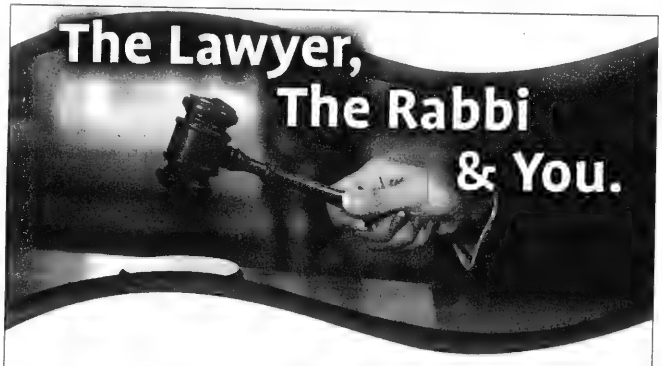
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Two outlooks on famous landmark cases that have shaped our society.

Join Join Arthur Stern, renowned Toronto criminal lawyer, and popular Aish Rabbis, Dan Rand and Dovid Zauderer, who will present the secular and Torah perspectives on 3 contentious and controversial legal cases.

The Miranda Warning - Wednesday, June 13
One of the most famous legal terms is the Miranda warning. It is taken as a fundamental requirement to safeguarding the rights of all citizens. This session will describe the precedent setting case that established this law and explore it's beneficial and injurious impact. The Torah's unique take will bring new clarity to our understanding on the concept of warning suspects.

The Rodriguez Case - Wednesday, June 20
There is probably no greater emotional legal situation than the controversy over Euthanasia, also known as assisted suicide. The case of Sue Rodriguiz captured the imagination of Canada as this young woman appealed to the Supreme Court to be allowed a physician assisted suicide. Our experts in Canadian law and Torah ethics will challenge us to examine our own perspective on the legal and moral implications of "mercy killing."

The Zundel Case - Wednesday, June 27
Fundamental to a free society is free speech. At the same time the simple example of yelling "fire" in a crowded building is recognized as being untenable. To have clarity is to see both sides of an issue. This session will "defend" and "prosecute" the man who galvanized the nation about this issue. The Torah and Talmud viewpoints will focus and deepen our understanding.

aish25

All sessions begin at 8 pm at Aish Thornhill Learning Centre, 949 Clark Avenue West
$5 per lecture

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Memory lapses and glaring omissions

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

The common complaint that much of the media has a short attention span and an even shorter historical memory, even for its own coverage, was clearly illustrated by the influential *Economist* magazine in its lead editorial "Israel's wasted victory" (May 26).

Although traditionally very critical of Israel, the *Economist* has gone out of its way in the past few years to commend Israel for seeking compromise and peace with the Palestinians. It even called former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon a "peacemaker" for his decision to disengage from Gaza.

But that editorial understanding seems to have been forgotten.

Whereas the magazine once criticized former Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat for rejecting a "once in 50 years" deal during the Camp David/Taba negotiations of 2000-2001, it now takes a more skeptical approach, placing Israel's "generous offer" in ironic quotes.

As for Sharon, the *Economist* similarly downgrades his contribution: "Ariel Sharon, it is true, dragged Israel out of the Gaza Strip two years ago. But so what?"

The *Economist* doesn't place all the blame on Israel for the protracted conflict. But whereas a few short years ago it recognized that Israel was prepared for major territorial compromise while the Palestinians under Arafat would not even accept the legitimacy of a Jewish state, today the publication presents a form of moral equivalence, placing the blame on both sides, but with Israel's "folly" of occupation and settlements bearing the brunt. The absolute rejection of Israel by the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority merits almost no attention.

The *Economist* proposes a return to former U.S. president Bill Clinton's "bridging" proposals of 2000 – precisely what Arafat refused and Hamas now rejects. Israel is officially committed to a two-state solution, while the Hamas government is officially committed to Israel's destruction. How Clinton's ideas are supposed to be implemented is anyone's guess.

Nonetheless, if the *Economist*'s historical revisionism is unfortunate, the *Globe and Mail*'s analysis is dismaying. The front-page story "Six days fuelled 40 years of fighting" by Mark MacKinnon and Carolynne Wheeler (June 4) was an extremely one-sided look at the aftermath of the Six Day War from a mostly Palestinian point of view.

Unlike the *Economist*, which at least acknowledges that Israel was fighting a war of self defence in 1967, MacKinnon and Wheeler write as if Israel's victory was the main – and seemingly only – cause of the conflict.

The historical facts omitted by the *Globe* are glaring:

- Israel urged Jordan's King Hussein to stay out of the fighting.
- Following the war, Israel's offer to exchange land for peace was rebuffed by the Arabs' infamous "Three Nos": no peace, no recognition, and no negotiations with Israel.
- Years later, in exchange for peace treaties, Israel gave up land to Egypt (in 1979) and to Jordan (in 1994).
- Israel even ceded land to the Palestinians under Oslo II (1995) and was prepared to give up a great deal more for the sake of ending the remaining "occupation" in exchange for peace, but in the fall of 2000, Arafat rejected the offer and chose a path of violence instead.

Unfortunately, none of these facts about the war and its aftermath found their way into the *Globe* story.

* * *

"The Explanation We Never Heard" by Shiraz Dossa, the St. Francis Xavier University political science professor who gained a measure of infamy by attending the Holocaust denial conference in Tehran, appeared in the June issue of the *Literary Review of Canada*.

Dossa writes that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has never called the Holocaust a "myth," or said that Israel must be wiped "off the map." But Iran's own news agency shows that Dossa is wrong on both counts.

Dossa even argues that the conference was not about Holocaust denial (even if a few "deniers/skeptics" attended) and that it was sponsored by IPIS, an independent, internationally respected institute, not by Ahmadinejad.

In fact, IPIS belongs to the Iranian foreign ministry and is thus not separate from the virulently anti-Semitic pronouncements of the Iranian regime, which is intent on denigrating the Holocaust in order to delegitimize Israel.

Dossa's penchant for the absurd reached new heights when he insisted in a letter to the *Globe and Mail* (June 5), that the "IPIS invited [Holocaust deniers/skeptics] to stress that anti-Semitism is [only] a western, white, Christian obsession."

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Madeleine Gross	חנה
Jonah Himelfarb	יונה ישראל
David Klein	דוד
Rebecca Kogon	רבקה
Alexander A. Langer	אברהם
Tamar Nefsky	תמר
Jody Negin-Ulster	יעל
Tal Olin	טל
Aviva Philipp-Muller	אביבה
Ashley Promislow	דבורה
Nicole Rand	ירדן
Ada Roberts	זהבה
Daniel Rosenberg	דניאל
Cydney Roth	שושנה
Jesse Ruch	ישי
Rebecca Silver	רבקה
Taylor Silverberg	איידל רחל אסתר מלכה
Jared Smiley	יעקב ישראל
Andi Spring	אהובה
Liane Stein	מלכה

The graduation ceremony will take place on
Monday, June 18, 2007 at 7:30 pm
at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue
100 Elder Street, Toronto.

Colin Powell headlines Hamilton Negev Dinner

By ABIGAIL CUKIER
Special to The CJN

HAMILTON — Former U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell told Hamilton's Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner to "revel" in the fact demonstrators were outside protesting the Iraq War and U.S. support of Israel, saying that the right to peaceful protest is a cornerstone of democracy.

"Remember don't shut down. We have to stay open. That is how we will beat terrorism," the retired general told the June 3 event's 1,300 attendees.

"We must stay strong, stay together and remain free and open societies, Canada and the United States."

Heightened security measures in North America are necessary, but the continent is not as welcoming as it once was and needs to be, said Powell, the keynote speaker at Hamilton's 54th Negev Dinner, which honoured Tom and Sasha Weisz and was held at the city's convention centre.

Powell recalled that as a boy in the South Bronx, he had many Jewish friends and worked for a baby equipment store owned by Jews, where he learned some Yiddish, allowing him to secretly understand customers.

He remembered the excitement of his Jewish friends when the State of Israel was founded in 1948, and that the United States stood beside Israel then and now.

"I will tell you that will never change," he said, adding Canada and the United States must continue trying to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

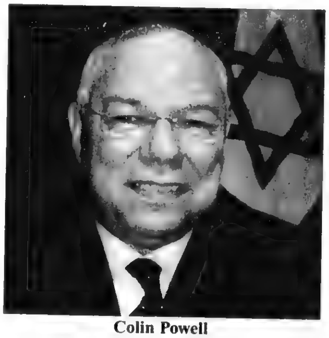
"Western leadership will be needed to seize opportunities to solve the crisis."

Powell also said his country will never forget what Canada did it after Sept. 11, including taking in American passengers from grounded planes.

"That reinforced to us what a great friend we had in Canada," he said. "Canada is the United States' best friend, with shared values and a belief in democracy and freedom."

Powell said the Weiszs are fulfilling the obligation of all people blessed with success – to give back.

Friends, family members and local politicians repeatedly also praised the couple for their devotion to family and friends and for their desire to help others.



Colin Powell

Burlington Mayor Cam Jacskon called Tom and Sasha "models for each and every one of us."

Hamilton-area MP David Sweet, Ontario Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Marie Bountrogianni, and Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger joined the tribute to the honorees.

Sasha was born in Hamilton to Rose and Allen Swaye. Tom's parents, Margaret and Arthur married during World War II in Hungary. They survived the Holocaust and were reunited. In June 1946, Tom was born in Hungary.

When Tom was two, the family fled Communist rule to a displaced persons camps in Austria. After about two years, they left for Canada and settled in Hamilton.

Sasha and Tom met at Westdale High School in Hamilton in the 1960s and got married in 1968. Sasha became a nurse and Tom a lawyer. They are parents of Eric and Danna and her husband David and grandparents of Sari, Mitchell and Jamie Rose.

Tom is president and CEO of Effort Trust, a trust company he incorporated with his father in 1978. He serves on the JNF board of directors and is a member of McMaster University's board of governors and a board member of the Art Gallery of Hamilton. He also co-chairs the Hamilton Future Fund and is a past board member of St. Joseph's Hospital.

Sasha chairs the women's division of State of Israel Bonds and is president of the Deborah Sisterhood at Hamilton's Temple Anshe Sholom. She also volunteers for Shalom Village and Hadassah WIZO.

Weiszs chose to direct proceeds from the dinner to the rehabilitation of the Biriyya Forest in northern Israel. It's one of the largest forests in the country with about five million trees. Katyusha rockets burned about 20 per cent of its area during last summer's war with Hezbollah.

Sasha said that since it's a tourist attraction, the development of the forest will also restore jobs to the community.

In addition to replanting trees and widening an access road, the project will include an accessible promenade to be built around the site of the ancient Nevoraya Synagogue, which dates back to 250 BCE.

Tom and Sasha Weisz were honoured at the Hamilton Negev Dinner.

You have the right to know if your son's not in school

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash
B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Partner, Beard Winter LLP

Question. I pay monthly support payments (which are garnished from my paycheque by the Family Responsibility Office) of $600 a month.

My son is 18 years old and I have become aware that he is no longer living with his mother or in full-time school. Under my separation agreement, it states that I pay support until he is the age of 18 or my son is attending full-time schooling.

I wrote to the Family Responsibility office and advised them that I felt I should no longer be paying child support as my son was no longer in school full time and he was no longer living with my ex-wife.

The Family Responsibility Office sent a letter to my ex-wife with this information and they received a letter back from her advising that this was not true. There was no information about which school or how many hours a week he was in school or his present address.

The Family Responsibility Office advised me that this was all they could do and I would have to hire a lawyer to go any further. I would like to know what information I would be entitled to and what proof I would need to enforce my separation agreement.

Do I have the right to know which school he is attending, how many hours a week he is attending school and where he is living? If he is not living with his mother, but can prove he is attending full-time school, would the support payments go directly to my son?

Answer. You have every right to know this information and to stop paying child support.

However, to enforce the separation agreement you will have to commence a court application in which you will ask the judge for a court order to permit you to stop paying child support retroactively to the date your son left school or moved out of his mother's house permanently.

At the very beginning of such a lawsuit, you can deliver a written request to the mother by way of a "Form 20", demanding to know what school the child is attending, to obtain a copy of his latest transcripts, and a tuition receipt to confirm his alleged status as a student.

Once the questions are not appropriately answered, you can take the mother's inappropriate lack of response to the judge. The judge will then likely grant you the order you seek, that the court will then file with the Family Responsibility Office. You can then pay your son directly, if you wish.

*John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of **Beard Winter LLP**. Neither Beard Winter LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at 416-306-1733, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@beardwinter.com. You can also visit www.beardwinter.com and www.spousalsupport.com.*

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From left, David Kardish, Debbie (Kardish) Baylin, Louis Kardish enjoying famous Rideau Bakery donuts. **[Stan Goldberg photo]**

Film profiles Ottawa's venerable Rideau Bakery

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — It's a well-known yet unfortunate fact that family businesses in Canada rarely make it past the second generation, but Ottawa's only kosher bakery is a rare exception.

The Rideau Bakery, now operated by brothers Louis and David Kardish, has its roots in a small village in the Ukraine. The brothers' great-grandmother, Rifka Kardish, baked bread to support her 12 children while her husband, Moishe, taught Hebrew.

The recipes she used in the late 1800s were passed along to her sons Abie and Dovid, who opened the original Rideau Bakery in 1930 after immigrating to Canada.

The remarkable story of the Rideau Bakery, as well as the now very large Kardish family (many of whom have worked in the bakery at some point in their lives), has been captured in a documentary film titled *One of the Last*, produced with funding from OMNI Television Independent Producers Initiative.

Writer/producer Jane Gurr and director/producer Ed Kucerak introduced the film at a special premiere screening June 5 at the National Archives auditorium.

The project began as a natural outgrowth of an earlier project by the pair.

"Jane had done a lot of research about the Rideau Bakery and its lunch counter, because we were working on another documentary about the disappearing lunch counters," Kucerak said.

The lunch counter at Rideau Bakery – which, say the Kardish brothers, is more or less non-profit – is a very popular meeting place for its regular customers.

They come from far and near – some because it's kosher, but many because it serves great sandwiches on fresh bread and provides an opportunity to meet and chat with some very interesting people.

The film offers a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes work involved in producing a great loaf of bread, but it's also a warm and touching peek into the lives of the Kardish family, as well as their longtime and loyal employees, who say they were made to feel like part of the family.

"A special thank you to the Kardish family, especially to Louis, David and Debbie [Baylin], who allowed us to get into the bakery at all hours, to get into their lives and into their hearts," Kucerak said.

Louis Kardish in turn thanked "Ed and Jane for taking such a great interest in our family."

He added that by including a scene shot in the Ukraine on the site of the original bakery, "they made it come to life on the screen and gave us a connection to the past."

Many in the audience at the sold-out screening were members of the extended Kardish family or had worked in the bakery at some point. All enjoyed a dessert buffet of Rideau Bakery goodies after the film.

Proceeds from the screening were to be donated to several charities in which Kardish family members are involved.

The television premiere of *One of the Last* will be broadcast in Ontario on OMNI.1 at 9 p.m. on June 17, and at the same time on June 23, Aug. 2 and Sept. 1.

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel tov Grandma (Claire Berman) on your 102nd birthday. With love from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mazel tov to David & Shirley Farberman on your 60th anniversary from Allan, Shelley, Michael, Linda, Lesley, Sharon, Krista, Shane, Serena, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mazel tov Maurice & Ethel Rimer on your 65th wedding anniversary. With love from your family and friends. You are an inspiration to us all!

Mazel tov Brandi & Ryan. Love from Glory, Joe, Amy and Rachel Goldman; Linda, Ron and Reagan Morris. Thrilled grandparents are Sheina & Morey Kaye.

Seri & Adam are married. Proud parents Victoria (née Traub) Revzen, Shelly & Stuart Kertzner. Elated grandmothers Frieda Traub, Nelly Revzen, Betty Barach.

To an amazing older brother who wants to save the whales. We love you. Happy fourth birthday Jonas Press. Love, Eli, Mom, Dad and your grandparents.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return.
Mail to: **The CJN, Family Moments,**
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or email: cblackman@cjnews.com

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New Deadlines: Monday, June 18, is the deadline for the June 28 issue and Monday, June 25, is the deadline for the July 5 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com. Carolyn Blackman compiled today's What's New.

Saturday, June 16

EMUNAH SHABBAT

Emunah Women will be holding their 12th annual city-wide seudah shlishit program at six synagogues throughout the GTA. The events take place at BAYT with **Sharon Weltman Fixler** at 5 p.m.; B'nai Torah Congregation with **Prof. Hindy Najman** at 6:15 p.m.; Beth Jacob V'anshe Drildz with **Chana Werner Waiswasser** at 5:30 p.m.; and Shaarei Shomayim Congregation with **Ilana Sober** at 6 p.m. Couvert $18, sponsorships $36 or $54. RSVP 416-636-0036.

GO TO SHUL WITH PRIDE

Celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, intersex, queer and questioning at Shir Libeynu's first annual pride service, 10:30 a.m., Michael Bernstein Chapel, Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre. Everyone welcome. Free child care available during service. Kiddush and light lunch follows. Call 416-465-5488 or shirlibeynu@yahoo.ca.

Sunday, June 17

FATHER'S DAY RIDE

Join Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club of Ontario for a 25 km, 3-5 hour, intermediate level, bike ride along Toronto's eastern waterfront. 12:15 p.m. For details, see www.mosaictoronto.org.

ALIYAH RECEPTION

The Israel Aliyah Centre of Toronto and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto invites the community to celebrate Father's Day in appreciation for the many families that will be making aliyah and moving to Israel this summer. Special guests from all over the Toronto community will join us to say goodbye and best wishes to our olim. There will be a dessert reception, great entertainment and fun clowns for the kids.

For more details and to RSVP, contact **Veronica Atanelli**, 416-633-4766 or aliyahto@jafi.org.il.

Monday, June 18

INWARD BOUND

Info night about Women's Israel Inward Bound, a unique physical and spiritual activity trip for women only, led by **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**. BJCC, 7:30 p.m. Call 416-636-1880, ext. 472.

Tuesday, June 19

FEMINIST STUDY

An evening of feminist study with **Bonna Haberman**, Lafer Center for Gender Study, Hebrew University. A "changemaker," she creates an environment more inclusive of and responsive to women. Experience a sample of her teaching, no charge. To register, 416-485-8000.

SHOW BOAT

B'nai Brith Lodge Dr. W. Filderman is screening *Show Boat* 6 p.m., B'nai Brith Canada, 15 Hove St. Call **Felicia Lowy**, 416-631-0634, or **Neti Badulescu**, 416-733-1214.

Wednesday, June 20

POMEGRANATE GUILD

The guild's closing meeting for the season, 7:30 p.m. at Baycrest, will include the opening of "Threads of Identity," the 25th anniversary exhibit of the guild, followed by the show "Share and Kvell," a display of work produced by guild members and guests over the past year. Call **Anna VanDelman**, 416-638-3342, or info@pomegranateguild.ca.

Thursday, June 21

MELTON MINI SCHOOL

Melton Mini School information night, 136 Chiltern Hill Rd., 7:30 p.m. Find out what all of Jewish Toronto is talking about. For more information or to RSVP, call 416-789-7400.

Continued on page 27

JNF
Jewish National Fund
Of Toronto
is pleased to present
The Singing Soldiers
of the Israel Defense Forces
Tuesday, June 19, 7:30 p.m.
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue
(Sanctuary)
100 Elder Street
Admission: Students $18 • Seniors $18
Adults $36 *(tax receipt for allowable portion on adult tickets only)*
For tickets, please call: Sheila 416-638-7200 ext. 30
e-mail: sheila.krone@jnf-canada.org

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Continued from page 26

Other News

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. Information/registration, 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna**, ext. 215.

How to Talk with Your Ex: A two-session workshop to help learn effective communication and listening skills in order to better deal with an ex-spouse and issues around parenting and their children. Wednesday, June 20, Promenade Mall, Suite 313, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Adolescents and Divorce: A workshop for parents who have adolescents and are going through a separation or divorce. Thursday, June 21, Promenade Mall, Suite 313, 7-9 p.m.

Developing a Successful Businesslike Relationship with Your Ex: A workshop to develop a relationship with an ex in order to negotiate details of children's lives based on their needs. Thursday, June 21, 7-9 p.m., Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

SUPPORT FOR ABUSED

Circle of Care launches the group Older Adults Facing Abuse, an eight-week support group that will examine a variety of issues and provide strategies for older women experiencing abuse. Begins Thursday, June 28, 10-11:30 a.m. For information, contact the service consultant, 416-635-2860.

'KABBALAH SHABBATON'

Join the Lodzer Centre Congregation for a "Kabbalah Shabbaton" with **Dr. Joel Hecker**, author of *Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals: Eating and Embodiment in Medieval Kabbalah*, Friday, June 22-Sunday, June 24. Dinner Friday night $25, non-members $30, children $10, non-members, $15. RSVP by Thursday, June 14, 416-636-6665 to lodzercentre@rogers.com.

VENDORS WANTED

Vendors wanted for craft and gift show being held at Toronto Botanical Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, June 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Under the auspices of clubs Beersheba and Aviva, Na'amat Canada. Numerous boutiques, free admission, free parking, proceeds to charity. Call 416-636-5425, days, or **Rosalie Nowell**, evenings, 905-881-8161.

MAKIN' MUSIC

Families Makin' Music summer session at Beth Tzedec, June 26-Aug. 7, 10:15-11:15 a.m., mixed ages, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., children under 7 months. $98 first child, $84 siblings plus $28 materials. Call **Helen Bauer**, 416-225-5655, to register.

SUNDAY IN THE PARK

Sunday in the Park with Lilah, June 24, Toronto French School, is an annual family-friendly walk and fun fair that raises funds for Lilah's Fund at Hospital for Sick Children, earmarked for research into neuroblastoma. Includes entertainment by Judy and David, carnival games and bouncy castles.

THEATRE TRIP

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Sisterhood is seeing *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Oct. 24, 2 p.m. at Stratford Festival. $80 per person includes transportation. Call **Margo Grosbein**, 416-633-3838, to reserve.

NIGHT IN BOMBAY

Spend a magical night in Bombay without leaving Toronto, at Temple Har Zion, 3360 Bayview Ave., Thornhill. Toronto's Jewish-Indian community presents its exotic traditions, beautiful melodies, vegetarian dinner and bhangra and Bollywood dancing. Indian market will feature items for sale from 6:30 p.m. Program begins at 7. Tickets $22 for non-members, $18 members. Limited tickets available at the door. Call 905-889-2252 for information.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park Sunday Dance, June 17, 7-10 p.m., non-members welcome. Casino Rama, June 28; cruise and Casino Rama. Wednesday, July 11. Activities include mah-jong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; scrabble, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12 -3 p.m.; bridge, Wednesdays, 12-3 p.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m. Those interested in woodworking call David, 416-398-1834. For information, call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors' Cultural Club meets Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. Come out and join our discussion group at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For more information, call our office at 416-630-9444.

Joseph E. and Minnie Wagman Centre annual Baycrest Boardwalk, June 20, 5 p.m. Come and join the Wild Wagman Walkers. After the 2-km walk, refreshments on the patio outside Wagman Centre. Pledge/registration available at Wagman Centre.
416-785-2500, ext. 2275

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211, or www.mnjcc.org.

Film @ the J Pride Week will screen *Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School*, with guest speaker **Tara Goldstein**, of OISE, Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Al Green Theatre. Free tickets. esthera@mnjcc.org or ext. 606

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca

Thursday evenings join Conversation Café, a joint program with JIAS, offering newcomers a chance to practise their English in a social environment. For information, call 416-630-6481.

The Koffler School of Music's final student recital of the season takes place Sunday, June 17, at 2 p.m. in the Koffler Gallery Loggia. Violin, piano, cello and guitar students will perform. All welcome. Free admission.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registrations for fall classes in piano, violin, cello, guitar, Suzuki violin, babies and preschool music, children's choir, kids' band, adult band, rock band for teens and adults, African drumming, Brazilian samba, digital music. Call 416-636-1880, ext. 228.

Centre Camp has begun hiring for summer '07: Staff, head staff, specialty staff, swim staff and counsellor positions available. Call **Andrew Levy** or e-mail alevy@bjcc.ca.

Register now for September 2007 morning school including Tic Tac Two, nursery and junior kindergarten. All programs include music, Hebrew, fun centre time, gym time and swimming. Call ext. 248 for information.

Discounted tickets available for matinée of *Camelot*, June 28. Call 416-636-1880, ext. 240.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 30

SPRING CONFERENCE: Canadian Seaway Region of Women's League for Conservative Judaism held its spring conference at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. From left are Doreen Bornfreund, conference co-chair; Trudy Sassoon, president of CSR; Marcia Toppall, WLCJ consultant; and Rosalie Shadlyn conference co-chair. [Mollie Rothman photo]

BLACK TIE AND PEARLS: Na'amat Canada, Toronto, held a Black Tie and Pearls gala recently to raise funds for the expansion of the Na'amat Canada Glickman Centre for Family Violence Prevention in Tel Aviv. From left are Gary and Laurel Wiseman and Mariel and Irwin Michael, gala co-chairs. [Mollie Rothman photo]

HEALTHY FOODS: Bonnie Stern, chef and cookbook author, spoke to a packed audience of seniors at the Reuben Cipin Healthy Living Community, about "Ten Favourite Healthy foods and What to Do With Them." Shown is Temi Rosenthal, left, chair of the special events committee, thanking Stern. [Monty Mazin photo]

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the unveiling

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

To place any other family
related notice, please call
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prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Pamela Fingold	May 27/07	72 Shallmar Blvd.
Esther Ship	May 27/07	7601 Bathurst Street
Lily Reti	May 27/07	360 Ridelle Avenue
Nat Salsberg	May 27/07	645 Castlefield Avenue
Ida Adler	May 28/07	1 Faith Avenue
Evelyn Weinstein	May 28/07	260 Heath Street West
Harry Kirshenblat	May 29/07	15 Evergreen Crescent
Richard Lewis	May 29/07	10 Elm Ridge Drive
Steve Sas	May 30/07	227 Park Home Avenue
Zoe Stotland	May 30/07	45 Greensides Avenue
Helen Kramer	May 30/07	42 Elgin Avenue
Mary Dubin	May 30/07	205 Cummer Avenue
Louis Birenbaum	May 31/07	170 Gordon Road
Frances Zelsman	Jun 1/07	350 Lonsdale Road
Bella Sherman	Jun 1/07	1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
Gloria Awerbuck	Jun 1/07	44 Charles Street West
Roselyn Shecter	Jun 1/07	65 Skymark Dr.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Genraich, Murray	May 25/07	
Salman, Eduard	May 26/07	
Wise, Harry	May 27/07	2 Forest Laneway
Kogan, Iakov	May 28/07	Private
Greenzveig, Charles	May 30/07	
Lerman, Bella	May 30/07	237 Acton Ave
Levin, Pauline	May 30/07	92 Riverbend Cres
Bitar, Helen	May 31/07	Private
Behar, Aharon	May 31/07	
Kahan, Zyna	May 31/07	1131 Steeles Ave. W.
Feinstein, Dorothy	June 1/07	70 Macklin St. N
Shaw (Shogilev), Myer	June 1/07	15 Canyon Ave
Lipsitz, Edmond Yehuda	June 2/07	58 Glen Park Ave
Rosenthal, Mary	June 2/07	145 Marlee Ave
Roter, Jean	June 2/07	21 Thackeray Cres
Stumer, Judith Marianna	June 4/07	Private
Staiman, Minnie	June 6/07	960 Lockwood Circle

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

Frances Joseph	May 17/07	562 Deloraine Avenue
Lily Ender	Jun 2/07	11 Richbell St.

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The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late
GORDON KULMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 17th, 2:00 p.m.
Roselawn Cemetery
Agudas Achim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late
KAROL GUTMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 17th, 10:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Independent Friendly Worker's Circle Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
honouring the memory of
JACK LAIST ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 24th, 1:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
honouring the memory of
ANITA LEVINE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 24th, 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave.
Beth Sholom New Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HELEN (CHAICHA) KLAIMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 24th at 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Ozrower Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late
ARTHUR ISAAC STEVENS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 17th, 11:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Old Beth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late
VICTOR WISE ז"ל
Beloved father, grandfather
and friend to all,
will take place
Sunday, June 17th, 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late
MORRIS ISENBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 24th, 10:00 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Section
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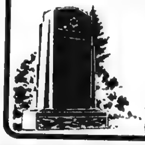

Obituary

Lipsitz nurtured lay leadership

By **LEILA SPEISMAN**
Staff Reporter

Edmond Yehuda Lipsitz, a longtime Jewish civil servant, author and educator, died on June 2 of prostate cancer. He was 81.

Among his many accomplishments, he served as director of education for Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, responsible for Jewish education in small communities; then he became executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region; and later he held the position of associate director of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Lipsitz was born in Ujhel, Hungary, and had a traditional Jewish religious education. However, his son, Jeffrey, said that he believed that it was important to also have a trade, so he became an electrician.

"My father believed that this saved his life. When he and his family was deported to Auschwitz in 1944, his skill allowed him to escape the forced marches that many others had to endure."

After the war, finding that nothing remained of his hometown Jewish community, he went to Budapest, where he received smichah (rabbinic ordination).

The Jewish Agency brought him to Israel, where he worked in Tel Aviv for the Israel Electric Company. It was here that he met and married his wife, Clara Leah, also a Holocaust survivor.

In 1956, he came to Canada, and became a Hebrew teacher in Kirkland Lake. When his wife and their daughter, Sarah, came, they were horrified that "the temperature was 60 degrees lower than in Tel Aviv." They promptly moved to London, where he led services at Or Shalom Synagogue and served as principal of the synagogue's Hebrew school.

In 1965, the family moved to Montreal, where he served as executive of Keren Hatarbut and helped develop Hebrew-speaking Camp Mossad.

Along the way, he earned a BA and a MSc in zoology at the University of Western Ontario, and an MEd and a PhD in biochemistry at McGill.

He began his career with Canadian Jewish Congress in Toronto in 1972, where he stayed until he retired in 1989.

Retirement was a relative term for Lipsitz. He took a series of positions, including ones at the Elwyn Foundation and Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem, and became principal of the Kitchener Hebrew School.

Education, both formal and informal, was a lifelong passion, according to Lipsitz and Susan Jackson, now executive director of the Jewish Heritage Centre, who also worked in small communities. "If you wanted to learn how to do communal work in a professional way, you could learn from him," she said.

Jackson described him as "a visionary," "a nurturer of lay leadership," a pluralist in religion and politics at a time when it was unusual and always an educator. "He knew that the future was in in the hands of the young."

Jerry Tollinsky, national executive director of Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem, said that Lipsitz passed on to him "an understanding of the challenges faced in communal work and that the most important aspect of that was building relationships with the lay people."

He said that the organization has established a scholarship in his memory.

Lipsitz published a number of directories, including directories of the Ontario and Toronto Jewish communities, *Who's Who in Canadian Jewish Women* and *Who's Who in Canadian Jewry,* as well as Olam Shalem, a series of tapes and workbooks to help people learn Hebrew, and *6400 Questions About Judaism and the Jewish People.*

One of the projects he is most noted for is providing Pesach food for the beleaguered Cuban Jewish community. Jackson noted that he began the effort in the late 1970s, "when the Iron Curtain was there and the Berlin Wall was still up."

He is survived by his wife Clara Leah; his daughter Sarah Lipsitz; his son Dr. Jeffrey Lipsitz and his wife Judith Laxer; and four grandchildren, Avi, Yonatan, Michal and Orly. A brother and sister survived the camps, but both have died.

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On Campus

Hillel@York hockey team scores higher

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

York University's Hillel hockey team played harder and better – and became more well-known – this season than ever before.

"We're no longer looked at as an easy win," said forward and alternate captain Brian Gerskup.

"I think this year we won more games than we have any other year," said Shawn Groyeski, centre, team captain and chair of Hillel sports at York. "That's attributed to us going out and finding a good group of guys who want to play and want to win."

The team made it to the first round of York's intramural playoffs this past season, which spanned from October to February. And within the school's two-tiered intramural system, Hillel's hockey crew moved from the bottom of the second tier to the top.

The roster boasted more than 20 members, 11 of whom were new to the team.

Groyeski said that prior to this year, the team faced challenges with publicity and communications.

He and Gerskup were instrumental in changing that this year.

Groyeski, a kinesiology and exercise science student, transferred to York from the University of Western Ontario two years ago.

"I fell in love with the organization and figured I wanted to be involved," he said of his new school's Hillel.

Groyeski played on the hockey team his first year, but felt it could have been managed better.

Once elected sports chair, he and Gerskup put their heads together to shake things up.

"What we ended up doing was trying to come up with a way to get us really nice jerseys, so players on the other teams who might be eligible to play for us would come over and say, 'Where do we sign up?' which is exactly what happened," Gerskup said.

With a $1,500 gift from Howard Sokolowski, CEO of the Tribute Communities building firm, the team was able to subsidize the cost of 40 jerseys. The uniform helped the team become recognized both on and off the ice, as people would wear the shirt on campus to show their support.

Gerskup explained that Jewish students at York have the option of playing for their college or for Hillel.

Since many people didn't know about the Hillel team, he said, the idea behind the jerseys was to help boost its visibility and convince other players to switch.

"Our main goal was to bring Jewish hockey players back to playing with other Jewish students instead of with other teams around campus, and as a result, bringing them to Hillel and reuniting them with the Jewish community in many cases," said Gerskup.

One the team's first-year players, Jonathan Tulchinsky, was recruited to play for the Israeli national hockey team at the Division II World Hockey Championships in Seoul, Korea, in April.

"It was very fast paced, there was a lot to do in minimal time," said Tulchinsky of his time in Seoul, where Israel won a bronze medal. "It was a great experience."

Besides getting the word out, the team has faced other obstacles.

For instance, while Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are school-wide holidays at York, in the past, games have been slated for other Jewish festivals, such as Sukkot and Simchat Torah, which has led to conflicts over scheduling with the university, Gerskup said.

(York's director of intramural programs, Mike Broderick, said the onus is on teams to give him ample notice of holiday dates so as to avoid scheduling problems.)

But scheduling isn't the team's only challenge.

"We've had issues on ice with having to deal with people making racial slurs and all sorts of things," he added.

"It's frustrated teams who couldn't deal with things, and it comes out on the ice and it's disheartening in trying to get this team off the ground."

But overall, the year was a success.

"Being able to get a bunch of guys together on a weekly basis, consistently coming out to play, was something nice that we didn't really have beforehand," Groyeski said.

"When you put a bunch of Jews together in a room, you have a bunch of opinions, but we're here to achieve one common goal – to win some games and have fun."

Next year, Hillel hopes to have two teams, one recreational and one competitive.

"The goal is to increase our engagement," said Groyeski. "If we can successfully have two teams that means we will have successfully reached out to 30 players. We've never had a pool of players to choose from."

The Hillel@York hockey team is gearing up for September's tryouts. For more information or to get involved, e-mail Shawn Groyeski at groyeski@yorku.ca.

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גידי קורן וחברים

After the Wedding

סרט דני שהיה מועמד לאוסקר הזר לפני שנה. סיפורו של ג'קוב, גבר דני שחי בהודו ומקדיש את חייו לעזור לילדים עזובים. בית היתומים שבו הוא עובד נמצא בסכנת סגירה, כשהוא מקבל הצעה בלתי שגרתית של 4 מיליוני דולארים ממיליונר דני. עם בואו לדנמרק מתברר לו שיש להצעה הזו תנאים, כולל השתתפותו בחתונה של בת המיליונר.

בזמן החתונה מתברר ששום דבר לא מקרי, ושהמאורעות והתמיכה בבית היתומים הרחק בהודו קשורות בחייו של ג'קוב בעצמו.

אם הסיכום הזה נראה לכם קצת מבולבל- זה מתוך רצון שלא להסגיר לכם עלילה מדהימה. הדיאלוגים, ההתפתחות של הסיפור, המשחק של כל השחקנים-פשוט מושלמים, מה שבא להזכיר את איכותו המדהימה של הקולנוע הדני.

עשר בסולם קורן.

עברית קשה שפה

כמו רבים מכם אני פותח עיתון או שומע שיח רדיו בעברית ומשתגע מהשפה הדלה, מהטעויות הבסיסיות, ממש כאילו שלא מלמדים יותר עברית במערכת החינוך.

הינה דוגמא מדו שיח בטוקבקים שמישהו טרח לאסוף:

בכתבה באינטרנט היה כתוב: "הנהג דרס את הצעירים בראשון לציון בזמן שהיה בגילופין".

תגובה 3:

איפה זה גילופין? התנחלות חדשה? לא אמרו שזה קרה בראשל"צ?

תגובה 10:

לא הבנת, הוא היה בגילופין ורק אז נסע לראשון. אבל בטוח שגילופין זה בשטחים....

תגובה 12:

אז לא הבנתי היכן זה גילופין ולמה מלכלכים על ראשון אם זה היה במקום אחר....

תגובה 23:

לתגובה ,12 אם לא הבנת, גילופין זה ליד עין עורדין, שזה 5 ק"מ דרומית לצומת מסובין, שכולן נמצאות מעבר לקו הירוק. ולמה מלכלכין על ראשון? כי בחג הזה כולנו ראשונין....

ועל זה גולדה מאיר היתה אומרת:

"אני מזוווווזעזעת".

מה יהיה

ההרגשה הכללית בישראל היא שאין עם מי לדבר. כשהפלשתינאים אינם מסוגלים להשתלט על הטרוריסטים של עצמם-לכל סיכום שתגיע ישראל איתם אין משמעות ותוקף. להזכיר שמעולם בהיסטוריה לא היתה מלחמה בין שתי דמוקרטיות, ושצריך צד אחד טוטאליטארי כדי להתחיל מלחמה.

יש בישראל המאמינים שנסיגה כוללת משטחי הכיבוש של 1967 היא הבסיס היחידי שיכול להביא לשינוי מפליג. אך רבים אחרים מזכירים שהגרעין הקשה של הטרור הערבי לא יסתפק בנסיגה לגבולות ששים ושבע, ושהם ימשיכו בטרור גם אז. וממשלת החמאס אומרת בגלוי שאין מקום למדינת ישראל.

עצוב לראות שהכוחות המתונים במחנה הפלשתינאי אינם יכולים להזיז את האג'נדה כרצונם, ושנגזר על האזור להיות מובל על ידי הקיצוניים. מעבר לאכזבה לטווח קצר, זוהי הסיבה לדעתי שיותר ויותר ישראלים צעירים ומוצלחים מגיעים למסקנה שאין סיכוי במקום הזה, ומחליטים לעזוב. אבל שישאר בינינו.

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Palestinian infighting 'especially brutal'

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GAZA CITY — Gunmen opened fire Monday at the Palestinian cabinet building while the government was meeting inside, officials said. There were no reports of injuries.

An official in Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh's office said the gunfire didn't disturb the cabinet meeting and that officials were trying to pin down the source of fire. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Palestinian security and witnesses said rival Hamas and Fatah forces were exchanging fire from neighbouring high-rise buildings.

Earlier Monday gunmen fired at Haniyeh's house and attacked the offices of the Hamas-run Culture Ministry, as Palestinians sought in vain to quell the flare-up in internal violence.

The new fighting between the Fatah and Hamas movements, which broke out over the weekend, has been especially brutal. The attack on Haniyeh's home came shortly after two militants were dragged onto the roofs of Gaza high-rises and thrown to their deaths.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the attack on Haniyeh's house in the Shati refugee camp next to Gaza City. It was the first time in a month of infighting that Haniyeh was an apparent target, underlining an escalation in tactics by the warring sides.

In an especially grisly incident Sunday, Hamas militants kidnapped an officer in a Fatah-linked security force, took him to the roof of a 15-storey apartment building and threw him off. Mohammed Sweirki, 25, from the guard of Palestinian Authority Present Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah, was killed in the plunge.

That set off skirmishes through the city, including gun battles and shelling. Fatah militants surrounded the house of a Hamas mosque preacher, fired rocket-propelled grenades at the four-storey building and then entered, firing at the preacher, Mohammed al-Rifati, 40, and taking him away. Later, his body was brought to a hospital. Hamas pledged revenge.

And just before midnight, a Hamas activist was thrown off the 12th floor of a building and killed, security officials said. Four other Hamas men in the building were shot and wounded, bringing the day's toll to three dead and 36 wounded, medical officials said.

Palestinian TV reported that Haniyeh called on gunmen to pull back from streets and rooftops to allow about 24,000 Gaza high school students to start their final exams, which were scheduled for Monday.

On Sunday, Israeli political and military leaders pledged to keep up the pressure on Gaza after a cross-border raid by Palestinian militants, a failed attempt to capture an Israel Defence Forces soldier.

Israel responded with a flurry of air strikes, and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told his cabinet that there was more to come. "I said a week ago that our operations in Gaza will continue as long as it takes to block the terrorists' attempts to infiltrate and the Qassam rockets," he said.

Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff Gabi Ashkenazi, favours more intensive military activity in Gaza, but stopping short of a full-scale invasion, defence officials said Sunday.

The Saturday cross-border raid was another step up the ladder of the conflict. Four Islamic Jihad gunmen breached the heavily fortified Gaza-Israel border and entered an empty army base, looking for soldiers to abduct. Israeli forces encountered them, killing one. The other three escaped back to Gaza.

Lauder elected head of WJC

By JACOB BERKMAN
JTA

NEW YORK — With the election of Ronald Lauder as its interim president, the World Jewish Congress is hoping to put aside years of turmoil from political infighting and allegations of financial mismanagement.

Lauder, the president of the Jewish National Fund, defeated Mendel Kaplan, 59-17, in a vote Sunday of the organization's board of governors. Earlier in the day, the WJC executive committee had voted 11-4 to recommend Lauder to the board.

Lauder succeeds Edgar Bronfman, who retired after serving nearly 30 years as president. The board of governors overwhelmingly voted in Bronfman's son, Matthew, as its chair. Matthew Bronfman, the chairman of the WJC's finance committee, was running as part of a ticket with Lauder and was unopposed.

Also Sunday, the WJC's secretary-general, Stephen Herbits, said in a report to the governing board that he would resign if Lauder and Bronfman were chosen.

The WJC is best known for securing billions in Holocaust restitution funds and fighting anti-Semitism. But its reputation has suffered as a result of the turmoil of the past several years.

In March it fired its longtime powerbroker, Rabbi Israel Singer, amid accusations of financial improprieties.

Edgar Bronfman alleged that Rabbi Singer, who had held top positions in the WJC for three decades, had taken money without proper authorization or documentation. Rabbi Singer denied the charges.

Insiders had said they were looking toward ending that chapter of the organization and refocusing its energies on issues such as Iran and anti-Semitism.

Lauder defeated Kaplan, a South African steel magnate who was chairman of the WJC executive. Also in the race were Einat Wilf, an Israeli activist and writer, and Vladimir Herzberg, a Russian-Israeli nuclear physicist. Only Herzberg was not in attendance at the vote. Wilf withdrew her candidacy after giving a speech to the governing board.

The interim president will serve until 2009, when the WJC holds its next plenary and selects a permanent president.

Iran threatens 'missile blitz' against Gulf states

By YOSSI MELMAN
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Iran threatened Monday to launch a missile blitz against Persian Gulf states that would drag the entire Middle East into a war, should the United States strike its nuclear facilities.

"The objective will be to stun the American missile defence system using dozens if not hundreds of missiles that will be launched simultaneously at certain targets," Iran's former defence minister, Admiral Ali Shamkhani, told the U.S. journal *Defense News*.

Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman all host key U.S. and British military bases, and Shamkhani's comments were rare for a senior Iranian official in that they were directed at Gulf states and not Israel.

Shamkhani directed his comments primarily at states that co-operate with the United States, adding that the missiles would be fired not only at the American bases, but also at strategic facilities such as oil refineries and power stations.

To date, it was widely believed that the brunt of any Iranian retaliation for an attack on its nuclear facilities would be directed at Israel. Experts who have been closely following developments in Iran believe, however, that an Iranian attack on Saudi Arabia is not entirely out of the question.

This is one of the few times a senior Iranian official has spoken in such detail about Iran's potential response to an attack on its nuclear facilities.

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Anti-Semitism in Western Europe 'out of control'

By **DINAH A. SPRITZER**
JTA

PRAGUE — A young French Jew is kidnapped, tortured and left to die by a band of Muslims. An arson badly damages Geneva's largest synagogue. A 13-year-old girl on a London bus is robbed and kicked unconscious after her attackers ask if she is "Jewish or English."

Anti-Semitism in Western Europe apparently is out of control.

That is the consensus of a dizzying array of recent reports, the latest of which was released last week at a conference combating discrimination under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Representatives of dozens of European governments were expected at the June 7-9 meeting in Bucharest, Romania, a followup to a 2005 conference of the OSCE conference on anti-Semitism in Spain.

The 2007 Hate Crimes Survey by the U.S.-based organization Human Rights First goes beyond the data included in many of the studies to suggest that most European governments are woefully inept at measuring and thus prosecuting hate crimes.

Human Rights First says the survey is the first by a U.S. non-governmental organization to examine racist, xenophobic, homophobic and anti-religious crimes in Europe.

It is also the only one of the recent reports to raise the spectre of a Europe teetering on the verge of a Hitler-era epidemic of racist hatred.

"Today the parallels with the 1930s include the seeming indifference of many governments and broad sectors of public opinion to the rising violence and fear that once again threatens European Jews, and with them members of other minorities," says a separate, companion report that focuses exclusively on anti-Semitism."

In most European countries, "anti-Semitic violence and other hate crimes still are largely unacknowledged in public policy and action," according to the survey by Human Rights First.

Paul LeGendre, who directs the anti-discrimination program for Human Rights First, told reporters from the group's New York office, "One of our findings is that governments are not doing enough to report on hate crimes. We have a sizable data deficit."

The companion survey says that the data that has been collected "reveals both a general trend toward a rise in anti-Semitic incidents and a trend toward violent crimes against Jewish people in a growing proportion of such incidents."

Many Jews are also protesting anti-Semitism they say is disguised as criticism of Israel throughout Western Europe. The latest examples come from Britain: the proposed boycott of Israeli academics, which the largest British teachers union voted last month to disseminate to its membership for a final decision, and the country's largest trade union, with more than a million members, deciding to consider a boycott motion on Israel at its upcoming conference.

The picture, however, may be more complicated as anti-Israel and anti-American sentiment have spilled over into what some hope are only cyclical rises in hostility based on world events and not on actual antipathy to Jews.

But others argue that anti-Israel and anti-Jewish behavior have become indistinguishable.

In an Anti-Defamation League survey on European attitudes toward Jews released in early May, 51 per cent of respondents in five countries said Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their home country, and 52 per cent said Israel's actions have lowered their views of Jews.

A European Jewish Congress report issued last November revealed a dramatic rise in anti-Israel discourse during the Lebanon War both among leftist politicians and media in Europe, as well as on the extreme right. The discourse, the report said, often morphed into anti-Jewish sentiment.

For Ilan Moss, author of the report, this trend was illustrated best when someone anonymously laminated a *Guardian* newspaper photo of victims from the Israeli airstrike in Qana that killed 28, including 16 children, and taped it to the front of a London synagogue.

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Canada backs OSCE on anti-Semitism

By **PAUL LUNGEN**
Staff Reporter

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has appointed a special representative on combating anti-Semitism and resisted efforts to include the hatred of Jews as only one among many forms of bigotry that ought to be addressed.

In its "Bucharest Declaration" issued last week, the OSCE condemned all forms of racism, discrimination and "aggressive nationalism" but also stated: "Recognizing its unique and historic character, condemn anti-Semitism without reservation, whether expressed in a traditional manner or through new forms and manifestations."

The OSCE went on to "reiterate previous OSCE declarations that international developments or political issues, including in Israel or anywhere else, can never justify anti-Semitism."

Canada supported the appointment of a personal representative to the OSCE's chair to report on anti-Semitism and the continuation of OSCE policy to recognize prejudice against Jews as a unique phenomenon.

Jason Kenney, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity, headed the Canadian delegation at the OSCE meeting in Romania. Although he was unavailable for comment, his office made available his statement to the conference.

In it Kenney said, "I would like to emphasize that international developments remind us that anti-Semitism is a particularly pernicious and durable form of hatred. Recognition of this fact should in no way derogate from combating other forms of hatred and intolerance.

"Canada believes the OSCE should maintain a focus on combating anti-Semitism, in part by maintaining three personal representatives of the chairman-in-office, particularly the representative on anti-Semitism."

Kenny also noted that Canada is developing a national data-collection strategy on hate crimes and linking police in various jurisdictions to better address the problem.

The OSCE heard from many presenters on its first plenary topic, "Combating anti-Semitism."

Len Rudner, director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, highlighted the links between Holocaust denial, anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism.

In our time, denial of the Holocaust – and its concomitant demonization of Jews – is accompanied by the demonization of the State of Israel, he said.

"Has any state been so often the focus of Nazi analogies? Has any other state been so readily targeted with the slur of apartheid? Let us be clear, such analogies constitute a form of anti-Semitism."

David Matas, senior legal counsel for B'nai Brith Canada, urged the organization to maintain specialized monitoring of anti-Semitic incidents.

"We can see across the OSCE territory a large number of racist incidents which are anti-Semitic," he said. "In many of these countries, anti-Semitism is far and away the leading form of racism, the most vicious, as well as the oldest. The disproportionate size of anti-Semitism is sometimes disguised by failure to report or to recognize the anti-Semitism which is anti-Zionism. Once that disguise is dropped, the dimensions of the problem are plain.

"Because of anti-Zionist efforts to bury the struggle against anti-Semitism, any initiative to subsume the struggle against anti-Semitism within a more general effort to combat racial and religious intolerance creates the risk that the OSCE initiative against anti-Semitism will disappear entirely despite the dimensions of the problem," he stated.

"Advocates of a holistic approach to combat racial and religious intolerance within the OSCE are unresponsive to the special threats which the struggle against anti-Semitism faces. These advocates are laying the groundwork for the disappearance of anti-Semitism from the OSCE radar screen, for unravelling the notable achievements of the OSCE in confronting anti-Semitism. Combating racial intolerance means recognizing the unique nature of anti-Semitism and rejection of this holistic approach."

The Bucharest Declaration, which called on OSCE countries to find effective ways to promote mutual respect, understanding and equality, followed the 2005 Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and other forms of Intolerance.

Mass grave found in Ukraine

JTA

ODESSA — A mass grave holding the remains of thousands of Jews killed by the Nazis has been found in southern Ukraine.

Workers laying gas pipelines near Odessa accidentally found the grave last month. It's near a former concentration camp where 5,000 Jews were killed, *Associated Press* reported.

Roman Shvartsman, a spokesperson for the regional Jewish community, estimated that Nazis killed 240,000 Jews in the Odessa region.

The director of the Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies, Anatoly Podolsky, said there were approximately 250 to 300 mass graves in Ukraine of Nazi victims, and some of them have yet to be discovered. The Nazis killed a total of 1.5 million Jews in Ukraine during the Holocaust.

Prague Document supports dissidents in 'fear societies'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

MP Irwin Cotler has attended many international gatherings on human rights and found many of them dominated by delegates bashing Israel. But after returning from the Democracy & Security conference in Prague last week, he was gratified by the "refreshing" absence of the usual anti-Israel venom.

Instead, participants focused on the topic at hand – how best to promote the development of free societies and human rights where tyranny now exists – and came up with a 10-point action plan that was adopted by all participants.

The "Prague Document" calls on governments and individuals in the free world to help those living in "societies ruled by fear and repression."

The action plan includes: demands for the release of non-violent political prisoners; meetings by diplomats from free countries with political prisoners and dissidents; raising public awareness of the issue; raising human rights in meetings with officials of non-democratic regimes; applying the principles of the Helsinki Accords to link bilateral and international relations to human rights; isolating and ostracizing governments and groups that suppress peaceful domestic opponents; and providing incentives to those willing to improve human rights and democratize.

Another principle in the Prague Document was "isolating and ostracizing governments and groups that threaten other countries and peoples with genocide or annihilation."

Cotler, Canada's former justice minister, said he would ask the Harper government to implement the 10 points.

The two-day conference was hosted by former Czech prime minister Vaclav Havel, former Spanish prime minister José Maria Aznar and Refusenik and one-time Israeli Knesset member Natan Sharansky, who represented the Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies at the Shalem Center. Participants included human rights advocates, academics, politicians and journalists. U.S. President George Bush addressed the conference one day before attending the G-8 Summit in Germany.

Cotler, who has represented a number of political dissidents including Sharansky and South Africa's Nelson Mandela, said the participants included many "profiles in courage." Dissidents from repressive regimes in Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Iran participated and their presentations were "moving in the bearing of witness."

The conference helped convey to those dissidents they are not alone. "The cause of liberty is really a universal cause that united dissidents in that common cause," Cotler said.

Panelists discussed a number of topics, including democracy and security, how best to make the transition from tyranny to democracy and whether the democratization process has reached an impasse. David Bercuson, director of programs at the Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute, the only other Canadian at the conference, participated in a panel on the role of democratic states, international institutions and the media in the global security environment.

Cotler said democracy, freedom and the dignity of the individual are principles that all peoples aspire to. He answered the question about the links of democracy and security by noting the repression and corruption of Egypt's Mubarak government that led to the growth of the Muslim Brotherhood while a similar situation in Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority led to the popularity of Hamas.

Cotler said he will push for the creation of a "global law firm" that he dubbed "Dissident Democracy International" that will provide legal services to dissidents while advancing the cause of democracy. He also suggested employing the Helsinki model to press "fear societies" to change. Democracies ought not to coddle dictators but confront them and support dissidents while linking trade and good relations to improvement in human rights, he said.

For more information, visit the conference web-site at: www.democracyandsecurity.org.

Israel Briefs

Burg turns back on Zion?

A former Knesset speaker and Jewish Agency head drew fire for comments construed as anti-Zionist. Avraham Burg, an Orthodox left-winger who has spent most of his career in Israeli politics, described the Jewish state as a lost cause in a newspaper interview. "To define the State of Israel as a Jewish state is the key to its end," Burg, 52, told *Ha'aretz*. "Judaism always prepared alternatives," he said. "The strategic mistake of Zionism was to annul the alternatives. Israeliness has only body. It doesn't have soul." The interview was aimed at promoting a new Burg memoir titled *Defeating Hitler*, which *Ha'aretz* called a book of "mourning for the loss of Israel." Burg's comments drew fire in the Knesset, which he quit in 2004 in protest of his Labor Party's plan to join then-prime minister Ariel Sharon's coalition.

Leaders' summit postponed

A planned meeting between Ehud Olmert and Mahmoud Abbas was postponed indefinitely. The Israeli prime minister and Palestinian Authority president were to have met last Thursday in Jericho, the latest in regular bilateral talks instigated by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. But Abbas' aides said the summit was cancelled amid PA anger at Israel's refusal to discuss declaring a comprehensive truce in the West Bank and Gaza. No new date or venue were immediately given.

Obesity cure found?

A Hebrew University of Jerusalem researcher may have found the cure for obesity. The university said that Yaniv Linde, 32, a doctoral student in its department of organic chemistry, developed a compound that mimics the activity of the naturally occurring MSH hormone, which is secreted during eating. When the hormone binds to a receptor in the brain called MC4R, the brain signals to the rest of the body that it feels full, the university said. The compound has been patented in Europe and the United States. The Israeli company Bioline Rx Ltd. bought the development rights from the school and is now working on creating an anti-obesity drug. *–Files from JTA*

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Who deters whom?

By MOSHE ARENS

Opinion

In the early years of its existence Israel was unable to deter its enemies from launching attacks against it – they perceived it as too weak and consequently the state became the victim of successive Arab attacks.

In their view, the balance of power between Israel and the Arab world made it appear possible that Arab strength was sufficient to decisively defeat Israel in a military confrontation and thereby put an end to its existence. They felt that if they were not successful the first time round, they had good reason to try again.

This was still the case after Israel's dramatic victory in the 1967 Six-Day War, the third round of Arab-Israel military confrontation, which was followed by the three "nos" of the Arab League meeting in Khartoum and by the Egyptian war of attrition, launched shortly after the country was defeated by Israel.

It was only after its victory in the Yom Kippur War that Israel attained a substantial deterrent power. Having attacked Israel under seemingly optimal conditions, simultaneously from north and south, and catching it by surprise, the Arab states were surprised to find the Israel Defence Forces 101 kilometres from Cairo and within artillery range of Damascus after three weeks of fighting.

This victory was proof enough that the Arab armies did not have the capability to defeat Israel on the battlefield. "Victory" celebrations, held in Egypt after the war, sufficed for public relations purposes, and even today visitors are still taken to Cairo's "victory museum." But the truth hit home where it mattered the most – at the decision-making level. Israel's deterrent power, the result of the IDF's 1973 victory, lasted almost 35 years.

It began to lose some of its effectiveness only after the Second Lebanon War, as demonstrated by the recent Syrian rhetoric – the type of which has not been heard since the end of the Yom Kippur War – concerning the possibility of war with Israel if peace is not achieved.

But during the last few years, far more than Israel's deterrent power against possible aggression by Arab armies has been called into question.

Whereas Israel has never been able to deter terrorist organizations from attacking Israeli civilians, for the simple reason that terrorists, by their nature, cannot be deterred, during recent years, Israel itself has been deterred from acting, fearing the terrorist response to Israeli anti-terrorist moves.

Have the tables been turned? Is Israel now the one being deterred from taking actions against its enemies in defence of its interests, and in particular, in defence of its civilian population, rather than succeeding in deterring its enemies, as was the case in the past?

Terrorists cannot be deterred. Their specific location is usually unknown, and punitive blows directed at the public that supports them tend to be counterproductive by creating additional support and sympathy for the terrorists throughout the world. Terrorists have to be fought.

Contrary to the oft-repeated, inane slogan that terrorism cannot be defeated by force, in the period between 2002 and 2005, the IDF and Israel's security services illustrated that terrorists can be fought effectively and can even be defeated. As Israel's experience in Judea and Samaria has shown during those years, it requires the presence of forces on the ground – it cannot be accomplished by remote control.

The situation is exactly the reverse when the fight against the terrorists is conducted from a distance, as was the case with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon after the unilateral Israeli retreat from the security zone in 2000, and as is currently the case in the Gaza Strip after the disengagement.

But worse yet, in the absence of forces on the ground, the terrorists are able to amass an arsenal of rockets capable of hitting civilian targets in Israel, while they themselves hunker down in bunkers and fortifications that are likely to make a return to these areas by the IDF both difficult and costly.

In other words, the terrorists have now achieved a deterrent capability, and the anti-terrorist forces are wary of tangling with them. Thus, Israel was deterred from going after Hezbollah after the withdrawal from southern Lebanon, despite the dire warnings issued by then Israeli prime minster Ehud Barak concerning the reprisals that would follow any Hezbollah provocations. In the same manner, Hamas now deters Israel from going after its fighters in Gaza, despite the daily rocketing of Sderot. A sovereign country cannot permit this kind of imbalance to maintain for any amount of time without suffering severe damage.

Moshe Arens is a former Israeli defence minister.

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Advertising feature — LifeStyle — **Advertising feature**

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From casual wear to career wear, the Elena Miro line offers a multitude of choices in a cornucopia of fashion colours. The spring / summer collection features six strong groupings that afford a myriad of mix-and-match possibilities. Buy a skirt, and you'll have at least three viable options in matching or complementary slacks; ditto for jackets and blouses.

Navy and white is prominent for summer, as are red and black, taupe and black, lime green and navy, beige and orange. The fabrics are top drawer, with cool cottons and crisp linens offering comfort and breathability.

Each piece features the kind of painstaking construction, subtle design nuances and impeccable finish you'd expect in a made-in-Italy designer garment, let alone ready-to-wear. The prices are surprisingly affordable for this level of quality. And the detailing! — we found blouses with more style in a single button than some entire outfits we'd seen elsewhere! If you've been disappointed in other larger-size options to date, the Elena Miro collection will be a breathe of fresh air.

During their 35 years in retail fashion, owners Joseph and Lea Lugassy have had many opportunities to open a plus-size shop, but Elena Miro was the first collection to really knock their socks off. "We weren't interested in opening just another plus store where women could 'make do'," says Joseph. "Why should they have to compromise on style? This was the first plus line we saw that spoke to us. It has "High Fashion" written all over it. If you didn't check the labels, you'd never know they're plus sizes." Adds Lea, "Do you want people to say, 'Nice outfit', or, *'WOW! That's beautiful!?'* Elena Miro has the 'Wow' factor."

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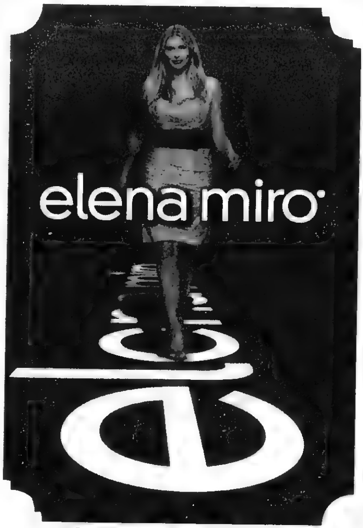
Bringing a little slice of Milan to Toronto, the Elena Miro boutiques follow a corporate design template that, like the clothing, is style itself. In structure and decor they're typically Italian: all content, no clutter. In addition to esthetic appeal, four panoramically-arrayed big-screen monitors offer a huge practical advantage. As you shop, you can see virtually every garment on the premises being modelled at Moda Donna by women shaped just like you. *Real* women. How they look in Elena Miro is how you will look. In fact, that could very well be you up on the runway.

So once you've decked yourself out to the nines at Elena Miro, hold your breath when your phone rings; it could be Milano Moda Donna calling.



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Teen cancer researcher wins award

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Although he's still just 15, Winnipeg Jewish high school student Yale Michaels is attracting international attention for his efforts in cancer research.

For the second year in a row, the Grade 10 student's research has won him a trip to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Albuquerque, N.M, and several cash prizes.

This year's fair took place from May 21 to 28 in Albuquerque. There were about 1,500 students from 40 countries (including 15 other Canadian students) competing for $4 million (US) in prize money and scholarships.

Michaels' work – focusing on creating a cost-effective alternative to conventional cancer therapy by using a probing system capable of detecting cancer at the molecular level – placed second in the health and medicine category. He also won the American Dental Association research prize (he notes that his research is not dental-related, but the ADA's criteria were broad).

The two awards were worth a total of $3,500 (US).

Last year, he came home from the fair with $1,500 (US). In total, his research has earned him about $17,000 from various competitions.

In Albuquerque, Michaels, a student at Winnipeg's Grant Park High School, also enjoyed the opportunity to meet several Nobel Prize winners as well as other high school scientists, and to attend a variety of workshops.

Michaels' grandfather, Leon Michaels, now retired, is a British-born and trained cardiologist and author of a book on heart disease. (His parents, John and Karen Michaels, are both lawyers.)

Yale Michaels began his cancer research three years ago. He has been welcomed into the Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology lab at CancerCare Manitoba, where he has been able to work with professional research scientists.

His first project had to do with gap junctions and brain tumours. Dr. David Aisenstat was his supervisor in that research.

His current project, under the supervision of Dr. Geoff Hicks, is an effort to design a detection system that would indicate cancer by changes in colour in a cell sample and lead to treatment that would recognize the cancer cells and only attack those cells.

"I have produced the colour change," he said, "but haven't been able to connect it to a detection system yet."

Michaels would like eventually to become a researcher or doctor.

For next fall though, he is looking forward to trying out for his high school football team, in addition to pursuing his scientific research. He said that next year he may revisit his earlier research under Aisenstat's supervision.

Michaels adds that the only disappointing aspect of his trip this year to Albuquerque was that it rained a lot.

"Albuquerque is in the desert!" he said.

Golf tournament to raise funds for cancer research

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The seventh annual Woodchuck Golf Classic – in memory of Charles Krowitz, who died in 2000 at age 30 from Burkitt's lymphoma – is set for July 11 at Deer Creek Golf and Banquet Facility in Ajax, Ont.

Funds raised from the event organized by his friends and family – they have raised $400,000 from the past six tournaments – will go to the Charles Krowitz Burkitt's Lymphoma Research Fund at Princess Margaret Hospital.

The money will be used to improve diagnosis of the disease, a highly aggressive lymphoma that affects people of all ages, and to identify new drugs and drug targets for Burkitt cells that either reduce the toxicity of current therapies or improve the outcome for patients if the disease recurs.

Krowitz, who had a wife and eight-month-old son at the time of his death, was diagnosed in November 1999. Despite aggressive chemotherapy treatment, he died six months later.

After his death, his family asked that people contribute to a fund established in his memory for cancer research, and more than $10,000 was raised at that time.

Subsequently, the current fund was set up, said his mother Penny, "so that other families are not faced with this devastating loss. Our philosophy is to raise money for one family at a time."

For information on the tournament visit www.charleskrowitzgolf.com, or call Penny Krowitz at 905-889-0210 or Elda Sparaga at 416-787-0133.

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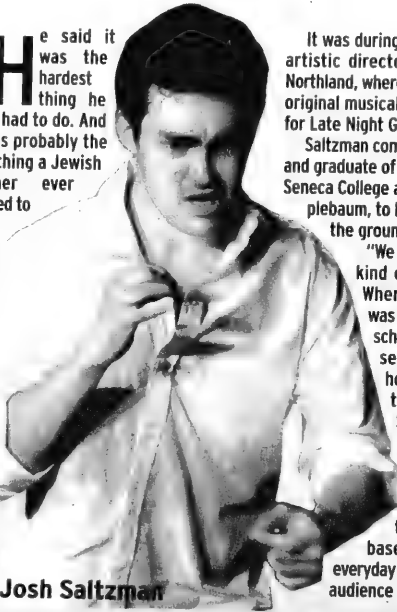
A journey from dentistry to comedy

By **SHERI SHEFA**
Staff Reporter



Josh Saltzman

He said it was the hardest thing he ever had to do. And it was probably the last thing a Jewish mother ever wanted to hear.

Four years ago, Josh Saltzman confronted his parents with the news that he was going to abandon his plans to go to dentistry school to fulfil his dream of becoming a comedian.

Saltzman, 25, is now the creative force behind Late Night Giggin, a Toronto-based comedy troupe that performs every fourth Wednesday of the month at the Brunswick House, a pub in the Annex.

Although the Thornhill native is enjoying the success of his 2½-year-old project, it wasn't easy to make the transition from a steady future of cleaning teeth to the cruel world of showbiz.

Saltzman was nearing the end of the third year of his four-year sciences program at the University of Western Ontario (UWO) when he decided that he just couldn't do it anymore.

"Every night I would dream about going on *Saturday Night Live* or being a performer. I had to do it. There was no other option. Worst mistake of my life," he joked.

He left UWO for Humber College in 2003, where he took the comedy writing and performance program.

It was during his four-year stint as the artistic director at B'nai Brith's Camp Northland, where he would write and direct original musicals and plays, that the idea for Late Night Giggin came into being.

Saltzman commissioned his camp friend and graduate of the marketing program at Seneca College at York University, Dori Applebaum, to help him get his troupe off the ground and produce the shows.

"We created it together and it's kind of like a small business. When we first started out, it was just a few of my camp and schools friends coming out to see it, but now it's packed houses, 200 people coming to see the show," said Saltzman, who is often compared to the legendary comedian John Belushi.

He said that he tends to write sketches based on experiences in his everyday life, making it easy for his audience to relate to.

For instance, he recalled travelling to Montreal to perform with "The Cast," the name of Late Night Giggin's seven-person comedy troupe, and they all stayed in one hotel room.

"At 5 o'clock in the morning, there was this pigeon outside our window that just kept crying," he said, emitting a pathetic coo that, well, sounded like a crying pigeon. "The more we would yell at it to shut up, the more it would cry, so we're going to do that on stage. It might be weird to have someone dressed up as a pigeon on stage, but whatever."

Saltzman said he also relies on his family to provide him with material.

"My grandmother steals milk packets all the time. I think it's hilarious. I don't know why, but she always steals milk packets. You can go to Kiva's [a kosher-style restaurant in Thornhill] and look around. It's not just my grandmother. Every little old lady is taking the creams, the sugars."

In an attempt to get his name out there in any way he can, Saltzman has also teamed up with Josh Shultz, an actor who graduated from Concordia University's film production program, to found Shultzman Films.

Together with their cameraman Rob Chodos, Shultz and Saltzman post short comedy films on YouTube and shultzmanfilms.com, which run the gamut from a scientist who is peer pressured into dunking his hand into a beaker full of acid, to an annoying roommate who won't let his roommate's friend study.

Saltzman, who also does standup at comedy clubs including the Laugh Resort and Yuk Yuks, is forced to ride the ups and downs of the Toronto comedy scene.

"I go home some nights if I have a bad set, where the audience is just staring at me and you want to just quit, but you can't. At the same time, the next day you have a really good set and you go home with your arm hanging out the window of your car, music blaring, thinking, 'I'm going to be a star.' Everyday is different.".

Saltzman, who feels he has yet to define his style but describes his sense of humour as dramatic, energetic, and physical, says that while it takes weeks for him and The Cast to produce a show, they make sure not to over-rehearse.

"We focus more on writing it really well. I like it when it doesn't look so polished, I like it when it's a little wild and raw. The audience can tell that we're scared, and we don't know what's going to happen and the craziest stuff happens on stage all the time."

Although his stage fright is so bad that he nearly vomits before a show, Saltzman said that nothing compares to the adrenaline rush of performing live.

"It's one of the most euphoric experiences. It's a rush of pure pleasure that you're making all these people laugh, it's like nothing else in the world."

But it's tough to make a living as an entertainer, especially in Canada, he said.

"I'd love to get a job writing for a TV show in Canada. I really don't want to have to go down to the States. Sometimes it feels like there is no other way."

"I have very big dreams. It's a very hard lifestyle, but it's the best and I don't plan on moving out of my parents' house anytime soon."

For more information about Late Night Giggin, visit www.myspace.com/latenightgiggin.

In the centre photo, Saltzman lectures Late Night Giggin cast member Hunter Collins and below, Laura Cilevitz looks thrilled that Saltzman has decided to juice an orange using his elbow.

WATCH FOR THE HEEBONICS LAUNCH

Soviet war-mongering sparked the Six Day War

***Foxbats Over Dimona: The Soviets' Nuclear Gamble in the Six Day War*, by Isabella Ginor and Gideon Remez, Yale University Press**

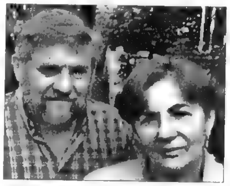
By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

It's common knowledge that the Soviet Union had a direct hand in touching off the Six Day War.

Moscow cynically claimed that Israel had aggressive designs on Syria and had massed troops on the Syrian border for that purpose.

When Israel's prime minister, Levi Eshkol, invited the Soviet ambassador, Dmitri Chuvakhin, to accompany him to northern Galilee to verify his claim, he declined.

Yet the damage was already done.


Gideon Remez and Isabella Ginor

Egypt, having internalized Moscow's misinformation, placed its army on a war footing, ordered the United Nations peacekeeping force out of the Sinai Peninsula and closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, thereby provoking Israel to attack Egypt on that fateful morning of June 5, 1967. This is the conventional narrative of the causes of the war, the 40th anniversary of which was marked last week.

But according to Israeli journalists Isabella Ginor and Gideon Remez, the Soviet Union played more of a pernicious role in war-mongering than had been previously disclosed.

In *Foxbats Over Dimona: The Soviets' Nuclear Gamble in the Six Day War* (Yale University Press), they contend that Moscow, in an attempt to wipe out Israel's nuclear arsenal, deliberately instigated the crisis that led to the war and was prepared to intervene militarily in pursuit of its objective.

Based on newly available documents and testimonies from former Soviet military personnel, and cross-checked against Israeli and Western sources, *Foxbats Over Dimona* is an audaciously revisionist work.

Its thesis, though plausible, may yet be challenged. But for now, *Foxbats Over Dimona* makes for absorbing reading. At the heart of the book is the assertion that the Soviet Union, a staunch Arab ally, devised a convoluted plan of Machiavellian proportions to provoke Israel into striking Egypt and Syria pre-emptively.

Moscow's reasoning was that if Israel's Dimona reactor could be destroyed, Israel would fall short of achieving even a semblance of nuclear superiority over its Arab clients. In turn, this would reinforce their dependence on the Soviet Union, in gratitude for having destroyed Dimona.

In line with this scheme, Moscow sent advanced MiG-25 Foxbat jets over Israel's nuclear complex in a bid to provoke Israel, and it readied a naval force for a marine landing in Haifa. Although the amphibious operation was actually set into motion, it was finally aborted due to Israel's swift victory in the war.

In planning this bold campaign, Moscow took its cue from the Egyptian president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, who threatened to go to war with Israel if it developed or was close to developing a nuclear capability.

At a meeting with Israeli foreign ministry officials about a year before the war, the Soviet envoy warned Israel that its acquisition of an atomic bomb would be "very dangerous."

To allay such concerns, Eshkol, in a speech to the Knesset, denied that Israel had nuclear arms and pledged that it would not be the first "to introduce such weapons into our area."

Clearly, Israel feared the prospect of Soviet intervention, though the Soviet Union was the first country to recognize Israel on a de jure basis and believed that Israel's existence was more beneficial for spreading its influence in the Middle East than its disappearance.

But as Ginor and Remez observe, after the mid-1950s, Moscow considered the 1947 partition lines to be Israel's legitimate borders. They also claim that the goal of eradicating Israel, while never stated as official policy, was widespread in Soviet military circles.

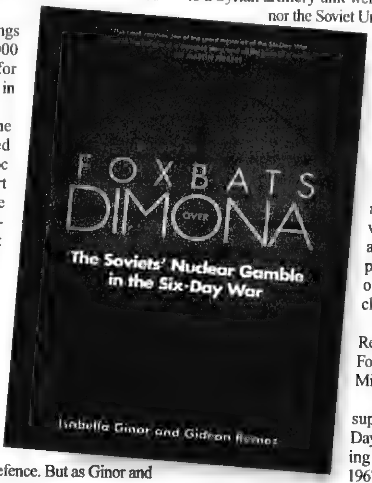
Ginor and Remez say that direct Soviet military intervention began in mid-May with overflights of Israel's main nuclear facility in Dimona.

On May 17, two Foxbats flown by the Soviet Union's best pilots made an unprecedented photo-reconnaissance flight over southern Israel, sweeping over Dimona. For each of the sorties, the MiG-25s were flown by another pilot from Yemen to an Egyptian base and refuelled for the flight into Israel.

One of the pilots, Aleksandr Vyboronov, who was decorated for carrying out the mission, said that Israeli aircraft tried but failed to intercept him.

Turning to the proposed naval landings in Israel, the authors say that about 1,000 Soviet commandos were assembled for attacks against Israeli naval headquarters in the port of Haifa.

The purpose of the seemingly harebrained mission was to sow havoc and confusion and divert Israeli soldiers from the front lines. It was cancelled at the last moment, with a Soviet frigate only about 30 kilometres from Haifa.


FOXBATS OVER DIMONA
The Soviets' Nuclear Gamble in the Six-Day War
Isabella Ginor and Gideon Remez

Although Moscow scrubbed its elaborate plan to intervene in the war on a massive scale, Soviet military and civilian advisors were active in helping Syria fortify the Golan Heights.

The U.S. embassy in Damascus estimated that some 160 Soviet advisors were seconded to the Syrian ministry of defence. But as Ginor and Remez note, the Soviets themselves admitted that the real number was 400.

Indeed, Soviet advisors were embedded with a Syrian infantry company that attempted to storm Kibbutz Dan on June 6. As they put it, "The small [Israeli] force at the Tel Dan outpost could hear Russian-language communications on the attacking force's radio system."

Fearing the wrath of the Soviets, the Israeli defence minister, Moshe Dayan, hesitated before launching an invasion of the Golan several days later.

It took Israel only about 24 hours to conquer the rocky plateau, and during the course of its offensive, five Soviet officers attached to a Syrian artillery unit were allegedly captured. Neither Israel nor the Soviet Union would confirm or deny the story, which was attributed to the Associated Press.

As Ginor and Remez suggest, the monumental Arab defeat in the Six Day War prompted the Soviet Union to upgrade its presence in the Middle East.

Moscow acquired permanent naval bases in Egypt and Syria, and at the height of the War of Attrition, which broke out almost immediately after the Six Day War, the Soviet expeditionary force in Egypt consisted of no fewer than 20,000 advisors, including MiG-21 fighter squadrons.

Strangely enough, Ginor and Remez omit the fact that the Israeli Air Force shot down several Soviet-piloted MiGs in a 1970 dogfight over the Sinai.

In concluding, they state that Soviet support for the Arabs in the post-Six-Day War period was limited to reversing Arab territorial losses incurred in 1967. Moscow had no intention of trying to destroy Israel.

The Soviet foreign minister, Andrei Gromyko, acknowledged that Israel's existence was of benefit to his country's interests in the Mideast.

In a reference to the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said, "As long as hostility dominates in the Middle East, we are needed there."

Gromyko certainly had a keen appreciation of Middle East realities.

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Veteran Broadway performer in Stage West's *Full Monty*

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Mary Ellen Ashley has been acting, singing and dancing since she made her debut on Broadway in the New York Theater Guild's production of the *Innocent Voyage*. While still a youngster, the Manhattan-born-and-raised thespian was cast in the original production of *Annie Get Your Gun*, which starred Broadway legend Ethel Merman.

Ashley is kicking up her heels and a whole lot more in a Broadway musical based on the British film *The Full Monty*, at Mississauga's Stage West Theatre until July 8.

Ashley played Jeanette last year in a Boston production of *The Full Monty*, a role she reprises in the Toronto production. Unlike others who have played Jeanette, with their feet firmly planted on the ground, Ashley's Jeanette, in a dance move, is raised over the heads of the males in the cast. Not too shabby for a woman who admits to being 60-plus.

Ashley says her experience working in Toronto has been lovely. She was offered the role of Jeanette in an Arkansas production, but opted for the Great White North instead.

"Jeanette is a kind of mother earth. Jeanette was in show business, she was a piano player with big-name old-time jazz groups and bands like Stan Kenton. She retires with her husband, then heard about the show being formed – not knowing what the show was going to be except that it was going to feature a bunch of factory workers," Ashley says.

"She gets wind of that and gets the urge to go back into the business, play the piano and help put on this show, where the factory workers decide to do a striptease," she says.

To put a Canadian slant on the production, Stage West's *The Full Monty* takes place in Hamilton, Ont., during the recession of the 1980s.

This is Ashley's second time working in the Greater Toronto Area. She appeared in Royal Alexandra Theatre's production of *Tintypes* in the late 1980s. Besides performing in theatres on Broadway, Off Broadway and throughout the United States, Ashley has done radio and acted in movies and television shows. She had a role in the 2005 version of *The Producers* and appeared in four episodes of the television series *Law and Order*.

Ashley has not only starred in numerous theatrical dramas but also in pretty much the whole gamut of musicals produced in the last few decades, including *Hello Dolly, Gypsy, Sweeney Todd, Cabaret, The Music Man, Nonsense, Funny Girl, Fiddler on the Roof* and the original Broadway production of *Yentl* with Tovah Feldshuh, before Barbra Streisand's movie version was made.

Mary Ellen Ashley

Before coming to Canada, Ashley appeared in the play *Goodbye and Good Luck*, based on a short story written by Grace Paley in 1959 for the book *The Little Disturbances of Man*.

"It starred Judy Kaye, Richard White and I," says Ashley. "It was at the Folksbiene Theater – the only remaining Yiddish-speaking theatre in New York."

"They are now trying to put on some English-speaking plays, although their mission was to do all plays in Yiddish. This was done in English. My character's name was Rosie. The music and lyrics were composed by Muriel Robinson and David Friedman. I hope to bring it up to Toronto.

"It is about a love affair at the turn of the 20th century in New York City between a young woman who is a factory worker and wants to get out of it and gets a job at the Second Avenue Jewish Theater – the quintessential Yiddish theatre in America. Great actors like Molly Picon came out of there," Ashley says.

When *The Full Monty*'s run at Stage West ends, Ashley will be reprising the role of Marie in *Easy Song* Off Broadway.

Like *The Full Monty*'s Jeanette, Ashley has tried to retire from showbiz without much success. "Every time I lose a job that I want, I say I'm not doing this again. Four months ago, I said I'm retiring and then the next week I got two offers," she says.

Ashley is also a theatrical producer and was involved with the play *Angels in America*. She has been married to Cyrus Rubin, a retired shoe manufacturer, for 40 years. The couple have two children – James, a journalist, and Diana, a former cable television news director – and four grandchildren.

For tickets to *The Full Monty*, call 905-238-0042 or visit Stage West's website at www.stagewest.com.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

BREAKING BREAD WITH JOEL HECKER IS A MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE

Joel Hecker, formerly of Toronto, is the chair of the department of modern Jewish civilization and professor of Jewish mysticism at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Penn.

A graduate of the University of Toronto, among other institutes of higher learning, Hecker is the author of *Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals: Eating and Embodiment in Medieval Kabbalah*, a detailed study of eating practices and experiences in the Kabbalah, with a special focus on the Jewish mystical literature of late-13th-century Spain.

Torontonians have an opportunity to "break bread" with Hecker at a Kabbalah Shabbaton next week sponsored by the Lodzer Centre Congregation. He has been invited to speak as part of the **Harry Kreitzman** memorial series for Jewish enrichment.

Elaine Clarfield-Gitalis

The Shabbaton takes place June 22, beginning at 7 p.m., at 12 Heaton St. in the Sheppard-Bathurst area. Shabbat dinner is $30 for adults, $15 for children. Reservations are required (ideally by June 14). Call Sarah at 416-636-6665 or e-mail lodzerrabbi@rogers.com.

Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals was published by the Wayne State University Press as part of its Raphael Patai series in Jewish folklore and anthropology.

* * *

Names in the News: Marla Rosen, a principal with Vancouver-based Big Dip Productions, launches *Emotions*, a new book and CD this month in conjunction with High Park Youth House, a Vancouver registered charity.

Emotions is a "fun and entertaining approach to behavioural education for children," says Rosen, a York University theatre graduate, performing arts educator and Montessori primary school teacher. The book's many colour illustrations focus on the human emotions and the CD's songs correspond to the content. A multi-sensory learning tool, the book and CD are meant to help children clarify how they feel. Order from White Knight Books, www.whiteknightbooks.ca.

To support and promote the development of emotional intelligence in children, Rosen has embarked on an *Emotions* interactive puppet show and concert tour across Canada this summer that includes various Toronto-area performances in mid-August. For details, visit www.emotionsbook.com/gigs.htm.

* * *

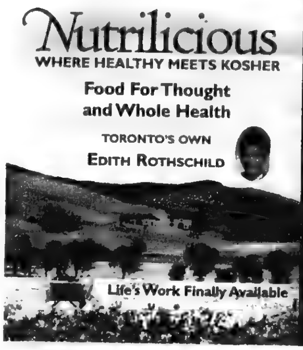
Arts in Brief

- Hop Stitch And Jump is a fundraising performance for the Stephen Lewis Foundation to help ease the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Features **Toronto Youth** performing South African gumboot dances, the **Ijovudu African Dance Company**, singers from the **MNJCC Community Choir and Women's Chorus**, the **Madawaska String Quartet** and jazz pianist **Mike Kane**. Suggested donation $50 (includes catered reception). Monday June 18, 7:30 p.m. Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre. For tickets or information, www.dawnaarons.com or 416-879-7193.
- The Miles Nadal JCC and Pride Toronto present *Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School.* Co-sponsored by Barna-Alper Productions, the Downtown Jewish Community School, the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School, Shir-Libeynu and Kulanu, the film tells the story of an entire community that is inspired and changed by one girl's courage. **Tara Goldstein**, associate chair of teaching and education, OISE, is the guest speaker. Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m. Free admission. Al Green Theatre. 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor. 416-924-6211, ext. 606
- The Toronto Symphony Orchestra presents "king of klezmer" clarinettist **Giora Feidman** in a concert of **Gershwin, Piazzolla, Bruch** and more. June 17, 7:30 p.m., Roy Thomson Hall. Tickets 416-593-4828 or www.tso.ca.
- *My Opposition – The Diaries of Friedrich Kellner* directed by **Fern Levitt** and **Arnie Zipursky** recounts the story of **Friedrich Kellner**, a mid-level government worker in Nazi Germany, who spoke out against Nazi tyranny and kept a diary reocrding events of the time. The documentary airs June 16 at 7 p.m. on Global TV.

* * *

At the Galleries

- Rare and unique works by revered Murano glass master **Pino Signoretto** made their Canadian debut at Amarynth Gallery on June 6. Recognized internationally as possessing "the best hands in all of Venice," Signoretto has collaborated with artists such as **Dale Chihuly** and **Salvador Dali**. Exhibition continues through July 14. 161 Cumberland St. 416-515-9191
- The Blue Dot Gallery presents a multi-faceted art exhibit from the Neri Bloomfield WIZO Academy of Design and Education in Haifa, Israel. "International Vision/Action: Designs of the Next Generation" offers a glimpse into the academy's pedagogical model for the integration of the arts in higher education. On display are works by artists, graphic designers, photographers and jewelry makers that collectively embody a cross-section of the Israeli art scene. Distillery District, 55 Mill St., Building 47, Suite 101. June 14 to July 1. 416-487-1500
- How do you "see" art when you are deaf-blind? Artist, art teacher and lecturer **Elaine Clarfield-Gitalis** unveils a unique method of mixing copper, wax, oil and other elements to create highly textural pieces that can be appreciated through the sense of touch. Her exhibition, "Textures and Transitions," is on view at the Papermill Gallery at Todmorden Mills Museum, 67 Pottery Rd. Free parking and admission. Part of the proceeds from sales to support a local non-profit agency for the deaf-blind. June 13 to 24.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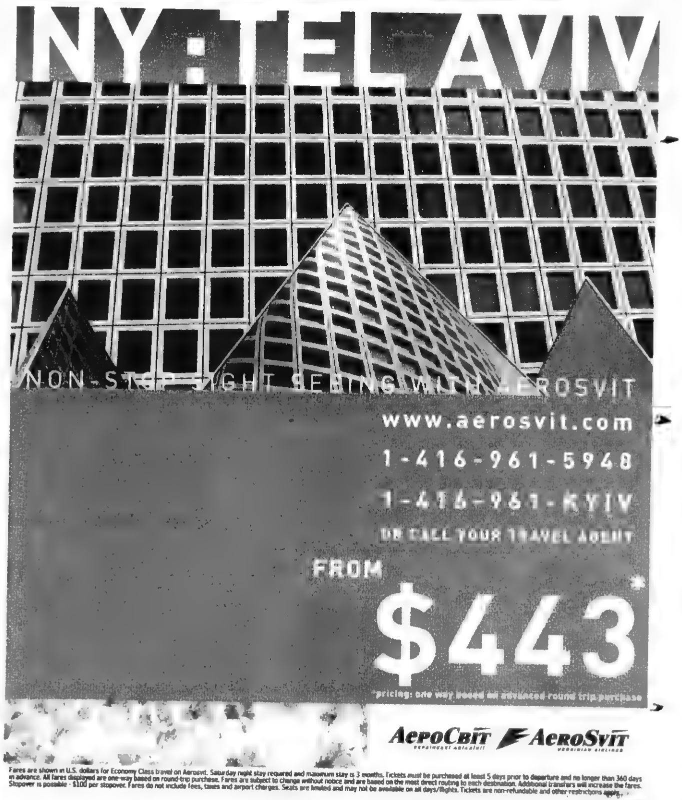
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Iconic architect creates a ROM that's crystal clear

By SHERRY SMITHER
Special to The CJN

As you drive along Bloor Street, you'll see the finest gems in town at Cartier, Royal de Versailles and the Royal Ontario Museum.

Yes, the Royal Ontario Museum, where all the glitters is not gold.

You'll be dazzled by the brilliance and clarity of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, the ROM's new showpiece wing.

Everything takes on a new light at the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, because, thanks to renowned architect Daniel Libeskind, Toronto has an incredible new ROM for everyone to discover – even the passersby.

The groundbreaking design was crystallized for Libeskind when he attended a family wedding at the ROM.

Daniel Libeskind

Inspired by his surroundings, he took out his pen and sketched five crystal-like shapes on the restaurant's napkins.

How close are the fab five to his original drawings?

"Amazingly close, because you draw something out of your heart in a moment of inspiration." Libeskind replies on the phone from his New York office.

The crystal creations are made of 25 per cent glass and 75 per cent brushed aluminum cladding so that a warm silver tone catches the light.

Libeskind's work includes the redevelopment of the World Trade Center site at Ground Zero, the Jewish Museum of History in Berlin, the Danish Jewish Museum in Copenhagen, the Wohl Center in Ramat Gan, Israel, and the Jewish War Veterans' Memorial in Toronto's Earl Bales Park.

His goal is to transform the museum into a publicly accessible institution that's exciting, enlightening and engaging.

"Now when you go by, the ROM makes a gesture toward you – to beckon you… That's really the reason the crystals are shaped that way.

"I wanted to make sure that the building is visible, that it doesn't have one elevation but a myriad of elevations, including the roof, which can be seen from high-rise buildings around it. Like a crystal, it's highly visible and dynamic from every angle," Libeskind says.

Libeskind and his wife, Nina, were married in Toronto. The daughter of the late David Lewis, one of the founders of the NDP, and sister of diplomat Stephen Lewis, Nina is also his business partner.

Recognizing Bloor Street as "one of the great streets of North America," he reoriented the entrance to create a major plaza on Bloor in an area that was once a dark corner.

"The ROM isn't just a building. It's a public space for music, for performances, and it can reflect the life of the city. At night, the crystals will glow with the fantastic exhibits of dinosaurs and other collections."

Beyond the lobby is the outstanding Hyacinth Gloria Chen Crystal Court, a four-storey atrium where the heritage architecture meets the new design under magnificent crystalline skylights. There's also the Spirit House for contemplation, a vertical space that extends from the top to the bottom of the Lee-Chin Crystal. And don't miss the spectacular Stair of Wonders that will lead to many fascinating, unique collections.

Topping it all off is a crystal within a crystal. Libeskind designed a Swarovski chandelier that will radiate brilliantly over the grand staircase on the fourth floor and is breathtakingly beautiful!

Libeskind also restored the 10 heritage galleries to the beauty and elegance they had in 1914 when the building first opened, with plans to renovate existing galleries to their original splendour.

Contact the ROM for schedule of events and for details on gallery openings.

What message does Daniel Libeskind have for our readers?

"The ROM is going to be exciting. Buildings are not just abstract objects on the horizon, they communicate. This building will be a storyteller with tales about Toronto, about nature and culture, and about those who enter."

Milman's new CD evokes a smile

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

sophie milman
make someone happy

When I first saw the song titles on Juno-nominated Sophie Milman's new CD *Make Someone Happy*, I cringed at the thought that she was singing the oft-recorded jazz cliche *Fever*.

But when I heard her soulful and refreshing take on this classic, my fears dissipated. Milman takes this song and adds confidence to her crisp, seductive voice to make it her own.

Milman's follow-up to her impressive self-titled debut, which sold 100,000 copies and hit the Top 5 in Canada, is full of such joyful surprises.

In addition to the Rogers/Hammerstein selections *It Might As Well Be Spring* and *People Will Say We're In Love*, the 24-year-old Russian-born Toronto singer shows her youthful versatility with such contemporary selections as Stevie Wonder's *Rocket Love*, the Guess Who's *Undun* (Randy Bachman plays guitar on his song) and Kermit the Frog's lament *It's Not Easy Being Green* – perhaps her own cheeky take on her career so far.

Other titles on this 13-song CD include *Matchmaker, Matchmaker* from *Fiddler On The Roof*, Chana Senesh's *Eli Eli (A Walk to Caesarea)* and the title track (made popular by Jimmy Durante).

On each song, Milman shows a delightful poise and maturity that belies her youth. Milman is going to be around for a long time.

Make Someone Happy (Linus Entertainment) is out June 19. She's playing across Canada over the next few weeks.

Check out her website www.sophiemilman.com.

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Dancap's first season includes *Jersey Boys*, *Avenue Q*

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Businessman and philanthropist Aubrey Dan is bringing six award-winning musical productions to Toronto from Broadway and London in 2007-08.

"I want to make theatre something special to look forward to as one escapes everyday life," says Dan, who heads Dancap Productions.

Dan's love of theatre has led to his involvement with many successful theatrical productions in New York and Toronto.

He recently got permission to use the Toronto Centre for the Arts for a long run of the New York musical sensation *Jersey Boys*. *Jersey Boys* is the winner of the 2006 Tony Award for best musical and the 2006 Grammy Award for best musical show album.

Theatrical impresario Aubrey Dan at the recent celebration that launched Dancap Productions, with Academy Award-winning actor Cloris Leachman.

For months, it has been virtually impossible to get tickets to the New York production of *Jersey Boys*. Dan, who has been involved with the New York production, notes that the show recently opened in San Francisco and is scheduled to open in Chicago this fall.

The director of *Jersey Boys,* Des McAnuff, and the show's choreographer, Sergio Trugillo, are both originally from Toronto. The production team includes Paul Shaw, Peter Lamb and Jordan Fiksenbaum.

If the excitement at Dancap's recent gala launching at the Elgin and Winter Gardens theatres was any indication of the calibre of theatre Dancap will bring to Toronto, the city's languid theatre scene will soon be revitalized.

Academy Award-winning actor Cloris Leachman hosted the celebration. Many celebrities were on hand, and they were treated to a sampling of some spectacular performances from the upcoming Dancap season.

Since the collapse of Garth Drabinsky's theatre production company "Livent," the Live Entertainment Corporation of Canada, in 1998, Mirvish Productions has been the only big-name company involved in commercial theatre in Toronto.

Dan says he has the greatest respect for Mirvish Productions; however, he believes the city "can sustain more than one theatrical company."

He hopes that *Jersey Boys* and his other world-class productions will revitalize the surrounding business community and draw people to the city, he says.

Along with *Jersey Boys*, the productions for the 2007-08 season include *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *3 Mo' Divas*, *My Fair Lady* and *Avenue Q*.

The Drowsy Chaperone, a Canadian musical comedy that's a Broadway hit, is Dancap's season opener, at the Elgin Theatre on Sept. 19.

Dan says that Dancap plans to produce its own productions in the future and use Canadian personnel whenever it can.

Dancap offers subscribers a unique reward program through which they can accumulate points.

"I want people to go back to the theatre on an ongoing basis," Dan says. "We have used the airlines as a model for rewards, and we believe that Dancap is the only theatrical company in North America to initiate these rewards."

Along with a six-series package, Dancap has created a three-program subscription package for those who travel south for the winter.

Dan's father, philanthropist Leslie Dan, came to Canada from Hungary in 1948 with only five dollars in his pocket. The elder Dan couldn't speak a word of English, but entered Harbord Collegiate, which he breezed through. He graduated from the University of Toronto's School of Pharmacy and went on to found the generic pharmaceutical company Novopharm.

Aubrey Dan, now 43, the middle of three children, was raised in Don Mills. After graduating from the University of Western Ontario, he joined the family business. He later became the president of the pharmaceutical company Wampole Canada Inc. and went on to found Dancap Global Asset Management and Dancap Private Equity Inc.

Dan has co-produced shows with CanStage, including *Hair*, *Urinetown* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

His interest in the performing arts began when he first met his wife, Marla, in 1988. "On our first date, we went to see a play at CanStage. I wound up falling in love with Marla and with the theatre at the same time," Dan recalls.

For tickets, visit www.dancaptickets.com or call 416-644-3665 or 1-866-950-7469.

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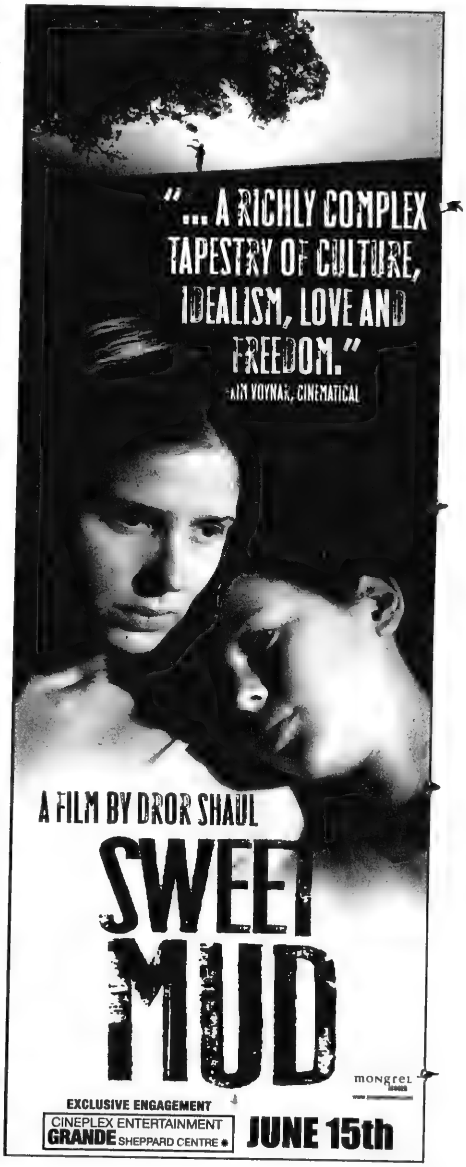
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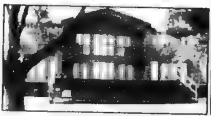

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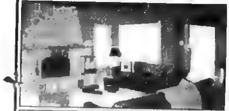

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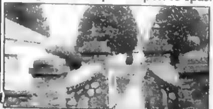

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BATHURST / STEELES — NEW LISTING 4 bedroom custom bungalow, inground pool, sep. entry to fin. basement, $529,900.

* * *

BATHURST/CENTRE, KATERINA. App. 2500 sf, 2 storey, 4 bdrms., 4 baths, nanny's quarters, dbl. gar. Shows to perfection. $559,000.

* * *

THORNHILL, FLAMINGO AREA — WINDEMERE CUSTOM HOME. Prestigious location, 4,000 sq. ft., 5 bdrms. + fin. bsmt. for nanny's quarters. Granite, crown mouldings, 9 ft. ceilings, **skylight**, custom cedar playground. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT $899,000 — ACT NOW!**

* * *

THORNHILL WOODS, REDUCED $40,000. 2 storey, dbl. garage, oversized window for extra light, berber carpet, hrdwd., Dutch clean, $699,000.

* * *

THORNHILL BRAND NEW TOWNHOMES FROM $375,000 1,700 sq. ft. $370,000, 2,055 sq. ft. $375,000, 2 storey, 3 bdrms., **3 baths,** granite kitchen counters, **ceramic tile** in bathrooms, hardwood floors, 9 ft. ceilings, 5 appliances, will close Dec. 2007. **ONLY 5 LEFT — ACT NOW!**

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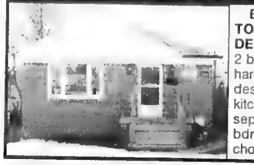

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- **COLDSTREAM AVE.** Renovated 3 + 1 bdrm. bung., $2,250 / mo.
- **STORMONT AVE.** 3 bdrm. sidesplit +.fam. room, $2,500 / mo.
- **GLENGARRY AVE.** Spacious 3 + 2 bdrm., 3 baths, desirable location close to TTC, parks, schools, shops, $2,800 / mo. Aug. 1.

* * *

GLENGROVE BEAUTY
CUSTOM EXECUTIVE HOME on gorgeous deep 134 ft. lot. 2 yrs. new, 3,700 sq. ft. + basement, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 5 baths, high ceilings, gourmet kit. $1,349,000. Call David Eichorn* or Moshe Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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Bathurst-Wilson
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Thornhill condo Clark/Hilda, 2 br., 2 bath, eat-in kitchen, fitness centre, indoor pool, 2 parking spaces, $329,000. No agents. Please call 905-886-8841.

3000 Bathurst, main flr., lrg. 1 bdrm. w/enlarged solarium, 5 new appliances, priv. entry from priv. patio. Ensuite laund. & storage. Below market at $209K. Leave name & number @ 416-783-9617. Your call will be returned. Brokers protected.

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45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED

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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Belle Ewart, lakefront, 4 bed., A/C, screen room, shul, eruv, kosher kitchen, gorgeous lot, beach, cove. Call 416-780-8000.

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130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

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135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Greater Toronto Area

Community reacts 'with tempered excitement'

Continued from page 1

"There will be clear conditions [to ensure only faith-based schools can qualify for public funding]," Tory said.

Tory also announced that if elected, his party would spend $800 million to strengthen public education.

Jewish groups that have long been involved in advocating for funding faith-based schools, and who attended the conference, reacted with tempered excitement.

In a joint press release, Canadian Jewish Congress and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto applauded the Tory position, which mirrors the one the two groups have been recommending.

"This approach to public education is a welcome step that will serve Ontario students well," said Joel Richler, chair of CJC, Ontario region. "This should not be a partisan issue. It's simply the right thing to do."

UJA Federation chair David Engel echoed Richler's sentiments, saying the announcement reflects that "inclusive public education should be a reality for all of Ontario's children."

> ***'A welcome step that will serve Ontario students well'***

Similarly, the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools (OAJDS), which held a Shabbat dinner at the PC conference, referenced some of the major criteria outlined in the PC agenda on faith-based education, which included: incorporating the requirements of Ontario's common curriculum as part of faith-based curricula; participating in Ontario's standardized testing program and appropriately addressing "teacher credentialing."

In a statement, Stuart Lewis, executive director of the OAJDS, said he plans to call on all day school presidents to "include some key statements and updates about this vital community matter" in their respective graduation addresses this year.

But, Lewis cautioned, "it is important that we only endorse policy and not any political party or make partisan statements."

B'nai Brith also praised the Conservatives.

"We welcome John Tory's pledge for equal funding of Ontario's faith-based schools," said Frank Dimant, the organization's executive vice-president. "For too long, the government's discriminatory policy of funding only Roman Catholic schools… has persisted without reform."

Jewish schools and schools of other faiths currently receive no public funding, forcing parents to pay high tuition fees in order to educate their children, while the government continues to fund Roman Catholic schools.

The Liberal government has maintained that it's constitutionally obligated to fund Roman Catholic schools.

It argues that the 1867 Constitution, which sought to protect existing rights for denominational schools of the time, requires Ontario to maintain a publicly funded Roman Catholic system.

In 1999, the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) ruled that this funding is discriminatory, violating Canada's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, saying the need to protect Roman Catholic funding is now out of step with modern times.

The UNHRC censured the province again on the issue in a 2005 report.

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Jews in the ring: brawn over brain

By ELISA BIRNBAUM
Special to The CJN

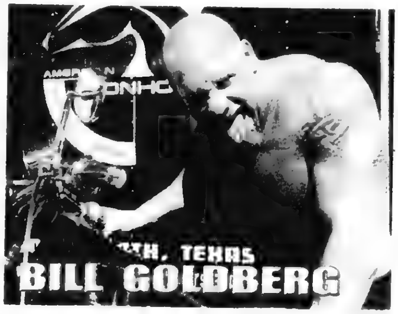
I have vivid memories of Sunday afternoons at my grandparents' duplex in Montreal. While my grandmother busied herself with the sounds and smells of baked goods and the occasional plea for me to eat more, my grandfather would bask in the glare of the TV, captivated by the sounds and smells of a different nature: wrestling.

Armed with an overflowing plate of hot, freshly made oatmeal cookies, I would sit myself down on the couch, as close to my zaide as possible. Close enough to take it all in – from the primal sounds of mean-looking men in strange outfits to my grandfather's animated facial expressions and the occasional colourful and unrepeatable Yiddishisms he'd shout at the screen.

Yet, the spectacle on TV was always less fascinating to me than the spell wrestling had cast on my zaide and others like him. In a religion dominated by scholars, scientists and other heady sorts, I wondered how this purely corporeal event entered the Jewish home. While few wrestlers at that time were Jewish, I was enchanted with stories my grandfather recounted about similarly angry men who, once upon a time, earned the naches of their Jewish mothers. In fact, according to Eddy Portnoy, a noted scholar of Jewish popular culture in pre-World War II eastern Europe and North America, wrestling has played a significant role in Jewish social history.

Speaking recently at an event sponsored by the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada, Portnoy said the 1920s saw a number of prominent Jewish wrestlers put that stereotype of the bookish Jew to the test. In Poland, for example, grapplers with names like Max Krauser and Zelig Pashov, or the Jewish Hercules, were as common as their Polish-sounding counterparts. Since wrestlers at that time relied on their ethnic affiliations to establish a fan base, Jews found themselves figuring prominently not only as sportsmen but also as enthusiastic audience members.

But, stated Portnoy, a professor of history at the Jewish Theological Seminary, the national element of Jewish fandom befuddled Jewish intelligentsia, who found themselves asking, "shouldn't scholars and scientists be the ones who inspire the masses?" Nevertheless, while intellectuals deemed wrestling the antithesis of "Jewishness," fans couldn't get enough, often becoming frenzied in support of their Jewish heroes. Portnoy explained this phenomenon by saying that wrestling gave Jews a unique opportunity to engage in short-lived and relatively safe public displays of pride in the face of a majority culture. Moreover, he added, "wrestling proved to be more gratifying and immediate than any of the abstract national, political and religious movements that offered to provide Jews with a way of dealing with their role as second-class citizens."



With ethnic identity playing such an integral role in cultivating a fan base, claiming one's "Jewishness" certainly had its benefits. Some non-Jewish wrestlers placed Stars of David on their trunks – a common practice for Jewish wrestlers – and used Jewish names, hoping to ride the coattail of Jewish adulation. Others, such as Pashov, found himself having to prove his "Jewishness" in the wake of contradictory evidence. The situation became so dire that Pashov's own mother was ushered into Warsaw carrying with her documentation to substantiate the wrestler's true ethnicity, much to the delight of the crowds.

Jews also sought out the "Jewishness" of wrestlers even when it wasn't there. In 1925, fans contested the ethnicity of one Leon Pinyetski – a Pole known for his expert use of the full nelson – saying he had a Jewish nose and ate kugel on Saturday.

The Jewish invasion of wrestling went beyond athletes and fans. When the sport's popularity in Europe was eclipsed by boxing in the 1930s, some wrestlers were shipped to North America by Warsaw-born promoter Jacob Pfefer. Known as the "Plotter from Pinsk" and the "Smirker from Smolensk," for nearly 50 years Pfefer played a major role in the world of wrestling. Recognized as having introduced the grotesque to the wrestling arena, Pfefer boasted a roster of grapplers with handlebar mustaches, shaved heads and tattoos. Thanks to this Plotter from Pinsk, the world was introduced to "Blimp" Levy, a former fat man at a sideshow in Coney Island. Weighing 625 pounds – yet known to be extremely nimble – Levy said wrestling kept him slim, a comment considered less ironic when, years after retiring, he was found dead in an Alabama trailer park weighing more than 900 pounds.

Blimp Levy aside, most Jewish wrestlers were known less for their physical grandeur and more for their speed and agility. Take Abe (Hebrew Hercules) Coleman, the "Jewish Tarzan." After emigrating from Poland to Winnipeg in 1923, he soon moved to New York where, all of five foot three inches tall, but weighing 200 pounds, he established a reputation as a major wrestling contender. Coleman, who recently died at the age of 101, was allegedly responsible for inventing the "drop kick," after observing kangaroos in Australia engaging in a similar move.

One of the last of the "old time" wrestlers still alive today is Rafael (Rasslin' Rabbi) Halperin. After immigrating to Palestine from Vienna, he studied in yeshiva with the Chazon Ish but was later brought to the United States. It was there where he enjoyed immense popularity as a wrestler, all the while refusing to fight on the Sabbath. In the 1960s, he returned to Israel and become a rabbi and a successful businessman.

With Halperin out of the ring, the glory days of Jewish wrestling seem to have waned, though Barry Horowitz and Ric Drasin gained respectable acclaim in the 1970s and '80s, while "Macho Man" Randy Savage has a Jewish mother.

Portnoy attributes this reality to the emergence of a stronger Jewish middle class. "Middle class interests are perceived as leaning more toward 'refined sports,'" he offered. Nevertheless, few can forget the hubbub over William Scott (Bill) Goldberg who graced the wrestling stages from 1997 to 2004. Known especially for his unique entrance, the wrestler from Texas was ushered to his matches by police escort, while adoring fans chanted, "Goldberg, Goldberg."

Though Goldberg's Jewishness didn't hold the same resonance that a grappler's ethnicity held in the past, I can't help but wonder if today's Jewish wrestlers were somehow influenced by the stream of Jews who entered the ring before them. Jews who – in the vein of Samson and David – chose brawn over brain to elicit victory. Jewish social history would not be complete without a mention of these athletes who broke down barriers and stereotypes and of the Jewish fans who cheered them on. Fans like my zaide whose afternoon choice of escapism remains a cherished memory today.

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Lucky bystanders – for now

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

Last August, as Israel was ending its campaign in Lebanon, I argued in this space that it would be a mistake to mark the battle against Hezbollah as a defeat.

"Israel did just about all it realistically could in its attempt to defeat Hezbollah," I wrote, but "in an age where nations at war need as many lawyers and PR agents as foot soldiers, the aftershocks of a large-scale invasion of Lebanon were potentially more damaging than helpful." I still feel the same way, despite the Winograd commission report that essentially accused Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and his cabinet of incompetence (a charge I don't necessarily disagree with). Israel didn't lose last summer's war, it simply didn't win.

Ten months later, not much has changed on the Israeli side. The country is still run by Olmert and, minus a handful of resignations, his wartime cabinet. Don't expect that to change any time soon, either: even with Olmert's approval ratings hovering around the laughable figure of five per cent, there is little chance of a summertime vote, because unlike in previous election cycles, the Labor and Likud parties – and their respective recycled leaders – are neither ready nor willing to hit the campaign trail.

The only thing more perplexing than Israel's recent history of left-to-right political see-sawing is this sudden turn toward timidity. The bell has rung, but the fighters remain glued to their stools, too scared of defeat to leave their corners.

And yet, this sluggishness might have improved, albeit indirectly, Israel's situation vis-a-vis its Arab neighbours. You see, inertia has long been the dominant theme of the Muslim world. It's a case of same old, same old in most Arab countries – same laws, same intolerances, same complaints. Just about the only thing that seems to wake them up is Israel – or more accurately, an opportunity to accuse Israel of crimes against Muslims.

But in the last 10 months, while waiting for the Winograd axe to fall, the Olmert government has been unable to lift a finger, and the Arabs have been left with little – or at least nothing new – to complain about.

So, even though common sense suggests that Israel's enemies would have come to a shared conclusion – that the political gridlock and low public morale in Israel presented a prime window to consolidate attacks against Israel – the exact opposite happened.

The Arabs decided to fight each other instead: the Lebanese government, finally waking up to the fact that terrorists in its domain are as much a threat to the Lebanese people as Israelis, have fought back against terror groups festering in Palestinian refugee camps (it turns out they have those in Lebanon, too).

And in the West Bank, Fatah and Hamas continue to kill each other in an effort to gain control of the economically stagnant Palestinian territories. At least in Arab terms, the Palestinian civil war offers a coveted prize – the distinction of being the leader in the war to destroy Israel – for the last terror group standing.

There is a line somewhere about Arabs and missed opportunities…

You can count on Islamic terrorists and Arab political and religious leaders who harbour terrorists to lay down (or simply forget to play) some of their best hands. But every once in a while, they do recognize an opportunity – and the results, as we witnessed last August, can be damaging, if not devastating.

In the short term, battling to a draw is acceptable only if it helps you learn how to defeat your enemy at some later point. But in the 10 months since the war, Israel's political leadership hasn't shown any sign that it has drawn lessons from the Lebanon campaign.

Israel has been a lucky bystander so far, but inaction can only lead to trouble down the road.

YAKATORI

1/2 cup soy sauce
2 tblsps. vegetable oil
2 tblsps. lemon juice
1 tblsp. sesame seeds
2 tblsps. white sugar
2 green onions, thinly sliced
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2 tsp. ground ginger
1 lb. steak, cubed

In a glass or plastic bowl, whisk together soy sauce, oil, lemon juice, sesame seeds, sugar, green onions, garlic, ginger. Thread meat cubes onto skewers. (If you are using wooden skewers, soak them 30 min. first.) Place skewers in plastic or glass container; pour marinade over meat, turning to coat well. Cover, chill minimum 4 hrs. Brush grate with oil or cooking spray, then preheat grill on high. Place skewers on grill 10-15 min. occasionally turning to ensure even cooking.

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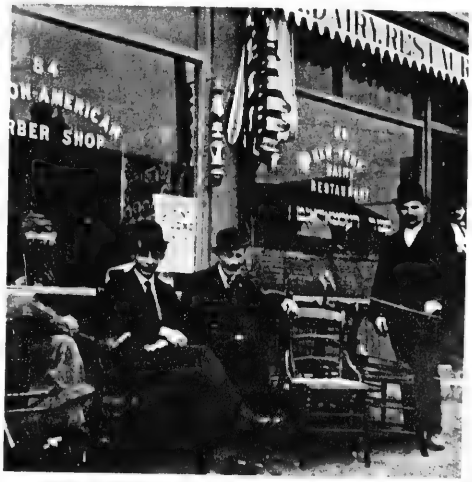
Remembering Our Yesterdays

By BILL GLADSTONE

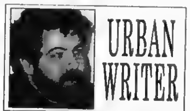
New York Dairy Restaurant, 1912



The New York Dairy Restaurant, on the northwest corner of Elizabeth and Albert streets, was one of many kosher eateries in the old downtown "Ward" neighbourhood. Perhaps these gentlemen were recent immigrants who were still waiting for their families to join them from Europe and needed a place to take their meals. Numerous local Jewish-run boarding houses also served "heimishe" kosher fare. The buildings on this and neighbouring blocks were torn down in 1912 to make way for the municipal registry office, which in turn was razed to make way for the new Toronto City Hall. [City of Toronto Archives]

On being on the same page

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG



When two people share the same bus every day, they begin to know each other in some way, even if words are never exchanged.

I have been writing for the *Canadian Jewish News* for six years, four years on a weekly basis, and various people have shared this page with me during this time. We have ridden a ride of words and thoughts together.

Sandie Benitah, who writes a monthly column called 20Something, is one of my fellow passengers. In her last column, titled "Adulthood arrives in a moment," Sandy wrote about her boyfriend, John Hanan, who passed away on April 19.

Sandie and I have spoken a few times over the last couple of years, but not in ways that could be construed as a real conversation. Regardless, we share something special that you can only find on the second-last page of *The CJN*.

I, therefore, feel a certain affinity for her. We are both writers who are passionate about the Jewish community, and we both enjoy commenting on the nuances of what occurs in our day-to-day lives.

It's for this reason that I dedicate my column to the memory of John Hanan, a person I never met. It is also for this reason that I send public condolences to Sandie for the man she hoped to introduce to us as her fiancé, but instead communicated to us that now "my heart is broken."

Sandie, my dear friend Eli Rubenstein has created a booklet, *Readings for a House of Mourning*, that contains poems, short stories and articles about losing a loved one. It is well-researched and unique among literature that deals with the ache of loss.

I tell you this so that you will not be as alone in your suffering as you might otherwise be. I tell you this so that you might find comfort in the words of others during those stingingly hushed moments that reflect the quote from Psalms that you will find on the opening pages of this booklet: "I lift my eyes to the mountains. From where will my help come?"

I will forward the booklet to you, so that you have at your bedside the words of Sigmund Freud, who wrote to his friend after the death of his daughter, Sophie: "Although we know that after such a loss the acute state of mourning will subside, we also know we shall remain inconsolable and will never find a substitute. No matter what may fill the gap – even if it be filled completely, it nevertheless remains something else. And actually this is how it should be… it is the lonely way of perpetuating that love which we do not want to relinquish."

Sandie, people's written words of support are often more sensible than their spoken words during a time of mourning. Therefore, use this book well. Read it when you please and uncover the distinctive truth that's found only in hardship through such vignettes as *Four Things* (author unknown), which reads: "These things are beautiful beyond belief:
The pleasant weakness that comes after pain,
The radiant greenness that comes after rain,
The deepened faith that follows after grief,
And the awakening to love again."

We, the writers and readers of the *Canadian Jewish News* community, bless you with strength and extend our appreciation for having the courage to share your thoughts, more intimate than any, about a man "whose brilliance continues to light the world though… no longer among the living. These lights are particularly bright when the night is dark. They light the way for humanity." (Chana Senesh)

John Hanan, rest in peace. You had a great love in Sandie Benitah, your Number 1 admirer.

There was a man and he exists no more. His life song was broken off halfway. He had one more poem. And that poem is lost, forever.
– Chayim Nachman Bialik

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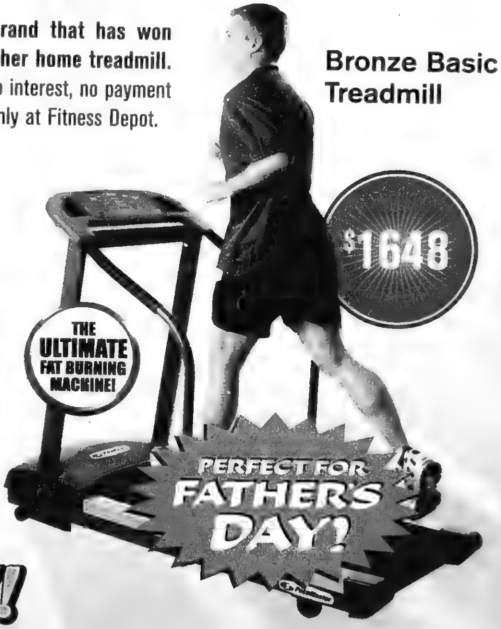
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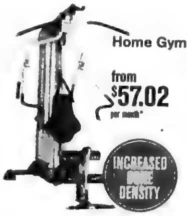
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Two heads better than one

Bulka and Abitbol acclaimed as co-presidents of CJC

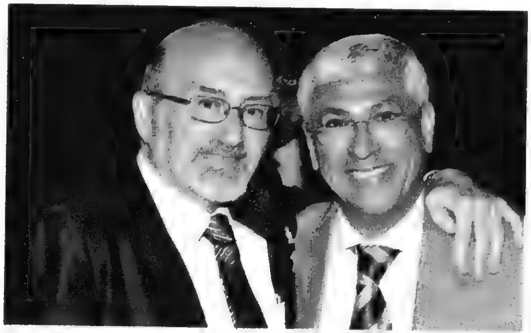
By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — For the first time, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) will be led by co-presidents, following the acclamation of Sylvain Abitbol and Rabbi Reuven Bulka at its 28th Plenary Assembly last weekend.

Abitbol and Rabbi Bulka enthusiastically praised each other's strengths, with both saying they will complement each other.

"We will work hard to build bridges with the left. We can't ignore the interaction with other communities, to build more bridges," Abitbol said in his acceptance remarks at Agudath Israel Congregation.

"And one goal that I added myself today: I want to prove wrong everyone who today did not agree with what we are doing [passing new CJC governance structures]. We are going to be successful because we cannot afford not to be successful. We live in a very dangerous world."



Rabbi Reuven Bulka, left, and Sylvain Abitbol embrace each other and their new positions at the CJC's 28th Plenary on Sunday.
Please see related story on page 4. *[Peter Waiser photo]*

Rabbi Bulka pledged to visit Canada's small and "forgotten" Jewish communities, to ensure they also have a voice in the CJC.

"We have an abiding commitment, Sylvain and I, and a great team… One thing is indisputable: Congress will continue to be the voice of the Jewish people in Canada, not only to the Jewish community, but also to the non-Jewish community."

In a sometimes heated debate that brought more than a dozen speakers to the microphones, the CJC governance rules were amended under omnibus Bylaw 67, which does away with elections for the position of president of Congress. The bylaw is intended to streamline the governance structure of the organization.

Continued on page 29

Israel welcomes new Abbas government

By DAN BARON
JTA

JERUSALEM — Israel is welcoming the appointment of a new Palestinian government, but it remains wary about what lies ahead.

Mahmoud Abbas lost no time responding to Hamas' coup in Gaza last week, which took the world by surprise. Having fired his Islamist rivals from the government, the Palestinian Authority president on Sunday swore in a moderate new cabinet aimed at ushering in renewed aid from Western donors.

"Today is a new era, a turning point for ending the siege and rebuilding the Palestinian Authority," Abbas spokesperson Nabil Abu Rdainah said.

Salam Fayyad, a reform-minded economist with many friends in Washington, is the Palestinian Authority's new prime minister, finance minister and foreign minister.

He is joined by 12 other ministers, including two women, who were hand-picked by Abbas, though they are not all nominally from his Fatah faction.

Mahmoud Abbas prays last week in Ramallah. *[RNS photo]*

Hamas, which purged Fatah from Gaza in a six-day civil war last week, rejected the "emergency" government as a coup attempt and said the previous cabinet under Ismail Haniyeh was still in force.

"This appointment is illegitimate and a violation of all national agreements," Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said.

But Abbas – who invoked presidential privilege to extend his new cabinet's term beyond the 30 days allowed under Palestinian Authority law – was hailed in Israel and beyond.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who travelled to the United States for consultations with President George W. Bush and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, spoke of a potential breakthrough in peace efforts with Abbas.

"A government that is not a Hamas government is a partner," he told reporters. "This opens opportunities."

But major hurdles still lie ahead.

Even if Israel, the Palestinians and the West reconcile themselves to dealing with the West Bank and Gaza as separate de facto entities, there is no guarantee of Abbas' continued rule in the former.

A restoration of donor aid would do much to shore him up in the eyes of his people. Most of that donor aid was cut off when Hamas was elected to power in January 2006.

Continued on page 32

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Cotler condemns UN's report on Beit Hanoun — please see page 33

The News in Brief

CANADA

Calgarians Walk

CALGARY — Some 500 Calgarians took part June 10 in the Calgary Jewish Community Council's second annual Walk with Israel. The five-kilometre walk started at the Calgary Jewish Community Centre and ended with a free Israeli festival and market.

Hate Material Seized

REGINA — Regina police seized a computer hard drive, DVDs, CDs and other material during a June 8 search at the home of Terry Tremaine, self-styled leader of the National Socialist Party of Canada (NSPC). Tremaine, 58, a former mathematics lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan, is being investigated for willfully promoting hatred. The raid came after criminal complaints last fall by Ottawa lawyer Richard Warman and Canadian Jewish Congress about hate postings targeting Jewish, black and First Nations communities on a U.S. neo-Nazi website and a now defunct NSPC site.

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WORLD

Waldheim Headed UN

VIENNA — Kurt Waldheim, the former UN chief with a Nazi past, died in Vienna June 14 of heart failure at 88. He was hospitalized last month with an infection. Waldheim served as UN secretary general for from 1972 to 1982, and was elected Austrian president in 1986. His career was overshadowed by revelations he served in a unit of the Nazi armed forces that committed war crimes in the Balkans in 1942. He maintained that he did not commit war crimes.

School Trial Begins

VIENNA — A trial began here last week into whether an Orthodox school can expel the children of an anti-Zionist haredi man. Moishe Arye Friedman, 35, gained notoriety for attending a Holocaust revisionist conference last year in Tehran, where he shook hands with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. His children were barred at the end of January from the school, Machzikei Hadas. Friedman sued to gain their re-entry, but a Vienna court upheld the expulsions. In March, however, a federal court ruled that until the case ends, Friedman's four older children – girls aged 8 to 13 – must be allowed back in. The court agreed they were being unfairly punished for Friedman's activities. The Austrian Supreme Court upheld that ruling June 1. But despite heavy fines and threatened closure, the school is holding its ground, a position that's supported by its parents, the umbrella group of Vienna Jewry and a number of Orthodox rabbis who serve the parents.

Rothschild Dies

VIENNA — Baron Guy de Rothschild, patriarch of the storied French Jewish banking family, died June 12 in Paris at 98. He saw his family bank taken over during the Nazi occupation in 1940 because it was owned by Jews. In 1981, the bank was again taken over, this time by the Socialists under then-president Francois Mitterrand. In an editorial in *Le Monde*, Rothschild accused the Socialists of anti-Semitism. His son David rebuilt the family banking network. Rothschild also founded and headed the United Jewish Welfare Fund, France's main Jewish philanthropic agency, from 1950 to 1982.

Controversial Prof Denied Tenure at DePaul

CHICAGO — DePaul University denied tenure to Norman Finkelstein, a political science professor who raised hackles for saying that Jewish groups have exploited the Holocaust.

Norman Finkelstein "plays fast and loose" with the facts he cited in his scholarly work, said Michael Kotzin, executive vice-president of the Chicago's Jewish federation.

Norman Finkelstein

He added that the federation was careful not to impinge on the Chicago school's right to make its choice, stressing that DePaul had an "absolutely internal basis for the decision based on their standards and principals."

In a letter to Finkelstein, DePaul's president, Rev. Dennis Holtschneider, cited a statement by the university's board that "expressed several concerns touching on his scholarship, specifically what they consider the intellectual character of his work and his persona as a public intellectual."

The pro-Israel student group StandWithUs and Harvard University law professor Alan Dershowitz were among those urging DePaul not to grant tenure to Finkelstein.

Finkelstein, a child of Holocaust survivors, has argued that Jewish groups "have exploited the Holocaust to enrich themselves or to justify Israeli politics."

He told the *Chicago Sun-Times* after the decision, "They can deny me tenure, deny me the right to teach. But they will never stop me from saying what I believe."

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Education funding set to become Ont. election issue

Community to launch advocacy blitz

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The Ontario Jewish community is preparing to make education funding a priority in the run-up to the Oct. 10 provincial election.

On the heels of this month's promise by the opposition Conservatives to bring faith-based schools into the public system, and to inject $800 million into public education if elected, Jewish leaders are grappling with how to maintain momentum on what they see as the race's key issue.

Ira Walfish, chair of the Multi-Faith Coalition (MFC), a funding lobby group, said he was "thrilled" with the Tory announcement and that his group will work with other Jewish community organizations, such as the Canadian Jewish Congress, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools to educate the province's faith communities on the importance of the issue.

In the past, the coalition had been critical of the federation for not doing enough public advocacy on the education file.

"[Congress and federation] always wanted this type of [policy], and we were always a little more tolerant of a tax credit. But that's irrelevant now… we're now all on the same page," Walfish said, referring to the tax credit for private school tuition that was introduced by the former Tory government and repealed by the Liberals.

Walfish added that the MFC has already held talks with Congress and federation to strategize collaboratively on a joint communications plan.

Federation spokesperson Howard English agreed that the community should now speak with one voice.

"We believe one of the weaknesses of the struggle we've been waging over 30 years [for education funding] is the mobilization of our own community," he said. "And we don't want that weakness to exist again. We're going to be sparing no effort to educate our community and mobilize them on this issue."

English said federation and CJC will soon launch a "massive" ad campaign and speaking engagement blitz to educate the public about what faith-based funding will mean.

"We're talking about the use of as many marketing vehicles as we can afford to get the message out," he said.

Continued on page 24

Enrolment surge predicted

If public funding for faith-based schools becomes a reality after the Oct. 10 provincial election, some Jewish educators are predicting a happy outcome: a surge in enrolment.

But dealing with a such a scenario is still hypothetical.

Seymour Epstein, executive director of the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education, was energized about the recent Conservative promise to fund faith-based schools by bringing them into the public system.

"This is a major moment of promise," Epstein told *The CJN* last week. "Funding for the Jewish day schools and all faith-based day schools is what we've been praying for for decades."

Epstein said the primary obstacle for parents looking to send their children to Jewish day schools would, in essence, be eliminated if the Progressive Conservative party pledge becomes a reality.

"There could be scenarios in which we see a dramatic increase in enrolment and we have to deal with that issue," he said. "The thousands of parents out there who had dismissed the idea of [Jewish] day school education because they couldn't see themselves affording it… may register their children in the day schools of their choice."

Paul Shaviv, education director for the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), also pondered the enrolment question while praising the Tory plan.

"We would be delighted to have the problem of massive over-subscription," Shaviv said.

Continued on page 24

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CJC plenary: a reporter's notebook

From the editor's desk

The number 28 in Hebrew carries a special gematriah – a numerical equivalent for the letters that spell a certain word. It equates to the word for "strength."

This past weekend, that number and its gematriahtic equivalent were also a harbinger.

For fittingly, strength of human character, strongly worded opinions and strong-willed individuals were very much on display Sunday at the 28th Canadian Jewish Congress Plenary Assembly that was held at the Agudath Israel Congregation in Ottawa.

It was expected.

* * *

The delegates at the assembly voted upon history-making changes in the governance of the venerable and venerated organization.

They were asked to approve Bylaw 67. Among many other important administrative changes aimed at modernizing the organization, enabling it to respond more effectively to the inevitable crises and challenges of our constantly set-upon Jewish world and troubled world-at-large, the bylaw essentially eliminated elections for the position of president. It also paved the way, at this plenary, for the first-ever co-presidency of the Congress.

Delegates spoke, in their turns, with passion, anger, love, confidence, concern, optimism and worry.

High drama enveloped the proceedings. A motion to table the vote on the bill was defeated. A motion for a secret ballot – as opposed to the traditional show of hands – on the motion to table was also defeated.

The bylaw needed two-thirds of the votes from the 175 delegates in the room to pass. Because of the crowded seating arrangements in the sanctuary, counting the vote was somewhat problematic. Ultimately, the bylaw passed with more than the required vote. The resolutions chair, Adam Atlas, announced 120 votes in favour. The margin may have actually been even higher.

After the vote and the fiery debate that accompanied it, even as people were rushing out of the room to find a place in the social hall for lunch, there was a palpable sense among the delegates that something big had just happened. But they could not dwell on it. The program was too crowded with presentations and presenters, and it was already running an hour late.

Later in the day's proceedings, before he launched into his remarks thanking federal Environment Minister John Baird for addressing the plenary, Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) co-chair, Steven Cummings of Montreal, responded to the lingering sense among some delegates that a Congress light had been diminished.

"With elation that accompanies change, there is always some disappointment, too," he said. "But it is important that we stay together, that we stay within the broad tend of our wonderful community."

Outgoing CJC president Ed Morgan echoed the same theme in his farewell address. Using a story by S.Y. Agnon called *The Mitpachat* (*The Kerchief*), as a parable, he urged delegates "not to keep fretting about the bylaws and the internal structure. We must, rather, look beyond that. We must develop the ability to look truth in the eyes and do something good for the world.

"We must now look to trying to bind the wounds of the world. We are an advocacy organization and we must get on with it."

* * *

Israel's ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker, shared some of the professional frustrations he experiences in trying to discharge his duties on behalf of the Jewish state.

For example, he told the delegates that Israel is the only country in Ottawa that is not represented in a regional grouping in the diplomatic corps. The grouping of which Israel is part has had its name changed from the Middle Eastern group of countries to the Arab group of countries. As a result, once again, Israel finds itself isolated, outside the geographic grouping to which it naturally belongs.

* * *

Maj.-Gen. Abdeljebbar Azzaoui, director of intelligence and counter-terrorism in the kingdom of Morocco delivered the keynote address. His topic was how to counter global terrorism.

He identified the various steps that his country has taken in the fight against terrorism, and especially after the Al Qaeda strike in Casablanca in May 2003.

The real significance of his remarks was that he made them at all. He began his presentation by saying, "It's always a pleasure to be with friends."

Azzaoui did not shrink from challenging his fellow Muslims. He made the following three points:

- "Counter-terror measures should be multi-pronged within the Muslim world.
- "We must try to isolate the radicals within Muslim communities, and
- "It is the Islamic communities themselves that must be the backbone in the fight against terrorism so that there is no impression of a clash of civilizations."

* * *

Flashing his sense of humour, and in a reference to his newly minted co-president Rabbi Reuven Bulka, Sylvain Abitbol told the delegates that "everything we do now will be under rabbinic supervision."

Then he set out three specific goals for the upcoming two-year term: confront the new anti-Semitism growing in Quebec; build bridges with the left; and seek rapprochement with other minority communities.

* * *

A great deal of individual and collective strength was on display at the 28th CJC plenary. A great deal more will be needed to fight the battles that lie ahead.

– ***MBD***

SeeJN

TEL AVIV BOOK FAIR

Thousands of Israelis attended the annual book fair in Tel Aviv last week. Young and old seemed enthralled with the new offerings.

[Israel Sun photo]

Police cite teacher's bravery in shooting incident

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

A lockdown at Leo Baeck Day School in Thornhill following gunfire between police and a robbery suspect on school grounds has "really unified" the school community, says school director David Prashker.

"We got through, and we got through safely," he said. "There could easily have been death and injury."

The incident began at about 1 p.m. on June 11, when York Regional Police responded to calls about a gunman in the Promenade Mall.

According to police, one call was from the Jewellery Company, located on the second floor of the mall. The caller indicated a man was in the store waving a gun and yelling at employees. He demanded they fill up a bag with jewelry.

The man fled with almost $300,000 worth of merchandise, police said. He was pursued on foot by mall security, with police joining in on the ground and by helicopter.

The gunman showed up on school grounds at Leo Baeck and then at Netivot HaTorah Day School, Leo Baeck's next-door neighbour to the south. Both schools implemented emergency lockdown procedures.

Zlatko Sarcevic, a Grade 4 gym teacher at Leo Baeck, rushed a class of 18 students into the building after noticing a police helicopter overhead. Sarcevic was to receive a citation Friday afternoon at the school from York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge, Prashker said.

He said he instituted a lockdown because of the gunfire and "extensive police activity" just outside the school.

The lockdown lasted from shortly after 1 p.m. until about 6:20 p.m., but Leo Baeck's 534 students were allowed to leave at the usual 3:30 dismissal time. Parents picked them up under police supervision so as not to disturb evidence, Prashker said.

During the crisis, the school implemented safety procedures put into place just over a year ago, Prashker added. He credited Sarcevic, who "reacted outstandingly," and all of his staff for knowing "exactly what to do," moving children away from windows, closing the blinds and locking the doors, and above all, keeping students calm.

York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge, left, and Inspector Les Young presented gym teacher Zlatko Sarcevic with a police citation and plaque on June 15 at Leo Baeck Day School in Thornhill.

"Some got on with teaching, and some kept the kids quietly amused," Prashker said. A junior kindergarten teacher created a fort out of tables, and the children played there.

Prashker also praised Leo Baeck students. "They dealt with the situation in a truly admirable manner."

However, he noted, a lockdown is "a traumatic thing." Although plans for senior students to run a charity car wash the following day proceeded as planned, the school brought in a senior team from JVS the same day for children and teachers who wanted to talk.

In addition, Prashker, branch principal Jan Lapedus, and student services supervisor Yvette Burke visited every classroom as part of a follow-up.

"One of the keys was validating [students'] responses," Prashker said. "Some kids were scared and some weren't… It's OK to have been scared, and if you weren't scared, that's OK too. That's one of the knowns of psychology. Different people react differently."

At Netivot, just south of Leo Baeck, security guard Kayran Crosbie, who has been working at the school for only a couple of months, saw the suspect hiding near a wooden garbage housing.

Thinking the man was a trespasser, Crosbie started to approach him to ask what his business was at the school, he told *The CJN*. But before he could make his presence known, he saw the man pull out a gun, take aim and fire at a police officer.

Officers returned fire, but did not strike the suspect, police said. At that point, police alerted schools in the area to go into lockdown mode.

At the same time, Crosbie, who had ducked behind a blue Dodge Caravan, called the Netivot office to advise the school to implement lockdown procedures. He saw the man run and drop a bag. Crosbie notified the school, then retrieved the bag so the school could notify police about it.

After leaving the school area, the gunman made his way to a home on Rodeo Drive and forced two women into a van in the garage. As he fled in the van with the two hostages, he was pursued by police. One officer fired a gun in an unsuccessful attempt to stop them from leaving. The suspect was arrested at Keele Street and Highway 7 after losing control of the van. The women were not injured, and a black and silver CO2-powered pellet gun was seized from the vehicle.

The pellet gun would be "powerful enough to injure someone," Constable Laurie Perks told *The CJN*.

Quincy Cave, 30, of Toronto, who was on probation at the time of his arrest, is in custody facing 30 charges. He will appear in court in Newmarket June 26.

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Freedman-Kalchman, Tamlyn	תמימה
Freeman, Marky	ישראל מרדכי חיים
Friedman, Jonathan	יונתן אברהם
Friedman, Rebecca	רבקה נעמילאה
Friedmann, David	דוד
Genah, Aimee	שרה
Glick, Lauren	אריאלה
Goldberg, Carly	צביה
Goldberg, Devora	דבורה
Goldberg, Robin	דינה
Goldberg, Tamar	תמר
Goldshtein, Keren	קרן
Goldstein, Sarah	שרה
Gottfried, Daniel	צבי
Gray, Daniel	דניאל
Greenbaum, Joshua	יוסף
Greenspan, Ayelet	אילת
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Grunzeweig, Shoshanna	שושנה
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Handelman, Russell	רפאל
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Isaacs, Jason	ירון
Itkina, Mikhal	מיכל
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Jaskolka, Amanda	אריאלה דבורה
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Kapcan, Ron	רון
Kaplan, Benjamin	אריאל
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Koplowitz, Jake	רענן יעקב
Kopman, Dustin	דוד
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Israel has come a long way since '67: Meridor

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The Jewish community in Toronto continued to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and Israel's victory during the Six Day War at Beth Tzedec Congregation last week.

Dan Meridor, the international chair of the Jerusalem Foundation and former Israeli finance minister, was the keynote speaker at an event titled Jerusalem: Ours to Celebrate, Ours to Share, which included live music by Daphna Tzur and Orly Cohen, as well as testimony from those who lived through one of the greatest moments in Israeli history.

Dan Meridor

Beth Tzedec Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, who is known throughout the community for being a proud supporter of Israel, talked about the importance of Israel's victory 40 years ago.

"The media tells us that the war has lead to years of pain, struggle and loss for the Palestinians. The negative attention is deeply disturbing… But our history teaches us that every achievement exacts a cost. Had the allies not fought the Nazis, the world would be immeasurably worse. Yet many innocents were injured and killed by the forces in Britain, Canada and the United States. Had Israel not fought and prevailed in 1967, it would not exist today, and I doubt that the Middle East would be in better shape," Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said.

When Meridor took to the podium to address roughly 400 people, he shared his bittersweet memories of being a soldier in the Israel Defence Forces, sitting on his tank near the Suez Canal 40 years ago to the day, when he heard the news that Jerusalem had just been liberated.

He said that although he was elated that Jerusalem had been unified, he was disappointed that he was not there to be a part of the celebration.

"It was tough to someone like me, who had been born in Jerusalem," Meridor said.

Not only did the reunification of Jerusalem give Jews full access to the Israeli capital, Meridor said the war helped start the peace process with the Arabs.

"Until 1967, we had no territories, nothing was occupied, so to speak… and not one Arab ruler was willing to talk with us, let alone make peace with us," he said.

He said that the rulers of the surrounding Arab countries felt that it would just be a matter of time before they'd be able to rid the world of the State of Israel.

"[The Six Day War] changed this dramatically. Israel stopped looking like and being this fragile state, and it became and was seen as a strong neighbour. It took some time, and it crept into the understanding of our neighbours. The first to understand this, three years later was King Hussein of Jordan."

He said that after Black September in 1970, when Palestinian guerrillas used Jordan as its base for the war against Israel and attempted to overthrow his monarchy, King Hussein became Israel's best ally.

"It wasn't because he saw the justice in the Zionist cause, unfortunately, but because we were strong. We built strength, and he understood that we were not going to be wiped off the map, that we were here to stay."

Meridor said given the situation in Israel, it is easy to be pessimistic about Israel's future. But it is important to remember how far the Jewish state has come over the past 40 years.

"Usually we tend to be depressed because of television, and because some stupid guys in Britain [the University and College Union, UNISON and the National Union of Journalists] want to boycott us. When everything seems bad, look at the long range and see what a wonderful leap we have had since the Six Day War. Not that we don't have problems… but look at the long range of where we were then and where we are now."

Meridor spoke about the need to embrace people of all religions, especially Jews, Christians and Muslims who view Jerusalem as the Holy Land.

"It is a city of conflict and it is a test of co-existence. It is a great challenge, but we must see to it that everyone gets a share in it," he said.

"The battle is still ahead of us and we need to fight it."

Venture capitalists hope to enhance trade with Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

When politicians speak about "an exit policy," they're generally referring to a process of cutting one's losses and running.

When venture capitalists talk about an exit policy, they're also talking about running – but not until they have made boatloads of money enhancing the value of a company.

Earlier this month at the downtown Toronto law office of Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP, about 70 prospective venture capitalists with ties to Israel gathered to network, trade ideas and see whether they could impress two venture capital managers enough to warrant an investment in their ideas.

The meeting, dubbed the Canada-Israel Venture Capital Initiative, was sponsored by the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce (CICC) and the Israel Business Forum, two organizations whose goals include enhancing the business and trade relationship between Canada and Israel.

Leo Lax, founder and managing partner of Skypoint Venture Capital and Yoram Oron, founder and managing partner of Vertex Venture Capital, were the Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson of the event, listening to two entrepreneurs put on a show extolling the virtues of their products as they attempted to convince the investors to put $2 to $5 million into them.

Unlike the personalities on *American Idol*, Lax and Oron gave no immediate thumbs up or thumbs down evaluations, promising to consider their performances and get back to them in a month. In addition to hearing the two public presentations, Lax and Oron heard from a dozen other new companies in Gowling's board rooms.

With $20 million in capital available for investment, there was a lot at stake for presenters and venture capitalists alike. Oron who flew in from Israel for the event and for a similar one a day later in Ottawa, and Lax, manage private capital funds that invest in early stage businesses. They take an equity stake, assist the management to go to market and once the business is up and running they exit by selling their stakes to larger firms, in the process, they hope, making a healthy return on investment.

Oren Asher, chair of Qnext, and Erez Yerushalmi, president of Inter-Canel, were the entrepreneurs attempting to sell their early stage companies during the public portion of the event. Asher's product is geared for Internet users and boasts that it "is the easiest way to share all of your music, photos, and files with anyone, instantly" on the net. It allows users to send files of unlimited size to contacts on existing instant message and e-mail lists even if the recipients don't have Qnext installed on their computers (www.qnext.com).

Inter-Canel offers an Internet entertainment package for online communities. Yerushalmi focused on the Venice Chronicles, an interactive game geared for the dating community (www.inter-canel.com).

CICC President David Rubin said last week's Venture Capital Initiative was one of a series of new programs initiated by the reinvigorated chamber. The CICC had been dormant for several years until it was relaunched in May 2006 with the encouragement of Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker. The new-look CICC has an executive committee and holds events regularly. It will hire full-time staff, open a permanent office and establish a board of governors and a board of directors, Rubin, a lawyer at Gowlings, said.

CICC's primary goal is to increase business between Canada and Israel. Currently, trade between the two countries is around $1.4 billion annually, not including Israeli investment in Canadian real estate (more than $4 billion (US) in the last four years).

The CICC will promote trade and investment by establishing a social network of business people, sponsor information events, organize business delegations to and from Israel and support government agencies that promote trade.

Rubin said CICC plans to launch an interactive website for its members in the near future that will permit them to exchange information about business opportunities.

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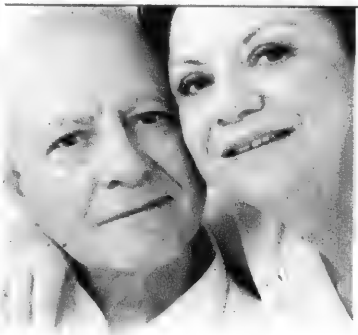

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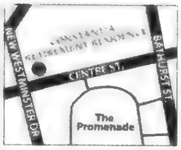

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A major moment of promise

Last week, the leader of Ontario's Progressive Conservative Party, John Tory, announced that if his party forms the next provincial government, he will "create an opportunity for non-Catholic, faith-based schools to choose to join the publicly funded education system." He added: "There are some things on which you have to stand on principle, and in this case, the principle is fairness to people of other faiths."

With those few but elegantly expressed words, the leader of Ontario's Opposition acknowledged a historic injustice which the Canadian Jewish Congress, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, federation and community leaders in Hamilton and Ottawa, the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools, the Multi-Faith Coalition (in Ontario) and countless individual parents of the thousands of children in Ontario day schools have long sought to remedy.

Tory has brought the decades-old fight for education funding fairness to a watershed moment. He deserves high praise for having having done so. But now we must ensure that we will finally ford the river and get to the other side.

Judging by its initial response to Tory's announcement, it seemed that the government was taken quite by surprise. Senior government media advisor Ben Chin questioned whether "the public system [should be] funding separate schools within its own board." But that is what the public system already does for Catholic schools in Ontario. Moreover, that is what the public system does for faith-based schools in provinces, such as Quebec, where other faith-based schools are funded out of the public purse.

We hope that as the Liberal government has more time to reflect upon the inherent fairness of the Tory proposal, it will adopt it as its own. Justice and fairness should not be a partisan matter.

To be sure, there are valid issues surrounding the public funding of faith-based schools that must be resolved. Education Minister Kathleen Wynne wondered about "the allowance to be made for extra tuition." In addition, the receipt of public funds necessarily calls for appropriate accountability by the schools receiving those funds in matters, for example, of curriculum, teacher credentials, standardized testing and undoubtedly other areas as well.

But these are details. With goodwill on all sides, the implementation issues can be resolved.

Seymour Epstein, executive director of the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education, aptly described Tory's announcement as "a major moment of promise."

It now falls to us to ensure that the promise is fulfilled.

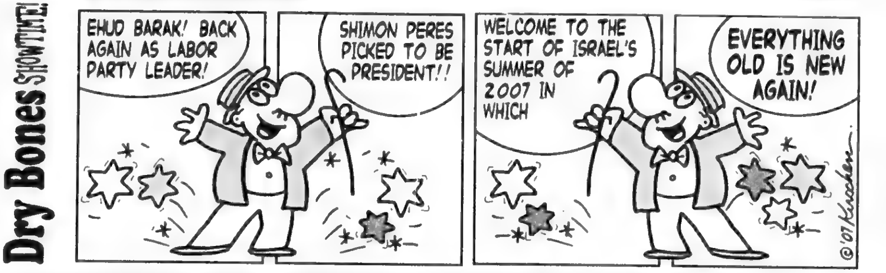
That will require focused and co-ordinated efforts among the widely diverse lay, professional and parent-group supporters of the Tory initiative.

UJA Federation spokesperson Howard English told *The CJN,* "We believe one of the weaknesses of the struggle we've been waging over 30 years [for education funding] is the mobilization of our own community. And we don't want that weakness to exist again. We're going to be sparing no effort to educate our community and mobilize them on this issue."

At this critical juncture in the fight for fairness in education funding, our major moment of promise, nothing less will do.

25 years ago in The CJN

Rallies, prayers and statements of support marked the response of the Canadian Jewish community to Israel's war in Lebanon. Meanwhile, Israeli troops were camped outside of Beirut, and, in spite of a formal ceasefire, exchanged artillery fire with PLO forces.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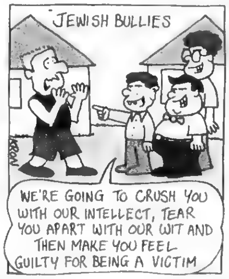
Day school funding (1)

It should be noted that the UN Human Rights Committee did not rule that funding for Catholic schools is discriminatory and "out of step with modern times," as the article "PCs promise to fund faith schools" (*CJN*, June 14) suggested. Rather the committee ruled that if the government funds Catholic schools, it is discriminatory not to fund faith-based schools of other religions on an equivalent basis. As such, binding international law requires that Ontario fund all or none.

Taking funding away from Catholic schools, attended by 675,000 children and supported by all three parties at Queen's Park, would most likely require a constitutional amendment and would force huge numbers of children out of publicly funded and regulated education. The only realistic and fair solution to the discrimination is to extend funding to the small excluded minority of faith-based schools that are not already funded, subject to compliance with provincial standards, as proposed by provincial Progressive Conservative leader John Tory.

This should be supported by all three parties, just as they support Catholic funding. Making publicly funded education more inclusive will benefit everyone.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KRAN

Ira Walfish
Chair
Multi-Faith Coalition for Equal Funding for Faith-Based Schools

* * *

Day school funding (2)

Two sentences from your reporting on Progressive Conservative leader John Tory's faith based school funding inclusion announcement caught my attention ("PCs promise to fund faith schools" *CJN*, June 14). They are "Jewish groups… reacted with tempered excitement" and "it is important that we only endorse policy and not any political party or make partisan statements," the second being a quote from Stuart Lewis of the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools.

Sorry folks, I hate to ruin the shivah, but personally I am absolutely ecstatic because of Tory's historic announcement.

A. Bruce Gilboord
Toronto

* * *

Response to Brown (1)

Editor's note: these letters arrived too late to be published before the CJC plenary on June 17. In the interest of fairness, we decided to publish them.

Michael Brown got it right in his guest column "The assisted suicide of CJC: does it matter?" (*CJN*, June 7). Brown argues against the new proposed system under which the Canadian Jewish Congress' president and senior officers would be appointed by a board consisting of nominees from the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA), which will appoint one-quarter of the board, and from federations in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, and appointees from Congress' regional offices. One must ask: what is the principled argument against converting a democratic organization into an undemocratic, elected one? Whose interests does this serve? CIJA has done some wonderful work. But far be it from CIJA to take on the added (and undemocratic) role of appointing (read, controlling) CJC, as well. CJC has a distinguished history and is too important an organization to become a puppet of any other organization.

Leigh A. Lampert
Toronto

* * *

Response to Brown (2)

Bravo Michael Brown. You hit the nail on the head in your guest column "The assisted suicide of CJC: does it matter?" (*CJN*, June 7). Brown poses the question, "Should we laugh or cry?" Let me assure you this is no laughing matter. I urge all to cry – cry in a loud voice against Bylaw 67, which implements the "assisted suicide" that Brown refers to. You can communicate with the Canadian Jewish Congress by mail at 100 Sparks St., Suite 650, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5B7, by e-mail at canadianjewishcongress@cjc.ca, or by fax at 613-233-8748.

Manuel Shacter
Montreal

* * *

Jerry Falwell espoused 'bigoted' views

The CJN should be chastised for publishing Joseph Ben-Ami's letter ("Falwell supported the Jewish people", letters, May 31) extolling the virtues of the late Rev. Jerry Falwell. Rev. Falwell was a divisive figure in American religious and political life, driving the country further to the right by espousing bigoted and exclusionary views. It is true that he was a "friend" to the Jewish people and to the State of Israel, but his rants against others not of his kind diminishes any kinship we might feel with him. Intolerance of any kind should be condemned, not extolled.

Dan Mozersky
Toronto

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With Barak back, is Kadima in trouble?

By LESLIE SUSSER
JTA

In the short term, the election of Ehud Barak as Labor party leader could give Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's ailing government a new lease on life. In the longer term, it could mark the beginning of the end for Olmert's Kadima party and the return of Labor and Likud as the two main actors in Israeli politics.

For long stretches of the campaign Ayalon, a straight-talking former navy commander and Shin Bet security services chief, held the lead and was touted as the party's great new hope. But eventually his inexperience counted against him.

Barak won 51.2 per cent of the vote to Ayalon's 47.7 per cent, with the rest of the ballots blank or spoiled. Of the party's 103,000 members, 67,000 turned out to vote.

A former chief of staff, Barak is slated to replace outgoing Labor leader Amir Peretz as defence minister. He vowed to do all he could to enhance Israel's military capacity after the blow to the Israel Defence Forces' image in last summer's Second Lebanon War.

Barak clearly hopes to use the defence portfolio to re-establish himself as a credible candidate for prime minister. Olmert hopes that bringing in the seasoned Barak as defence minister, coupled with a wider cabinet reshuffle, will help restore public confidence in his leadership.

But while Olmert sees an alliance with Barak as a way to retain power, Barak views an alliance with Olmert as a way to re-emerge as a major force in Israeli politics. In short, while Olmert and Barak's short-term interests coincide, in the longer term they are likely to clash.

Pundits say that by mid-2008 Barak will want to trigger new elections that could return Labor to power. The pundits predict that his major rival then will not be Olmert, or anyone else in Kadima, but Benjamin Netanyahu of Likud. A Barak-Netanyahu race would be a rematch from 1999, when Barak toppled Netanyahu to become prime minster.

Although Barak says Olmert must go as prime minister if Labor is to stay in the government, most observers think he will not insist. Much will depend on the findings in the Winograd Commission's full report scheduled to be published in August.

Ehud Barak celebrating his election as Labor party leader. [Israel Sun photo]

The interim report condemned the Olmert government's handling of the war against Hezbollah. Another scathing account could force Olmert to step down. But even if he stays, Barak won't be in any hurry to surrender the powerful defence portfolio he sees as his ticket to regaining the premiership he lost so ignominiously to Ariel Sharon in February 2001.

Barak modelled his campaign tactics on those employed by Sharon: playing the distant elder statesman, mainly by resisting press interviews and not saying anything substantive on any of the major issues.

In the campaign, Barak stuck to two messages: that he would make the best defence minister at a time when Israel might well be tested again and that he is the one man able to defeat Netanyahu.

Barak's electoral weakness was his poor record as prime minister from 1999 to 2001. But by refusing to meet the press, he was able to keep that largely out of the public eye.

Barak came to power in July 1999 on a wave of public optimism. There was a great expectation that he would have the strength to build on the Oslo peace process and bring the Israeli-Arab conflict to an end. But he failed to strike deals with the Syrians in Shepherdstown, W. Va., in January 2000 and with the Palestinians at Camp David in July.

Instead of peace, Israelis found themselves confronted with a seemingly endless wave of Palestinian terror. Barak claimed to have revealed the "true face" of former Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat and the fact that Israel had no real partner for peace. Critics accused him of failing to exploit a great opportunity to change Israel's regional status.

After losing to Sharon by a landslide in January 2001, Barak left politics for business. Many Israelis resented the use of his experience as prime minister to get rich. Others could not forgive his arrogance as prime minister and his perceived political ineptitude.

Just one year ago, Barak was seen as one of the most hated people in Israeli public life. The former prime minister had seemed so down and out in Israeli politics, *Ha'aretz* political analyst Yossi Verter hailed his victory last week as "not just another political comeback" but as a truly miraculous "raising of the dead."

Barak started his campaign for Labor leader well behind Ayalon and several other candidates.

He was helped by the Labor party's lopsided electorate. More than 20 per cent comes from kibbutzim and moshavim, which constitute less than four per cent of the general public, and another 20 per cent is made up of Israeli Arabs and Druze, many of whom will probably not vote for Labor in a general election.

Barak, therefore, may have won an unlikely party victory, but he still has a long way to go to re-establish his political credentials in the country as a whole.

Presidency rounds off Peres' 66-year career

By SHAHAR ILAN and AMIRAM BARKAT
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Shimon Peres was elected Israel's ninth president last Thursday, capping a six-decade political career in which he has held almost every senior government post.

He will be sworn into office on July 15 for a seven-year term, replacing the disgraced Moshe Katsav, who faces multiple allegations of sexual assault against female staffers.

Speaking at the Knesset after the second and final round of voting, the beaming 83-year-old thanked his family and the lawmakers who supported him, and pledged to "give my all to serve Israel."

With the announcement of his election for president, Peres ceased to be a Knesset member, after 48 consecutive years, and is no longer deputy prime minister.

Peres won 86 votes in a second-round ballot, after his two rivals in the race threw their support to him. In the first round, he fell three votes shy of the 61 needed to clinch the presidency.

* * *

A Nobel Peace Prize, three brief stints as prime minister, ministerial posts in 12 cabinets and continuous parliamentary membership since the Fourth Knesset – those are the highlights of Shimon Peres' 66-year career in Israeli public life, which he is about to cap off with the presidency.

What is unusual about Peres' biography is not just his accomplishments to date, but the fact that Peres, who has written 11 books and has promoted the development of Israel's security industry, never attended university or served in the army. He has also managed to survive a series of political losses.

Shimon Peres [Isranet photo]

Peres was born Shimon Persky on Aug. 2, 1923, in eastern Poland. He moved to Israel with his family in 1934, attended the Ben-Shemen Agricultural School and became one of the founders of Kibbutz Alumot, where he worked as a dairy farmer, shepherd and secretary.

Peres embarked on public life in 1941, when he was appointed secretary general of the Hanoar Haoved Vehalomed youth movement. He married Sonia in 1945, and they now have three children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Peres met his political patron – Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion – in 1947, while Peres was working at the headquarters of the Haganah pre-state army. Peres became the Defence Ministry's director general in 1953, at the age of 29. He was elected to the Knesset for the first time in 1959 and was appointed deputy defence minister, a position he held until 1965.

In the 16 years of his involvement in security affairs, Peres put his stamp on the establishment of military industry, the development of security ties with France and the founding of the nuclear reactor in Dimona.

In 1965, Peres began a new chapter in his life when he quit the Mapai party, the forerunner of Labor, and became the secretary general of Ben-Gurion's new party, Rafi. Two years later, after Rafi bombed in the elections, Peres went off on his own to become one of the founders of the Labor party, which brought together the Rafi, Mapai and Ahdut Ha'avoda parties. Between 1969 and 1974, Peres served as minister in both of Golda Meir's governments. He was appointed defence minister in 1974, after losing the Labor leadership race to Yitzhak Rabin. During his term, Peres presided over the successful rescue of Israeli hostages in Entebbe and Uganda, and allowed the Gush Emunim settlement movement to settle in the West Bank.

In February 1977, after Rabin's government fell, Peres lost his second race against Rabin for the Labor leadership, but took Rabin's place two months later when Rabin resigned in the wake of scandal. Peres lost the premiership to Menachem Begin of the Likud and ran unsuccessfully against Begin again in a stormy 1981 race.

In 1984, amid wild inflation and the Lebanon War, Peres formed a unity government with Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud. Peres, who served as prime minister in the first two years of the government, was behind the emergency plan to stabilize the economy and the partial withdrawal from Lebanon.

A Peres-led Labor party became a junior partner in another unity government headed by Shamir in 1988. Two years later, in the wake of Shamir's refusal to advance the peace process, Peres led what is known as the "stinking manoeuvre," an attempt to topple the Shamir government. The government fell in a no-confidence vote, but Peres failed in his efforts to form a government himself. In February 1992, Peres lost the Labor leadership to Rabin for the third time but was appointed foreign minister when the party won the general elections.

Peres led the Oslo accords process in 1993 and signed the initial peace deal with the current Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas. In 1994, after a lobbying campaign, Peres was added as the third recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, along with Rabin and former Palestinian president Yasser Arafat. Peres was identified with the vision of "a new Middle East," based on a peace founded upon co-operation and economic development.

After Rabin was assassinated in November 1995, Peres filled in as prime minister until the next elections, which he lost to the Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu.

Peres ran unsuccessfully against Moshe Katsav for president in 2000. He led the Labor party several times between 2001 and 2005 and served in the cabinet under Ariel Sharon. Peres quit Labor in 2005 to join Kadima after losing to Amir Peretz in the primary.

No one will hand you a crown

We might be raised like princes, yet we don't know how to become kings.

We are raised to expect a steady stream of entitlements. Go to school, get your degree, then there's suburban bliss waiting for you. Indulged and spoiled, princes like us think we'll inevitably become a king.

But that's wrong. No one is going to hand you a crown. Birthright doesn't determine who is a true king.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

Even some who are lucky enough to be handed the keys to the kingdom fail. Plenty of people inherit wealth, fame and beauty, yet still fail miserably. The old proverb "from shirtsleeves to shirtsleeves in three generations" is all too often true. Plenty of princes are handed crowns, but fail because they have no idea what it takes to be a king.

So, what does it take to be a king?

Chutzpah.

Chutzpah gets a bad rap. It's become another word for "impolite" or "obnoxious." In actuality, chutzpah is the secret to becoming a king.

The Talmud says "chutzpah is like a king without the crown." There are multitudes of people who never discover their inner king. They wait in vain for others to recognize their abilities. They sit quietly hoping that someone will just hand them a crown.

The Talmud is telling wallflowers to stand up and take charge. Chutzpah means never accepting limitations. Don't politely accept mediocrity as your lot in life. If you want to be a king, grab hold of your destiny.

Rebecca and Stuart Klein have a lot of chutzpah, and they've refused to follow conventional wisdom on how to live their lives. Both are disabled (he's quadriplegic, she's paraplegic), and yet they are married and the parents of twin baby boys.

Conventional wisdom finds this act of chutzpah intolerable. As noted in a 2005 article in the *Los Angeles Times*, some people who meet the Kleins can't resist saying: "You're going to have your hands full," or "It's going to get really hard when they're older."

These comments perplex Stuart.

"Why say how hard it's going to be?" Stuart asks. "What's the point? If they say it in a certain way, and then say, 'OK, we'll come over and help you out,' that's one thing, but otherwise, what are they suggesting?" Then he adds a characteristic joke, "Should we put them up on eBay now or wait till they're older?"

But the Kleins are kings. They have the gift of chutzpah. It doesn't matter how hard things are or what other people think. They have grabbed hold of their own destiny.

"The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation," Thoreau famously wrote.

Perhaps most men, but not kings. True kings have chutzpah and don't wait for others to hand them a crown.

Remembering a rose that bloomed

Susi Shoshana Cohen died earlier this month at the age of 100. My wife's maternal grandmother, she was a living link to the immigrant generation, the uprooted millions who joined the miraculous mass migration from the perils of eastern Europe to the wonders of North America. It's an amazing epoch in Jewish history, North American history, and human history.

Gil Troy in Montreal

Susi Cohen's particular epic began on Jan. 1, 1907, in Brailla, Romania. One of six children born to an innkeeper, she would remember Romania as a land of natural beauty and rough conditions. During the Holocaust, Susi, by now married and the mother of her only child, Annie, lived in Bucharest.

While others suffered under the anti-Semitic regime, Susi remembered a few restrictions but more often spoke of Bucharest's grandeur. The family resisted the identity of "survivor," out of respect for the Jews in other parts of Romania and Europe who suffered horribly in ghettoes and concentration camps.

Ironically, their greatest wartime trauma came from the Americans, who bombed Bucharest because of Romania's alliance with Nazi Germany. Their house was burned, destroying Annie's trousseau, the clothes and linens a family prepared for an expectant bride. By 1947, the postwar rise of Communism made life for the family unbearable. One day, the three left their house, turned the key, and walked away from their possessions and their life in Romania.

The family tried to reach Palestine, to participate in the great adventure of rebuilding a Jewish state, but the British blockade rerouted them to Cyprus. They spent months in a displaced persons camp learning Hebrew. They arrived in Israel shortly after the state was declared in May 1948.

Reunited with a sister who had moved in the 1930s to what became Israel, Susi and her family lived in Jaffa. Conditions were harsh during and after the War of Independence. Susi's brother-in-law died in battle, and Susi cared for her grieving sister, two young nieces, her daughter, and her husband, who never acclimated to the heat and the tumult of an embattled state in formation. After a few years, the family made the difficult choice to leave Israel, something Susi's daughter regretted deeply.

The family soon settled in Canada, along with hundreds of thousands of other refugees. Collectively and individually, these immigrants built extraordinary lives and developed impressive communities. Susi would live to see her daughter marry, prosper, and raise four children, who themselves produced eleven grandchildren. North America's freedoms and openness offered tremendous opportunities to Susi's clan. She would see her family thrive in real estate, psychology, chemistry, law and nursing.

In the final phase of her life, Susi became a pioneer in the modern quest to find dignity as we age. In Romania, in the 1920s, she studied art – and three paintings from that period survive, thanks to the sister who migrated to Palestine and brought them there.

Like so many women of her generation, Susi stopped painting once she got married. When Susi's husband died in 1979, Susi's daughter recommended that she take an art class. For the next 27 years, until her eyesight failed her, Susi painted. Most impressively, she grew as an artist, improving her technique and tackling more sophisticated subjects.

Today, many homes in Canada, the United States and Israel boast "Grandma Susi" landscapes – an eloquent tribute to an immigrant's grit, a democratic country's warm embrace, and the creative zeal of this irrepressible artistic spirit.

We are also blessed by my wife's foresight in videotaping Susi's "ethical will" and memoirs last year. Beautifully filmed and edited by Iris Wagner of Memoir Productions, we have a video to supplement the beautiful pictures, warm memories and legacy of freedom that Susi bequeathed.

Susi's Hebrew name, Shoshana, means rose. The name fit her, offering an apt metaphor for her generation too. Often rooted in foreign soil, roses frequently end up adorning different locations. And while necessity forces them to be tough, even prickly, growing thorns early on, they are best remembered for their blossoming, flourishing themselves while enriching us all with their hard-earned, but infectious, loveliness.

Susi Cohen's life was and is a blessing to so many who luxuriated in her art, her goodness, her values, her life story, which was so typical of her generation yet unique in its own ways, too.

Book week for the people of the book

A trip to celebrate my nephew Yoni's wedding brought me to Israel during the nation's annual Shavua Hasefer, a week-long book fair.

If you've never been fortunate enough to be in Israel for Shavua Hasefer, you haven't seen the literary fever that grips Israelis of all political stripes and ethnicities – youngest to oldest, secular to haredi. Book exhibitions spring up in shopping malls, town centres, pedestrian areas of large cities, green spaces of development towns. Everyone, it seems, flocks to tables that buckle under the weight of the volumes representing the richness and diversity of the country's publishing industry.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

Amid impending primaries in the Labor Party, continued conflagration in Gaza and ongoing shelling of the Israeli town of Sderot, reported talks with Syria about the Golan, and the daily tensions and pleasures that make up Israeli life, the passion for reading speaks volumes.

Booksellers hawk their wares, offering tempting discounts on stacks that seem constantly replenished: sifrei kodesh (sacred texts), brightly coloured children's books, pot-boilers and thrillers, contemporary fiction, political analyses, cookbooks, travel books, world literature in translation. No one, it seems, walks away empty-handed.

Each exhibition space takes on its own characteristics that are particular to its locale. A haredi Jerusalem neighbourhood, for example, features separate hours for women and men, respectively, with loudspeakers warning each gender to complete their purchases before their designated time runs out. In a developing settlement in the Negev – where burgeoning families live in "caravans," or temporary trailer-like homes – Shavua Hasefer rolls in as the event of the week, with books for children and for their parents.

In a book exhibit set up in the parking lot of a large shopping outlet, a youngish grandfather tells his 10 grandchildren, ranging in age from two months to 12 years, that they may each select a book (in the case of the youngest, the older siblings make the selection). He himself debates between a new analysis of the Six Day War and the autobiography of a former chief rabbi.

As for me, I was struck by the intense literary and intellectual activity represented by the fair, by the snapshot of a country that comes to know itself and to actualize itself through the intense activities of writing and reading. I leafed through books by contemporary Israeli literary authors – venerable fiction writers such as Amos Oz, A.B. Yehoshua, Ida Fink, and Aharon Appelfeld; established, hip writers such as David Grossman and Orly Kastel-Blum; and edgy young writers such as Etgar Keret.

The effusion of political writing was particularly apparent. Forty years after the Six Day War, journalists, pundits and military analysts, along with former fighters and commanders of that war, look back on its legacy and consequences. Less than a year after the 2006 conflagration in Lebanon, there are already a plethora of books analyzing that war, critiquing the government's state of readiness and direction. What many of the books record is devastating, but at the same time, the books give evidence of a thriving and vigorous democracy, freedom of speech and the press, honest self-scrutiny, and investment in the future.

Who can resist the offers: buy now, at 20 per cent off, or buy two, get a third free. But really, who can resist the books themselves, the invitation to learn, to challenge, to imagine. Perhaps because I am a literature professor, the book vendors seem to sense that I can't resist their offers. They bring me volume after volume: if you like this author, you'll like that one; this novel received stunning reviews; that exposé is the scandal of the moment; this memoir is an entré into the life of haredi women, that one a poignant account of childhood under Nazism.

Gather an armload, enter the collective Israeli psyche.

Most remarkable of all, of course, is the sheer fact that a book fair is such a hot attraction. The phenomenon of book publishing and readership altogether in Israel is astonishing. Not without reason, we often think of Israel as a country of action, movement, and sound. Shavua Hasefer is the visible sign of a different aspect of the country – a contemplative mode, a people that think and dream.

The Kirshner File

Israel's never-ending problems in Gaza

Sheldon Kirshner
in Toronto

A year after the Israeli army launched a limited ground offensive into the Gaza Strip to free an abducted soldier and end the firing of Qassam rockets at adjacent settlements, Israel is frustratingly back to square one. A week-and-a-half ago, in an eerie and ominous replay of last year's incident, Palestinian gunmen from Gaza broke through a border fence in a bold but failed attempt to kidnap yet another Israeli soldier.

The attempted kidnapping underscored the fact that Israel is astonishingly vulnerable and faces an enormous security problem in the south. Or as Prime Minister Ehud Olmert admitted after the most recent outbreak of tit-for-tat cross-border violence – which claimed the lives of two Israeli civilians in the development town of Sderot – there are no "magical solutions" and Israelis should prepare themselves for "a long confrontation."

Indeed, Israel can expect nothing but trouble and heartache in the foreseeable future, given the absence of a formal peace agreement with the Palestinians. And in light of last week's internecine fighting in Gaza between Hamas and Fatah – during which Hamas fighters seized control of Gaza and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas disbanded the three-month-old unity government and fired the Hamas-aligned prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh – the situation has deteriorated and become still more uncertain and precarious.

It is now official. The Palestinians are engaged in a civil war, and Gaza, always a hotbed of terrorism, has morphed into a full-fledged Hamas base.

A festering sore on the body politic of the region, Gaza has always posed problems for Israel. Prior to the Six Day War, Palestinian *fedayeen* operating from Gaza periodically attacked Israel. As an occupying power after 1967, Israel faced resentment and resistance from the Palestinians, many of whom were refugees who had lost homes and property during the *nakba*, the 1948 war.

In the wake of Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in the summer of 2005, there was a soothing lull, a short-lived period of tranquility. But by 2006, following the formation of an Islamic fundamentalist Hamas government in the Palestinian Authority and continuing lawlessness and disorder in Gaza, the Qassams started raining down on Israel once more.

Last year, on June 25, a band of armed Palestinians affiliated with Hamas, the Popular Resistance Committee and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade stormed an Israeli army post and killed two soldiers and captured a third, Gilad Shalit. In response, Israel launched a series of raids, backed by pinpoint air strikes, into Gaza. The operations lasted for more than a month, only slowing after Israel got bogged down in a 34-day war with Hezbollah in the north. Israel inflicted pain on the Palestinians, but accomplished little. Shalit was not found, and he remains imprisoned despite several rounds of negotiations to release him, and the Qassam threat still looms large.

In November, Israel and Hamas agreed to observe a truce in Gaza, but not in the West Bank. Incidents instigated by Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, an offshoot of Fatah, marred the tenuous ceasefire, though Hamas all but honoured it. Three months ago, Israel accused Hamas of arming Islamic Jihad, turning a blind eye to Qassam launchings and planning imminent terrorist attacks.

On April 24, after Israeli forces killed nine Palestinian militants in the West Bank, Hamas itself broke the shaky ceasefire by shelling Israel. The massive missile and mortar barrage coincided with celebrations marking Israel's 59th anniversary of statehood. Olmert remained calm, saying that Israel would hew to its policy of restraint, an element of last November's truce. As these developments unfolded, Abbas, who until last week was a junior partner in the Palestinian government headed by Hamas, assured Israel that Hamas' ceasefire violations would not be repeated. But in mid-May, Hamas opened a new offensive, lobbing a succession of Qassams into Israel and thereby proving that Abbas wielded little influence and was as weak as ever.

During these hostilities, scores of Israeli civilians were wounded and, in a stark and disconcerting illustration of Israel's vulnerability, thousands were evacuated to safer locales, both by the government and a Russian-born billionaire. Many factories in the vicinity were damaged, underscoring the steep economic price Israel has paid for the breakdown of the truce. In reply, Israel abandoned its restraint and took aim at Hamas bases, offices and Qassam rocket crews. Israel also arrested Hamas officials, including the minister of education, and reinstituted its policy of targeted assassinations. By mid-June, with the Palestinians locked in bitter internal strife, there was a dramatic decline in the number of Qassam launchings and Israeli reprisals, but the situation was hardly optimal.

For Israel, the renewal of shelling last month was a sobering experience. A nuclear power with the strongest army in the Middle East, Israel still has no defence against short-range missiles, either on the Gaza or Lebanese front.

A Palestinian fighter from the Al Aqsa Maryrs Brigade

Since the spring of 2001, a year after the eruption of the second Palestinian uprising, the Palestinians have fired almost 5,000 rockets and mortars at Israel. Without a doubt, the Palestinians have learned by example from Hezbollah that there are chinks in Israel's armour and that rockets, however crude, can shake Israel's self-confidence. It costs the Palestinians only a few dollars to fire a single Qassam, but Israel will have to spend tens of thousands of dollars to intercept a missile, should it be able to build an effective defence system.

The gloom thickens when one considers that the Palestinians have been improving the range and firepower of the Qassams. If they manage to place Israel's coastal plain in their crosshairs, leaving Tel Aviv and Ben-Gurion Airport at risk, Israel would have to respond, plunging the region into chaos.

Since Israel's pullout from Gaza, the Palestinians, particularly Hamas, have upgraded their operational capacity. Aping Hezbollah, Hamas has constructed fortified bunkers and tunnels and smuggled upwards of 30 tons of weapons-grade explosives, surface-to-surface missiles and sophisticated anti-tank missiles into Gaza. Egypt, which is supposed to monitor the frontier, has largely failed to staunch the flow.

Another cause of concern is that Hamas has dispatched hundreds of fighters to Iran for high-quality military training. Lest it be forgotten, Iran already sends financial aid to Hamas, pursues a nuclear program on an urgent basis and openly and ardently calls for Israel's uprooting and destruction. Yuval Diskin, the director of the Shin Bet, Israel's domestic intelligence agency, has warned that these Iranian-trained operatives could wreak havoc should Israel invade Gaza. Israel's chief of staff, Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, has suggested that Israel may have no alternative but to carry out a limited invasion to deal with the Qassams much more effectively. But in an oblique reference to Operation Defensive Shield, which was launched into the West Bank in the spring of 2002, Ashkenazi has voiced opposition to a full-scale invasion.

Olmert and Defence Minister Amir Peretz – who resigned last week and was replaced by Ehud Barak – have ruled out a big ground offensive as well, while Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni has said that it would empower Palestinian extremists who oppose a Palestinian rapprochement with Israel. Gen. Shlomo Brom, the former director of the Israel Defence Force's strategic planning bureau, has written that a major invasion and re-occupation would be too costly in terms of Israeli military and Palestinian civilian casualties and would saddle Israel with the responsibility of providing essential services to the Palestinians.

Barring an invasion, Israel may opt for less intrusive military methods, as the chief of Israel's southern command, Gen. Yoav Gallant, has said. Alternatively, as Olmert and Livni have intimated and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called for, Israel may invite international peacekeepers to patrol the Philadelphi route, the narrow corridor between Gaza and Egypt.

Whatever happens, Israel's problems in Gaza remain deep and intractable.

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Toronto's Mayor Miller addresses Israel Bonds

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The municipal government needs to ensure that local businesses remain prosperous, said Toronto Mayor David Miller at a luncheon sponsored by State of Israel Bonds, builder's division.

"Unless we have economic success, nothing else is possible. [The city] depends on the business community," he said last week.

He told the capacity crowd at Arcadian Court that there are many children in the city who do not share the dream that others their age take for granted.

"How can these kids dream of a future when [Torontonians] quite unintentionally allow poverty [to exist?] We need to share our prosperity."

Miller said studies point to the fact that businesses succeed in a city where employees want to live. "It is incumbent upon the government to ensure that [Toronto] is livable. [All residents] need to enjoy a quality [of life.]"

One "bold but necessary strategy" is Toronto's Change Is In The Air policy, a commitment to engage the public on the issue of climate change and determine how the city will meet its greenhouse gas and air-pollution reduction targets.

The framework provides ideas on the strategies, policies, programs and projects needed to meet the city's targets, and identifies 27 potential actions that the government, residents, businesses and industry can take to tackle climate change and improve air quality.

"We're not doing this just to meet my goal of being green, but [rather] because it is the right thing to do," Miller said.

Citing Tridel's commitment to develop 12 new green condominium communities throughout the Greater Toronto Area, and its creation of a model eco-suite, Miller said the company has demonstrated the financial advantages of "going green."

He said transportation issues arise in a city that is a hub of economic development, and Toronto is in the midst of finding a solution.

"The TTC is a great system for a city with a population of 1.5 million, but we have 2.5 million. [The system] must be expanded."

He mentioned the city's "Transit City" plan, which is based on the premise of developing a widely spaced network of electric light-rail lines, each on its own right of way. In total, 120 kilometres of service will be added over the entire city, and by 2021, the new lines would carry 175 million riders a year.

The challenges faced by the TTC are mirrored on many fronts, Miller said. "More people live in public housing now than live in Prince Edward Island, and since my election the population has grown by the same number of people that live in Peterborough. Revenue, though, does not grow along with it.

"We also have to invest in the library system because young people are crying out for the knowledge available in libraries, and they also need parks and recreation centres."

Some funds can be generated "if we leave some of the tax revenues created in the city, in the city. Cities challenged by tremendous growth must get their share of the revenue."

The city's One Cent Now campaign, he said, addresses this challenge by asking the federal government to return one cent of the existing six cent GST, which would currently amount to about $410 million for the city, as a reliable and permanent source of funding that grows as the economy grows.

We need to face all our challenges he said, "so our house [remains] big enough for the next generation."

Also, at the luncheon, farewell was said to Israeli trade commissioner Ephraim Shoham.

TORAH DEDICATION: **Max and Gianna Glassman embrace the sefer Torah they recently presented to Baycrest. At the dedication ceremony, longtime supporters of Baycrest's Judaic programs were given the honour of completing one of the last 100 letters.**

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Leo Baeck Students visit Bloorview

Kindergarten students from Leo Baeck Jewish Day School visited the Centre for the Arts at Bloorview Kids Rehab hospital on May 28 after their class raised $700 for Bloorview's arts program for children by auctioning paintings they had made. Pictured are Rachel Kauffman, left, and Izabella Wise on the drums during their visit to Bloorview.

Clarification

The story "Ontario PCs promise to fund faith schools" (June 14) referred to an Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools event held at the recent Progressive Conservative policy conference as a "Shabbat dinner." *The CJN* wishes to clarify that the event was a Shabbaton.

* * *

Correction

In the article "Zareinu works toward erecting own building" (*CJN*, June 7), the sentence that identified Randy Spiegel - organizers hope the moveathon will bring in more than $1 million, said the school's executive director Randy Spiegel – was inadvertently omitted. *The CJN* regrets the error.

LIVING LEGACIES: Grade 6 students at Thornhill Woods Public School recently unveiled their Living Legacies project, a multimedia exhibit that tells the stories of individual Holocaust survivors now living at Baycrest's Apotex Jewish Home for the Aged and Baycrest Terraces. About 35 survivors, 70 students, and friends and families attended the unveiling held at Baycrest. Each survivor's story is told via DVD, PowerPoint presentation, posters and documentary video, all created by the students. The students will present a disc of each survivor's life story to Baycrest for inclusion in the resident's chart, and copies will be available to their families. Shown is Holocaust survivor Fela Karmiol admiring her poster. With her are her student partners, Taylor, left, and Amanda, right, both 12. "It was an amazing experience," beamed Amanda. "I got a different perspective of the elderly. It made me more aware," Taylor said. [Baycrest photo]

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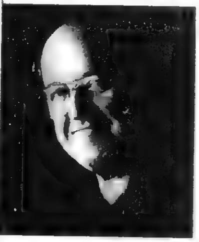

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Landmark sign in limbo as Sam's closes

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

It is a staple on Yonge Street, a source of pride for Torontonians and one of the greatest Canadian Jewish success stories to date.

But at the end of the month, music retailer Sam the Record Man is throwing in the towel for good.

Because of the growing trend of downloading music online and being unable to compete with big box stores such as Wal-Mart and HMV, Bobby and Jason Sniderman, the sons of Sam Sniderman, who built the record store empire, decided to call it quits.

When Bobby Sniderman spoke to *The CJN* last week, he said he didn't want people to see this as a tragic end of an era, but as a celebration of a decades-old family business that brought joy and pride to generations of Canadians.

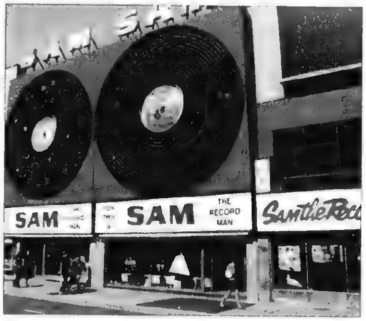
"This is not a sad story. This is like if your zaide had a wonderful life and lived to be 95 years old and had a rich life, and took care of his family. And when he passed away, you say, 'what a wonderful person, what a great life he had.' You wouldn't think it was tragic," Sniderman said.

Sam's history, rooted in the heart of a Toronto Jewish neighbourhood, began at the start of the 20th century with a dream that so many shared.

"People came to this country with tremendous dreams and hopes of building a future for themselves and their families, and we were able to distinguish ourselves by running a good business, taking care of people, taking care of our staff and taking care of the community… I think there are many people in the Jewish community who have done that as well," he said.

"It was started by my grandmother, Gertrude and my uncle Sid. They were originally a car-radio installation shop, installing car radios in Model T Fords. It then grew into selling appliances. It was a hard goods store, selling TVs and refrigerators and stoves and radios and things. My father, who was 13 years my uncle's junior, he… wanted to attract a girl who lived in the neighbourhood. The store was at 714 College St., which was in the heart of the Jewish district at the time, just down from Kensington and Spadina [avenues]."

He said that by 1937, when his father was 17, he convinced his brother and mother to let him sell records in a small kiosk in the family appliance store.



"[He did this] to attract a girl who he actually married, and here I am now, 70 years later. Had they not allowed him to put in a record kiosk, I probably wouldn't be talking to you today," he said with a laugh.

Eventually, the records began outselling the appliances, and in 1961, they moved to Yonge Street and closed the College Street store.

Just eight years later, a national Sam the Record Man franchise chain was established, and at one point there were more than 130 stores across the country.

But by the late 1990s, business began to slow, and just a year after Sam retired in 2000, the store declared bankruptcy.

Sam the Record Man, known for its blowout Boxing Day sales, walls covered with autographs by music industry greats and the giant neon signs of records that give the area a mini-Times Square feel, could no longer adapt to the changing record industry.

In an attempt to resurrect it, Bobby and Jason reopened the store in 2002.

"It started out as a couple of brothers, my uncle Sid and my father Sam… and it was turned over to two other brothers and we did our best for five years, but we just can't compete with technology," Sniderman said.

"Music has become a commodity like water. You turn on your tap and you think you're going to get water, and you turn on your computer and you expect to get music… The evolution of delivering music has gone from vinyl to tape to CD and now it's through cellphones and iPods and computers. The role of the record retailer is simply being phased out."

Although the store will see its last day on June 30, it doesn't seem as if Sam will soon be forgotten. He was admired by many in the Canadian music industry and was known for his enthusiasm when it came to supporting local talent.

He helped promote Canadian music legends including Anne Murray and Gordon Lightfoot, and in 1976, he was made a member of the Order of Canada.

"My father really distinguished himself through the support of Canadian talent when so many other people were not interested. He devoted his life to that and continues to work with Canadian artists," he said.

Perhaps one of the biggest area of concern for Torontonians is what will be done with the famous neon signs that have been a staple of Yonge Street since the 1960s.

"The signs are really an integral part of Yonge street and probably one of the most recognized symbols there… There was an idea that we should take the signs off the side of the building and put them in Dundas Square," Sniderman said.

Facebook, an online network, has a group with more than 17,000 members who are campaigning to save the signs.

"Forget the CN Tower, that Sam the Record Man sign is Toronto, period," said one Facebooker.

"I was born in [Toronto]. Didn't go to the CN Tower 'til I was in my 20s, didn't go to the zoo 'til two weeks ago with my son's class, but I shopped at Sam's from birth! Please don't take it away! Keep the record spinning!" wrote another.

Despite the announcement that Sam's is closing, Sniderman isn't willing to completely close the book on this legacy just yet.

"We're not attached to bricks and mortars… There is a possibility that the brand could be resurrected in some form in another location… We had a great business, we did a lot of great things. This is not a sad story. It is just a story that isn't going to continue in the present location that we have."

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Jewish Life

Dethroning the sovereign self

By RABBI ROY TANENBAUM

Rabbinic Reflections

In the Jew Within, a sociological study of contemporary American Jewish life, professors Steven Cohen and Arnold Eisen coined a phrase to describe the typical American Jew's approach to Judaism: "the sovereign self."

Although family, community and social norms can have an impact, the "sovereign self" feels free to approach Judaism with his or her own sense of authority and with no sense of communal or divine boundaries, autonomously pulling together congenial elements just as one might order a Dell computer, choosing the components one needs. What is not chosen as "speaking to me" can be regarded as mere Jewish hang-ups, negative ethnocentricity or products of a bygone era.

Such Jews are not abandoning their Jewish identity. They do, however, assume the authority to constantly change it. Nothing is set. There is journey, but no destination. The boundaries between Jew and non-Jew may frequently be found to be insignificant. Personal happiness is the key.

The implications are staggering, not the least of which is that, with no coherent structure or tradition, it is difficult for the subsequent generations to replicate their parents' journey. And if Judaism can assume whatever form any "sovereign self" at one moment or another decides it to be, or can be sculpted and re-sculpted to fit any political agenda, Judaism is left bereft of any content at all. Further, if everything is defined by the "sovereign self," Jewish institutions become irrelevant.

To be fair, it should be made clear that Cohen and Eisen are not advocating such an approach. Rather, they are describing how they have found contemporary Jews to be, for the most part, already functioning.

The "sovereign self" contrasts with the traditional view of authority, "the yoke of Heavenly Sovereignty, *Ol malchut shamayim*." What is the *nafka mina*, the basic distinction?

The "sovereign self" (and his work, career, politics or "material success") comprises his own measure of all beliefs and practices – the definition of what a Jew is. But with my acceptance of Heavenly Sovereignty, I feel measured by an eternal standard. As measured against such a standard, I can see myself as a "good Jew" or, conversely, as a "poor Jew," thus enabling me to strive for greater practice and growth. I am indeed on a journey, but the journey has a direction beyond me.

Regarding individual standing, not everything goes. For instance, from biblical days, contact with the dead makes one ritually impure. Judaism is to be a religion of life, not of necromancy, a form of idolatry. If one had become ritually impure through contact with the dead, before being fit to participate again in the Temple rites, one had to undergo a ceremony of purification that included being sprinkled with a solution made from a red heifer. The entire process is traditionally considered to be a mystery.

Let us take a stab at unravelling the mystery. The prescribed animal must be "female," "of birthing age," "totally red," "completely unblemished" and must "never have been yoked" – which, following Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, are all metaphors for life, potency and personal moral freedom of will, entirely the opposite of death, and, therefore, its antidote.

Taking just one, the yoke in question is not just being worked with a yoke, but the animal is disqualified even if it has been dressed in a yoke. That is, any temporal yoke (personal work, career, politics, or even the drive for material "success") cannot purify us for ritual purposes. The implication is that, with our God-like powers of mastering worldly matter, we must liberate ourselves from all such yokes and freely place the use of these powers under the mastery of God.

Our society sorely lacks the Divine perspective. One who has freely appropriated a sense of Divine commandedness will always discover within him or herself shortcomings that demand improvement. However, one who considers oneself sovereign is fundamentally one's own god, and no idolatry is more destructive than self-veneration.

Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum is a rabbi at Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto.

Jewish youth should experience Kotel: rabbi

By RHONDA SPIVAK

Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — Thirty community leaders met Rabbi Shmuele Rabinowitz, the rabbi of the Western Wall and Holy Sites, at a dinner organized by the Jewish National Fund.

Last year, six million people came to the Kotel. "Every person who comes to pray at the Kotel, whether they are Jewish or not, whether they are religiously observant or not, is equal," said Rabbi Rabinowitz, at the dinner held at the Fort Gary Hotel.

Rabbi Rabinovitz and Mordechai Eliav, the executive director of the Western Wall Foundation visited Toronto as well as Winnipeg, to raise funds for the foundation. One of the aims of the foundation is to bring more children to the Kotel for life-cycle events such as bar mitzvahs. Currently, there are approximately 200 bar mitzvahs a day at the Kotel.

"We see the assimilation in the Diaspora, and the more we can connect people to their roots, the more it will strengthen their Jewish identity," said Rabbi Rabinovitz.

We must connect the Jewish youth of our generation to all of the previous generations of our people – we must let them experience the Kotel, he urged.

Eliav said that "only 20 per cent of Israeli soldiers had visited the Kotel as of six years ago. We asked ourselves how that could happen? Then we decided that we would start a project to bring them to the Kotel. Now most soldiers spend a full day in Jerusalem."

As the rabbi of the Kotel, Rabbi Rabinowitz receives thousands of letters from all over the world addressed to God. He is responsible for ensuring that they are inserted into the crevices between the large stones of the Kotel.

Twice a year, when the Kotel is overflowing with notes, they are taken to be buried on the Mount of Olives. "We pray that HaShem will hear all of the prayers," said Rabbi Rabinowitz.

"When King Solomon dedicated the Temple, the Bible says that he prayed that it would be a place where God would hear and answer the prayers of all people, not just the Jewish people."

Rabbi Rabinowitz's family has lived in Jerusalem for seven generations."My family purchased buildings in the old city of Jerusalem not far from the Kotel 100 years ago. In 1967… the Arabs had built a whole neighbourhood very near the Kotel on purpose – to hide it. Every time that we try to dig in the Old City, the Arabs oppose it because they know we will find more remnants of Jewish history and evidence [of] the Jewish people in Israel," he said.

Responding to a question about the political situafion in Israel, especially in light of the threat from Iran, Rabbi Rabinovitz said, "I am sure that Israel will overcome all enemies who want to hurt her. Through all of our struggles; we have overcome."

As for prospects for peace, he said, "There are some problems that I leave to the messiah… Judaism is willing to do a lot of thing for a real peace, but that looks impossible now. We made a decision to leave Gaza and we got Qassams."

As for demographic predictions that suggest Arabs will eventually become a majority in Jerusalem, Rabbi Rabinowitz said, "We must do everything to strengthen the Jewish majority of Jerusalem."

He added that the state has to do more to create jobs and promote economic growth in Jerusalem, as well as provide affordable housing for young couples.

Jewish Life

The olive and olive oil

By ALEX GROPPER

Past Forward

We Jews suffer culturally from a dual personality. Our ethos was formed in the desert, at Sinai, where we received the Decalogue, or the Ten Commandments, as they are better known. But our culture also belongs to the Mediterranean, where it has played an important role in the interactions along that marvellous, scenically breathtaking, inland sea, which has acted as a womb to such an important part of a nascent Western civilization.

It was the conflicts with two Mediterranean nations that helped to define our early history. The first was with Egypt, whose natural northern border is the Mediterranean. The other Mediterranean culture with whom we were engaged in a life and death struggle was that of the Philistines.

The Philistines were part of the enigmatic "Sea Peoples," whose origins are still obscure, although most scholars would put their origins somewhere in the Aegean and tied into the upheavals that convulsed the Mediterranean at the end of the Bronze Age, around 1200 BCE. These upheavals were part of the birth pains of a number of civilizations, including our own.

A major occurrence associated with the end of the Bronze Age was the Trojan War, which is seen as the mythic event that gave birth to the classical civilizations of both Greece and Rome, two other cultures that would have an important bearing on our own history.

Yet what is it that defines "Mediterranean"? Is there a commonality that allows us to link the disparate cultures mentioned above? According to Fernand Braudel, the eminent French historian who was a founder of the Annales School of historical thought, there is a common element that defines "Mediterranean." Braudel's definition is elegant in its simplicity. It has to do with a crop that is the essence of the Mediterranean diet – the olive.

Today, olive oil is considered part of a healthy diet and is widely used. Historically, the olive has played an important role in a number of cultures. When the Athenians received the olive as a gift from Athena, they immediately chose her as their city's patron deity. It was the olive's chief derivative, olive oil, which would play an important role in the rise of Athens as a major power in Greece.

Yet the largest olive oil industry in the ancient Mediterranean was not located in Greece. Rather, it was situated in the city of Ekron, along Israel's coastal plain, in seventh century BCE. This site has been the location of a major excavation for more than two decades.

The excavation's joint leaders are Trude Dothan of Jerusalem's Hebrew University and Sy Gittin of the Albright Archaeological Institute of the American Schools of Oriental Research in Jerusalem. Their work has revealed the importance of olive oil as a major commodity in the world's first free trade zone – the Assyrian Empire of seventh century BCE. It was the Assyrians who destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel, giving rise to the story of the 10 lost tribes, and who subjugated the southern kingdom of Judah.

It was while I was thinking of the importance of the olive for Mediterranean history and culture that I decided to organize a conference on olive oil in the Mediterranean, to be sponsored by the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies, of which I am the president. The Institute is housed at St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, which has given us tremendous support and encouragement for our various activities.

We hope to attract some top scholars in the field and are counting on the help of a number of Mediterranean consulates that supported our conference on the Sea Peoples last year. Once details have been formalized, I hope to invite readers to the conference. It promises to be a wonderful event and yet another example of the Past moving Forward into the future.

Resources for the deaf, Pt. 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish
Highway

One of the areas in which the Internet excels is its ability to allow people with relatively specialized needs to exchange information and even forge virtual communities around the world. This is particularly true for people who are Jewish and deaf, and who may feel excluded or even alienated from the larger Jewish community. The Internet has some excellent resources for Jewish people who are deaf, their families and for the community at large to build bridges and get an understanding of the special challenges faced by the Jewish deaf community.

To get an understanding, read Hearing: Their Silent World, a two-part feature that appeared in Hamodia Magazine last year. In it, Rochel Issacson introduces us to Shimon and Frady Steinhouse, both of whom are deaf, and parents to children who can hear perfectly. Although she is living a very rewarding life, Frady says the community's lack of awareness of her needs affected a very special time in her life. While she was attending her children's graduations, something was missing. Frady explains that she "couldn't feel the nachas I should have felt" because sign language interpreters were not made available to her. **[http://tinyurl.com/2e7cye]**

Rochel Issacson then writes about her visit to Toronto's Yeshiva Nefesh Dovid, an international Jewish high school that caters to boys who are deaf or hard of hearing. Issacson describes the atmosphere in the classroom. "The students' hands cut through the air as they sign while learning Torah… their eyes alive with excitement. Says one boy, 'I used to go to a regular yeshiva, with 25 students in my class, and I frequently could not understand what the rabbi was saying. Here the classes are smaller, and the communication is much easier.'" **[www.nefeshdovid.com/]**

What are some of the halachic issues surrounding people who are deaf? Several years ago, Rabbi Mordechai Shuchatowitz, spiritual leader of Congregation Agudas Israel of Greenspring in Baltimore, wrote a paper called Halacha Concerning the Deaf and Hearing Impaired.

Some excerpts: "The use of hearing aids is permitted on Shabbat even though they are technically considered miniaturized, portable microphones, which are usually prohibited on the day of rest. But because hearing aids don't produce sound audible to the public, they're kosher."

Rabbi Shuchatowitz declares that "the deaf and hearing impaired can be counted on to complete a minyan." In explaining that God's presence rests amongst a group of 10 Jews and that the minyan results from a special closeness when 10 Jews daven, Rabbi Shuchatowitz argues that 'this special closeness is the result of God's relating to 10 Jewish souls, and does not depend on their hearing ability.'" Rabbi Shuchatowitz's four children all have either severe or profound hearing loss. **[http://tinyurl.com/2hlaez]**

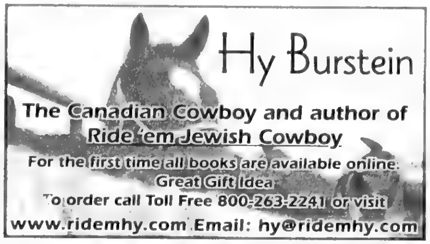
What can congregations do to make themselves more accessible to the entire community? Our Way has several suggestions for creating a synagogue that is blind/deaf friendly. **[http://tinyurl.com/286p27]**

- Provide interpreters for services, rabbis' speeches and other community events.
- Designate specific seats for the deaf to make it easier for them to either see the interpreter or read the lips of the people leading the prayers and reading from the Torah.
- Encourage congregants to interact with deaf/blind or visually impaired worshippers. If you do not speak sign language and the deaf individual does not lip read, you can simply smile.

Sounds nice in theory. But what's it like to host three deaf boys for a Shabbat dinner? For someone who doesn't like "awkward silence," Richard Rabkin's Friday night meal was a learning experience. "As we completed our meal and the boys got up to leave, I wished them a 'good Shabbos.' But this time, they didn't have to read my lips – by then I knew how to say it in sign language. Over the course of the evening I learned a few words and was putting my newfound vocabulary to work. After a few moments I realized that I was having a direct conversation with my new friends, but doing it in silence. There was nothing awkward about this silence. This silence was golden." **[http://tinyurl.com/22vxye]**

Next week, more resources for deaf Jews.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com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Prutschi leaving Congress after 23 years

By **PAUL LUNGEN**
Staff Reporter

Twenty-three years ago when Manuel Prutschi joined Canadian Jewish Congress' (CJC) Ontario office, the main threat facing the Jewish community came from neo-Nazis, white supremacists and Holocaust-deniers.

With many of of them either dead, in jail, deported or faded into obscurity, that threat has receded only to be replaced by perhaps an even more ominous one posed by radical Islamists.

As someone who's held a number of senior staff positions at Congress over the years, Prutschi has been at the forefront in confronting these enemies of the Jewish community. But on June 17, he will end his long association with Congress to take a job with a soon-to-be-launched charitable organization that, for now, remains anonymous.

While he won't reveal anything about the new organization, Prutschi said he does expect his role will be one that deals with policy issues.

In that respect, it should be a comfortable fit since his "central interests and concern [at Congress] has been policy. Any aspect of policy at one time or another went through me, either up front or behind the scenes," he said.

For much of his tenure at Congress, Prutschi served as national director of community relations, while for the past three years he has held the position of national executive vice-president.

His input generally focused on three areas: advocacy, defense and inter-group relations.

"I see my main contribution in that I played a role in enhancing the advocacy reputation of Congress." he said. "Congress rightly has the reputation as one of the top advocacy organizations in Canada."

Along with colleague Bernie Farber, Prutschi came on the scene as Ben Kayfetz was retiring. Together they "pursued two paths." One was "vocal, upfront and passionate about the issues." The other was to "approach issues with some judiciousness and [focus on] co-operation, not confrontation," Prutschi said.

As a result, "we acquired the reputation that when Congress speaks, it was listened to… We are the inheritors of Ben Kayfetz's work, his talmidim (students), really."

Manuel Prutschi

When Prutschi came to Congress' Ontario region after working in the organization's Manitoba office for three years, the Ernst Zundel and Jim Keegstra cases were gaining national notoriety. Soon they would be followed before the courts by other arch-rightists, including longtime Nazi sympathizer John Ross Taylor and New Brunswick teacher Malcolm Ross.

Although well known to those who track extremists, they were less familiar to prosecutors, and one of Prutschi's tasks was to provide them with background material about the racist movement.

In the late 1980s, the white supremacist Heritage Front arose, as did other racist groups that appealed to disaffected young people.

The Heritage Front, it was later revealed in a government study, even considered an attack on Congress' Bathurst Street headquarters.

Concerns over community security – already on the agenda because of terrorist attacks on synagogues in Paris and Istanbul – were heightened. In 1985 Congress published its first pamphlet highlighting security guidelines for community organizations. That was the beginning of a process of annual security meetings and the development of security protocols.

"The most nerve-wrenching time that I dealt with directly was during the first Gulf War (1991)," Prutschi said. "There was a tremendous amount of nervousness in the community… [Saddam] Hussein said he had activated agents around the world."

Following the World Trade Center attack and anthrax letters sent throughout the United States, protocols were distributed in how to receive mail, he added.

While community protection remains a key element in Congress' mandate, Prutschi's interest has turned to issues concerning discrimination.

An issue that will likely grow in importance in coming years is that of reasonable religious accommodation – how far a provider of services or an employer can be expected to go to meet the religious needs of an employee or customer.

Congress supported the Sikh community when it fought to have the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) permit Sikh officers to wear turbans and it called on Legion Halls to do the same.

"In everything you have to strike a balance between individual rights and collective rights. I think a good approach is that the defence of your rights should not impinge on the rights of others, especially in a situation where you are serving the public," he said.

During his tenure at Congress, the organization increased its outreach to other religious and ethnic communities. Prutschi was actively involved in enhancing Jewish-Christian dialogue, in particular advocating that Protestant churches take a less critical attitude towards Israel. At times the United Church and the Anglican Church have each considered resolutions critical of Israel and Prutschi has worked with opponents of the resolutions within the churches to soften their public pronouncements.

In the early 1990s Congress took the step of designing missions to Israel for non-Jewish "influentials." Politicians, their assistants, religious groups and other ethnocultural groups were given the opportunity to witness first hand the issues facing the Jewish state.

Among the groups to take part in the trips were aboriginals, and he feels the Jewish community has created good relations with Canada's First Nations.

Looking back on his tenure, Prutschi said "there's no particular moment [that stands out], but it's the many people in the non-Jewish community that I've had the opportunity to work with."

Prosecutors in the Zundel and Keegstra cases "were very extraordinary individuals, beautiful examples of what it is to be Canadian," he said.

"I feel really good about the positive relations with communities – Sikh, Muslim, Christian, Italian, Chinese, Japanese and Hispanic."

Colleagues at Congress are sad to see him go. Historian and former Congress president Irving Abella stated, "[it] will be a terrible loss for us and all those who care about racism and anti-Semitism in this country. Yours was always the voice of reasoned passion; you taught us much and you contributed enormously to the fight against the enemies of our community and our values. You will be profoundly missed."

David Shapiro, chair of the executive of Congress' Quebec region, said, "This is indeed a loss to the CJC and to the Canadian Jewish community… There are many who keenly recognize the contribution you have made over the years through your insight, dedication and skilful leadership, always imbued with a sense of purpose and mission and based on the fundamental values of the Torah and the Jewish people."

A MOVING EVENT: Downsview Park was transformed from a flat field into a playground for children of all ages and abilities on June 10 as the Zareinu Moveathon celebrated its 10th anniversary. Parents also enjoyed a performance by Brazilian samba drummers, the sounds of jazz musician and Juno Award winner Richard Underhill, and Jazz FM radio host and musician Jaymz Bee.

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FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Only paid Family Moments announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words, maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments,
1500 Don Mills Rd., #205
North York, ON. M3B 3K4
or e-mail them to:
cblackman@cjnews.com

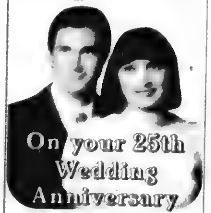
Mazel tov to Gert Noble who celebrated her 90th birthday with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, family and friends at a brunch given by her daughters.

On June 17 1957
Stan and Miriam said "I do!"
And after 50 fun-filled years
The love is still true!
Happy 50th anniversary Mom and Dad
...love ALL the Venis kids

Mazel tov to Tom & Kathy Rafael on their 30th anniversary. From children, parents, the Blum and Rafael family.

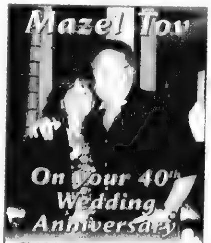
Mazel tov to Nicole Kaplan & Jordan Black on their engagement. Delighted parents are Mervyn & Terry Kaplan, Michael & Donna Black.

Congratulations



On your 25th Wedding Anniversary
Doris Ender Nicolau & Harry Nicolau

Lots of naches from your children Daniel, Gabriel & Inna.



Mazel Tov
On your 40th Wedding Anniversary
ZANVEL & SYLVIA STERN

To the best parents ever!
We love you and we wish you another 40 wonderful years.
From your loving children.

David & Robyn Fulop announce the birth of Jacob. Grandparents Elaine Ira Grossman, Ildi & Paul Fulop, and great-grandmothers Helen Isenbeg and Edith Becker.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, June 25, is the deadline for the July 5 issue; Wednesday, June 27, is the deadline for the July 12 issue; and Monday, July 9, is the deadline for the July 19 issue. There is no issue July 26. The July 19 issue will include events from July 19 through Aug. 1. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, June 21

A CELEBRATION OF BOOKS

Winners of the annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards will be announced tonight at 8 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Winners are chosen in up to 10 categories. **Robert Fulford** speaks on "The Power of Jewish Writing."

Saturday, June 23

PARSHAH DISCUSSION

Henry Alkin will speak about parshat Chukat, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

Sunday, June 24

NCJW GARAGE SALE

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada Yachad branch has its annual garage sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Sale includes men's, women's and children's clothing and shoes, linens, books, toys, housewares, knick-knacks, jewelry, pictures and more. For information, call 416-633-5100.

WINGATE MEETING

The Wingate Branch Royal Canadian Legion all-members breakfast meeting will be held at 9:15 a.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. There are no meetings in July and August. 416-782-5024

SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Join Walk and Talk Etc., a walking club for Jewish singles 50+, as they follow an old railway line, on the Beltline Trail. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Forest Hill Memorial Arena, 340 Chaplin Cres. For information, contact walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

NA'AMAT GIFT SHOW

Na'amat's semi-annual craft and gift show features artisans and vendors selling Mexican pewter, gift baskets, children's wear, handcrafted soap, prints, jewelry, handmade quilts, tote bags, cushions, gourmet preserves and much more. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden Centre in Edwards Gardens.

SUNDAY IN THE PARK

Sunday in the Park with Lilah is an annual family-friendly walk and fun fair that raises funds for Lilah's Fund at Hospital for Sick Children, earmarked for research into neuroblastoma. 9 a.m. registration, 9:45 a.m. opening ceremonies and fundraising walk, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. family fun fair activities, including entertainment by Judy and David, carnival games and bouncy castles. At the Toronto French School, 296 Lawrence Ave. E. www.lilahsfund.com

Monday, June 25

NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE

The Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine is hosting free sessions on natural heart health and stroke prevention, allergies and detox, and osteoporosis and promoting bone health. 6:30 p.m. at 1255 Sheppard Ave. E. (at the Leslie subway station) Registration required. Call 416-498-1255, ext. 263, or e-mail hgibson@ccnm.edu.

Tuesday, June 26

MAKIN' MUSIC

Join Beth Tzedec for "Families Makin' Music" summer session. Begins today and runs through Aug. 7, mixed ages, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; children under seven months, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. $98 first child; $84 additional siblings plus $28 materials. Call **Helen Bauer**, 416-225-5655, to register.

Continued on page 21

JNF

Jewish National Fund of Toronto
requires *additional* staff.

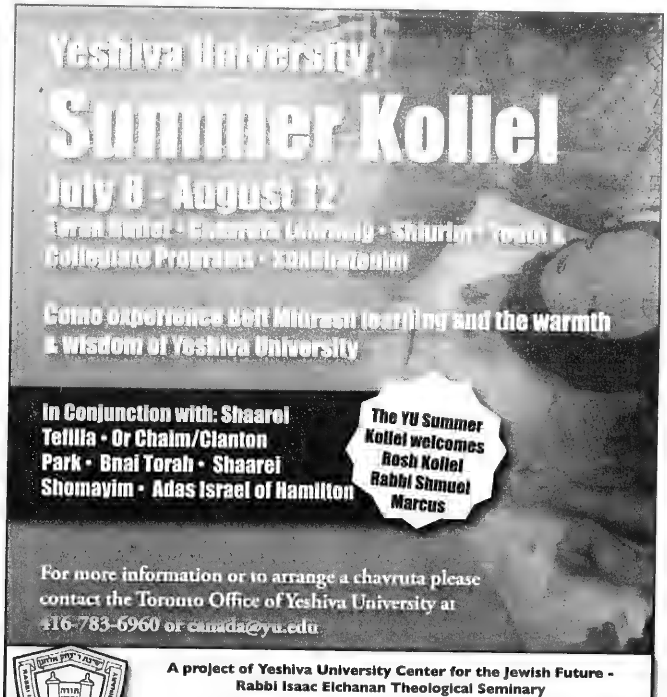
Full-Time Entry Clerk for Tree Dept.

Applicant must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook.
A pleasant, congenial telephone manner is essential.
Basic knowledge of reading and writing Hebrew would be helpful.
Ability to work in a fast-paced office essential.

Full-Time Entry Clerk for Inscription Dept.

Applicant must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook.
A pleasant, congenial telephone manner is essential.
Basic knowledge of reading and writing Hebrew
A MUST!
Ability to work in a fast-paced office essential.

Email resume and references to:
lil.jacobson@jnf-canada.org
No telephone calls please.
Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.



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For more information on YU Summer Programs, please visit www.yu.edu/cjf

Continued from page 20

SUMMER CONCERT

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents the Mega Swing City band at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park. 7:30 p.m. Free admission. For information, call 416-395-7873.

CHUG HATANACH

Mark Smiley leads a study group in a discussion of The Song of Songs, Chapter 8. 8 p.m. at Beth David Congregation. All welcome.

Wednesday, June 27

JEWISH JOKERS GROUP

The Jewish Jokers, Humour and Trivia Group meet at 7 p.m. at the Antibes Community Centre. All ages welcome. $3. Call **Irv Helpert** for info, 416-661-2541.

SAR-EL INFO MEETING

Find out about the Sar-El program, civilian volunteers working on Israeli army supply-maintenance bases. 7:30 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089 or www.sarelcanada.org

SUPPORT GROUP

Are you the parent, relative or friend of a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered person? Come and chat about the new challenges in your life. Beth David Synagogue, 7:30 p.m. For info, 416-633-5500.

Other News

SUPPORT FOR ABUSED

Circle of Care launches the group Older Adults Facing Abuse, an eight-week support group that will examine a variety of issues and provide strategies for older women experiencing abuse. Begins Thursday, June 28, 10-11:30 a.m. For information, contact 416-635-2860.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Catch the Beth Tzedec Museum exhibit "Lives Remembered: Photographs of a Small Town in Poland, 1898-1937" by **Zalman Kaplan**, on display until the end of June. 416-781-3514, ext. 32

SUMMER TOTS PROGRAMS

Looking for a program for your tot? Adath Israel Congregation offers Special Time For Yeladim, a tots program for the summer that includes music, sports and creative programs. For info, visit www.adathisrael.com and click on "tots" or call **Nilly**, 416-635-5340.

SPOUSAL SUPPORT GROUP

Circle of Care offers a family Caregiver Spousal Support group, an eight-week group that will examine a variety of issues including the caregiving relationship, the role of the caregiver and its challenges, changes in the care recipient and coping strategies for adapting to the new family reality. Begins Wednesday, July 4, 10-11:30 a.m. For information, contact **Joe Durand**, 416-635-2860, ext. 472.

FALL LECTURE SERIES

Registration is open for the Temple Emanu-El Fall Lecture Series on Mondays 2-4 p.m. except for Nov. 12, which will be at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 5, "The Morally Uncomfortable Global Gap – Uncovering Its Complexities" with **Dr. Jillian Cohen-Kohler**, assistant professor of pharmacy at University of Toronto; Nov. 12, "Ethical Issues in Geriatric and Long-Term Care" with **Dr. Michael Gordon**, program director, Palliative Care, Baycrest Hospital; Nov. 19, "The Ten Deadly Sins of Opera" with **Ian Scott**, lecturer and author; Nov. 26, "The Minstrels" with **Mike Daley**, department of music, York University. $30 for the series. For information and registration, call 416-449-3880.

EATING DISORDERS

Eating Disorders of York Region provides services, education and support groups for families and friends of individuals who are affected by eating disorders. Join them Thursday evenings 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Thornhill Square Mall, 300 John St., Suite 271. For information, contact 416-576-0457 or visit www.edoyr.com.

SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

Are you a survivor of abuse who is willing and able to speak about your experiences? Jewish Women International of Canada (JWIC) offers speakers in the community to educate men and women about the issue of abuse and its effects. JWIC is looking for women to speak publicly to groups in the community. Training provided. 416-630-9313.

AMPUTEE SUPPORT

Chazak V'Ematz, outreach support for all amputees to help them adjust to life, meets to discuss new products and prosthetic devices. For information and confidential support, call **Ruth**, 416-783-3717

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer, or for information, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Café: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual, friendly environment with JIAS volunteers Thursday evenings at the Bathurst JCC or Thursday afternoon location in Thornhill. Children are welcome.

Volunteers are needed for JIAS Telephone Language Companion program. Call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

JUMPStart: If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer, connect to our JUMPStart program by calling **Elisa** at ext. 24.

"Family-to-Family" welcomes newcomer families and provides informal advice and orientation to our community. To participate, call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

Friendship Group at Beth Tikvah (70+) screens the film *Bubbe Meises*, a one-woman show of storytelling through song. Sunday, June 24, 2 p.m. Members $3, non-members $5. All welcome. RSVP to **Harry Singer**, 416-512-2897, or **Betty Yan**, 416-223-7117.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park. Casino Rama, Thursday, June 28; Sunday dance, July 8, 7-10 p.m., non-members welcome.; cruise and Casino Rama, Wednesday, July 11. Activities include mah-jong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Scrabble, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12 -3 p.m.; bridge, Wednesdays, 12-3 p.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m. Those interested in woodcarving call **David**, 416-398-1834. For information, call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 416-395-7881.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Lunch-and Learn on Tuesday, June 26, hosts **Irwin Patterson** speaking on "A Tour of Jordan," including the ancient pink city of Petra. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Kosher dairy lunch served, $5, guest $7. Reservations required, call ext. 2267. For information, call **Mara**, ext. 2275.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies, Friday, June 22, 1-3 p.m., in the party room.

The Torah study program is held every Sunday in Classroom C, 10:30-11:30 a.m. All welcome. Call **Rivka**, ext. 2272, or **Monica**, ext. 2297, for information.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

MNjcc Full-Day Adventure Camp, for four- and five-year-olds. 10 weekly sessions. Begins June 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fees. Weeks of July 3 and Aug. 7. Members $160/week; non-members: $224/week. Other weeks, members $200/week; non-members $280/week. Extended care fee $8/day. For registration, contact **Risa Antoine**, ext. 128, or risaa@mnjcc.org

Toronto IsReal Dance Festival, highlights include the following teachers and choreographers: **Rafi Ziv, Naftaly Kadosh, Ofer Alfassi** and **Carina Sasalavsky**. June 29, 30 and July 1. Babysitting services available upon request.

Jewish Meditation, Sundays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Connecting the practice of meditation to our tradition with instructor **Michelle Katz**. Drop in $15, series 10 for $125.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registrations for fall classes in piano, violin, cello, guitar, Suzuki violin, babies and preschool music, children's choir, kids' band, adult band, rock band for teens and adults, African drumming, Brazilian samba and digital music. For information and registration, call ext. 228.

Share in the Bathurst JCC's block of tickets with premier seating to Cirque du Soleil on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 8 p.m. at the Port Lands, on Cherry St. Tickets can be purchased by calling ext. 271. A tax-deductible receipt will be issued for the maximum allowable amount.

Registration is continuing for September 2007 for BJCC morning school for Tic Tac Two, nursery and junior kindergarten. The program includes music, Hebrew, fun centre time, gym time and swimming. Call ext. 248 for information and to book a tour of the school.

Volunteers needed

MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Make a difference in just two to three hours a week. Circle of Care needs drivers to deliver kosher meals on Mondays and/or Thursdays. By offering your time, you help the isolated and housebound in our community live independent lives in their own homes. Training provided. To volunteer, contact **Gaye Duncan**, 416-635-2860, ext. 462.

BJCC COMPUTER LAB

Be a part of the BJCC seniors online computer lab. If you are 55+ and have computer or teaching skills, this is an opportunity to share your computer knowledge with other seniors. We are looking for a retired or semi-retired individual to help teach and develop our curriculum catering to the elder adult learner. Also looking for teaching assistants. Contact **Brian Prosserman**, 905-882-6080.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BERMAN, LEBA

Canadian relatives regret to announce the passing of Leba Berman on February 12, 2007 at age 90 in Seattle, Washington. She was born in Mount Vernon, N.Y. to Harry and Miriam Fierst in 1916 but she had strong Canadian connections. She was the granddaughter of the late Rabbi Hirsch Cohen, Chief Rabbi of Montreal, and was married to Alfred Berman of Winnipeg, who passed away in 1965. She was dearly loved by her husband's sisters, the late Pearl Gringorten (children Lawrence, Barry and Reesa Gringorten, and Carla Baudot) and the late Anita Bliss (Benson) (sons Jeff and Aaron Benson).

Leba Berman lived a full and rewarding life as mother of five children, grandmother of six and great-grandmother of three. She earned her Master's degree in Social Work at age 45 and continued to work in the field of adoptions until 80 years of age. She was devoted to the Jewish people and culture, having traveled 16 times to Israel. She was a life-time member of Hadassah and instilled in her children and grandchildren a great love of Judaism.

She is survived by her four daughters: Linda Levy of Berkeley, California, and Susan Moon, Barbara Hayes and Bonnie Levine all of Seattle, Washington. She was predeceased by her son, Richard Berman, and her brothers, Herbert and Leonard Fierst of Maryland.

Leba delighted in her frequent trips to Toronto and Montreal to visit family and friends. We will greatly miss her passionate and bubbly spirit and her ever-ready laughter.

GILAD, Ruth - On Saturday, June 9, 2007 at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Ruth Gilad, beloved wife of the late Dov Gilad. Cherished mother and mother-in-law of Gila and Ricky Derin, Toby Indech of Scottsdale, AZ, and Jack Gilad and Douglas Hauer of Boston, MA. Loving daughter of Dorothy and the late Arie Goldfeld. Dear sister and sister-in-law of Sheba and Haim Grinhaus. Devoted grandmother of Ari, Dov, Cailey, and Amy. Lovingly remembered by cousin Jake Lisak, and Margarita. Dear aunt of Ayal and Lauren, and Aaron and Meryl. Services were held at Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel on Monday, June 11, 2007. Interment Community Section of Pardes Shalom Cemetery. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Dov and Ruth Gilad Scholarship Fund in Life Sciences c/o Ben Gurion University of the Negev, 416-665-8054.

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of the late
JACK INHABER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 24th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section - CCCC
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BERNARD VICTOR ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 24th, 11:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Temple Sinai Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of
JACK LAIST ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 24th, 1:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MORRIS ISENBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 24th, 10:00 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of
NATHAN ISAAC MILNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 24th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Judean Benevolent Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of the late
HENRY EDWARDS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 24th, 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section - EEEE, Row C, Lot 16
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of
ZSOKA GONDOS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 24th at 1:00 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
New Beth Radom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The family of the late
MYER SHAW (SHOGILEV) ז"ל
wishes to express our sincerest appreciation to family, friends and colleagues for your generous and kind expressions of sympathy and support during our difficult time.

Allan Shaw and Betty Steinhauer, Ellie & Barry Fishbane, Debra & Gary Feldman, Janice Shaw & Michael Presement and families

The Middlestadt Family extends their appreciation for condolences and donations given in memory of
Mary Middlestadt Rosenthal ז"ל
and
Minnie Middlestadt Staiman ז"ל

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LEON FAIERSTEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 24th, 12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
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Community Section - IIII, Row D, Plot 6
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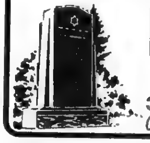
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Miller, Morris	June 9/07	Private
Anisman, Sam Jack	June 10/07	541 Finch Ave. W.
Gurevich, Leonid	June 11/07	Private
Canham, Sadie	June 11/07	Collingwood
Graham, Carole	June 11/07	70 Ruddington Dr.
Pancer, Kayla	June 11/07	3181 Bayview Ave.
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Harry Abel	Jun 5/07	30 Stephanie Ln
Esther Lazerson	Jun 4/07	33 Wilmington Av
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Sandy Gottfried	Jun 7/07	2 Wilkett Rd
Beatrice Rabinovitch	Jun 7/07	784 Centre St
David Shefler	Jun 7/07	17 Proudbank Millway
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On Campus

Study finds youth engage with Judaism in new ways

The kids are all right, Hillel head says

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The trend of Jewish youth venturing beyond traditional community institutions is here to stay, but it's nothing new and nothing to worry about, says the executive director of Hillel of Greater Toronto.

"It's not new, because in the 1960s, there was the Chavurah movement, which tried to break down the impersonal nature of the large congregations, regardless of their denominational affiliation," Zac Kaye said.

"What seems to happen is that each generation throws these things up and over time, they become more formalized. Things go through different stages. Some survive and some don't. It's not about worrying about it. It's about celebrating it. We shouldn't feel that we have to contain it. That would be the wrong thing to do."

Kaye spoke to *The CJN* about the future of the Jewish community in North America shortly after the release of a study by the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies titled *The Continuity of Discontinuity.* Released a year after Hillel International conducted its own survey of the "millennial generation," it looked at the alternative ways in which young people are connecting with Judaism.

"Continuity may depend on discontinuity. In fact, change is a constant of Jewish history. Jewish life has always changed because that's what living things do – they adapt to their surroundings without abandoning what makes them unique," stated the report, which was written by historian Ari Kelman and sociologist Steven M. Cohen.

The study highlighted four organizations that it said have broken free of the Jewish institutional mould to engage a younger generation of Jews.

- Ikar, "a Jewish spiritual community that stands at the intersection of spirituality and social justice," was founded by Rabbi Sharon Brous and is described as a "community of Jews" rather than a congregation or synagogue.
- Storahtelling is a non-profit music and dramatic company that fuses storytelling, the Torah and theatre as an answer to boring sermons.
- JDub records is a non-profit Jewish record label that produces music by Jewish artists that goes beyond Klezmer music in an attempt to strengthen the bond between Jews.
- Salon, which originated in Toronto and was created by Canadian journalist Mireille Silcoff, is a discussion group in which young professionals talk about Jewish issues.

"What is exciting about the study is that they are looking at four organizations that have really created a whole way of celebrating being Jewish in so many different ways. It is something to be excited about," Kaye said.

"It's not about one entry point. There is not just one path or one door. Who knows where they lead, and it doesn't matter which path you take, as long as you're taking a path."

The study suggests Jewish youth are thirsting for diverse ways to engage seriously in Jewish life. They're interested in having access to synagogues and Jewish community centres as well as alternative publications, concerts and salons.

"This is a generation of limitless choices. They're making choices, but they're not making the same traditional Jewish choices and accepting the same package deal that their parents did. They don't have to, because they are marrying later," said Tilly Shames, associate director at Hillel of Greater Toronto.

The study found that synagogues and other institutions tend to attract married people with children, and as a result, their membership is generally older than the younger adults who are initiating the aforementioned projects, making established institutions culturally unappealing for Jews under 35.

"Whether it is through social justice, or whether it is through culture, the holidays, or Holocaust remembrance and genocide awareness, it is just them doing Jewish on their terms and not on the terms of their parents," Shames said.

Shames noted that the Hillel International Millennial Study described contemporary Jewish youth as "universally human and distinctively Jewish."

"That sends a very strong message about this generation. It is a matter of recognizing that the values we have are values that cross cultural borders, that connect us with others on a universal level."

Kaye said the Bronfman study helps promote the message that it's important for Jewish professionals to embrace rather than criticize the choices of Jewish youth.

He added that the authors of the study made a mistake by including a derogatory comment by Silcoff, who said she wanted to create an experience that is not tied to "suburban Thornhill Yerushalayim architecture synagogue" or to "the infantilizing [Jewish] community centre."

He said Jews should celebrate all forms of Jewish expression.

"If you're Orthodox and that, for you, is the way, that's great. If you're outside of that, and that's not for you, that's also fine… There is nothing to be gained by diminishing someone else's experience. It's not about that," he said.

"There are a couple thousand people in Thornhill who have chosen that way of life. That should be applauded and respected just as much as what she's doing with the Salon," Kaye said.

"This is all optimistic, this is all about hope."

VOLUNTEERS HONOURED

The Friendship Circle, which links children with special needs to teenage mentors, hosted its fifth volunteer recognition dinner. Some 130 teenagers were recognized for their loyalty and devotion at the June 6 event. Pictured, from left, are Shoshana Ouzzan and her volunteer Kiki Halperin, Friendship Circle co-ordinator Chaya Perman, and Thornhill MPP Mario Racco, who gave out the awards.

Liberals denounce Conservative promise

Continued from page 3

Josh Cooper, executive director of the Canadian Jewish Political Action Committee (CJPAC), a community organization that seeks to engage Jews in the political process, said he, too, is encouraged by the PC announcement and is hoping to stoke more public participation on the issue.

In an e-mail sent out to its members, CJPAC called the PC announcement "a political moment for our community that comes once in a generation."

The e-mail exhorted readers to send a letter each to Ontario PC leader John Tory and to Premier Dalton McGuinty – the first to congratulate Tory on his education platform and the other to urge McGuinty and the governing Liberals to adopt a similar funding policy.

Though still short on fine details, the PC pledge to publicly fund faith-based schools focuses on three "strict criteria and accountability requirements," as outlined in the party's new policy document.

The first deals with incorporating the requirements of Ontario's common curriculum into faith-based schools.

The second would require them to participate in standardized testing programs.

Lastly, proper teacher "credentialing" would need to be addressed.

The Liberals were quick to denounce the Tory promise, issuing a statement that called it "a step backward" and saying it was "their latest scheme to take money out of public education to support private schools."

Education Minister Kathleen Wynne was critical of the Tory plan's broad strokes.

"I think there are a lot of questions," she told *The CJN* last week. "I don't think it's clear at all how faith-based, private school boards would be incorporated into the public system or what kind of allowance would be made for extra tuition to be paid on top of funding from a government that [Tory] was leading."

Wynne added that even though the Conservative policy would require teachers to have appropriate credentials, "Tory doesn't specifically say 'accredited Ontario teachers.'"

The Liberals say 53,000 students are currently enrolled in private, faith-based schools, and they estimate the cost of public school tuition at $9,432 per student, based on Ministry of Education figures, putting the cost of funding faith-based students at $500 million annually.

"[Under the PC plan], if you play out the logic, basically it's $800 million [in new funding for education], of which $500 million could go to 53,000 kids and $300 million to two million kids," said Ben Chin, a senior media advisor for the Liberals.

> ***'Should the public system be funding separate schools within its own board? That's a fundamental question about what kind of society we want to build.'***

Chin also questioned the rationale behind the Conservative platform.

"Do we want to build a society where children play in cultural or religious enclaves?" he asked. "Should the public system be funding separate schools within its own board? That's a fundamental question about what kind of society we want to build."

Steven Shulman, director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said concerns about faith-based schools draining money from the existing public system are unfounded.

"The parents [currently] sending their kids to faith-based schools are taxpayers," he said. "So they're already helping to fund the system. In this policy, the Tories have said they're going to put more money into the education system. So it's not a zero-sum game."

Shulman added that the CJC isn't seeking to make this policy a "wedge issue," preferring instead to work with all parties on the matter.

He noted that "there are many Liberals in caucus who feel that… the concept of bringing faith-based schools into public education is a good thing."

Speaking to *The CJN* last week, Conservative MPP Frank Klees, the opposition education critic, said that fine-tuning the policy would "have to be worked out through the consultation period. But the essence here is that we are committed to bringing fairness to education funding… to end the discrimination that is currently very obvious in this province, that the Catholic schools are being funded to the exclusion of all other faiths. That has been the request of the faith-based communities. It has certainly been the request of the Jewish community "

Bringing faith-based schools into the public system would bring them more in line with the status now enjoyed by Ontario's Roman Catholic schools.

The Liberal government has maintained that it's constitutionally obligated to fund Catholic schools. It argues that the 1867 Constitution, which sought to protect existing rights for denominational schools of the time, requires Ontario to maintain a publicly funded Catholic system.

"Our position remains the same," Wynne affirmed.

In 1999, the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) ruled that this funding is discriminatory, violating Canada's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, saying the need to protect Roman Catholic funding is now out of step with modern times.

The Multi-Faith Coalition's new advocacy literature takes the UNHRC argument one step further, suggesting that, "the rationale for protecting the Catholic minority in 1867 is now applicable to Ontario's current day minorities."

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'It rights a wrong in Canadian society'

Continued from page 3

"We very much welcome this policy announcement [and] the financial relief this promises to our committed body of parents. It rights a wrong in Canadian society, and we hope other political parties will realize the basic fairness of this stance by the PCs and will follow suit."

Paul Shaviv

Shaviv added that there is plenty of space at CHAT's new Vaughan campus to handle any upswing in enrolment.

The Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools (OAJDS), whose members attended the Conservative policy conference this month where the education announcement was made, were similarly excited at the news.

"To have a major political party put this in their platform is something we endorse and applaud," said Stuart Lewis, OAJDS' executive director.

Lewis, who is also president of Netivot Hatorah Day School, played down the possibility of higher enrolments.

Lewis said he doesn't "expect a large movement of children from [public] schools into Jewish day schools," in the short term.

"Historically, when we've looked at this situation around Canada and the world, there hasn't been a tremendous movement like that."

Still, he said it's imperative for the Jewish public to understand the importance of this announcement and the role it could play in ensuring the future vitality of the community.

"We have about 34 per cent of Jewish families with children in [Jewish] day schools," Lewis said. "We need to make sure those families are aware of the policy and that the 66 per cent of families who don't have children in [Jewish] day schools… will see a better business case to bring their children into the Jewish educational sphere."

The Tory pledge to fund faith-based schools has raised many unanswered questions about the three criteria the party has set as conditions for receiving public funds: fulfilling the requirements of Ontario's common curriculum, participation in standardized testing, and what the PC policy platform calls proper teacher "credentialing."

"There's a whole host of issues… about unions, [and] what if the cost per student exceeds what [a Tory government would be] willing to pay us? Who owns the buildings? All that still has to be ironed out," said Joseph Adler, a Toronto lawyer and parent of children in Jewish day schools who has been part of the advocacy effort around public funding.

Adler hailed the education pledge as a "huge and monumental shift in policy" because it comes from the "possible next premier," and he applauded it as "a watered-down version, I believe, of what they could have come out with."

For instance, he said, "When they talk about accreditation, that's different than certification. With certification, you're talking about [needing to be] a graduate of teacher's college. But accreditation, you're talking about some kind of equivalency. I think there's more latitude there for a teacher who's been teaching for 30 years without any credentials."

Calls to a number of day schools for comment were not returned by *The CJN's* deadline.

—A.L-A.

MediaCentral combats bias about Israel

By **ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF**
Staff Reporter

The director of Israel's MediaCentral recently spoke to Toronto journalists and community members about his country's latest *hasbarah* (public relations) endeavour to combat media misconceptions and bias about the Holy Land.

Aryeh Green, director of the six-month-old Jerusalem-based journalistic support centre for foreign reporters, addressed the small audience at the offices of lawyer and Israel historian Jacques Gauthier.

Green, a strategic communications specialist who for almost a decade was senior adviser on anti-Semitism and democracy to Natan Sharansky in his capacities as a member of the Knesset and deputy prime minister of Israel, called MediaCentral a "crucial" development for Israeli *hasbarah*.

Aryeh Green

"It's not enough to complain about inaccurate reporting about Israel," Green said emphatically. "We want to help reporters get the stories right in the first place."

He added that Palestinian outreach to journalists is more advanced than Israel's in that, according to his information, there are no less than 12 Palestinian organizations dedicated to hosting foreign journalists and providing them with "the Palestinian narrative" about the history and current events in the Holy Land.

"Palestinians have been world leaders [in embracing] the journalistic community when they come to the territories," he said.

Green was approached in 2005 to head MediaCentral by HonestReporting.com, a U.S.-based non-profit dedicated to providing fair and accurate coverage of the Middle East. He admitted he was initially uninterested in the project, citing his skepticism of being able to change the attitude of the foreign press toward Israel.

"But then I understood that [the foreign press] in Israel do need and want help… If that help is timely and effective, they don't care where it comes from," he said.

MediaCentral has three goals, he said. The first is to be a service-oriented organization for foreign journalists. "If someone needs an interpreter, a chauffeur, background information, a tour guide… we have staff that will provide it through our prism."

Secondly, MediaCentral is a physical location where journalists can "schmooze" with their colleagues as well as with politicians and people of interest who regularly make the rounds of MediaCentral's space. "It's a chance to get to know people informally and build relationships," Green said.

Lastly, other than being pro-Israel, MediaCentral does not have an agenda to push except as encompassed in the following slogan, "Accuracy is Israel's best ally," he said.

MediaCentral's brochure lists the agencies that have used their services so far, including the *Toronto Star*, Al Jazeera, *Time* magazine and the *Wall Street Journal*, among others.

Green said he believes the more journalists get to know Israel, the easier it will be for them to change their language and outlook on the state. "It doesn't matter if it's scrutiny of [Israel's president in absentia] Moshe Katsav or anything else," he said. "Warts and all, the more a journalist gets to know Israel, the more they can write fairly about it."

Using an example of how he hopes MediaCentral can effect change, Green said the organization leads groups of journalists to different points on Israel's security barrier, showing them that their use of the term "apartheid wall" or "wall" is erroneous. In fact, Green tells them, 97 per cent of it is a chain-link fence that could be taken down in a matter of months when peace is achieved.

"When you show them the fence, they understand the power of [Israel's] argument. Journalists don't get this kind of exposure and explanation," Green said. "The vast majority of journalists are not anti-Semitic or anti-Israel… but they do come with baggage of the acceptance of the Palestinian narrative. I'm focused on opening [journalists] up to the complexities of Israel's issues."

Green said MediaCentral has also taken five field trips to Sderot to show journalists the Israeli side of the issue. He said many "second tier" reporters, journalists from outfits less well-known and less well-funded than those of "first tier" news agencies such as CNN and the BBC, don't often get to this area because it's too hard for them to access without help, the sort of help MediaCentral now provides.

When asked how effective the organization has been, Green told *The CJN* it was difficult to measure, but anecdotally, he has heard from numerous reporters thanking him for MediaCentral's help. He also cited results of a survey he conducted in which 93 per cent of journalist-respondents agreed that MediaCentral helped them report Israeli "issues accurately and fairly."

With an operating budget of just under $1 million, provided by UJA Federation of New York's Solelim Fund and by donations from various foundations and individuals, MediaCentral continues to expand its operations and hire new staff.

Green said he recently hired a Palestinian Arab east Jerusalem woman as the media services representative for MediaCentral.

"She acknowledges Israel and its right to statehood," he said. "There are many Palestinians, more than we hear about, who want a peaceful resolution."

MediaCentral hopes to expand its presence in Israel by opening a branch in Tel Aviv and a future office at the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem.

For more information, visit www.m-central.org.

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Former rocker now a biblical scholar

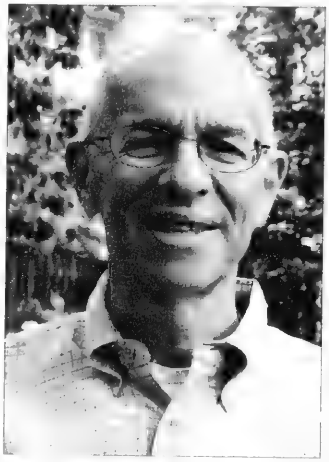
Incoming JTS provost played at Woodstock with Sha Na Na

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The incoming provost of the Jewish Theological Seminary may be indulging in understatement when he says, "The lifestyle of the itinerant rock and roll musician was not me."

But Alan Cooper's life could have easily taken an alternate route. From 1969 to 1971, as an undergraduate student at Columbia University, he sang bass as one of the original members of the rock/doo-wop group Sha Na Na, performing on the final day of the Woodstock Festival in the summer of 1969, just before Jimi Hendrix, as well as on *Rock and Roll is Here to Stay*, Sha Na Na's first record.

Cooper, a 56-year old PHD in religious studies with close-cropped receding grey hair and a dry sense of humour, missed the travelling, camaraderie and performing after leaving the group, but he wanted to get on with his life, he said in a recent interview at the Toronto home of a friend.


Alan Cooper

He went on to graduate studies at Yale University, focusing on the linguistic structure of biblical poetry for his dissertation, and taught religious studies at McMaster University for 10 years before returning to the United States in the mid-1980s with his wife and two children, now in their early 20s. In 1979, he spent a year in Israel as a postdoctoral fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Cooper, who will continue to teach one course per semester after succeeding Jack Wertheimer as provost, was in Toronto June 7 to speak on behalf of JTS' Canadian Student Bursary Fund, which currently supports 27 Canadian students in the seminary's rabbinical, cantorial, undergraduate and educational programs.

These days, it's JTS – the New York flagship institution of the Conservative movement – that excites the incoming chief academic officer, and he was hoping to transmit some of that feeling in his talk later that day. He frequently leaned forward, elbows resting on his knees, and his face animated, as he discussed some of the changes taking place at the institution.

As of July 1, Cooper will be one of three new administrators at the school, along with Arnold Eisen, incoming chancellor, and Rabbi Daniel Nevins, incoming dean of the rabbinical school. A professor of Jewish studies and chair of the biblical department of JTS who has been with the school for 10 years, Cooper is also a professor of Bible at the Union Theological Seminary, a nearby non-denominational Christian seminary.

He described Nevins as "bright, exciting and filled with energy and ideas," and Eisen as "an invigorating force" and "a serious thinker about the nature of the Jewish community in North America today" who is interested in "getting the seminary out into the community," in part through a planned public education program.

This year marks another significant change at JTS. Following the acceptance last December by the movement's committee on Jewish law and standards of a rabbinic responsum allowing the ordination of gays and lesbians, JTS announced in March that it will admit openly gay and lesbian students to its rabbinical and cantorial schools for the first time.

Cooper, who has been affiliated with the Conservative movement his entire adult life, describes himself as being from "the more liberal side of the spectrum." He grew up in New York in "a Modern Orthodox community of a sort that doesn't exist any more," attending a synagogue that was "completely traditional" aside from its mixed seating.

Comments from more traditional elements in the Conservative movement, who oppose the seminary's decision and wonder whether there is still a place for them, sadden him.

"The intent of the decision was to be more inclusive, not to exclude, and that reaction suggests otherwise," Cooper explained. "It suggests a certain self-exclusion... Even if you look at surveys in the United States, you're still talking about only a 2 to 1 majority in favour of admission, which means that one third of our members were uncomfortable with the decision. It's important to engage in a program of reconciliation.

"Our intention was to provide opportunities for really valuable individuals who want to provide service to the Jewish community."

He noted that the seminary's policy of excluding gay and lesbian students has cost them straight students who felt "uncomfortable with the fact we were being exclusionary."

The issue is not a new one to Cooper, who taught Bible and served as director of the school of graduate studies at the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati when it was struggling with the same issues. "You would think there would be less resistance in the Reform movement, but you would be wrong for all sorts of reasons ranging from social prejudice to whatever else motivates people," he said.

He likened the issue to others like the role of women, which "percolate up" from general society. In the Orthodox world, he noted, as more women become educated, the movement is struggling with the issue of how to "authenticate" them.

"What matters more from a halachic point of view is not whether we will change with the times, but how and how rapidly. The pace of change is crucial… It's certainly our new chancellor's goal to bring about this change in a way that does not marginalize and exclude.

After the interview Cooper planned to pay one last visit to Sam the Record Man's downtown Toronto outlet before its June 30 closing, a frequent hangout of his when he lived in Hamilton, but he ended up spending time with his Toronto host, listening to his extensive record collection, instead. A longtime collector of classical recordings, Cooper now favours Bach and Beethoven.

Had he remained in Sha Na Na, Cooper might have ended up as a generous donor to JTS rather than on its faculty, he mused.

But, as he noted himself, "how many professors can say they performed at the Woodstock Festival?"

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Shaarei Shomayim's rabbi heading to St. Louis

By **FRANCES KRAFT**
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Moshe Shulman will leave Toronto early this summer after almost 10 years as spiritual leader of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

The 42-year-old rabbi and his wife Baila, who has taught classes at the synagogue and provided personal counselling and home hospitality during their time in Toronto, will be honoured by friends at a tribute dinner at Shaarei Shomayim on June 25. He will leave the synagogue in early July, and the Shulman family will head to Missouri, where the rabbi will assume the pulpit at Young Israel of St. Louis.

"While it's a somewhat smaller congregation, it's the leading Orthodox congregation in St. Louis and plays a significant role in the midwest community. It's the largest leading modern Orthodox synagogue in the area," Rabbi Shulman said of the 160-member shul.

He added that he felt the move would be an opportunity to get involved in the American rabbinate on a more global scale. "In a shul like Shaarei Shomayim, [those] opportunities are much more limited because of the [large] size of the congregation."

In an interview in his Shaarei Shomayim study, Rabbi Shulman, who grew up in New York and Los Angeles, reflected on his time in Toronto and on some of the issues facing modern Orthodoxy and the broader Jewish community.

For starters, he laments the use of "the labels and the boxes" that he feels divide the Jewish people.

"My philosophy in life has been to bridge some of the worlds as best I can," he said.

Rabbi Moshe Shulman

At the height of the intifadah in 2001, Rabbi Shulman – who lived for 10 years in Israel – joined Conservative and Reform colleagues rabbis Baruch Frydman-Kohl and John Moscowitz to spearhead the Israel Now Consortium, along with the leadership of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, at a time when it had already become uncommon for Orthodox pulpit rabbis to share a public platform with their non-Orthodox counterparts.

"We may practise our Judaism differently, we may have different beliefs in ideological issues, but that doesn't mean we can't find common ground where it exists and work together," said Rabbi Shulman, who was ordained in 1992 after studying to become a rabbi, mohel and teacher at Yeshivat Sha'alvim in Israel. He has also done coursework toward a master's degree in education, and has a B.Sc. in computer software engineering.

"It's a balance. You walk a tightrope because you want to maintain that relationship and at the same time maintain your standards and ideological beliefs and your position as who you are, as an Orthodox rabbi. But I think that's true of modern Orthodoxy, or engaged Orthodoxy, in general… On every level it's a balancing act, but I think it's a worthwhile effort."

Within the Orthodox community, too, it's no secret there are divisions between modern Orthodox and haredi factions, but Rabbi Shulman said he prefers to focus on constructive ways of addressing the issues. A member of Toronto's Va'ad Harabonim, Rabbi Shulman said he enjoys a "warm and positive relationship with the Orthodox rabbinate.

"I have an open dialogue with all the rabbinic leaders in the city." He cited haredi leader Rabbi Shlomo Miller in particular as someone he has spoken to "with a great deal of mutual respect."

However, he said, he finds the "lack of dialogue and the intolerance" among both modern Orthodox and right-wing Orthodox communities toward each other "disturbing."

As far as he can remember, he has never given a sermon or spoken publicly to criticize the right-wing Orthodox world or the ideologies of Conservative or Reform Judaism, he said.

"There's enough to unite us, to mandate that we work together. We don't need to define who we are by saying, 'We're not them.' I think all that does is create a sense of self-satisfaction."

He added that there have been "issues in the community I haven't been happy with, and we have dealt with them on a quiet, behind-the-scenes basis."

A decision about three years ago to raise the mechitzah in Shaarei Shomayim's sanctuary was an initiative of the shul's board, implemented with the rabbi's support. From his perspective, he said, the change "was never presented as an accommodation to the community."

Instead, he sees it as a "strengthening" of the synagogue's halachic position, and he noted that the congregation's previous building on St. Clair Avenue West, from which it moved in the 1960s, had no mechitzah at all, other than an aisle dividing the men's and women's sections.

Rabbi Shulman takes particular pride in strides made in adult education at Shaarei Shomayim under his leadership.

"I came in with a mandate to elevate the level of learning and spiritual and intellectual depth," he said.

He introduced a number of new programs, including a daily 6:15 a.m. Gemarah class that he said was instrumental in revitalizing the synagogue's morning minyan.

"I'm a strong proponent of the notion that spiritual growth comes from engaging the mind in Jewish life."

He credits his parents, Rabbi Nisson and Rywka Shulman, for much of his ideological outlook. "Our family spans the spectrum from far right wing to non-religious. I've seen the way my parents integrate with all aspects of the community."

BAT MITZVAH GRADUATION: Chabad of Richmond Hill recently celebrated its Bat Mitzvah Club's graduation and luncheon of 20 girls from Richmond Hill. Seen here are Jessie Faber and her mother Simone, at the candle lighting ceremony.

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Coast to Coast

Liberal task force to study security fund

Thornhill MP Susan Kadis to chair committee

Liberal leader Stephane Dion last week announced creation of a caucus task force to examine the nuts and bolts of a proposed security fund that would protect minority communities should the Liberals form a government.

The eight-person task force will visit community organizations in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Halifax to study the risks faced by "ethnic, cultural and religious groups" as potential targets of terrorism or hate crimes.

"A Liberal government would work quickly to establish a fund that would help at-risk communities to cover the costs of security in their places of worship and gathering places," said Dion. "In many instances, significant festivals and functions, whether at a gurdwara (a Sikh temple), mosque, church, synagogue, community centre or religious school now require additional security measures to function safely."

The task force will be chaired by Toronto-area MP Susan Kadis. Senator Mobina Jaffer will serve as co-chair.

Jewish community groups have been lobbying federal and provincial governments for years for financial aid to offset the cost of security measures at Jewish facilities. Security has been an issue within the community since threats from racist groups surfaced in the mid-1980s. In recent years, concerns have expanded to include the dangers posed by groups linked to the Middle East.

Dion's office released a letter to Kadis and Jaffer outlining the task force's mandate and tracing its genesis to a speech the leader gave to the Mississauga Crime Prevention Association in March 2007.

"We believe that any community organization or institution that is a likely target of terror or hate crime and is willing to work constructively with law enforcement officials to safeguard their members, deserves the help of the federal government," the letter stated. "The concept of a pool of funds specifically set aside for this purpose was one the previous Liberal government had begun to explore."

The task force is being asked to:

- determine objective criteria that will evaluate whether a group faces risk;
- assess the willingness of the cultural organization to work with law enforcement officials;
- determine reasonable expenses and whether the government should match community input, subject to a cap;
- examine whether the funds should be ongoing or for one-time infrastructure upgrades;
- consider whether the funds should be retroactive.

The letter asks Kadis and Jaffer to prepare an interim report by early August 2007, prior to the Liberals' national caucus, which runs from Aug. 28 to 30.

New Israeli glass studio sparkles

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

It's been three months since Orly and Giora Meyer decided to open shop to showcase their family's 40-year-old glass art and decor business in Toronto.

AM Studio, located in the Castlefield design and decor district, features pieces by six Israeli artists, from glass serving ware to sinks.

"It's quite a unique product and quite contemporary," Orly said. "People find it artistic on one hand and also functional."

Giora's father, Andreas Meyer, opened the original Andreas Meyer Studio in Nahariya, Israel in 1967. It has since moved to Tefen Industrial Park, an artistic district in Western Galilee.

In 1997, the International Council of Museums recognized the Andreas Meyer Studio as one of the leading fused glass studios in the world.

Toronto's AM Studio features Andreas' work along with the work of five other artists including his son, Yigael Meyer, and his wife Vared. Valery Rotenberg also works with fused glass, which is a unique process during which three layers of glass are fused together in the kiln. The combination of one coloured and two clear layers of glass create a different look, Orly said.

Shimon (Shimele) Peleg makes the unique glass sinks, and invented a unique glass technique that gives each piece an unusual texture and an earthy look, regardless of colour.

Martin Or works mainly with porcelain and metal. His most eye-catching pieces are porcelain chandeliers, totally different and yet soft and unassuming.

Batiya Gall is AM Studio's newest artist. She works with glass and copper.

"We took the crème de la crème of what we produced [in Israel] and brought it here. My father started with souvenirs. I took it more into design and into art," Giora said.

He said that what makes Israeli artists different is their uncanny ability not to balk in the face of obstacles.

"It's a combination of the high self-confidence of Israelis and chutzpah of doing whatever they think is right – designers, they dare," he said.

"Israel is very strong with design. We just need a little bit more investment and Israel can be like Italy," Orly added.

Since Orly and Giora moved to Thornhill from Israel in 2003 with their three children, they have been working from home and touring hundreds of galleries and gift shows across North America.

"We left the gift shows because we don't want to make gifts, we want to design things," Giora said.

"We felt that with gifts, you can travel and sell or market it. With this kind of stuff, you have to show it... We are very happy with the move and with what we did, and I think the outcome is beautiful. We are getting wonderful reactions," he said.

Giora said they began designing themselves because it can be hard to work closely with and customize a Canadian client's piece when it needs to be shipped back and forth from Israel.

"We decided we would make it here and we would support the local custom market, and there is a market for that," Giora said.

The Meyers are excited because their store is not just a showroom, but a studio as well.

"This is selling," Orly said, gesturing towards the spacious showroom. "This is creating," she said smiling, indicating the uncluttered workroom.

"We came from creation... It's always about design, it's always about creating – this is our heart."

So far only Giora works with glass, but Orly, whose background is in architecture and interior design, would love to be involved one day.

The Meyers' future plans include helping Israeli artists get more recognition, to give Israel the reputation they feel it deserves.

"Our plans are big and they are on both sides of the ocean," said Orly.

AM Studios is having an official opening on June 27th. The gallery is located at 121 Miranda Avenue at Castlefield and Dufferin avenues. More information can be found at www.amstudio.ca or by calling the studio at 416-783-4100.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

דר. נתן בירנבוים — איינער פון די קדמונים אין ציוניזם

פון אַלעק סילווער

מיט אַ צוויי חדשים צוריק האָט מדינת ישׂראל געפייערט איר יום העצמאות און דאָס פאָלק און די מדינה האָבן אויפגענומען מיט באַגייסטערונג דעם יום־טוב. אין אַזעלכע מאָמענטן ווערן דערמאָנט נעמען פון פערזענלעכקייטן, וואָס האָבן אַרויסגעברענגט די אידעע פון אַ ייִדיש היימלאַנד מיט אַרום הונדערט יאָר צוריק.

איינער פון זיי איז, ווי באַקאַנט, טעאָדאָר הערצל, וועגן וועלכן עס איז שוין אַ סך געשריבן געוואָרן. עס זיינען אויך אין דער זעלבער צייט געווען נאָך אַזעלכע אַקטיווע מענטשן, וואָס האָבן זיך געווידמעט דער דאָזיקער אידעע מיט זייער גאַנצן באַוווסטזיין. איינער פון די איז געווען **דר. נתן בירנבוים**, וועלכער האָט נאָך פאַר הערצלען געחלומט וועגן אַ ייִדיש היימלאַנד אין ארץ ישׂראל. איז ווערט צו דערמאָנען זיין פערזענלעכקייט ביים איצטיקן מאָמענט, ווען זיין 70סטער יאָרצייט איז אָפגעצייכנט געוואָרן אסרו חג פסח, דעם 11טן אַפּריל, 2007 (כג ניסן).

נתן בירנבוים איז געבוירן געוואָרן אין 1864 אין ווין ביי אַ גאַליציאַנער פאַמיליע. טראָץ דעם, וואָס זיין דינאַסטיע האָט פאַרמאָגט גרויסע רבנים און גדולי תורה, האָט דער יונגער נתן נישט געקראָגן קיין רעליגיעזע אָדער אָרטאָדאָקסישע דערציִונג. ער האָט שטודירט אין מלוכהשע שולן, ווו ער איז געווען אַן אויסגעצייכנטער סטודענט און גראַדויִרט אין אַ יונגן עלטער. ער איז אויך אַריינגעצויגן געוואָרן אין דער השׂכּלה באַוועגונג און דאָס האָט אים געגעבן די איניציאַטיוו צו ווידמען זיך צו אַקטיוויטעטן, וואָס זאָלן פאַרבעסערן די לאַגע פון די ייִדישע מאַסן.

בירנבוים האָט זייער שטאַרק באַקעמפט אַסימילאַציע ווי אַ ליַיזונג פאַרן ייִדישן פאָלק. דער דאָזיקער פּלאַן איז דאַן געווען זייער פאַרשפּרייט צווישן אייראָפּעיִשן ייִדנטום. ער האָט געמוטיקט די ייִדן, זיי זאָלן ווייזן, אַז זיי זיינען ייִדן. אין דער זעלבער צייט האָט ער זיך מיט זיין גאַנצן באַוווסטזיין געווידמעט דאָס שאַפן אַן אייגן ייִדיש היימלאַנד אין ארץ־ישׂראל. ער האָט אַריינגעלייגט אַ סך צייט און מי אין פובליצירן די אידעע פון אַ ייִדישער מדינה. ער האָט אַ סך געשריבן און גערעדט וועגן דעם אויף עפנטלעכע פאַרזאַמלונגען. עס איז אַ פאַקט, אַז בירנבוים האָט אַריינגעברענגט דאָס וואָרט „ציוניזם" אין דער ייִדישער שפּראַך.

ווי איינער פון די זיילן פון דער דאָזיקער באַוועגונג איז בירנבוים פאַרבעטן געוואָרן צו האַלטן אַ רעדע ביים ערשטן ציוניסטישן קאָנגרעס אין באַזעל. ער האָט אין זיין רעדע גערעדט איבערהויפּט וועגן דעם קולטורעלן אַספּעקט פון ציוניזם אַנשטאָט דעם פּאָליטישן. שוין דעמאָלט האָט ער געזאָרגט ווי אַזוי וועלן ייִדן און אַראַבער לעבן צוזאַמען. אין אָנערקענונג פון זיינע אַקטיוויטעטן איז דר. בירנבוים אויסגעוויילט געוואָרן ווי דער גענעראַל־סעקרעטאַר ביים קאָנגרעס.

עס מוז אויך ספּעציעל דערמאָנט ווערן, אַז דר. נתן בירנבוים האָט זייער ליב געהאַט ייִדיש און איז געווען כּמעט פון די ערשטע איניציאַטאָרן פון דער ייִדישער שפּראַך־קאָנפערענץ אין טשערנאָוויץ אין 1908. ער האָט דאָרט געהאַלטן די דערעפענונגס־רעדע, וואָס האָט שטאַרק אויסגענומען. (אגב ווערט די ייִדיש שפּראַך־קאָנפערענץ פייערן איר 100־יאָריקן יובל אין קומענדיקן יאָר.)

איז עס זייער וויכטיק, אַז די פערזענלעכקייט פון דר. נתן בירנבוים זאָל נישט פאַרגעסן ווערן און די נאָכקומענדיקע ייִדישע דורות זאָלן וועגן אים לערנען.

כּבוד זיין אָנדענק!

‘Plenty of evils to fight here in Canada’

Continued from page 1

Those against the change felt it was anti-democratic, while those in favour felt it streamlined the CJC’s governing structure to allow it to more effectively respond to new challenges and a new advocacy environment.

In an acknowledgement of some of the harsh feelings that the debate on the bylaw elicited, outgoing president Ed Morgan urged members to look to the future and to embrace the new organizational structure.

Ed Morgan

“Let’s stop fighting internal battles as if governance is an end in itself,” he said. “We are an advocacy organization… redemption lies in intelligently analyzing and acting on whatever injustices are out there.”

There are still plenty of “external” evils to fight here in Canada, Morgan said, alluding to a presentation earlier in the day to the plenary by Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker.

In his address to the several hundred members and observers, Baker said that the Canadian media have an anti-Israel bias.

Alan Baker

“A week ago we marked the 40th anniversary of the Six Day War. What did we see in the Canadian media? A series of hateful articles about the continuing suffering of the Palestinians for 40 years, all because of Israel. . very slanted, very manipulative articles by people who know it is not the truth,” he said.

Baker added that “the embassy of Israel in Ottawa is not accepted in the regional grouping of embassies [due to pressure from the Arab countries]… Israel is blocked from any representation in the diplomatic corps in Ottawa. This should not happen anywhere, especially not in the capital of Canada.”

A number of awards were presented at the plenary.

For young leadership, the Brian A. Finestone Memorial Award was presented to Steven Farber, while Tami Michaelson King was the recipient of the Monroe and Minnie Abbey Award.

Farber – who is originally from Ottawa and is the son of Barbara Farber, president of UIA Federations Canada – has been active in the Toronto Jewish community for the 10 years he has lived there and has received a number of awards, including the UJA Leadership Development Award.

Michaelson King, an officer at large of CJC, Pacific region, lives in Port Moody, B.C. She is very involved in human rights issues and serves on the March of the Living committee.

Cpl. Tamar Freeman of Toronto is a Canadian Forces medic who recently returned to Canada from a tour of duty in Afghanistan. She was presented with the Alan Rose Award for International Human Dignity.

The Samuel Bronfman medal was presented to Rose Wolfe for dedicating her life to achieving social justice through volunteerism. A chancellor emerita of the University of Toronto, Wolfe was the first female president of Toronto Jewish Congress and has held numerous other positions in Jewish and other organizations.

Ottawa human rights lawyer Richard Warman, who is not Jewish, has, over the past five years, dedicated his time and risked his personal security and safety to fighting Internet hate. During that time, he has been the successful complainant in 10 cases involving Internet hate. He was awarded the Saul Hayes Human Rights Award for his efforts.

Environment Minister John Baird was among the politicians and dignitaries at the plenary. He was introduced by former CJC president Moshe Ronen as one “who stands out as one of our most cherished friends on [Parliament] Hill – ever!”

Baird said that “Israel can count on the government of Canada continuing to stand behind Israel.”

He also promised to convey the CJC’s request for security funding to the government caucus.

“That message has been heard and we are taking it back to our colleagues… and on the revocation of Canadian citizenship, we have a responsibility to send a message around the world that if you commit heinous crimes against humanity, you can run but you cannot hide… we will find you no matter how long it takes.”

Local politicians, as well as representatives from the embassies of Poland, Yemen, Germany, Turkey, Morocco, Jordan, the United States, Azerbaijan and the Vatican, also attended the plenary.

Other executive members of CJC acclaimed for the next two years are vice-president Jack Mintz, secretary-treasurer Elizabeth Wolfe and honorary legal counsel, Calvin Goldman.

The new board members of Congress for the coming term include past president Ed Morgan, Pacific region chair Gerry Cuttler, Quebec region chair Victor Goldbloom, CJC Ontario region chair Frank Bialystok, Brent Belzberg, Judy Kremer, Joel Reitman, Debbie Kimel, Saul Koschitzky, Philip Berger, Berl Nadler, James Scharfstein, Howard Morry, Joseph Gabay, Ben Zarnett, Hershel Sahian, Harold Brief, Igor Korenzvit, Paul Brown, Ron Prehogan, Nora Gold, Joel Richler, Mark Freiman, Michael Grand, Rabbi Reuben Poupko, Armand Kessous, Adam Atlas, Sue Carol Isaacson, A. Mark David, Abby Morris, Gerald Gall, Ted Zacks, Bob Willmot and Steven Farber.

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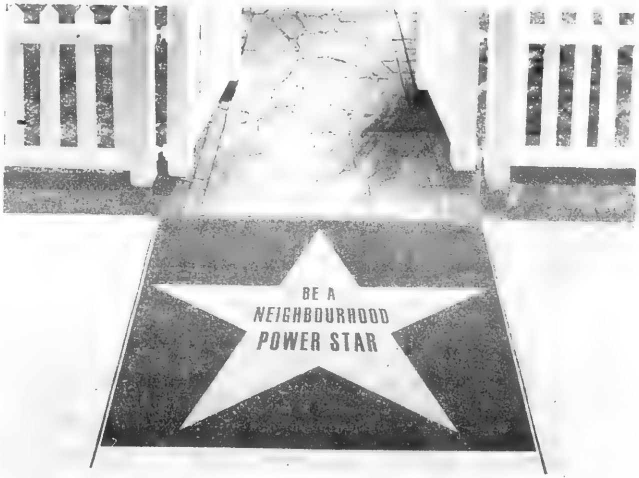

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Dumont's meeting with Jews not a story, official says

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — A top official at Federation CJA says he's puzzled as to why the French-language daily newspaper *La Presse* ran a front-page story about a meeting between Mario Dumont and prominent Jews that occurred on the eve of the provincial budget vote.

"We're not quite sure why this is a story," Bram Freedman, the federation's chief operating officer and director of external relations, said of last Thursday's article about the meeting with the Action démocratique du Québec (ADQ) leader. "Jewish Quebecers, like all Quebecers, have the right to meet with their political representatives."

Headlined, "Mario Dumont is courted by the Jewish community," the piece described a two-hour-long evening meeting on May 31 between "about a dozen" of the Jewish community's "most influential leaders" and Dumont at the Westmount home of retired Senator Leo Kolber, a storied figure for his past fundraising on behalf of the Quebec and federal Liberal parties.

It was Kolber, *La Presse* reported, who invited Dumont to his home. However, the only other Jewish attendee identified in the story was Steven Cummings, a former president of Federation CJA (the story erroneously refers to federation as the "Canadian Jewish Alliance").

Because of its high-profile, above-the-fold placement and language, the article also seemed to reinforce notions that the Jewish community is wealthy and powerful. The second paragraph, for example, described Kolber as "richissime" (fabulously rich), and the Jewish community as "puissante," or powerful.

Dumont said later the meeting was not a secret and some reporters were aware of it.

Freedman said the organized Jewish community would react officially if it felt public reaction to the story makes it necessary.

"We will be monitoring talk shows, and we will follow up if follow-up is needed," he said. He stressed that the "meeting did not involve the organized Jewish community."

The substance of the article, though, did not appear to be particularly revelatory.

It suggested that the Jewish community has grown increasingly disenchanted with the Liberal Party under Jean Charest for taking the community's support for granted. It said it would no longer "put all its eggs into one basket" and would consider allying itself with another party under the right conditions.

The article made specific references to the bid in 2005 by Charest – later withdrawn after media-fuelled public outcry – to increase government funding to Jewish day schools, and it cited Jewish community disappointment at D'Arcy McGee MNA Lawrence Bergman losing his post as revenue minister in a cabinet shuffle after the recent provincial election.

The story further quoted unnamed "Liberal sources" as saying that during the meeting, Dumont was given "assurances" that the Jewish community would provide an "important level" of financial support for the ADQ in exchange for the Jewish General Hospital (JGH) being recognized as a "university hospital." (This also appears to be erroneous, since the JGH has long been affiliated with McGill University.)

Dumont said in the *La Presse* story that the hospital's status was discussed, but the issue of financial support of the ADQ was never broached.

Steven Slimovitch, legal counsel for B'nai Brith League for Human Rights, said that while there are "negative connotations" linked to perceptions of how ethnic communities engage in political financing, "everyone does it."

Aside from broad suggestions and the use of unnamed sources, however, the article didn't appear to offer any real evidence that Montreal Jews were about to abandon the Liberals in any significant numbers.

Victor Goldbloom, a former Liberal cabinet member who is now president of Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region, reportedly said it is "normal practice" for the Jewish community to meet with political leaders. And Jack Jedwab, CJC's former director, was quoted as saying that the Jewish community has not forgotten Dumont siding with the "Yes" side before the 1995 referendum vote.

The following day, in an editorial cartoon in *La Presse*, Dumont was portrayed in chassidic garb, saying that next week he expected to be courted by the "nude cyclists" in the Plateau, a reference to a recent protest that actually took place against the overuse of gas-powered vehicles.

Charest for his part, accused Dumont of misleading Quebecers by being absent during crucial budget negotiations in Quebec City. The budget passed June 1.

Slimovitch said that in substance, the *La Presse* article accurately portrayed the fact the Jewish community "can go elsewhere" other than the Liberals if it decides to.

"As long as they can go to a non-separatist party," Jewish Quebecers will be satisfied, Slimovitch said.

Slimovitch declined to comment "one way or the other" on whether he felt the story's front-page placement reinforced a certain perception of the Jewish community.

A call to Philippe Cantin, *La Presse*'s associate editor, was not returned by *The CJN*'s deadline.

Trial of firebomber's mom suspended

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Closure for the Jewish community in the April 2004 firebombing of a Jewish school's library appears far off after what was to be the two-day trial of the mother of the perpetrator was suspended on Friday.

Rouba El-Merhebi Fahd, 39, is charged with being an accessory after the fact to her son Sleiman El-Merhebi's arson at the United Talmud Torahs in St. Laurent. She has been free on $10,000 bail since her arraignment in May 2004. She faces a maximum of seven years' imprisonment if convicted.

Quebec Court Judge Robert Marchi granted defence lawyer Marc Poupart's request for more time to prepare his case after Sleiman's surprise testimony for the prosecution contradicted police-wiretapped conversations played in court.

Poupart and the Crown were due back in court this week to set a date in the fall, not for the resumption of the trial, but to determine the admissibility of the prosecution's evidence, with Sleiman expected to once again take the stand.

Evidence collected by bugging the family phone found that El-Merhebi Fahd called a travel agent in the month after the crime asking about buying a ticket to Brazil for a departure within that week or the next. Asked when the return would be, she answers, "maybe three months."

El-Merhebi Fahd, who did not testify, never bought the ticket.

In another wiretapped conversation that was taken inside Sleiman's car, which was key in his arrest, he admits to two friends that he set the fire at the school. He wonders if he'll go to jail, saying that the act was not vandalism, but "terrorism." He talks about leaving for Brazil, Mexico or Cuba,

In court last Friday, he testified that his mother didn't know that he set the fire and that a trip to Brazil had been considered "for personal reasons" before he committed the crime. He insisted no steps were taken to have him leave Canada.

Sleiman said he told his mother the six gallons of kerosene he brought home were for a camping trip. He said his mother didn't ask why he threw out his kerosene-smelling clothes after he committed the arson.

The trial was suspended for several minutes to allow Sleiman El-Merhebi to "refresh [his] memory" after saying he couldn't remember much. Following along with a transcript, he asked that the tape be stopped a couple of times.

Sleiman, now 21, was sentenced in January 2005 to 40 months in jail for the arson, to which he pleaded guilty, and was released as mandated by law in May 2006. He still lives in Montreal.

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June 10, 2007

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Olmert sees new peace push

Opinion

By LESLIE SUSSER

With a new government emerging in the West Bank, one without Hamas, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert believes that Israel and the Palestinians can resume peace talks from where they left off when Hamas swept to power in national elections 18 months ago.

Hamas' violent takeover of the Gaza Strip last week has brought two separate Palestinian entities, radicals in Gaza and moderates in the West Bank. That constitutes a major change in the Israeli-Palestinian equation.

It means those in charge in Gaza can no longer encourage terror attacks and blame them on others. It means Israel can sit down quietly with the West Bank moderates and discuss a better future for both sides.

But it also means that in Gaza, Israel has what critics of the 2005 disengagement predicted would fill the vacuum created by its withdrawal, an Iranian-backed base on its doorstep.

The new situation, which no one quite knows how to handle, has generated a spate of creative thinking inside and outside Israeli government.

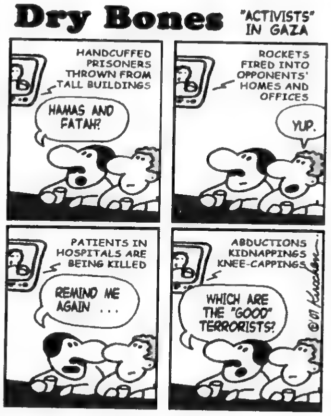
Soon after Gaza fell to the radicals, Olmert made it clear that he intends to evolve much different policies for dealing with the Hamas regime in Gaza and the more moderate Fatah government in the West Bank.

It is not simply a question of divide and rule. Olmert has argued that as long as Hamas was part of the Palestinian government, peacemaking was impossible. Now that there are effectively two separate authorities, he believes Israel can work with the moderates and ignore the radicals.

The new thinking raises a number of questions: Will Hamas sit back and allow Israel and Fatah to build a thriving West Bank as an alternative model for a Palestinian future? Will the moderates be able to hold onto power in the West Bank, or will Hamas topple them there, too? And with Hamas in control in Gaza, how far will Olmert be able to go in peacemaking efforts that once envisaged a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza?

On Sunday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah reinforced the two-entity approach when he swore in a new emergency government in the West Bank without Hamas members. He described the Hamas takeover in Gaza as an "armed insurrection" and declared illegal the Hamas government there of Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh.

Abbas said the new government's first goal would be getting the international sanctions against the Palestinians lifted. The sanctions were imposed because of Hamas' participation in the government.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Olmert has made it clear already that Israel would be ready to release about $562 million in Palestinian tax money, since the danger of the funds falling into militants' hands has mostly been eliminated. Moreover, Israel probably will want to co-operate with the international community in transforming the West Bank economically. The aim is to create new hope for the West Bank moderates through major investment and political dialogue.

As to Gaza, the government will regard it as an enemy entity, and enforce an economic and a military blockade while taking steps to prevent a humanitarian crisis.

Explaining the new approach to Gaza, Deputy Defence Minister Ephraim Sneh said the government anticipated humanitarian problems because "Gaza is controlled by reckless gangs who don't care about the civilian population." But he said Israel would be "attentive" to humanitarian requests from international agencies, would find ways to allow food and medicine to go through, and would not cut off water and electricity supplies to Gaza.

The challenge for Israel is to prevent a humanitarian crisis, for which it would be blamed, while fighting terror and preventing the continued influx of weaponry, especially across the Egyptian border.

One idea that's been broached: an international force to move in along the border. Hamas, however, said it would not allow foreign troops, and the odds are remote that potential participants would be prepared to take on the militants.

A second option would be to beef up Egypt's border presence, but that is unlikely to be any more effective than it has been so far.

Therefore, some analysts are saying, Israel eventually will have to move in and smash Hamas as a military force.

The new situation has Israelis on the left and the right proposing new solutions.

Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, one of the most outspoken critics of the 2005 disengagement, suggests working with the international community to weaken Iran and its proxies.

"Israel will not be able to tolerate the existence and growth of an Iranian base on the outskirts of Tel Aviv and Beersheba," he said.

Others on the right have more radical proposals.

Maj.-Gen. (Res.) Yaakov Amidror, a former head of intelligence analysis, argues that Israel will have to launch a major military operation to topple Hamas and then reoccupy Gaza to stop the radicals from coming to power again.

Israel Hasson of the hawkish Yisrael Beiteinu party recommends declaring Gaza an enemy state and letting it go on its own, a proposal he made even before the Hamas takeover.

On the left, Carmi Gillon, a former Shin Bet Security Services chief, sees a short window of opportunity. Gillon says the West Bank poses a much more acute security problem for Israel than Gaza because it has a much longer border, proximity to major population centres and many Jewish settlers.

But he says with Hamas being much weaker in the West Bank than in Gaza, Israel should encourage Fatah to crush the militants in the West Bank and then pacify the area further by cutting a deal with the moderates. Gillon proposes creating conditions for positive dialogue by unfreezing tax money, releasing Fatah prisoners and lifting roadblocks.

Maj.-Gen. (Res.) Doron Almog is among the few commentators to recommend talking to Hamas. Almog says Israel should discuss a long-term cease-fire with the radicals while taking steps to stop the influx of weapons.

Ironically, the Hamas takeover could help stabilize Israeli-Palestinian relations. In the case of attacks from Gaza, Israel could take much tougher action. And in the West Bank, there could be the beginnings of a modus vivendi.

Much will depend now on how all the main actors – Israel, the United States, Iran, the moderate Arab states, Fatah and Hamas – play their new hands.

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With Lauder leading, WJC looks to end inner strife

By JACOB BERKMAN

JTA

NEW YORK — With the election of Ronald Lauder, 63, as its interim president, the World Jewish Congress hopes to put aside years of turmoil from political infighting and allegations of financial mismanagement.

Lauder, the cosmetics heir and president of the Jewish National Fund, defeated Mendel Kaplan, the South African steel magnate and former chair of the Jewish Agency for Israel, in a 59-17 vote Sunday of the organization's board of governors.

He succeeds Edgar Bronfman, who retired Sunday after serving nearly 30 years as president. The board of governors overwhelmingly voted in Bronfman's son, Matthew, as its chair. Matthew Bronfman, the chair of the WJC's finance committee, was running as part of a ticket with Lauder and was unopposed.

Also Sunday, the WJC's secretary general, Stephen Herbits, said in a report to the governing board that he would resign if Lauder and Matthew Bronfman were chosen.

Earlier in the day, the WJC executive committee had voted 11-4 to recommend Lauder to the board.

The WJC is best known for securing billions in Holocaust restitution funds and fighting anti-Semitism, but its reputation has suffered as a result of the turmoil of the past several years.

It also has experienced a 33 percent decline in fundraising over the first quarter of 2007 and faces an ongoing audit by the Internal Revenue Service.

In March Edgar Bronfman fired his longtime powerbroker and friend, Rabbi Israel Singer, amid accusations of financial improprieties.

That firing and the subsequent announcement of Edgar Bronfman's retirement led to intense political infighting among those jockeying for the organization's top lay spot.

That carried over to Sunday, as the executive committee meeting at WJC headquarters was marked by intense bickering over electoral procedures.

Board member Shai Hermesh walked out and did not return, telling JTA later that the WJC's Israel delegation had been "insulted" in the selection of a nominating committee for the elections.

During their speeches to the board of governors, Lauder spoke of the need for improved Jewish education around the world, and Wilf said the organization potentially could provide a forum to build Jewish unity among the religious streams and age groups.

Kaplan gave perhaps the most impassioned speech.

He told the governing board that it must move past depending financially on "one or two individuals."

Edgar Bronfman reportedly kept the organization afloat during his tenure as president, giving some $2 million per year to the WJC.

While Lauder acknowledged to JTA that he has made a financial commitment to the WJC, he said he did not want to discuss the details of that commitment until a later date.

Kaplan said above all, the WJC must move past its infighting.

"What you really have is what you create for others, not what you do for yourself," he told the governing board.

Lauder will serve as interim president until 2009.

The mood was conciliatory after the election.

"I think this will be a new chapter in terms of the unity of the organization and intergenerational co-operation in terms of the Lauder generation and the Matthew Bronfman generation," Rabbi Marc Schneier, the chair of the WJC's American section and a steering committee member, told JTA.

Kaplan's main supporter, European Jewish Congress President Pierre Besnainou, said he was looking forward to reconciliation.

"It was a democratic decision, and I have to congratulate Ron Lauder. He made a good campaign," Besnainou told JTA.

Much of the resuscitation of the WJC may hinge upon who becomes the next secretary general.

During Edgar Bronfman's tenure, he was seen as the face of the organization. Rabbi Israel Singer was its primary strategist and deal maker.

Herbits, once a top adviser to former Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and an adviser to Edgar Bronfman at Seagram, was brought in three years ago to clean up things amid charges of mismanagement.

Much of the acrimony at the WJC has centered on Herbits, who was seen by some as a bulldog in cleaning up the organization. Before Herbits came aboard as secretary general, while he was serving as an adviser to Edger Bronfman, top officials Elan Steinberg and Isi Leibler were pushed out after Leibler raised concerns about WJC finances.

During Herbits' tenure, Singer and another top WJC official, Bobby Brown, were dismissed. Also, the finances of the WJC's Israel office came under scrutiny.

Herbits chafed when asked about his resignation, saying he had only "handed in his resignation" and that it had not yet been accepted.

Lauder would not say whether the resignation would be accepted and, if it was, who might replace Herbits.

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Singer leaves Claims Conference

By JACOB BERKMAN

JTA

NEW YORK — Another chapter in the Israel Singer saga closed this week when he announced that he would not run for another term as president of the Claims Conference, the lead organization on Holocaust restitution.

Singer, who had been president of the organization since 2002, sent its chair Julius Berman, a note notifying him that he would not run for another term.

"There was absolutely no deal connected to my decision," Singer told JTA in an e-mail exchange. "The decision not to run was a personal one that was reached after discussions with my family and some colleagues."

The decision leaves open the question of who will lead the organization, known officially as the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Once considered a Jewish hero for his work with the World Jewish Congress during the movement to free Soviet Jewry and for his work with the WJC and the Claims Conference in negotiating Holocaust restitution settlements, Singer had become a lightning rod within both organizations.

Longtime WJC President Edgar Bronfman fired Singer from his senior position at the WJC in March because, Bronfman and WJC Secretary-General Stephen Herbits claimed, Singer nefariously mishandled WJC money.

His firing polarized the WJC; it was met with an outcry from his many loyalists. And when Bronfman announced in May that he would retire from the WJC on June 10, many in the WJC lined up according to their allegiance to Singer. They either backed Jewish National Fund President Ronald Lauder, or Mendel Kaplan, who many thought might have brought Singer back into the organization. Lauder was elected Sunday to lead the WJC as interim president.

The conference is comprised of 24 organizations, including the WJC, each with two voting members, as well as 10 rotating members.

As president, Singer was the face of the organization and its chief negotiator, but he had no role in the allocations process.

The Claims Conference negotiating team will hold its annual restitution negotiations with the German government this month, but it is not clear if Singer will participate.

Israel wonders how to deal with Gaza

Continued from page 1

So would safeguards, in terms of training and equipment, to prevent Fatah-linked forces in the West Bank from folding to Hamas the way they did in Gaza. Fatah has a much stronger presence in the West Bank than it did in Gaza.

Given Israel's presence in the West Bank, new training and arms for Fatah there would require a green light from Jerusalem. But Olmert sounded circumspect.

"I look at the Fatah fighting now in Gaza, and I don't see any of the commanders in the area," he told the *New York Times* in an interview. "Where have they been?"

Everyone wants to "help the moderates and provide them with weapons," he said. "But it's another thing to ask yourself, 'If I'm going to give weapons, and these weapons are going to be taken by Hamas, what am I doing?'"

Jacob Walles, the U.S. diplomat who deals with Abbas, told Reuters that Washington would see "no obstacles" to fully re-engaging with the Palestinian Authority under the new government. An end to the aid embargo imposed by the Quartet of foreign mediators – the United States, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union -- would be sure to follow.

Yet it remained unclear how much, if any, funding would reach Gaza now that it is effectively a Hamas fiefdom.

Meanwhile, Israeli authorities are trying to figure out how best to deal with Gaza. A major Israeli energy firm, Dor Alon, announced Sunday it was cutting back fuel supplies to Gaza.

"We should simply increase the isolation of Gaza from Judea and Samaria," National Infrastructure Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer told Army Radio, using the biblical terms for the West Bank. "I want to stop everything until we understand what is going on there."

But Deputy Defence Minister Ephraim Sneh said there were no plans for a complete stranglehold on the impoverished Gaza Strip.

"We won't cut off electricity and water. We won't add to the crisis," Sneh told Israel Radio, but added: "Israel is not Ismail Haniyeh's welfare office."

There is always a military option, something Ehud Barak will have to deal with when he is confirmed as Israel's new defence minister Monday.

Britain's *Sunday Times* newspaper reported that Barak already has drawn up plans for a major Gaza invasion to crush Hamas should it dramatically step up cross-border rocket salvos or resume suicide bombings.

But Hamas, for now, appears loath to enter a new confrontation with Israel. Instead it is expected to try to consolidate its Gaza power base, coax Abbas into a new coalition and smuggle in arms from Egypt for a future war.

That leaves the option of drawing foreign peacekeepers into southern Gaza, an idea Olmert has proposed and will try to develop in his talks with Ban and Bush. He was to meet with Ban on Monday and Bush on Tuesday.

While those meetings were scheduled long before last week's war among the Palestinians, they are certain to take on a new urgency as Israel, the United States and the world community figure out how to deal with a new reality.

In related developments, Peter MacKay, minister of foreign affairs and minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, made the following statement on the new Palestinian emergency government:

"Canada supports the efforts of Palestinian President Abbas and his decision to dissolve the government. We will work with the new Palestinian government led by Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and are looking at how Canada can best provide assistance to his government.

"Canada will continue to respond to the humanitarian needs of Palestinian people, including refugees. We continue to support the voices of moderation within Palestinian society to help bring peace and stability."

Cotler calls UN report one-sided

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

It was a fortuitous turn of events that saw law professor Irwin Cotler in Geneva to address a UN human rights agency at the same time the organization received a special report from Gaza.

As a board member of UN Watch, he was planning to address several troubling steps being considered by the UN Human Rights Council that would, he contends, "institutionalize the condemnation of Israel as a standing item on the agenda."

Though he did manage to include a critique of those proposals, he tailored his remarks to address what he termed the inherent bias of the investigation of the November 2006 Beit Hanoun incident in which Israeli artillery killed 19 Palestinians while responding to Qassam rocket attacks from Gaza.

Irwin Cotler

In a telephone interview from Geneva where he was attending the Council meetings, Cotler said he had been asked to join South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the investigation of the incident, but turned down the request (which came from fellow Canadian Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) because, "I could not accept a mandate to hear only one side of a dispute."

Addressing the Council last week, Cotler said, "The terms of reference deliberately ignored the Palestinian rocket attacks on the Israeli city of Sderot that preceded Israel's actions.

"How could one accept a mandate that violated the right to a fair hearing and fundamental due process?"

"The mandate also violated the presumption of innocence" by condemning "'the Israeli wilful killing of Palestinian civilians,'" he said. "How could one accept a fact-finding mission, a kind of Alice-in-Wonderland inquiry, where the conviction was secured and the sentence passed even before the inquiry began?"

Despite Cotler's reservations, the investigation did proceed, with British law professor Christine Chinkin joining Archbishop Tutu to examine the incident.

Although Archbishop Tutu and Chinkin were unable to visit Beit Hanoun, they submitted a report "based on available information," a UN press release stated.

"It is clear that significant human rights violations resulted in Beit Hanoun from the activities of the Israel Defence Force on and around Nov. 8 and that those events must be investigated by an independent, impartial and transparent process, preferably at the national level," they reported.

It also found that "the IDF must place at the centre of their decision-making and activities in the occupied Palestinian territories the consequences of the use of force on civilians....Regardless of whether the casualties at Beit Hanoun were caused by mistake, recklessness, criminal negligence or were wilful, those responsible must be held accountable."

Archbishop Tutu, in presenting the report, said "Israeli and Palestinian authorities should end the culture of impunity and bring to account those responsible, including those responsible for launching rockets against Israeli towns."

At the time of the Beit Hanoun incident, Israel has apologized for the strike, saying it was caused by a technical mistake in the artillery battery's guidance system.

Cotler said the pre-determination of Israel's guilt could be found in the mission's terms of reference.

The Council's special session Resolution S-3/1 emphasizes "Israeli wilful killing of Palestinian civilians," but it also called Israel's military incursion into Gaza, which preceded the shelling accident, "a continued violation...of the human rights of the Palestinian people" and "a collective punishment of the civilians [in Gaza]."

Cotler said the investigation into the Beit Hanoun incident is part of a pattern in the Council of singling out Israel for "discriminatory treatment" while ignoring the Palestinians' role in the conflict.

It also demonstrates "an obsessive preoccupation with Israel that results in the major human rights violators enjoying exculpatory immunity" from their gross violation of human rights. He noted that neither Sudan nor Iran have been condemned by the Council as Israel has.

The Council, he said, was considering making permanent its special rapporteur on the Mideast conflict, further "institutionalizing" its anti-Israel bias.

"The tragedy is that this is taking place under the protective cover of the United Nations and the imprimatur of international law and human rights."

"Because I take the United Nations seriously, I don't want it to be an instrument to assault human rights, but to protect human rights," he said.

Israel Briefs

New satellite operational

Israel's Defence Ministry announced that the Ofeq-7 satellite, launched last week, has ssuccessfully entered orbit and is broadcasting ground photographs on schedule. Ofeq-7 is intended to boost Israel's surveillance of enemies such as Iran and Syria. It will remain in orbit for four years before burning out.

Rocket hits Negev school

A Qassam rocket launched from Gaza hit a Negev high school. The rocket struck last Wednesday morning near the Sha'ar Hanegev High School's music classroom, shattering windows but causing no injuries, *Yediot Achronot* reported. "Fortunately there were no students at the place at the time of the attack," said Alon Shuster, head of the Sha'ar Hanegev regional council.

U.K. Tory a 'Zionist'

The leader of Britain's Conservative party called himself a Zionist and slammed the initiative for an academic boycott of Israel. David Cameron, responding to questions at the annual luncheon of the Conservative Friends of Israel, said the academic boycott was completely uncalled for and that attacks against Israel often slid into anti-Semitism, *Ha'aretz* reported. "If by Zionist you mean that the Jews have the right to a homeland in Israel and the right to a country then I am a Zionist," Cameron said.

Universities fight boycott

Seven major Israeli universities are uniting to fight a major British trade union's vote to consider a boycott of Israeli academics. The schools will launch an ad campaign in U.S. media, including the *New York Times*, to highlight the contributions of Israeli universities. For example, the ads will note that Ben-Gurion University of the Negev prevented millions in Africa and China from going blind or even dying by creating a biological control for mosquitoes and black flies that cause malaria and river blindness.

Israelis like their lives: Poll

An overwhelming majority of Israelis are satisfied with their lives, a survey found. Eighty-three per cent of Jewish Israelis say they are satisfied or extremely satisfied with their lives, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics' annual Social Survey 2006, released last week, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. Nearly three-quarters of Israeli Arabs said they feel the same way. For the haredi community, the figure was 97 per cent, while for the traditional and secular segments of the population, the figure was 82 and 85 per cent, respectively. The survey questioned 7,300 people.

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And now for something completely different: HEEBONICS
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Middle East peace on your PC? Could be

By MITCHELL SCHNURBACH
Special to Heebonics/CJN

PEACEMAKER™
Play the News. Solve the Puzzle.

Have you ever thought you could do a better job at resolving the Israeli/Palestinian conflict than the current leaders in the Middle East? A computer game called PeaceMaker gives you just that chance to prove yourself.

The game, created by ImpactGames of Pennsylvania, was first revealed to the world in 2005 at the Games Developers Conference in San Francisco. In it, you choose whether to play the role of the Israeli Prime Minister or Palestinian President with the ultimate objective of reaching a two state solution.

Under each scenario, you try to win the approval of your own people while balancing their needs against exterior forces.

As the Israeli Prime Minister, you need to gain the approval of the Palestinian people. As the Palestinian President, world approval is your objective.

What makes the game so difficult is that more often than not, what pleases one side displeases the other. While your approval rating amongst Palestinians might soar if you opt to begin removing portions of the security fence, you also risk sparking major protests across Israel.

"The game is structured in a way that penalizes users for imbalanced gameplay," wrote Asi Burak, co-founder and COO of ImpactGames, in an e-mail to *Heebonics/CJN*.

"If you are taking extreme measures and ignore the other side's wants you will lose. In the same way, you might lose by running into concessions without building support among your own people. So, it is not really a 'sandbox' but a contained experience with clear messages."

The game also doesn't desensitize the playing experience by peppering you with stylized cartoon violence, like so many other computer games based on real life conflicts.

This is not a game for the Grand Theft Auto crowd.

The graphics are limited to a rudimentary map of Israel, plus boxes and drop down menus to help you choose your options. The photographic, video and audio footage that portrays incidents in the game, is culled from actual events and media that have occurred in the region.

PeaceMaker is based entirely on the decisions you make. And just like in real life, every action sparks a reaction. Depending on whether you opt to take the hawkish or dovish route, your approval rating increases and/or decreases.

Various Internet reviews of PeaceMaker have claimed the game is impossible to win; however, Burak disputes that assumption.

"The rumors are not true. There is definitely a way to win both sides... as the Israeli Prime Minister and the Palestinian President," Burak said. "In fact, while some players could never beat the game, others blamed us for being too optimistic and claimed it was 'too easy' for them."

While reviewing the game, *Heebonics/CJN* was only able to win just once; and that while playing as the Israeli Prime Minister, using an approach offering many concessions to the Palestinians while remaining tough against militants on both sides.

But Burak insisted there are other ways to achieve peace in the game. "There is no one model, formula or scenario, but multiple paths that are affected by random events and complex relations with the other groups or leaders," he said.

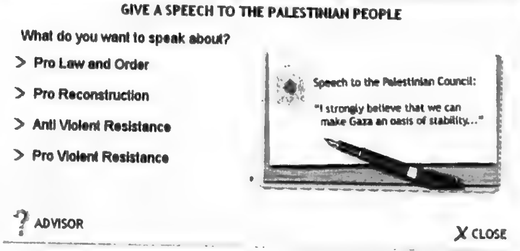
The game is also programmed so that the United States, European Union and United Nations operate as supporting actors in the resolution of the conflict. There is no option that allows you to play the role of United States president and draw up a new "road-map for peace", for example.

This was a conscious decision on the part of the game's developers.

"We actually wanted to emphasize the responsibility and the initiative of the stakeholders themselves," Burak said. "One of our core assumptions is 'you can make a difference.' i.e., a leader in the region can help to make progress and build trust with the other side."

While some might wonder if the existence of any "game" based on such a serious situation is appropriate, PeaceMaker was not created to exploit the situation, but rather to educate and inform.

For more information, visit www.peacemakergame.com.



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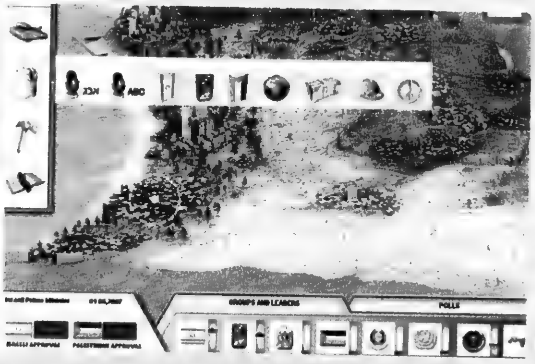


The PeaceMaker development team, from left: Tim Sweeney, Eric Brown, Yair Avgar, Asi Burak, Tim Tournay and Joe Stafura.

Screenshots from the PeaceMaker video game.

[Photos courtesy Impact Games]

Secrets of easy entertaining from a culinary expert

By NORENE GILLETZ

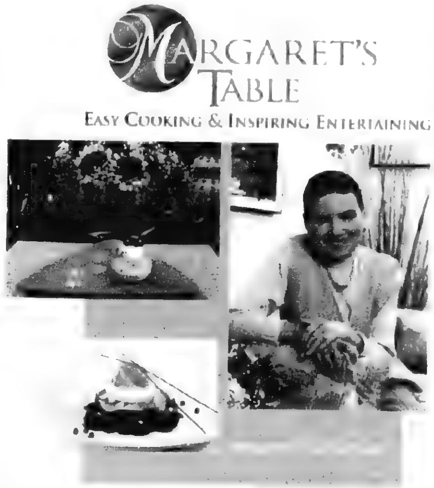
Summertime is just around the corner, and although I enjoy entertaining friends and family, I don't enjoy spending time in the kitchen when the weather is warm and sunny.

I'm always on the lookout for simple solutions to entertaining, so I was delighted to discover the award-winning cookbook *Margaret's Table – Easy Cooking & Inspiring Entertaining* by Margaret Dickenson of Ottawa.

From among thousands of cookbooks, her book was recognized as the best entertaining cookbook in the world at the 2006 Gourmand World Cookbook Awards. The book reveals 40 years of Dickenson's easy and practical entertaining "secrets."

Dickenson is an award-winning international cookbook author, recipe developer and TV host. She inspires her readers with innovative recipes and clever presentations.

With her husband, Larry, who did the photography, she published *Margaret's Table*. This book's recipes are a treat for the eye and the palate. It includes 180 personally created recipes, six of which have won international awards in three different competitions, and 25 menus.



Try these "No Time, No Talent" recipes from *Margaret's Table*, and you'll look like a talented chef in no time! They're perfect for entertaining your guests, and if you follow her culinary advice, you can master the art of preparing a beautiful, elegant table with ease. Enjoy…

QUICK GRILLED SALMON STEAKS/FILLETS WITH NUTTY MANGO SALSA

For many, grilled salmon is irresistible, particularly if it is cooked to perfection. With this in mind, Dickenson has developed grilling techniques that work wonderfully, whether you use the barbecue, a grill pan or heavy skillet, on their own or in combination with oven baking. Serve it with Nutty Mango Salsa, a stunning melange of nuts, fresh mango and coriander, with seductive notes of honey and spice. Fast and impressive, this is great with wild salmon as well. It's equally appealing served hot, warm or at room temperature. Serve with a simple accompaniment of baked or mashed potatoes and broccoli or asparagus.

4 salmon steaks, at least 1 inch thick (8 oz. each)
1⅓ tbsp. olive oil (4 tsp.)
1 tbsp. peeled and grated fresh ginger root
salt and crushed black peppercorns to taste
¾ cup Zesty Ginger Mayonnaise, below (optional)

Nutty Mango Salsa:
1½ cups diced (¼-inch) mango flesh
2½ tbsp. chopped fresh coriander leaves
1 tbsp. finely diced onion (peeled)
¾ tsp. hot chili paste
1½ tsp. honey
⅓ cup coarsely chopped macadamia nuts
3 tbsp. coarsely chopped pecans
garnish: fresh herbs and/or edible flowers (optional)

Nutty Mango Salsa: with a fork, toss together mango, coriander leaves and onions; set aside. (Note: salsa may be prepared to this point up to 12 hours in advance and stored refrigerated in an airtight plastic container.)

Rub salmon with olive oil and ginger; allow to rest at room temperature for 20 minutes.

Season with salt and crushed black peppercorns; place salmon on a well-oiled and preheated very hot barbecue grill over direct heat with lid up. Grill first side for 1½ minutes until brown grill marks appear. Turn salmon over and grill second side for 1 minute. Immediately, close lid, reduce heat to medium and cook until central core is still translucent, about another 3 minutes. Avoid overcooking.

Remove from heat and promptly cover salmon closely with aluminum foil (shiny side in) for at least 4 minutes to keep in heat and to allow for more even cooking. Add chili paste, honey and nuts to mango salsa; toss. Makes almost 2 cups salsa.

Top salmon with Nutty Mango Salsa. If desired, garnish with fresh herbs and/or edible flowers. Serve with Zesty Ginger Mayonnaise/Sauce.

Option: salmon fillets may be cooked in a similar manner. (Note: sear flesh side first, and if finishing the cooking in the oven, arrange the fillets skin side down on baking tray.)

Zesty Ginger Mayonnaise: Whisk together ¼ cup mayonnaise, 1 tbsp. peeled and grated fresh ginger root, 1 tsp. granulated sugar and if desired, a pinch of wasabi.

Alternative Cooking Technique: after searing the salmon on both sides (i.e., after 2½ minutes) on the barbecue, transfer the salmon to a parchment-lined baking tray. Place it in a preheated oven at 350 until the central core is still translucent, about 3 minutes. (Note: this is a useful technique when limited time is available for supervising the barbecue or when preparing large quantities of grilled salmon.)

Alternative to Barbecuing: use a well-oiled preheated grill pan or skillet set over medium-high heat. Sear the salmon exactly as outlined above. Immediately transfer it to a parchment-paper-lined baking tray and complete the cooking in a preheated 350-degree oven until the central core is still translucent, about 3 minutes. Continue as above. Makes 4 servings.

BLUEBERRY OR POMEGRANATE AND ALMOND RICE SALAD

Dickenson has a passion for developing versatile recipes. Doing more with basically the same recipe and reducing it mainly to an assembly process thrills her to no end. For example, she tosses cooked rice with cumin, garlic and chopped fresh parsley, then moistens it with wonderful drizzles of olive oil and mayonnaise to produce the base for a myriad of rice salads. Additions of berries or chips of fruit offer the fresh taste of a particular season, while toasted slivered almonds provide a satisfying crunch.

3 cups cooked long-grain rice, chilled or at room temperature
¾ to 1 tsp. ground cumin
½ tsp. finely chopped fresh garlic
1½ to 2 tbsp. mayonnaise
2 to 3 tsp. olive oil (preferably garlic infused)
salt to taste
1 cup fresh blueberries, pomegranate seeds or dried cranberries (see tips below)
3 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
⅓ cup toasted slivered almonds
1 to 1⅓ tbsp. mustard/herb vinaigrette (optional)

Toss rice, cumin and garlic together. Whisk together mayonnaise and oil; drizzle over seasoned rice and toss to combine evenly. Add salt to taste.

Fold in fruit and parsley. Refrigerate for at least an hour if possible or until ready to use. (Note: the salad may be prepared to this point up to 8 hours in advance. If stored longer, the rice tends to toughen.)

Just before serving, add toasted almonds and toss. If desired, drizzle with vinaigrette according to taste and toss. Makes about 4 cups (5 to 6 servings)

Tips:
- Serve this salad as an accompaniment to salmon, chicken, lamb or veal. For buffet and pot luck events, it imparts a tasty and original dimension to the menu.
- Blueberries create a mild but wonderfully refreshing salad particularly for summer entertaining.
- Pomegranate seeds or dried cranberries are particularly appropriate for the holiday season; 1½ to 2 fresh pomegranates are required. Cut the fruit in half and carefully remove the seeds. Discard the skin and the white pulp.

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For information about her services, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at www.gourmania.com.

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Environmental awareness growing in Israel

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Environmental awareness is just beginning to take hold in Israel – and not a moment too soon, according to Green Zionist activist Noam Dolgin.

"Israel is about 30 years behind the United States in most trends," said Dolgin, who is the chair of the six-year-old American-based Green Zionist Alliance.

Israel's environmental movement currently consists of small groups campaigning around local issues, he said, but environmental consciousness is growing.

Dolgin was in Winnipeg over the May long weekend to lead a Shabbaton that was organized by Adamah'Nitoba, a local Jewish ecology organization.

Prior to the Shabbaton, Dolgin, whose father is originally from Winnipeg, spoke to students at the Gray Academy and at a gathering at Congregation Etz Chayim.

He provided a historical overview of the Jewish relationship with the land and noted that since the establishment of the State of Israel, concern for the well-being of the land has taken a back seat to economic development, politics and security.

Dolgin spoke about air pollution in Israel, citing reports that indicate 1,400 Israelis in the Tel Aviv-Ashdod area die every year from exposure to polluted air.

Reports he cited also indicate water shortages are getting worse, although Israel has opened a second desalination plant in Ashdod. Israel ranks 88 out of 122 countries in terms of water quality, and the Dead Sea is rapidly disappearing, he said.

Israeli environmental issues include solid waste disposal, he said, noting that the "garbage mountain" outside Tel Aviv has been closed and is to be converted into a park. Overpopulation and species extinction are other pressing issues, he added.

While Israeli technology is second to none in coming up with environmentally friendly solutions, Dolgin noted that almost all of the technology is exported to places such as Africa and California and very little has yet been adopted in Israel itself.

There are a number of national environmental groups that have formed in Israel in recent years, Dolgin said, and they are having some effect.

The oldest is the 17-year-old Israel Union for Environmental Defense, which through legal advocacy fights for reductions in air pollution, safe drinking water, solid waste management and accessible open spaces.

The Heschel Centre for Environmental Learning and Leadership is a meeting place for people who wish to develop alternative environmental, social and cultural visions.

The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, located at Kibbutz Ketura in the Arava, emphasizes peace and sustainable development.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel seeks ways to promote growth, while at the same time protecting Israel's environmental heritage.

Friends of the Earth, Middle East brings together Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian environmentalists in co-operative efforts.

The Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information promotes co-operation around water issues.

Dolgin said that his Green Zionist Alliance hopes to elect more delegates to the World Zionist Congress, including representatives from Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. In Canada, voters have to be members of a Zionist organization, while in the United States, any member of the Jewish community over 18 can vote in a WZC election.

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SENIORS' MONTH: As part of Seniors' Month across Canada, Pine Villa Retirement Residence held an Israel Day Festival June 3 featuring a barbecue of Middle Eastern specialties such as kebabs and falafel, with proceeds of $200 going to the Arthritis Society. There was music and entertainment by the Bubbies and Zaidies, the Pine Villa Choir and the BJCC Chai Dancers. Sandra and Jerry Genesove, left, came out to enjoy the afternoon along with more than 50 other guests and won one of several available prizes. With them is Pine Villa marketing director Debbie Heller-Raphael.

Q. I am wondering if fruits and vegetables are equally nutritious whether they are cooked or raw.

A. The answer depends on which fruit or vegetable. Some fruits and vegetables lose a great deal of their nutrition when cooked, and particularly when they are overcooked, so always try to not overcook them. Blueberries, for example, lose much of their nutritional benefit when cooked for a long time, and thus a blueberry pie will have far less nutritional benefit than fresh blueberries.

About
Nutrition

However, carrots and tomatoes actually become increasingly nutritious when cooked for prolonged periods. The lycopenes in tomatoes, which come from their vibrant colour and are believed to help prevent prostate cancer, are in much higher concentration in cooked tomato dishes like tomato sauce than in fresh tomatoes. Carrots, because of the complexity of their fibre structure, are difficult for our bodies to break down, and we don't absorb much of their nutrients when they are raw. Therefore, boiling them until they are soft makes more vitamins available for absorption. Of course, eating all fruits and vegetables, cooked or raw, is very important and healthful.

Q. I take an iron supplement and I would like to know if I should avoid taking it with any foods.

A. Yes. Dairy foods interfere with the absorption of iron significantly. You should avoid consuming dairy products within two hours of taking your iron supplement. Furthermore, there is new research suggesting that coffee and tea also prevent ideal absorption and you should also avoid these.

Another good tip if you have low iron is this: when you eat red meat, you should have it at the same meal with foods rich in vitamin C, like broccoli, cauliflower, bell peppers, cantaloupe, oranges and strawberries, and you will better absorb the iron from the meat.

Lastly, if your doctor has prescribed an iron supplement for you because your iron or ferritin is low, and particularly if your hemoglobin is low, be sure to take it! If you cannot get your iron level up from food alone, a supplement is the best way to go.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

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Books & Authors

A South African's journey of self-discovery

By SHERRY SMITHER
Special to The CJN

Picture this: she's in her 90s, snuggled up in blankets on her love seat for warmth, and the heat in her apartment is jacked up so high a desert seems cool in comparison.

In walks her grandson, the writer. He's there to question her about her past – research for his upcoming book.

Instead, she questions him. Repeatedly. She asks if he's making money, tells him to get a real job, and when he's ready to leave… she slips him a twenty.

Sound like a scene from Seinfeld's condo in Del Boca Vista? No, it isn't.

It's Whispering Towers in Richard Poplak's hysterically funny yet poignant memoir, *Ja, No, Man: Growing Up White in Apartheid-era South Africa.(Penguin Canada).*

Poplak, aware that many South African writers are known for their dark, visionary voices, chose to "bring the book alive in a different way, to attract a different audience," he explains over the phone from Dubai.

"Humour is essential for me. I don't know how else to communicate. And I've experimented with other voices as one does. I was going to do it through my voice – the humorous voice – or I didn't see a point in doing it at all."

Currently, the 34-year-old journalist is travelling in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan, doing research for his next book, *Omar Shamshoon Says D'oh!: Trawling the Muslim World for North American Pop Culture*.

"As serious as the situation is in the Middle East and it's incredibly serious, it doesn't have much of a solution. The only way I can make sense of it is through humour, which is the driving force behind *Ja, No, Man*."

A witty storyteller, in the book, Poplak brilliantly recounts tales of his sadistic headmaster, "The Whistler"; his childhood maid, Bushy "The Coathanger"; and the censorship of "Muzak" and the "Test Patterns" by the "Powers That Were."

You'll laugh out loud at Poplak, who questions authority and pushes the limits, but you'll cry inside for his loss of innocence in a tribal society with hard and fast rules and strict ideologies.

Apartheid was law.

Poplak says Jews had it no tougher than any other "tribe" in South Africa.

"We were tolerated economically and to a degree socially with honorary white status," he recalls.

But when Poplak's Hebrew class was defaced by a "classroom maker-over neo-Nazi edition," the writer says it amounted to this: "It was shocking and it wasn't. If we hated them, then they hated us… it kind of all made sense."

Since, Poplak and his family moved to Canada, the "frozen north," shortly before Nelson Mandela's release from prison in 1990, he has had the advantage of looking at South Africa from the inside out and the outside in.

Richard Poplak

Not wanting to rely on memories alone on which to *Ja, No, Man*, Poplak packed up and headed to Suid Afrika for four months because "research was absolutely vital to bring the book together," he says.

"So much of Johannesburg feels like it was preserved in pickle juice. Returning gave me the ability to react to the sights and smells. It was essential to reawaken those feelings – the feeling of having a maid in the house, the feeling of rage bubbling up when you encounter that South African paradigm.

"A country like South Africa breeds very hard people – there's very little ability to put oneself in somebody else's shoes, which is indeed the ultimate act of imagination."

Poplak, aware he's come under criticism by fellow South Africans for this comment, defends his view.

"It crushed the little things… it crushed the ability to empathize, which is key for me," he says.

To restore his imagination, he needed to interact with people outside of the context of those strict regimental doctrines.

"This was hugely restorative. Certainly that process to try to shed the skin, to try to molt and grow has been a work in progress. I think it took me all through writing this book to be a fully empathic human being."

Enlightened by his journey, Poplak leaves the readers of *Ja, No, Man* with a thought – you can't move forward without looking back.

For more information, visit www.richardpoplak.com.

Arts & Travel

Film documents last days of journalist Daniel Pearl

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A Mighty Heart, which opens on June 22, documents the final anguished days of Daniel Pearl, the hapless American foreign correspondent who was kidnapped and murdered by Islamic fundamentalists in Karachi, Pakistan, five years ago.

Michael Winterbottom's movie unfolds like a taut police procedural and has the feel of a quasi-documentary.

Adopted from his wife's memoir, *A Mighty Heart: The Brave Life and Death of My Husband Danny Pearl,* it is hardly surprising that Mariane Pearl is at the centre of this sad film. But this is not meant critically, for she is a smart, resourceful and engaging woman.

It takes place within a nine-day period between January and February 2002, from Pearl's abduction to his beheading and dismemberment. Since the story line will be familiar to most viewers, the film is framed by an aura of inevitability, yet it is hardly boring. Winterbottom manages to infuse it with a surprising degree of suspense and tension.

Pearl and his wife, a fellow journalist, arrived in Pakistan on Sept. 12, 2001, a day after 19 Arab hijackers turned a new, extremely deadly page in the annals of international terrorism. The South Asian bureau chief of the *Wall Street Journal*, Pearl was researching two interrelated stories when The National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty abducted him.

He was investigating the case of Richard Reid, the British Muslim who was apprehended before he could detonate a shoe bomb aboard an American airliner bound from Paris to Miami. He was also studying the alleged links between Al Qaeda and Pakistan's secret intelligence service, the ISI.

In hot pursuit of a promising lead, he interviewed a Pakistani source who apparently was privy to valuable information. As he left for the meeting, from which he never returned, Pearl told Mariane that he might be late for a dinner party.

Continued on page 38

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Murdered Jewish journalist subject of A Mighty Heart

Continued from page 37

Winterbottom injects a palpable sense of dread into these early scenes, which are set in a seething city that is at once chaotic and fetid.

In the hours leading up to his fateful encounter with his Pakistani interlocutor, Pearl, competently portrayed by Dan Futterman, is warned to be careful and urged to meet his contact in a public locale. This foreshadowing is quite chilling.

The menacing tone is heightened by a flashback – a device Winterbotttom uses again and again to tie up loose ends – in which Pearl interviews a jihadi who outlandishly claims that "the Jews" masterminded the events of Sept. 11.

As the surrealistic interview continues, the jihadi states with an assurance bordering on arrogance that the Mossad issued a warning to 4,000 Jewish World Trade Centre workers not to turn up that day. "What are you, Christian?" the jihadi then abruptly inquires. "Jewish," Pearl replies as the scene dissolves.

With Pearl missing for more than a day now, Mariane, played to perfection by Angelina Jolie, enlists her connections to find her beloved husband. Officials from Pakistani military intelligence, the U.S. Embassy and the FBI become involved in the manhunt.

Pearl's Jewish background is a significant factor in the unfolding crisis, and the impression conveyed is that Pakistan is a hotbed of anti-Semitism. In a hushed conversation with a seemingly sympathetic Pakistani official, Mariane confides that Pearl is Jewish. "Don't tell anybody," he advises.

The next day, however, a local newspaper reports that Pearl is suspected of being a Mossad agent who has been in touch with India's rival intelligence service. The kidnappers themselves claim that Pearl is a CIA operative. After video images of Pearl appear, his head bowed and his hands shackled, Pearl's Israeli-born father warns Mariane. "It's important not for anyone to know we're from Israel."

As the Pakistani government ratchets up its efforts to rescue Pearl, Mariane is granted a brief audience with the minister of the interior, a gruff and insensitive fellow who berates Pearl for having gotten himself into this mess and cynically blames India for the kidnapping

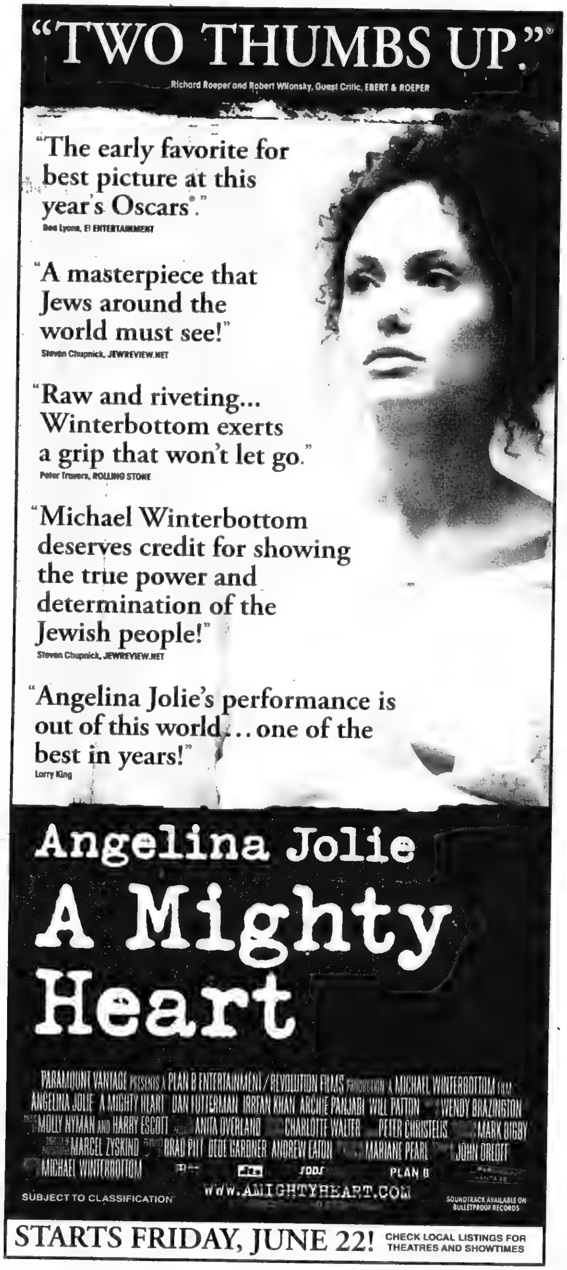
Following a false report that Pearl's corpse has turned up in a morgue, the Pakistani security services finally arrest a suspect. Under torture, he leads them to a jihadi named Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh.

The case is cracked wide open, but it is too late. Pearl has been killed. The murderer is Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (who is behind bars today in a U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.) After being informed of the disheartening news, Mariane, six months pregnant and supremely composed until this moment, breaks into primal screams.

Having recovered from her initial shock, Mariane says that she will not be terrorized by brutal murderers, the predominant message of *A Mighty Heart*.

The concluding scenes are bitter-sweet as the film flashes back to their Jewish wedding, dwells on Pearl's plaintive last words before his decapitation and shifts to the birth of a child.

Angelina Jolie as Mariane Pearl and Dan Futterman as Daniel Pearl



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Haifa art school exhibit opens at Blue Dot Gallery

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

An eclectic show of works by the faculty and graduates of Haifa's art and design school opened last week at Toronto's Blue Dot Gallery.

The exhibit, from the Neri Bloomfield WIZO Academy of Design and Education, visited New York before opening in Toronto on June 14, for the show's only Canadian stop.

Academy president David Alexander, who attended the Toronto opening, said the school strives to make connections in North America and worldwide.

"Toronto is the right scene to be introduced to," he said. "It seemed right and there is something lovely about the gallery."

The exhibit features jewelry, photographs, prints and a "clothing" line made of recycled material such as milk bags and packaging from food and soap products. The clothing symbolizes the "dim economic situation in Israel," according to the exhibit's catalogue.

Most works are for sale and profits will go toward scholarships for students.

"There is not a single line or topic or theme but rather a variety of what interests faculty and students at this given moment," Alexander said.

The exhibit includes a family of puppets that represents the human race. The aim of the puppet display is to turn the puppet into an icon that would be identified with human rights and their violation.

There are prints of grown-up versions of childhood icons, including *Sesame Street*'s Bert and Ernie on a gay pride parade float and the Little Mermaid in a wheelchair busking for change.

Other distinctive displays include portraits of world figures such as Albert Einstein and Che Guevera, their faces replaced by the female artist's.

"There's absolutely not a single line of censorship in the academy," Alexander said.

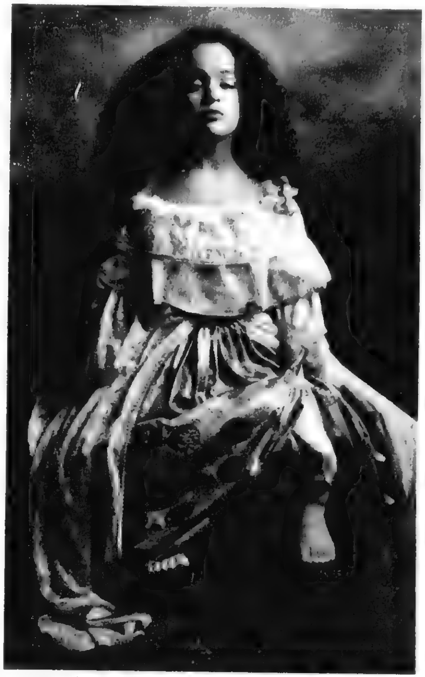
However, he said that many of the more politically charged pieces stayed in Israel, because the academy did not want them to be "misinterpreted or misused" in North America.

These more controversial works will be on exhibit in the school's graduate show in Haifa beginning July 28.

The Neri Bloomfield WIZO Academy of Design and Education is the only Israeli school from which students graduate with a degree in art as well as receiving certification as a high school teacher.

Alexander said his students define the dual learning opportunity as a "win-win situation."

The Blue Dot Gallery is in the Distillery Historic District at 55 Mill St. Building 47. The Neri Bloomfield exhibit closes on July 1. For more information, call 416-487-1500.



An untitled photo by Michal Chelbin

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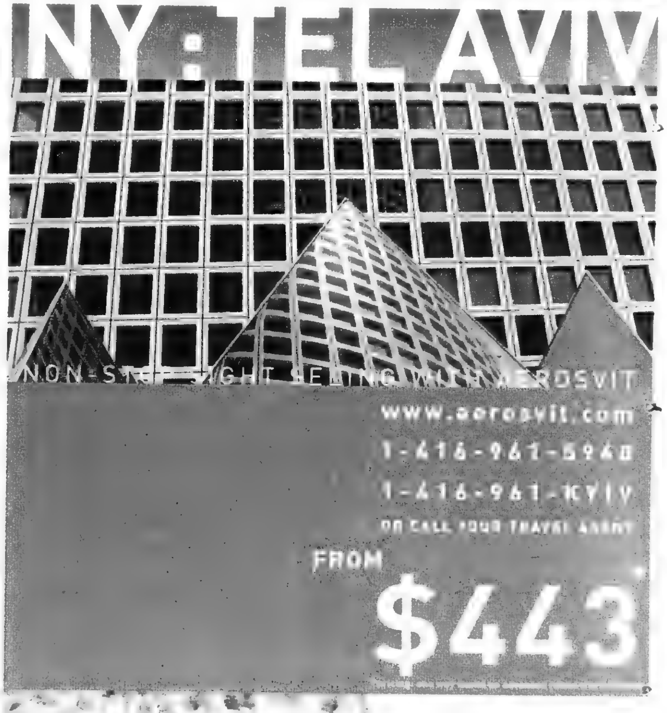

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

ROBERT FULFORD TO SPEAK AT JEWISH BOOK AWARDS

Robert Fulford

Noted broadcaster, journalist and author **Robert Fulford** is slated to speak on the power of Jewish writing at the Helen and Stan Vine Annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards, at the Leah Posluns Theatre, June 21, 8 p.m. The sponsor is the Koffler Centre of the Arts.

Nearly a 20-year-old tradition, the Canadian Jewish Book Awards celebrates excellence in Canadian writing that reflects Jewish concerns and themes. In recent years 10 or more prizes are awarded annually in as many categories, a reflection of the increasing literary activity within the Canadian Jewish community.

Toronto author **Susan Glickman** has been named winner of the prestigious fiction prize for her novel *The Violin Lovers*. The attendant publicity is certain to raise the novel's profile and result in the secondary prize of higher book sales.

Michael Wex

Already enjoying a higher profile due to its long residency on the *New York Times* bestseller list is **Michael Wex's** entertaining and scholarly opus *Born to Kvetch: Yiddish Language and Culture in All of its Moods*, which wins for scholarship on a Jewish subject.

Other winners include **Bernice Eisenstein** in the Holocaust memoir and literature category for her graphic novel *I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors*; **Shirley Kumove**, in literature and translation from Yiddish, for *Drunk from the Bitter Truth: The Poems of Anna Margolin*; **Carol Matas**, in children's and youth literature, for **Turned Away: The World War II Diary of Devora Bernstein**; and **Eric Koch**, **Rosemary Sullivan**, **Rafi Aaron** and **Seymour Mayne**.

The evening allows for the public to meet the honoured authors and to buy copies of their books for them to autograph. Come out and show your support for our literary community. Admission is free and everyone is invited.

* * *

Arts in Brief

- *A Night For Ned* is a benefit performance for **Ned Vukovic**, a theatre artist with Lou Gehrig's disease. Features **Donald Carrier**, **Allegra Fulton**, **David Gale**, **Thea Gill**, **Janet Laine Green**, **Chas Lawther** and **Lenore Zann**. Pre-show reception and viewing of silent auction items begins at 6 p.m., the show begins at 7 followed by celebration and auction. Theatre Passe Muraille, Sunday June 24. 416-504-7529, www.artsboxoffice.ca
- Actor, director and screenwriter **Eugene Levy** has taken on a new role – that of spokesman for an important cause, the need for a national autism strategy. He and **Senator Jim Munsen** spoke out on the subject at a Toronto press conference last week.

There is no cure for autism, but an effective, science-based treatment has been identified. However, it is not covered by provincial medicare.

Deb Filler

- Writer-performer **Deb Filler** performs excerpts from her acclaimed show *Filler Up* at the V. Reiss Gallery, where the **Vivian Reiss** exhibition, *Colour in Motion, Portraits of Food* is currently on view. June 28, 8 p.m.

* * *

At the Galleries

- *Water*, a series of paintings and drawings by **Candida Girling**, and *Inkhorn*, a series of 120 printed, painted and carved wood panels by **Rochelle Rubinstein**, are on view at the Loop Gallery, 1174 Queen St. W., June 23 to July 15. Opening reception, Thursday June 21, 6 to 9 p.m. 416-516-2581, www.loopgallery.ca
- A series of paintings by **Josh Z. Bonder** serves to bring into question the relationship between the creator and the observer. Propeller Centre for the Visual Arts, 984 Queen St. W. June 20 to July 1. Reception, Thursday June 21, 7 to 10 p.m. 416-504-7142. www.propellerctr.com
- Local fine art photographer **Serge Chriqui** opened a new Yorkville-area gallery this month. The Scollard Street Gallery, 112 Scollard (lower level), features works by Chriqui and other photographers. 647-436-9784.

* * *

Harvey Seigel

Passages: The late **Harvey Seigel** of Toronto made his living as a musician, but he loved it so much he would have probably done it for free. He played trombone and harmonica, and sang vocals, but didn't know how to read music. "He played totally by heart, soul and by ear," said his son, **Jeffrey**.

A lover of jazz, particularly Dixieland, Harvey played with his own band and numerous others all over the country, and was well-known on the bar-mitzvah and wedding circuit. He also played at Blue Jay baseball games, at Woodbine racetrack, and various other special events.

"Harvey could improvise harmonies and contrapuntal melodies with the best musicians the city had to offer," recalled his friend, pianist **Fern Dworkin**.

"He would do a sophisticated ballroom soiree in a hotel one day, followed by a strolling Dixieland gig the next day. He delighted in having the musicians dress up in ragtime attire, or Santa Claus hats, or bow ties, or whatever he knew would bring a smile to an audience. Harvey could woo a docile audience into participating full throttle in singing, playing, clapping hands and dancing."

Harvey was born in Hamilton in 1937 and died recently at age 70. He is survived by wife **Sandra**, sons Jeffrey and **Sheldon**, and brothers **Sid** and **Bob**. Last Sunday, his band played a tribute concert in his memory at Scarborough Town Centre.

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Jewish artists sing and speak at Jazz Festival

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Summertime and the listenin' is easy. Rather, it will be tomorrow night, when the TD Canada Trust Toronto Jazz Festival kicks off its 20th anniversary.

Among the host of acts, big name and small, to be presented at the festival, which runs until July 1, are a few local Jewish jazz sensations, notably young vocalist Sophia Perlman and Juno award-winning jazz violinist Lenny Solomon.

Perlman, an up-and-coming jazz chanteuse (she turns 22 this July), has been honing her vocal chops around town with a few different outfits. But her staple gig is with her eight-piece band, The Vipers.

Perlman's rich, throaty voice, which sounds like its been refined for decades, leads The Vipers through jazz tunes from across all eras.

"I've been singing jazz for about four years," she said. "I studied it at Humber College. Before that, I studied classically with the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus."

Perlman said she was excited about this year's fest, as she'll not only play a gig with The Vipers but will also be singing in what's being billed as the Sophia Perlman Trio.

"I'm so used to playing with larger ensembles like The Vipers," she said. "But with the trio, it's really nice to get the opportunity to play with smaller groups in a more intimate setting."

In preparation, she's "singing as much as I can and trying to wrap my brain around some new repertoire."

On Monday, The Vipers released their debut CD, *Once Smitten*.

Perlman sings with The Vipers at the Reservoir Lounge, 52 Wellington St. E., 416-955-0887 at 9:30 p.m. on June 25, and then performs in her new trio at the Ten Feet Tall club, 1381 Danforth Ave., 416-778-7333 at 3:30 p.m.

Sophia Perlman
[Chris Frampton photo]

And if you ever wanted to hear it straight from a jazzman's mouth, then you can catch Solomon as he holds a talk-back session at Nathan Phillips Square on June 24.

A prelude to this year's performance by innovative jazz violinist Jean-Luc Ponty, Solomon is expected to talk about Ponty's influence on the genre, as well as his own years and experiences in jazz and swing.

Solomon's talent has been compared to some of the great jazz violinists of our times, namely Stéphane Grapelli and Joe Venuti.

"It's a great honour. I have emulated [them] on record. They've been an inspiration to me… as well as a local inspiration of mine, [Toronto jazz violinist] Harvey Tishkoff," Solomon said.

Though not performing at this year's festival, Solomon, now in his 50s, remains busy with his successful touring production, *Bowfire*, a violin and fiddle extravaganza.

"It's an incredible group of 10 violinists of all different styles… klezmer, gypsy, classical, Celtic, bluegrass, Texas-swing, Chinese erhu… it's a real theatrical presentation of all things violin," Solomon said.

He recently finished recording a DVD of the show, which will be broadcast on PBS in December.

But he lamented the fact he has little time to record new material, his last album being 2004's *Transparency*.

"*Bowfire* is an all-consuming type of thing. I would love to carve out some time to do some more recording and play more jazz with a small group," he said. "But it's difficult for me to organize another project right now."

Also scheduled to perform on the eve of this year's fest is 13-year-old Montreal jazz-singing phenom Nikki Yanofsky. She is the opening act for the Steve Koven Trio on June 21 at Live@Courthouse, 57 Adelaide St. E., 416-214-9379.

For more information and show schedules, visit www.torontojazz.com.

Lenny Solomon [Andrew MacNaughtan photo]

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OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! Fabulous 38 x 131 ft. building lot in desirable location surrounded by luxury homes. **ONLY $499,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING

BRIGHT & SPACIOUS 5 + 2 BEDROOM, 4 BATHS, huge basement with high ceilings ideal for large family. Close to shuls, schools, shops. Asking $899,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712

* * *

AVENUE / BATHURST / LAWRENCE

CUSTOM EXECUTIVE HOME in demand location. 4 + 1 bedrooms, 5 baths, main floor library + family room. Upgrades throughout. Gleaming hardwood floors on 2 levels.Ideal for entertaining! $1,299,000. Take a virtual tour at **eichornrealty.com** and call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

PRESTIGIOUS CORTLEIGH — BRAND NEW CUSTOM HOME

5 + 2 bdrm. home by upscale builder on 50 x 134 ft. lot. 4,500 sq. ft. + finished basement, 5 baths, quarter-sawn oak floors, dream French maple country kitchen. Extensive use of marble, granite & limestone. Pella windows, cobblestone driveway, radiant heat in master ensuite & basement. Offered at $2,995,000. Call David Eichorn* or Moshe Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK

NEW LISTING!

BATHURST / LAWRENCE
CUSTOM RENOVATION & ADDITION steps to Prince Charles Park. 53 X 120 ft. lot, 5 + 1 bedrooms, 5 baths, hardwood floors on 2 levels, French country kitchen, granite counters. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $899,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

HOMES FOR RENT

- **MEADOWBROOK.** Spacious apartment, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, steps to subway, $1,300 / mo.
- **STEPS TO VIEWMOUNT PARK.** 3 + 1 bdrms., 2 baths, finished basement, close to TTC, $2,200 / mo.
- **COLDSTREAM AVE.** Renovated 3 + 1 bdrm. bung., $2,250 / mo.
- **STORMONT AVE.** 3 bdrm. sidesplit + fam. room, $2,500 / mo.
- **GLENGARRY AVE.** Spacious 3 + 2 bdrm., 3 baths, desirable location close to TTC, parks, schools, shops, $2,800 / mo. Aug. 1.
- **NEW LISTING, Caribou Pk.** Spacious ranch bung., $3,500 / mo.

* * *

AVENUE / BATHURST / WILSON — ESTATE SALE

Det. 3 bdrm. brick bung. w/attached garage on 41 x 115 ft. lot, close to 401, shops, schools, TTC. Renovate or build your dream home. **ONLY $449,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN STORE FOR LEASE

CENTRALLY LOCATED, HIGH TRAFFIC AREA, $1,800 net / mo. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER OF RECORD

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SPECTACULAR NEW LISTING

6 + 2 bdrms, 10 baths, 10,000+ sf luxury living space, 5 w/o, fin bsmt + in-law ste, inground pool, 3 car gar, $2,679,000.

MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM RESIDENCE

$1,149,000 Custom built, 5+1 bdrms + loft, 6 baths, grand foyer/ 32' ceilings, huge dine-in kit, w/o to deck; fnshd bsmnt w/o to fncd pool. rec rm + din area, 2nd kit, 4 pc + sauna. Quiet crt.

BATHURST & CLARK

$579,900. 4+1 bdrms, 4 baths, mn flr fam rm w/o to pool, entry frm garage to mudroom/lndry, fnshd bsmnt.

BATHURST / STEELES CONDO

$224,900 2 bdrms, 2 baths, comb. lr/dr, balcony, pkng, locker.

WANTED! Homes for serious qualified buyers

Thornhill: Price Range: $550 - $2,000,000. Richmond Hill: Price Range: $1,000,000 - $2,000,000. Please call Michelle today!

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Slavens & Associates
Real Estate Inc.
Brokerage

"Continuing the tradition of excellence"

FINE PROPERTIES

YONGE / YORK MILLS - $1,595,000.
Beautifully renovated Tudor on landscaped 56.5' x 135' lot. Impeccable finishings. Gourmet kitchen w/walk-out to deck. Stunning mstr. ensuite & much more! ***Daniel Pustil**

* * *

HEATH / AVENUE ROAD - $1,495,000.
Beautiful Kellner Jourdan built, spacious townhome. Fab. location. Entertaining size liv. & din. rms. Eat-in kit. Wonderful landscaped grdn. Private drive & garage. ***Edith Weiss / *Barbara Kaplan**

* * *

UPPER VILLAGE - $1,199,000.
Wonderful residence on most sought after block. 4 bdrms., 4 baths. Spacious kitchen, fa SOLD & dining rm. Finished lower level. Pool w/cabana. Double driveway w/garage. ***Daniel Pustil**

* * *

YORK MILLS / LESLIE - $1,149,000.
Executive 5 bdrm. home in prestigious neighbourhood. Large principal rms.w/great flow for entertaining. Gourmet eat-in kitchen w/walk-out. Private garden & deck. ****Ron Chichora**

* * *

BATHURST / WILSON - $1,149,000.
Magnificent 5 bdrm. executive home, on deep 190' lot. Exceptional quality & detailing. Centre hall plan. Custom kitchen w/granite counters. Finished lower level. ****Ron Chichora / **Darren Slavens**

* * *

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN - $849,000.
Spacious split-level home. 4 bdrms., 3 baths. Large living & dining rms. Great family rm. with fireplace. Fenced backyard. Private drive. Built-in garage. ***Dianne Beaman/ **Darren Slavens**

* * *

BAYVIEW / DAVISVILLE - $849,000.
Luxury 3 bedroom Tudor. Professionally designed & restored. Custom chef's kit. w/granite counters & breakfast nook. Walk-out to south facing grdn. & priv., detached studio. ****Ron Chichora**

* * *

ESTATE SALE - $749,000.
Spacious Upper Forest Hill Village home. 4 bdrms., 3 baths. Finished lower level. Private SOLD attached garage. Back onto Beltline. Easy walk to schools & transportation. ***Linda Rose**

* * *

YONGE/HWY 7 - $649,000.
Large 3 bedroom bungalow on wonderful 50 x 241' south facing lot; Finished lower level; Walk to Yonge Street and all amenities. ***Eden Williams / **Emily Naretto**

* * *

CASA LOMA AREA - $599,900.
Stunning freehold townhome. Bright, open concept w/eat-in kitchen & walk-out to deck. SOLD ful master w/huge ensuite + w/o to deck. 2nd fl. laundry. Finished lower level. ***Barbara Kaplan**

* * *

RICHMOND HILL BEAUTY - $599,000.
Located in Prime Hunter's Point neighbourhood. Main fl. family rm. w/wet bar + walk-out to deck. 5 spac. bdrms. Finished lower lvl. Close to park & golf course. ***Elliot Gordon / **Darren Slavens**

* * *

DAVISVILLE VILLAGE - $589,000.
Fabulous sun-filled 3 bedroom, side centre hall plan. Walk-outs from living & family rooms to south facing garden. Built-in garage & private drive. ***Elaine Goldenberg-Pike / *Bernard Pike**

* * *

MILLWOOD / BELSIZE - $569,000.
Don't miss seeing this extra wide, updated, semi on a quiet street. Boasts 3 bdrms., 2 baths, re SOLD d kitchen w/walk-out to large deck & landscaped garden, finished lower level. ****Don Wagman**

* * *

PRESTIGIOUS "GOVERNORS HILL" - $569,000.
Bright & spacious 2 bdrm. suite in Hoggs Hollow area w/ravine view. 2 parking spots. Building boasts Million $ recreational facilities, 24 hr. conceirge, gatehouse, ample visitor parking. ***Elaine Goldenberg-Pike / *Bernard Pike**

* * *

BATHURST / WILSON - $495,000.
Great location to build your d SOLD home on this large 65 x 170 ft. lot. Walk to subway & sch . For details, call ***Elliot Gordon**

* * *

BATHURST / WILSON - $479,000.
Bright, well maintained 3 bd SOLD ngalow in excellent location. Recently reno'd kitchen & ba inished lower level. Private drive. Great starter home. ***Anita Evans**

* * *

***Salesperson** ****Broker**

416-483-4337

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALAN NEWTON
REAL ESTATE LTD., BROKERAGE

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

PRIMROSE BEAUTY
2 Bdrm penthouse unit, 2 baths, 2 prkng spots, Close to TTC, Shopping, Betel Centre, Great View Must be seen!! *Carey Rosenzweig

* * *

BATHURST/STEELES – "PRIMROSE 2"
Fab 2 bdrm condo, Spac layout, 2 Parkng spots, Newer Kit, W/balcony, Walk to all amenities. Shows Great!! **Mark Waxman

* * *

BATHURST/CENTRE – 1535 SQ. FT.
Large 2 bedroom plus large family Room, Family size kitchen with granite, All new Appliances, Balcony, South Exposure. Never lived in!! Shows great!!! *Ted Waxman

* * *

HOUSES FOR SALE

BATHURST-CLARK "SPRING FARM"
Large 3 Bdrm, Double garage, Huge Fam Room with built-ins, Large Kit with wall of pantry's, Fin Bsmt, Walking distance to plaza, Synagogue & Transit, Shows Great. Asking $499,900. *Ted Waxman

* * *

BATHURST-CENTRE – 4100 SQ.FT
Cstm blt, 5 bdrm home, Fin bsmt, Grand foyer, Huge Kit, Jacuzzi, Built-in's, Extras Galore!! Shows Great, Must See!! **Mark Waxman

* * *

BATHURST/STEELES – LUXURY 3 BDRM TOWNHOUSE
Underground parking, Newer appliances, Hardwood, Marble, Gas fireplace, Shows "10". Asking $287,000. *Ted Waxman

* * *

FREEHOLD TOWNHOUSE W/DOUBLE GARAGE
Stunning Wycliffe freehold TH, Gorgeous water fall and garden in rear Yard, Principal rooms, Must be seen! Call *Carey Rosenzweig

* * *

JUST LISTED – BAYVIEW/SHEPPARD
Unique, Elegant, Custom Ranch 4 bedroom Bungalow, Irregular 142' lot. Must See!! Call for details *Sarah Rovet

* * *

*** Sales Representative** ****Broker**

905-764-7200

HARVEY KALLES

Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd., Brokerage is a proud Board Member of the National Association of Green Real Estate Agents and Brokers, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting positive environmental change. Our marketing department is committed to reducing our company's impact on climate change. The department is carbon neutral, and uses only 100% FSC recyclable paper manufactured from windpower for all direct mail cards and feature sheets.

"NEW" LISTING ON RIDLEY BLVD
Gorgeous 1 bdrm + Solarium on a low flr. Includes hrdwd flrs, "Tandem" 2 car pkg, Beautiful Porcelain floors & spacious Gourmet kitchen. Great Price! Perry Steinberg** Ext 334

RIDGEGATE: PRIVATE RAVINE LOT
Here it is! Magif. Ravine Prpty w/ingound pool & all the bells & whistles! Master suite includes a retreat w/ Fireplace, Reno'd Kitchen, Finished bsmt. Perry Steinberg** Ext 334

PRIME THORNHILL LOCATION
Spectacular fam home 5 bed+Nanny's rm. Impressive 2 Storey foyer, Oversized rms. Marble Flr, inground pool. Perfect for entertaining. Quiet Street. $859,900. Corinne Kalles* Ext 555

CEDARVALE
Rarely available 3 bedroom, 4 bedroom beautifully renovated home on a stunning deep lot. Ferne Sherkin-Langer* & Nina Castle* Ext 649/622

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RUSSELL HILL ROAD MASTERPIECE
Exquisite Lower Villa SOLD eno. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

LYTTON PARKS PREMIERE OFFERING!!
Superb New, Upgraded 5+1Bdrm, Gourmet Kitchen, 10'Ceiling, Dream Master Bdrm w/Ens. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

LOWER FOREST HILL VILLAGE $2,895,000
Totally Renovated/Restored SOLD /2–Stry Addition, 5 Bdrms, 6 Baths, Exquisite Custom Kit+Bath. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

230 HILLHURST BLVD. BRAND NEW – CLASSIC GEORGRIAN $2,595,000
Lorne Rose Design, 5 Bdrm, All Bathrms on 2nd Lvl w/Heated Flrs, Panelled Lib, Too Many Features to List. Cari Cogan* 416-488-2875

FOREST HILL LOWER VILLAGE – EXCLUSIVE OFFERING
$2,395,000 Near Completion, Mostly new Home 45 x 100 ft, Over 4200 sq ft, 5 Bdrms, 6 Baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

PRIME CEDERVALE TOTALLY RENO'D GEORGIAN!
Superb 4+1 Bdrm, Large Gourmet Kitchen, Spacious Family Rm+ Den+Finished Lower Level. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

BATHURST/LAWRENCE $1,099,000 ALL THE BELLS & WHISTLES!!
Exceptional Family Home, 4 SOLD 4 Baths, Ingrnd Pool, Approx 2800 sq ft, Marble, Granite +++. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

ARMOUR HEIGHTS – LOT 156 X 71 $979,000
Fab Reno+Stunning Mstr Suite Addition on Priv 156x41 ft lot, Property 4+2 Bdrm, Mn flr Fam, Gorgeous. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

BATHURST/ST. CLAIR
Spac 4Bdrm, 4Bath + Fin Bsmt, Huge Kit, Frpl, Mn flr Lndry, Great Layout! Walk to Syna, Don't Miss Out! Adam Feldman* 416-488-2875

53 GILMORE-PESACH KITCHEN, 4BDRM-QUIET CRES-NEAR PARK!
Thornhill, open concept, hardwood, frpl, main flr lndry, fin bsmt, 2 car garage, walk to shul! $469,900. Hedda Zaionz* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

1ST AD! 3000 BATHURST ST! SELDOM AVAILABLE! $385,000
Largest 2+1br, 2bath, west facing ste! Oversized LR/DR combo! Updated kit! Impeccable! 10+. Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BATHURST AND STEELES-"EIFFEL TOWERS" $179,900!
Luxury building, 24 hour security, hardwood balcony - close to TTC, plaza & shuls! Hedda Zaionz* 416-226-1987

****Broker** *** Sales Representative**

www.foresthill.com

LES AARON
Sales Representative

NEW LISTING – AVENUE RD. / LAWRENCE
$1,239,000. Stunning custom-built, 4 + 1 bdrm., 4 bath. home on 25x150' lot. Wainscotting, 4-inch oak flrs., s/s appl. Heated floors in main & master baths. Gas fplc. in fam. rm. Full nanny suite. Cedar deck.

BATHURST & LAWRENCE – BUNGALOW
$649,000. Spacious 3 bdrm., 2 bath bung. on large pie-shap SOLD Eat-in kit. w/walk-out to yard. Fin. bsmt. w/4th bdrm., 2nd kit., rec. rm. & high ceilings. Plenty of storage. Close to shuls, schools & shops.

BATHURST & KING – "SUMMIT" CONDO
$329,000. Check out panoramic view from the 19th floor of this fab. sun-filled unit. Split floor pl SOLD 2 large bdrms., 2 baths, 2 solariums & wood-burning fplc. Amazing resort-like facilities.

HARBORD & BRUNSWICK – FOR LEASE
$3,600/mo. Lovely 2 storey, 3 bdrm. + tandem home on 30x134' lot. Absolute character & charm w/wainscotting, hardwood floors on 1st & 2nd, and reno'd. kit. Self contained fin. bsmt. Private drive for 4 cars. Enormous backyard. Available July 1st.

Forest Hill
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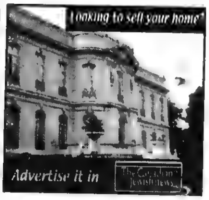
SALLY ROSEN
905-764-7111

BATHURST & CENTRE
Large 4 bdrm, 2 storey, huge family rm, very quiet crescent, 171' lot, basement apt w/sep entrance, fantastic location.

CAMERON & YONGE
Super 3 bdrm split bung, huge lot, fin basement apt, side entr.

CENTURY 21 HERITAGE GROUP



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2 AMAZING PROPERTIES AT BATHURST & STEELES!!!
Both near shuls, TTC, shops, & schools

GORGEOUS, SPACIOUS & UPDATED 2 STOREY with custom kit, 4 bdrms, 4 baths, fin. bsmt, huge 140' lot, hrdwd floors, move-in cond, only $439K! Act now!

• • •

3 STOREY LUXURY TOWNHOME, approx 1875' w 3 bdrms, 3 baths, skylite, parquet flrs, stunning mstr bdrm. Amazing value at only $292,500. Hurry!

IAN & SARAH MAGED, Sales Reps, 416-739-7200

STEPS TO BAYT: Great value! Elegant 4 bdrm + lrg 3 bdrm bsmt apt/sep entr. $$$ reno+upgrades throughout! $519,000 EXCLUSIVE.

• • •

PRIME THORNHILL WOODS: 3,250+sf; pure luxury! 4+1 bdrm; dream kit., 3 lavish baths on 2nd flr. Oversized 2 car gar.; Best materials! $729,000 EXCLUSIVE.

• • •

PRESTIGIOUS CENTRE/ATKINSON: Large 4 bdrm; potential for 5th. Cathedral ceiling. Updated kitchen O/L 2-tier deck/private garden; Main flr office w/custom built-ins! Spectacular bsmt! $698,888.

• • •

INVESTORS/STUDENTS! WALK TO YORK U! 4 bedroom condo townhouse; rent by the room: +ve cashflow with little down! $235,000

• • •

RENT Lrge 3 bdrm. Townhouse+W/O bsmt in prime Thornhill: $2,200.

Murray or Sol Goldkind, Broker / Owners, 416-739-7200

BATHURST / STEELES IN THE HEART OF BATHURST VILLAGE — MOST DEMAND LOCATION. 4 bedroom custom bungalow, inground pool, sep. entry to fin. basement, $529,900.

• • •

BATHURST/CENTRE, KATERINA. App. 2500 sf, 2 storey, 4 bdrms., 4 baths, nanny's quarters, dbl. gar. Shows to perfection. $559,000.

• • •

THORNHILL, FLAMINGO AREA — WINDEMERE CUSTOM HOME. Prestigious location, 4,000 sq. ft., 5 bdrms. + fin. bsmt. for nanny's quarters. Granite, crown mouldings, 9 ft. ceilings, **skylight**, custom cedar playground. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT $899,000 — ACT NOW!**

• • •

THORNHILL WOODS, REDUCED $40,000. LIKE A MODEL! 2 storey, dbl. garage, oversized window for extra light, berber carpet, hrdwd., Dutch clean, $699,000.

• • •

THORNHILL BRAND NEW TOWNHOMES FROM $380,000 1,700 sq. ft. $380,000, 2,055 sq. ft. $393,000, 2 storey, 3 bdrms., **3 baths,** granite kitchen counters, **ceramic tile** in bathrooms, hardwood floors, 9 ft. ceilings, 5 appliances, will close Dec. 2007. **ONLY 5 LEFT — ACT NOW!**

• • •

BATHURST MANOR — NEW LISTING Build your dream home on 55 x 157 ft. lot. **ACT NOW!**

• • •

BATHURST MANOR BUILDING LOT 58.9 ft. x 157 ft., $349,000.

• • •

COURTLANDS CONDO. [illegible] **SOLD** renovated baths, low floor, very quiet private location, [illegible]

SEIDMAN
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REDUCED! REDUCED!

Townsgate condo. Unique, about 2780 sq. ft., 4 bdrm, 4 baths, huge liv/din, rosewood floors throughout, 2 balconies, terrace, 4 car prkng. A-1 location. Don't miss!

WILMINGTON OVERBROOK

3 bdrm, 2 baths, L-shaped liv/din, fin bsmt, dble dr gar, steps to all.

416-633-7373

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bathurst/N. of Lawrence, 3 bdrm. bung. w/gar. + fin. bsmnt. $1850/mo. + util. 905-889-2266.

Clark/Hilda, 3 bdrm. house, close to shops, synagogue, schools, $1850/mo. No agents. Avail. August 1st. 905-886-8841.

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

ATTENTION LAKE SIMCOE COTTAGE OWNERS!

Cash in on the current Hot seller's market! Call Sandra Roth for a Free Market Evaluation.

INNISFIL WATERFRONTS

1291 MAPLE ROAD
50' x 238', 6 bdrm, year round. Move right in. Everything included.

947 BARRY AVE.
66' x 244', Family compound, 6 bedroom & 2 bedroom year round.

Not intended to solicit properties already listed

SANDRA ROTH (BOTNICK)
RYBAK REALTY INC.
Broker of Record
416-782-0598

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Yonge/Centre, August 1/07 to July 31/08 (negotiable). Bright & spacious, 2 bdrm., 2 bath, solarium, balc., eat-in kitchen, lrg. liv./din. room, dble. locker, concierge, close to all ammens., move-in condition. Please call 204-489-2564.

150 Neptune (Bathurst/Wilson), lux. 3 bdrm., 2 bath, 2nd flr. Sabbath elev. 416-783-1884.

45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED

To buy, Thornhill, preferred loc. North Park Rd./Disera bldgs. near Bathurst/Centre. 1 br. + den, 1.5 baths, end of July. I am not an agent. Please call 416-845-6617.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

HAMILTON-MCMASTER MEDICAL STUDENT (male) seeks another Mac student (male) to share great TH condo, 3 min. drive from campus. Condo 5 yrs. old, high speed cable/internet, lots of room. Built-in garage. w/remote entry. Call Brian 416-727-2761 or e-mail: brianlevy@rogers.com.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Allen/Lawr., 1 bdrm. in 7-plex, lower level, parking, $750/mo. 416-783-0179 or 905-886-5515.

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

TOP TEN PRODUCER
*when sold to my own buyers

AS LOW AS 2% TOTAL MLS COMMISSION*

DORIS ENDER, BROKER
FREE EVALUATION
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brokerage - INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED
416-783-5000

100 ANTIBES DRIVE. Bathurst north of Finch. Elegant 2 bd. + solarium, approx. 1200 SF, brand new hrdwd. flrs., brand new gorgeous kit. w/granite counter, aross from park, best deal in area. **Only $219,000!!!**

ATTENTION CONDO BUYERS: RECEIVE PRESENT OF UP TO $2000 CASH ON CLOSING

Thornhill condo Clark/Hilda, 2 br., 2 bath, eat-in kitchen, fitness centre, indoor pool, 2 parking spaces, $329,000. No agents. Please call 905-886-8841.

8 Covington apt. for priv. sale, 1019 s.f. Open house Sun. 24, 12-4, apt. 202. 416-785-5229.

A spacious 3 bdrm., 2 bath @ Bathurst/Wilson, private sale. All amenities. 416-782-8002.

3000 BATHURST ST.

Best Value!

$279,000 Updated 2 Bdrm + Solarium, Refin. Floors & Paint.

Just Move In!

ALLAN CONSKY
ROYAL LEPAGE R.E.S.
JOHNSTON & DANIEL DIV.
416-489-2121

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
ELEGANT TWIN BLDS.
Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms,
2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies
and 2 baths,
Ample closets plus cedar,
Roof laundry, pool,
ravine setting,
6 Apts. per flr.
416-960-3238 - Bus.
416-631-9377 or 416-631-0388 - Super

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75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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- *Steps to Loblaws Superstore*
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- *Secured entry*
- *Air conditioned, spacious suites*
- *Large balconies*

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- **Transit near your door**
- **1 bedroom suites from $975**
- **2 bedrooms suites from $1210**

www.caprent.com

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

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Broker.,
Sutton Group Incentive Realty Inc. Brokerage
Toll Free: 1-866-871-1151
www.simcoewaterfronthomes.com

Sandy beach, Innisfil, 1400 s.f. winterized, 3 bdrm., 2 bath, loaded upgrades. 416-576-6476.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Innisfil, lux. 3000 sf custom built lakefront, 4 bdrms., CAC, sandy beach w/breakwall & dock. 800 sf nannie's quarters optional. $3000/wk. 416-891-4266.

Belle Ewart, lakefront, 4 bed., A/C, screen room, shul, eruv, kosher kitchen, gorgeous lot, beach, cove. Call 416-780-8000.

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

MIAMI BEACH MIMOSA, owner must sell! Opportunity!! Beautiful 1/1 fully furnished. Low floor. Oceanview. On boardwalk. Please call 305-933-4000.

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CHAT baseball teams play friendly game at Rogers Centre

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Years from now, the 2007 Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) baseball teams, north and south campuses, won't recall many of the details from their recent exhibition game at the Rogers Centre. What they'll treasure are the memories and the experiences they had playing on a major-league baseball diamond.

Through a program sponsored by the Toronto Blue Jays, local area high schools are able to play a game at the Rogers Centre free of charge, provided that they sell $10,000 worth of Blue Jays tickets. This was the third time that the two CHAT campuses have met at the dome since the initiative was introduced in 2004.

"It's always a great experience to come out here and have some fun," said Jamie Wang, shortstop of the north campus Cougars, who was playing for the third and final time against the south campus Tigers.

The Cougars prevailed 12-11 on this occasion after rallying for four runs in the top of the eighth inning. They took the lead – and school bragging rights – on senior Matty Benaim's two-run double down the third-base line with two outs in their last at bat.

David Freiman had three hits and a couple of stolen bases for the Tigers, which helped his club get a 7-1 lead through five innings. The Tigers, who are 2006 Toronto District Colleges Athletic Association (TDCAA) tier two baseball champions, won the 2007 title a few days after the Rogers Centre event, defeating Dante Alighiere Academy 7-5 in extra innings.

"It was a lot of fun to play out here. We don't get to do it a whole lot," the Tigers' 10th grader said.

Coach Jory Vernon, who's been coaching the Tigers for seven years, said the game between the two CHAT campuses is a friendly affair. Many players played out of position, with everyone just wanting to have a good time.

"It's a natural thing that we play each other," he said. "Our motto is, one school, two campuses. A lot of the kids know each other from camp and [the game is] a good promotion."

Vernon presented Freiman and the rest of his teammates with baseballs signed by Blue Jays relief pitcher B.J. Ryan after the game.

CHAT teams enjoy a day at the Rogers Centre

The Blue Jays stopper was scheduled to meet and greet the kids, but was out of town due to season-ending elbow surgery.

The two teams exceeded their $10,000 quota by selling 377 tickets to a Blue Jays-New York Yankees game at a group rate of $35 apiece, for a $13,195 total.

"We ended up with enough to satisfy the Jays, enough to buy our team Blue Jays hats, and enough to give to charity," said Vernon. "Win, win, win."

CHAT was planning to donate about $1,000 to Jewish Family & Child Service to allow kids the opportunity to take in a ball game.

Josh Hill and Harris Wade of the Cougars were recognized prior to the game for their outstanding contribution to school sports. Hill made a phenomenal catch in the fifth game of the year, but he collided with the centrefielder in the process, suffering a season-ending injury as he shattered his orbital bone and required six hours of surgery. Wade competed at the Special Olympics as a swimmer.

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Miami lawyer named president of Israel Baseball League

NEW YORK — Miami-based trial lawyer Martin Berger has been named president and chief operating officer (COO) of the Israel Baseball League (IBL).

The announcement was made by IBL founder and managing director Larry Baras.

"As president and COO, he will take responsibility for the ultimate sale of our individual franchises and oversee the business operations of the league. We place the IBL in good hands with his expertise and his knowledge," Baras said.

Dan Duquette, the league's director of baseball operations and the former general manager of the Boston Red Sox and the Montreal Expos, ran six tryout camps to stock the six IBL teams with 120 players. Eight nations are represented on the team rosters and Berger was a key participant in running the draft and preparing scouting reports on the players.

"Martin has not only worked side by side with Dan Duquette in running tryouts and stocking the rosters, but has been a vital player for us in crafting our agreements and getting us on track for our June 24 opening day," Baras said.

Berger, 40, has spent his entire legal career counselling corporations as well as individuals in complex commercial and personal injury litigation. He has received numerous awards for his pro bono legal work on behalf of disadvantaged children and in 2002 was chosen as the guardian of the year for the Put Something Back program of the Miami-Dade County Circuit Court.

Berger is committed to Jewish causes and takes an active role in his local synagogue, Jewish day school and at the University of Miami Hillel. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago, where he earned his bachelor's degree in economics, and is a George Washington University School of Law graduate. He will spend the majority of the eight-week season in Israel as the IBL becomes the first professional baseball league in the Middle East.

"Larry Baras and Commissioner [Daniel] Kurtzer have asked me to help them take this league to the next level and I look forward to that task," said Berger. "With the help and guidance of Dan Duquette, Marvin Goldklang and Andrew Zimbalist, the founders of the IBL have laid the groundwork for the IBL to fast become the destination baseball league in Europe. I hope I am up to the task and I look forward to working with all of these esteemed individuals. It is truly an honour."

The IBL will have six teams competing for the first championship: the Bet Shemesh Blue Sox, the Modi'in Miracle, the Netanya Tigers, the Petach Tikva Pioneers, the Ra'anana Express and the Tel Aviv Lightning.

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My life in dog years

Almost Famous
By Jacob Medjuck

When I was growing up and our neighbour's dog turned eight, I was told that he was 45 in "dog years." At first I thought this was a joke, but in time I came to understand that the pup, though half my age, had geriatric tendencies.

Last year, my father rappelled down the side of a skyscraper. He biked for seven days from the top of Israel to the bottom. He studies karate weekly and plays basketball daily. He even has a college trainer helping to sharpen his game.

If you should find yourself defending against him, here's some advice: make no attempt to steal the ball. He is tall and slippery, so you will inevitably slide off his soaked torso like eggs on Teflon. Not only will you feel gross, but he will jab you sharply with his elbow to remind you that it was dumb to try.

All of this is to say that on the brink of receiving his pension, my father is still youthful, sharp, sassy and spry.

So when he called to complain about his birthday this year, I was surprised.

"I'm 63." He said on the phone. "Sixty-three."

"Sixty-three," I said. "You're young."

"No," he replied. "It's disconcerting."

He explained: "If you had a son tomorrow, I would be 76 at the bar mitzvah. Seventy-six! But you can't have a son tomorrow. It takes nine months to bear children – and you don't even have a girlfriend!

"Let's say instead that you just met the girl tonight, which means I'm 77 or 78 at the bar mitzvah. But let's say she's not the right one – or you're not the right one, which is more likely, Jacob. So let's say you finally find the right girl in two years, now I'm 79 or 80 at the bar mitzvah.

"And let's say you want to travel for a year and have kids later – I'm 81, 82. And when you finally do get pregnant… It's a girl!! Eighty-three, 84, and you're on to you're second kid – 85. I'm 85 at the bar mitzvah!

"And that's if you get it all right – which you've never done. I'm 85 if it all goes perfectly! What goes perfectly? Nothing.

"So here's the new plan: Do you remember when we told you to find a girl who loves you? The right girl for you? A woman who will take care of you and who will let you take care of her? Someone fun – all that good stuff? Forget that.

"Go find anyone. Tonight even. Your mother and I have put aside some money, and we will take care of everything. Make a baby – make a boy, make two, and with luck, I will be at the bar mitzvah."

He breathes for the first time in minutes.

I digest. He hangs up.

I get a call a week later. "Your sister's having a baby," he tells me. "If it's a boy, you're off the hook."

Fortunately for us all, my nephew Noam was born shortly thereafter.

I would still like to have my parents at the bar and bat mitzvahs of my own children. But I would be happy enough at this stage to get a second date.

To that effect, I bought a book about relationships last summer, and the test I took from it scored me emotionally as "88 per cent child."

I feel I've matured some since then, but if it remains the case that a dog at eight is 45, and that my father at 63 is 85, then according to the Oprah book club, the next family bar mitzvah that my father might attend would be my second.

If so, this time I'm registering at Future Shop. Mazel tovs and DVDs, please.

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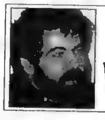
Imagining the imagination

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER



I am deeply intrigued by the imagination, because the fertility of ideas that stem from people's minds gives much insight into the human condition and educates others about the nuances of life.

As an example, Arthur Rubinstein, widely considered as one of the greatest piano virtuosos of the 20th century, once said, "I cannot tell you how much I love to play for people. Would you believe it – sometimes when I sit down to practise and there is no one else in the room, I have to stifle an impulse to ring for the elevator man and offer him money to come in and hear me."

How delightful! Upon reading this quote, I imagined a giddy senior sitting down at his grand piano, throwing out his coattales and giggling at the notion of inviting up the elevator man – perhaps a personable, aging novelist with the rich sort of wisdom that working men have. I learned from this quote that the greats can be childlike in nature; that they are frequently driven by ego nourishment; and that elevator men in expensive buildings likely lead absorbing lives.

I spent a recent Thursday night with a friend who told me a story about his 14-year-old son. The teen had met a middle-aged man who was able to recite page after page of the Talmud by heart. The man asked my friend's son what he was learning. The boy replied Tractate Makot, whereby the scholar recited the first paragraph verbatim.

Afterward, the young man told his dad, "A person who remembers well now will have a hard old age, because he will start forgetting things."

How insightful! I then considered what clarity my buddy's son must have into human nature to appreciate the man's gift of a good memory and understand how devastating the loss of it will be – all of this at 14.

For many years, I have conducted religious services at a home for the aged. Within its walls is a woman who is 104. She will often beckon me to her side, cup her hand to the right side of her mouth and pretend to whisper, "I'm going to tell you something that even the *malach hamavet* [angel of death] doesn't know… I am 104 years old."

Now that's humorously holy, is it not? I am so enthralled by her every word, imagining what this woman has seen, heard, tasted and smelled, and I marvel at how vast her experiences must have been to give such indomitable strength to her words.

Consider what it must be like to be one of the oldest people in the world. It must be like being the tallest person in the room, able to see what others cannot.

And then there is my friend Paul, the carpenter, whom I told you about a couple of months back. Paul loves a good wine. He also loves wood and says he has a relationship with it.

Paul is spellbound by life. Recently he told me that when he was a kid, there was nothing better than wearing his brother's hand-me-down jeans. Not having an older brother, I asked him to explain. He said, "My brother protected me in school. He was larger than life, and wearing his clothes – despite the fact it really meant our family had limited means – was a badge of honour."

Very nice. I imagined myself in a big brother's jeans. It felt safe. Even envisioning such a relationship made me feel like I was out of harm's way.

Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." Albert would know; he had much of both.

A pianist, a Torah scholar, 104-year-old women and an older brother. We could spend a lifetime ruminating on their insights alone. Oy! Such pleasure.

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Canada dissents in UN attack on Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Over Canada's objections, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted by "consensus" a number of measures critics say unfairly target Israel and make condemnation of the Jewish state a permanent feature of every future council meeting.

The measures will see Israel's "human rights violations" placed on the agenda at all future council meetings – no other country is so treated – and will make permanent a special rapporteur to investigate Israeli human rights abuses. Ten other special rapporteurs have mandates that lapse and must be renewed.

The measures were part of a reform package that is meant to set out the mechanisms and procedures that will govern operation of the council, which was established a year ago to replace a largely discredited Commission on Human Rights.

Peter McKay

The Human Rights Council announced it had adopted the measures by consensus, but Canada objected to that interpretation, saying they had not been approved when the council adjourned the night before and Canada would want to express its opposition in a vote.

The incoming council president, Luis Alfonso de Alba, rejected Canada's view and called for a vote of council members. By a 46-1 vote, they supported his position that the measures had already been adopted by consensus. Canada registered the only vote against.

The procedural irregularity prompted a strongly worded response from the Canadian representative at the council. Perry Cormier said he wished "to challenge" the interpretation that consensus was reached on the reform package. He noted the council's president adjourned proceedings with no firm decision taken and had said the council would take action on them the following day.

"This did not and could not constitute adoption of the package under discussion as Canada never agreed to it and had expressed its concerns to this effect. In fact, Canada had not even seen the final version of the text until the end of the session, and the draft resolution… has only been circulated today.

Continued on page 35

Hamas plays tape of kidnapped soldier

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GAZA CITY — In a message released to coincide with the first anniversary of the kidnapping of Cpl. Gilad Shalit, a voice identified on a Hamas website as that of the Israel Defence Forces corporal said Monday that he was disappointed about the Israeli government's lack of interest in his fate.

The message also said that Shalit's health was deteriorating and that he would need to be hospitalized for a long period of time.

"I'm sorry for the lack of interest the government has in me," the message said in part. It could not be immediately confirmed that the recording was of Shalit, but his father Noam indicated that the voice – if not the wording of the message – was that of the abducted soldier.

This is the first time Shalit's voice has been heard since his kidnapping a year ago.

"I am Gilad, son of Noam Shalit," the message began. "Mom and Dad, brother and sister, my friends in the IDF – I send my love and miss you all dearly. It has been a year since I was captured, and my health is deteriorating. I am in need of prolonged hospitalization.

"I am sorry for the Israeli government's and IDF's lack of interest in me and their rej

גלעד שליט
מחכים לך כבר שנה

Israelis gathered near the Knesset earlier this week to demand the release of the soldiers being held hostage by Hamas and Hezbollah. Gilad Shalit was kidnapped one year ago on June 25 from his western Negev army base. The words on the sign read: "Gilad Shalit, We have been waiting for you for an entire year." [Israel Sun photos]

the demands of Izz el-Din al-Qassam [the Hamas armed wing]. It is clear that they must accept their demands if they want me to be released from prison, especially since I was part of a military operation under military instruction, and not a drug dealer.

Continued on page 34

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Canadian universities condemn efforts to boycott Israel — see page 35

The News in Brief

CANADA

Ottawa Walks

OTTAWA — The Jewish Federation of Ottawa raised $55,000 from its Walkathon earlier this month. Some 300 participants came out for the nine-kilometre walk on June 3, which was launched by Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker. The annual event had been on hiatus for a year.

Attack Condemned

TORONTO — Canadian Jewish Congress condemned the hate graffiti found June 21 on the cultural centre of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Algonquin First Nations 130 kilometres north of Ottawa. The building was marred with spray-painted swastikas, the words "white power" and SS lightning bolts. "The fact that the perpetrators of this hateful act chose to employ Nazi imagery acts to underline an important reality: those who hate do so indiscriminately. They attack all of us when they attack anyone," said CJC co-President Rabbi Reuven Bulka.

Longtime MP Resigns

TORONTO — Willowdale MP Jim Peterson, a former trade minister who was first elected in 1980 and has won six straight elections since 1988, said last week he'll retire July 12. Peterson, 65, had said he would not seek re-election, but decided to leave early because the next election could be as late as 2009. Former leadership candidate Martha Hall Findlay will be the Liberal candidate in his riding, which has a large Jewish population.

Imam Visits Temple

CALGARY — Imam Reda Bedeir of the Calgary Islamic Centre addressed Calgary's Temple B'nai Tikvah June 15 as part of the shul's regular Friday night services. He was invited by spiritual leader Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman. Imam Bedeir said violence in Muslim countries often leads people to question Islam's message of tolerance. "But we must remember to differentiate between the faith and the followers," the *Calgary Herald* quoted him as saying. "Muslims are human beings like everyone else, and there are good and bad people involved in all religions."

Fine Paid in Web Case

MONTREAL — An 18-year-old man has been fined $210 for distributing information about websites that may be anti-Semitic to homes in Dorval and Pointe Claire, Que., where he lives. Police fined him for not having a permit to deliver material door to door. They were investigating the websites to determine if he should also be charged with a hate crime. The business-card-sized handouts contained addresses of six websites that B'nai Brith said are anti-Semitic, including www.jewwatch.com, run by white-supremacist Frank Weltner of St. Louis, Mo. In publicizing the case, B'nai Brith repeated its longstanding demand for the creation of a specialized hate-crimes unit within the Montreal police force. The man distributed the leaflets in late May and earlier this month.

Rabbi to Head Organ Donation Agency

OTTAWA — Rabbi Reuven Bulka of Ottawa has been named chair of the board of the Trillium Gift of Life Network (TLGN), Ontario's organ and tissue donation agency.

The appointment came the same week as Rabbi Bulka, spiritual leader of Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas, was acclaimed as the co-president, along with Sylvain Abitbol, of Canadian Jewish Congress at its 28th Plenary Assembly in Ottawa.

Rabbi Reuven Bulka

Rabbi Bulka has been on the TLGN board since 2004. His term runs until Nov. 30, 2008.

"Rabbi Bulka is a terrific leader and has a tremendous presence in the organ and tissue donation community," said Frank Markel, president of TLGN, the government agency that promotes and co-ordinates organ and tissue donation.

WORLD

Museum Planned

ANCHORAGE — A museum dedicated to the history of the Jews of Alaska will be built. The announcement was made this month in Anchorage. Chicago philanthropist Rabbi Morris Esformes will fund the bulk of the project, which will include a museum and community centre, and a Lubavitch centre. The museum will chronicle the story of Jews in Alaska from the Gold Rush days of the mid-19th century, to their role in the purchase of Alaska from Russia, to the story of Alaskan Jewry's connection to the airlift of 40,000 Yemenite Jews to Israel in 1948. Plans for the museum began in 2004. Fundraising has raised $250,000 a year for the past three years, and Alaska has approved a grant of $850,000. No completion date has been set.

Privilege Revoked

ROME — The convicted Nazi who was allowed to work as a translator and clerk in his lawyer's office had that right suspended. An Italian military judge revoked a permit allowing Erich Priebke, 93, to work outside his home until "a competent judge takes a decision on the basics of the case," the European Jewish Press reported. The judge said Priebke's lawyers did not clearly say how and when he would travel from his home, where he is under house arrest. Priebke was convicted in 1997 for his role in a 1944 massacre outside Rome that killed 335 civilians. About 100 Jews protested when he arrived at work June 18.

Petition Signed

GENEVA — A group of 104 legislators from Switzerland's major political parties has signed a petition urging the Swiss Federal Council in Bern to take stronger action to address attacks against Jews, synagogues and Jewish cemeteries in Switzerland after a May 24 shul fire in Geneva. The police probe into the arson

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Brosh departs as consul-general after four years

By **PAUL LUNGEN**
Staff Reporter

It's getting close to moving time at the Israeli consulate on Bloor Street.

Come mid-August, Consul General Ya'acov Brosh and Trade Commissioner Ephraim Shoham will pack their bags and bid farewell to Toronto after four-year sojourns here.

Will be replaced by Amir Gissin

Both are returning to Israel as part of a normal rotation of consular officials. Brosh will be replaced by Amir Gissin, head of the Foreign Ministry's public affairs department, and Shoham will be succeeded by Yonathan Levy.

In an interview at his downtown Toronto office, Brosh expressed gratitude to the Jewish community for making his family's stay here pleasant and eventful. Toronto, he said, is considered a plum assignment in the Israeli foreign service. It's known for its welcoming Jewish community, its "positive atmosphere" and friendly relations with Israel, and for "its reputation as a very pleasant place to live in," he said.

As part of his duties – which included responsibilities for Western Canada – Brosh travelled the length and breadth of the country.

Fresh from a visit to the Grand Rapids First Nations Reserve in Manitoba, Brosh said developing good relations with Canada's aboriginal people was part of his agenda as consul general.

Ya'acov Brosh

Working in partnership with the government of Manitoba and with the co-operation of the Jewish National Fund (JNF), Israel is backing the construction of money-generating greenhouses on the Cree reserve.

The project will see the adaptation of Israeli technology to rural Manitoba and hopefully improve the prospects of the local Cree population, Brosh said.

In addition, the JNF has agreements with the governments of Manitoba and Alberta to employ Israeli water management techniques, and Manitoba will send a master's-level student to Israel's Technion Institute next year to study water management, he said.

Israel's relations with Manitoba go on in other areas, he continued. Manitoba's justice minister, David Chomiak, sent a delegation from the province's youth corrections system to study Israel's techniques for addressing youth crime. Brosh expects a team of Israeli experts to one day reciprocate the visit.

Brosh arrived in Toronto after heading the Jordan, Syria and Lebanon department at Israel's foreign ministry.

Before that, he served for eight years in Egypt.

"When I came to Toronto, it was not just a new place, but a new kind of work," he said.

While the embassy in Ottawa generally focuses on political engagement with Canadian lawmakers, Brosh focused on culture, youth exchanges, information, trade, sending delegations to Israel and working with provincial and other local governments.

Unlike his experience in the Arab world, he found a friendly and receptive country to deal with and a "strong and supportive Jewish community."

"All this was a refreshing and nice change," he said.

Brosh arrived in Toronto with "a general" agenda, and "I followed it the last four years."

Its key point was to strengthen the substantive relations between Canada and Israel by creating mutually beneficial points of contact – such as the reserve greenhouses – and, generally, to "expose Canadians to the real face of Israel."

Continued on page 14

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Greater Toronto Area

Voice, song, prayer, soul

From the editor's desk

I have known Cantor Louis Danto for nearly 28 years. He sings in public less now than he used to. He also walks more slowly than he used to. But he smiles as ever with the same delicate twinkle in his blue grey eyes. And he carries himself with the same solemn dignity that caught the eye of the still young Queen Elizabeth when he sang for her almost 25 years ago at Maple Leaf Gardens in 1984.

But though he sings less these days, there is a significant discography of Danto's recordings, thanks in no small part to the devotion and energies of his wife, Ruchama.

Danto is a legend among cantors, a master *shaliach tzibur*, people's emissary in prayer. But he is also a master student, teacher and devoté of the art of song. His voice carries the tune, but his soul brings forth the music.

It was my great pleasure on a recent uncluttered afternoon, when my mind wandered to old photographs in old photo albums, and the sky was high and deep blue and the breeze barely a touch against the cheek, to hear Danto sing again.

I listened to the four-CD set of *Musical Moments with Cantor Louis Danto, 50 Years of Musical Treasures* and marvelled once again, as I had so often in the past, at the man's ability to evoke, in responsive resonance with his music, such strong feelings and emotions in the listener.

The phrase *bel canto* is a broadly-defined term that generally means refined, beautiful, dextrous singing. It has always been applied to the unique vocal style of Danto.

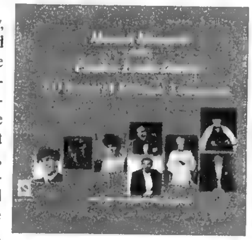
His voice cries with a distinct high register imploring of all the forces in heaven. It seems to emanate from the upper portion of his body and not, as is usually the case with accomplished professional singers, from the more muscular middle portion. His is a tender tenor.

After some 30 years as the cantor of the Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto, he is now the emeritus there.

Danto's life and his music began more than seven decades ago in the Polish town of Suwalki. He was a child prodigy, whose remarkable talents were recognized by his parents. He was sent away to study in some of the best musical academies in Europe. He was away from home when the Nazis rolled in and forever altered the course of his life and that of his people.

This four-CD set contains 74 selections that span 50 years of Danto's singing career. The first CD offers samplings of his music from the synagogue; the second is of Hebrew and some liturgical selections; the third only Yiddish songs and the fourth CD consists of classical Italian, French, German and Russian selections.

The wide diversity of the selections is stunning. His versatility and completely evident comfort with wide-ranging material confirm the profound depth of his talent.



Danto's first loyalty, if the word can be used in this context, is to the music itself, to the exacting demand of faithfully recreating the sound of the notes that the composer intended, to sheer technical precision, to the starts and stops of the delicate phrases, to the flawless, seamless meshing of pitch, breath and melody.

One of the chief hallmarks of Danto's singing is his tightly controlled delivery of the music and the composer's message. From the operatic offerings, one need merely listen to his prayerful renditions of Cilea's *Il Lamento de Federico* or Bizet's *Mi Par Dudir Ancora,* both recorded in 1954, to delight in the nuanced splendour and grace of Danto's voice. He understands the meaning in the words. And he is so often able to find that near metaphysical wave of personal connection from which he spins out what is probably closest to the richer meaning of the music.

When he sings in Yiddish, of course, he returns to the home in which he was raised. Thus, we hear him sing *Rozhinkes Mit Mandlen* with the poignant ache and exquisite caring of a parent looking at his sleeping, young child,

In the Hebrew folksong *Boi Na Roati*, his voice virtually replicates the sound of a beckoning shepherd's lute whose lonely notes we can imagine wafting through the desert night air.

Danto's rendition of Glantz's *Shma Yisrael* is a hauntingly powerful assertion of God's Oneness. At times, it is as if we are listening to the sound of the wind coursing through the rock-hewn crevices of the holy mountain of Sinai.

And when he chants *Keil Ma'ale Rachamim*, the traditional memorial prayer, our hearts break.

After a performance many years ago at Carnegie Hall, the *New York Times* music critic Alan Rich wrote of Louis Danto that he had "a voice of great beauty, clear and true – breathtaking, radiant, as though from another world."

Rich wrote well and perceptively.

For, in a very real sense, Danto's voice is indeed from another world.

It has been the echo of a soul that, though forged through the fires of the Shoah, nevertheless nurtured a pure love of music and the magic it can elicit. The countless thousands of us who have had the good fortune over the years, to hear Danto sing have often travelled with him to that "other" world and felt the restorative caress of a moment of memory conveyed in teary, soft refrain in the minor key. And we have felt enfolded, too, in the love that pours from the prayers, the songs and the music that have been the inspiring story of his life.

–MBD

SeeJN

GUIDE DOGS TRAVEL TO ISRAEL

Two Labrador retrievers, Simon and Sammy, were recently donated by the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind near Ottawa to the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind (IGDCB). They were sent to Israel courtesy of El Al Israel Airlines. The Kingston Road Animal Hospital in Toronto found homes for Sammy and Simon before they departed for Israel. Seen with the dogs are a Kingston Road hospital staff member, left, and IGDCB director Noach Braun. For more information about the centre, go to www.israelguidedog.org or call the Canadian Friends of the IGDCB at 416-690-0625.

Israel should back Fatah gov't: Israeli analyst

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel should support the new emergency government in the West Bank headed by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, an Israeli analyst said last week.

In a telephone briefing for the Jewish press organized by the New York-based Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations, Mideast commentator Ehud Yaari said Israel should assist Abbas in establishing a stable government now that Hamas has seized the Gaza Strip and the short-lived Palestinian unity government has been dissolved.

"They need a lot of babysitting," said Yaari in a reference to Abbas' newly formed Fatah government. "Israel has to make sure that Abbas is strengthened."

As he spoke, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced that Israel would funnel previously withheld Palestinian tax revenues to Abbas, while the United States and the European Union promised to resume direct financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

Yaari – a Channel 2 pundit of Arab and Palestinian affairs and a columnist for the *Jerusalem Report* magazine – urged Abbas not to deploy the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a Fatah armed faction that has staged suicide attacks in Israel, to hunt down Hamas activists in the West Bank.

Condemning the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade as "hooligans," Yaari said its fighters have blood on their hands.

Yaari added that while the Israeli government should continue to boycott Hamas – which defeated Fatah in parliamentary elections in January 2006 – Israel should consider signing an internationally monitored armistice agreement with Hamas.

He warned that Hamas may launch a third Palestinian uprising and resume Qassam missile attacks against Israel, if international sanctions aren't lifted in the next few months.

If there is a resumption of Hamas shelling, Israel's military response will be harsher than before, he said.

He added that Israel's new defence minister, former prime minister Ehud Barak, holds this belief.

In an analysis of recent developments in Palestinian politics, Yaari said Fatah, retaliating for its severe losses in Gaza, is currently in the midst of removing Hamas influence in the West Bank.

Fatah received U.S. arms through Egypt, but didn't offer real resistance to Hamas in five days of bitter fighting, he observed in a scathing appraisal of its abilities.

Fatah's commander in Gaza, Mohammed Dahlan, was not even on hand as street battles flared, Yaari noted, saying that he moved to "a nice villa" in the West Bank long ago.

Yaari described Hamas' victory as the first military coup in the Arab world in more than three decades and "the first Islamic takeover of an Arab country."

Pointing a finger at Iran, Yaari said that the Iranian regime supported Hamas with advice, funds and weapons.

He said that Hamas captured Fatah's intelligence files dating back to the 1970s. "Iran and Syria are extremely eager to know what will be found there."

Looking ahead, Yaari predicted that Fatah and Hamas will attempt to unite the Palestinians by resurrecting the unity government. For now, Fatah will try to regain influence in Gaza through the payment of salaries to government workers.

Fatah commands immense financial resources now that the United States and the European Union have lifted their restrictions on the Palestinians.

With external help, Abbas will attempt to turn the West Bank into a model of Palestinian statehood. But Yaari suspects that Hamas will offer better governance than Fatah.

In the meantime, Hamas may unleash terrorist attacks in the West Bank to undermine Prime Minister Salam Fayyad's Fatah government. Fayyad, a banker, was finance minister in the old Palestinian unity government.

Yaari praised Fayyad as "a good man" who performed well in his previous position, but he pointed out that Fayyad labours under two disadvantages: he has neither a power base nor troops on the ground.

Yaari said that Israel cannot starve Gaza by withholding water or electricity. But Israel should devise viable border crossing arrangements in co-ordination with Egypt.

JF&CS adopts new logo, motto

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Jewish Family & Child Service's new logo and slogan illustrate the agency's ability to support clients throughout their lives, says executive director Richard Cummings.

Now known as Jewish Family and Child, the organization has adopted "Every Step of the Way" as its motto, "because our commitment is to hang in there with you through that span," Cummings said last week at the agency's annual general meeting, held at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

As a multi-service organization, he said, Jewish Family and Child has a range of services for people in all stages of life.

Guest speaker Marla Shapiro, a physician, television personality, author and columnist, said the agency's new slogan is appropriate, because "we aren't always masters along the road [of life.] Jewish Family and Child focuses on integrating all individuals [into the community.]"

A large number of people would be unable to thrive without community support, she said.

"Children from poor families have more difficulty sleeping and suffer from more sleep disorders [than other children.] This leads to impaired cognitive skills, and they may [go on] to become socially, economically and financially impaired."

New mothers suffering from post-partum depression also need community support, Shapiro said. "While doctors concentrate on the baby's milestones, only those who read studies [on the disorder] learn to ask how the mother is. Children [of these mothers] suffer from poor bonding."

It's often difficult for people to ask for help, or even realize that they need help, she said.

"The challenge is to teach people to teach themselves. Jewish Family and Child helps people identify that they need [some,help."]

Stress, Shapiro said, costs the Canadian government $12 billion a year, and doctors can't diagnose it the way they diagnose cholesterol or diabetes.

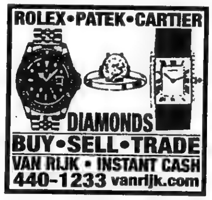
"Stress is a self-perception that translates into such things as heart attack and stroke. It can take a system already at risk, lower its immune system, and push it over the edge."

There is a ripple effect that occurs when people are unhealthy, and it eventually translates into the disability of an entire community, Shapiro said.

We can only become empowered by knowledge, she said.

"Not all of us have a board of directors in our life to whom we can go for support. [Sometimes people have to know when to ask for help.]"

The meeting also paid tribute to Gordy Wolfe, the agency's longtime executive director who died in April, and S. Richard Orzy replaced David Peltz as president of the agency's board of directors.



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Schools, soldiers salute Jerusalem

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Students from the Bialik Hebrew Day School choir perform *Yerushalayim Sheli.* [Abigail Bimman Photos]

Israeli soldiers and 250 students from seven Toronto Jewish day schools celebrated the 40th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification with a concert.

The students performed Israeli songs for an audience of 900 on June 14 at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

The Jewish National Fund's (JNF) national education emissary, Aviva Reifler, said she came up with the event as a way to both honour Jerusalem and connect Toronto students.

"Jerusalem is a uniting theme for every Jew, certainly for the Jewish schools, certainly for the Jewish schools' students," said the concert's co-producer Ronit Eisenman.

"We were very fortunate that so many schools wanted to participate."

Eisenman said the last event that incorporated so many day schools was to honour Israel's 40th birthday at Ontario Place in 1988.

The event featured a musical performance by a group of Israeli soldiers on a 12-day Canadian tour. Dubbed the "Singing Soldiers," sergeants Lev, Erez, Adam, Hadar and Maya serve in the Israeli Defence Forces' medical and logistics corp (the IDF would only give their first names for security reasons).

The group performed seven numbers and got the enthusiastic children dancing and singing on stage.

"The children were amazing. They sang all the songs and they speak wonderful Hebrew," said Lev, who plays percussion.

The group, accompanied by sound technician Cpl. Or and their leader Maj. Noa, came to Canada on a 12-day tour. They performed three times in Winnipeg, including at the city's 2007 Negev Gala, and four times in Toronto, including as headliners at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.

Lev, who was born in Canada but has lived in Israel since age six, said he was pleasantly surprised to see the vibrancy and strength of Canada's Jewish community.

Reifler said JNF wanted to bring the soldiers to Canada because they are a perfect symbol of Jerusalem.

Participant school choirs included United Synagogue Day School, Netivot HaTorah Day School, Bialik Hebrew Day School, Leo Baeck Day School, Associated Hebrew Schools, Montessori Jewish Day School and the Toronto Heschel School.

Speakers included Israeli Consul General Ya'acov Brosh and JNF world chairman Efi Stenzler.

Reifler said she was so pleased with the event that she plans to create more co-operative events for schools around themes such as Zionism or the environment.

"We have such a strong community here and such a wonderful education system," Eisenman said. "We should involve everybody in many more events, because it enriches both the individuals and the community."

ALIYAH CELEBRATION: About 170 people celebrated their upcoming aliyah to Israel on June 17 at the Wagman Centre in an event organized by the Aliyah Center of the Jewish Agency in Toronto. Toronto's Hallelujah Drummers and the Israel Defence Forces' "Singing Soldiers" Band performed for the crowd. [Ram Regev photo]

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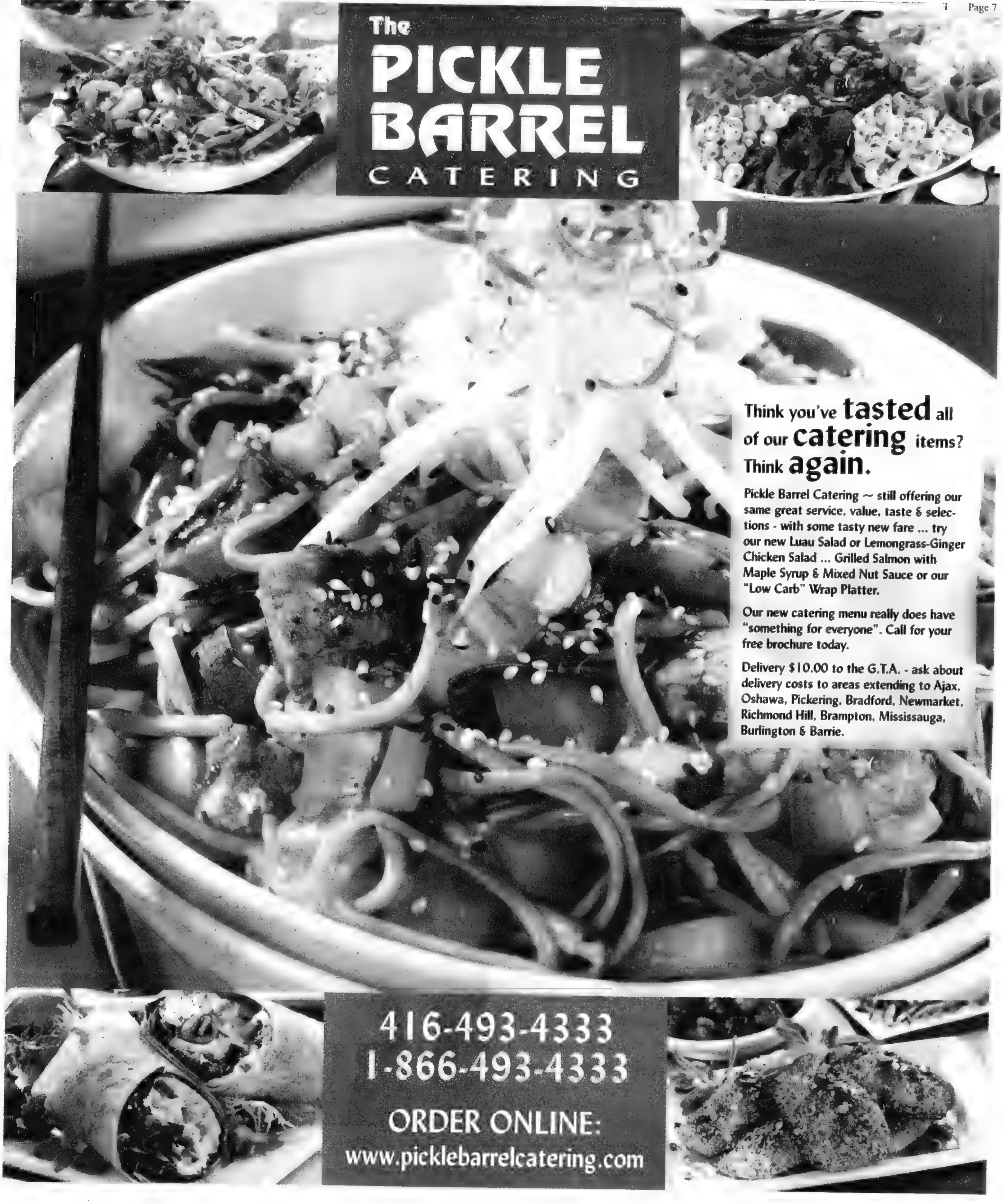

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Mourn for the hope that was stillborn

In an effort to retool and refashion the standing body that examines the condition of human rights around the world, the United Nations last year created the UN Human Rights Council. Born of a determination to protect the globe's neediest and most vulnerable, the newly established body, based in Geneva, ended the perverse, cynical, mischievous manipulation of the human rights agenda.

Or so it was hoped.

But after a year of operation, the new body, alas, is but a reincarnated runt of its malign predecessor. What was old and contemptible is new again, but still, no less contemptible.

Last week, the council agreed to adopt rules of procedure that marked only one country on earth for special scrutiny. Israel will now become a permanent item on the council's agenda. The vote was 46 in favour, one opposed. The sole voice objecting to the decision was that of Canada. The other members of the regional grouping in which Canada voted (Western Europe and Others) were Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

"In establishing the council," its Canadian representative Perry Cormier said, "the General Assembly set out its guiding principles. These include universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity. Canada therefore regrets the inclusion in the proposed agenda of the council of an item that singles out one situation for politicized, selective, partial and subjective treatment. The proposed agenda item on Palestine and the occupied Arab territories is not consistent with the founding principles of the council. If this council is to be credible and effective, we must hold it to standards set out by the General Assembly."

The council also voted to extend the mandate of the special rapporteur on the human rights of the Palestinians "until the end of the occupation," the only such open-ended mandate.

By failing to deal with actual, ongoing abuses of human rights, such as those in Darfur, Zimbabwe, China and North Korea, and once again singling out the Jewish state for discriminatory, highly prejudicial treatment, the council has indeed now lost the ability to be credible and effective, just as the Canadian spokesperson pointed out.

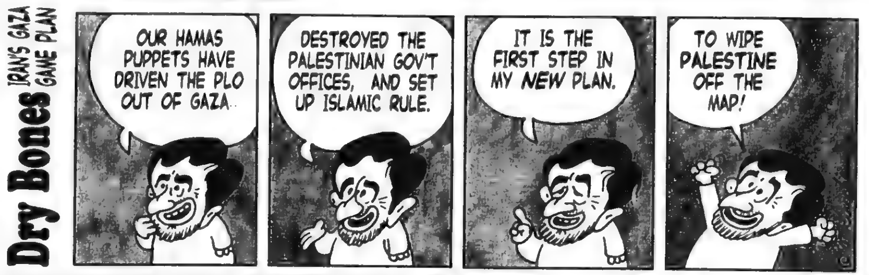
"Today is a terrible day for human rights. It's a terrible day for the United Nations," said Hillel Neuer last week, the executive director of the watchdog, non-governmental organization, UN Watch.

The foreign ministry of Israel expressed "its appreciation to Canada, the only council member to take a clear, unambiguous position and oppose the decision."

We commend the government for its principled vote even as we mourn for the hope of true human rights protection that was stillborn one year ago in Geneva.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

In discussions described as blunt, frank and direct, Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin and U.S. president Ronald Reagan agreed that all foreign troops should be withdrawn from Lebanon, that violence against Israel must stop, and that Lebanon is entitled to a strong central government. The Canadian government called for the withdrawal of Israeli troops.


Dry Bones
IRAN'S GAZA GAME PLAN
OUR HAMAS PUPPETS HAVE DRIVEN THE PLO OUT OF GAZA.
DESTROYED THE PALESTINIAN GOV'T OFFICES, AND SET UP ISLAMIC RULE.
IT IS THE FIRST STEP IN MY NEW PLAN.
TO WIPE PALESTINE OFF THE MAP!

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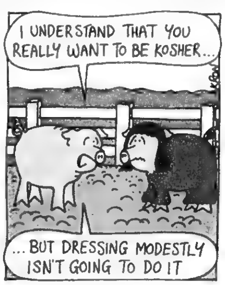
Arab states should subdue Hamas

The sheer brutality of masked Hamas gunmen confirms and justifies Canada's decision to be the first country to cut off aid when Hamas won the election in the Palestinian Territories. Hamas has never renounced terrorism and is still committed to the destruction of the State of Israel. No reasonable person can or should suggest that Israel should negotiate with such an uncivilized bunch of thugs. By its actions in Gaza, Hamas will have lost the support not only of some western governments but also the members of the Arab League, other than Syria and Iran. The ultimate fear for the region is that the rhetoric of Hamas will fuel violence in Palestinian camps, such as is already occurring in Lebanon, and will spread to camps in Syria and Jordan. It is incumbent on Arab states such as Egypt and Jordan, for their own security and stability, to intervene, if necessary militarily, to subdue Hamas and to bring peace to Gaza and the West Bank.

Bert Raphael
Toronto


I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU REALLY WANT TO BE KOSHER...
...BUT DRESSING MODESTLY ISN'T GOING TO DO IT

* * *

Israelis want no more withdrawals

Sheldon Kirshner in his column "Reflections on the Six Day War" (*CJN*, June 7) writes that Israelis have recently had second thoughts about the wisdom of clinging to the West Bank, having realized that keeping these territories is bound to block prospects for a rapprochement with the Palestinian Arabs. However, according to a recent Knesset Channel and Dahaf Institute poll, a majority of Israelis want no more withdrawals from parts of the Land of Israel. Fifty-three per cent were against giving back the West Bank, 68 per cent were against giving back the Golan Heights and 86 per cent were against giving back the Western Wall. It seems that the recent rocket attacks on Sderot have hardened people's attitudes and shown the fallacy of giving back land to the Palestinian Arabs, who only use that land as a terrorist base for further attacks on Israel.

Mordechai Bulua
Montreal

* * *

Unite around day school funding

It was telling to read in "Education funding set to become Ont. election issue," (*CJN*, June 21) about the reaction to the Liberal government to Conservative leader John Tory's recently announced plan to bring faith-based schools under the rubric of public education. Education Minister Kathleen Wynne could find nothing good to say about the plan and looked for every reason to poke holes in it. The Liberals' senior media advisor, Ben Chin, raised the oft repeated canard that this plan would divide society into "religious enclaves" – something that is not borne out by the reality in any other jurisdiction that funds faith-based schools fairly. While it is true that members of the Jewish community of Ontario are spread throughout the entire political spectrum, it would behoove our community to unite around this one overriding issue for the upcoming election. There is no stronger message that can be delivered for the cause of Jewish continuity in Ontario.

Jerrold Landau
Toronto

* * *

Orthodox Judaism and homosexuality

Rabbi Steven Greenberg may have obtained ordination from an Orthodox institution, but his views are far removed from anything resembling Orthodox Judaism ("Gay rabbi speaks out," *CJN*, June 7). He has written in favour of same-sex marriage, and what he calls a more nuanced reading of biblical and rabbinic texts, which extrapolates previously hidden meaning, is full of his own wild distortions and misrepresentations.

His notions have no support in the vast sources of more than 2,000 years of traditional interpretation and commentary, and, therefore, descriptions of him as "the first openly gay Orthodox rabbi" are quite misleading. His writings suggest that he is substantively ignorant of the scientific and psychological aspects of homosexuality.

In recent years, there has been much movement within the broader modern Orthodox community toward a great tolerance and acceptance of people who identify themselves as homosexual, while rejecting same-sex behaviour. If Rabbi Greenberg's activities were limited to just encouraging that broader tolerance and acceptance, there would be less of a problem. Unfortunately, it appears that he has a quite different agenda.

Joseph Berger
Toronto

* * *

Program sponsors

We were delighted to read your excellent coverage of the Jerusalem: Ours to Celebrate, Ours to Share program at Beth Tzedec Congregation ("Israel has come a long way since '67", Meridor, *CJN*, June 21).

May we point out that Canada-Israel Committee, Canadian Jewish Congress, the Jerusalem Foundation, and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto were sponsors of the event.

Janet Horowitz
Canada-Israel Committee

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Understanding the Arab-Israeli conflict

By SALLY ZERKER

I'm going to simplify the Arab-Israeli conflict for you. Every pundit and editorial writer tells you that this conflict is the most complex issue in the world, requiring deep thought, creative solutions and of course, first and foremost, major concessions on the part of Israel. None of these experts can conceive of a start to any solution that does not require Israeli concessions. You know and I know that those concessions in the past haven't done a bit of good. On the contrary, they've made things worse. You'll soon understand why.

The simple reasoning that explains the more than 60 years of Arab-Israeli conflict is this: Arabs could not concede losing a war to Jews. Let's be clear that we are dealing with a single, ongoing war, as far as the Arabs are concerned. The various outbreaks have merely been manifestations of the continuing war. Palestinians and their supporting Arab and non-Arab Muslims could not fathom the idea of Jewish military victory.

Didn't everyone know that Jews aren't fighters? For centuries, Muslims knew exactly how to deal with Jews, and they also saw how other powers dealt with Jews. It was the same everywhere. They observed the Jews' "cowardly behaviour" again and again. For 2,000 years, Jews were tormented, murdered and harassed, but they did not take up arms and revolt. To Muslims, they were infidels, something less than human, and yet the Jews remained passive under the domain of the sultan or other authorities in the Muslim world. Jews handled this discrimination by buying their way out of difficulties.

Jews were a wonderful source of money. They were good business for both Christian and Muslim rulers. It was easy to fill the coffers of lords or kings or sultans when you had Jews in your realm and under your domination. To begin with, infidels had to pay higher taxes than Muslims. The Muslim authorities explained this discrimination as generosity on their part in letting Jews dwell anywhere in their territory. Still, both Christians and Jews were apparently better than unbelievers who weren't even "people of the book," and thus they were allowed to stay, as long as they paid up. Armenian Christians, on occasion, had challenged their designation as second-class citizens, but Jews never dared to do this. Or perhaps they knew they had no alternative but to manipulate and plead and buy their way out of trouble. It was a Jewish tradition, one might say.

So what were this new, upstart bunch of Jews doing, pretending they are first-class citizens with the will and the ability to defend themselves?

When I say the Arabs could not accept defeat at the hand of Jews, there's plenty of evidence that this is their reality. Think back to 1947 when the United Nations voted to partition what was left of mandated Palestine after the British had truncated it by carving out the Kingdom of Transjordan from the allocated territory.

(As an aside, do you know why the British did this? No? Well, since they wanted to have access to the oil in Mesopotamia, they created a country called Iraq, giving one Hashemite brother its kingdom. They then had to find another piece of land for the other brother. Why not carve out a piece from the territory that had already been designated by the British as the home for the Jewish people? And so Transjordan – later simplified to Jordan – was born.)

But back to the main subject! What were all the Arab countries incensed about? The remaining parcel of land was divided according to its inhabitants – Arabs to have the area where Arabs lived, Jews to have the part where Jews lived. The size of the Jews' land was not much bigger than the area that constitutes a big city, if you look at a map from that era. But Arabs could in no way concede the right of Jews to live in the land that they considered Muslim territory. The fact that this land had originally been Jewish land was ignored or denied. That the Muslims had been occupiers of that land after more than one military conquest was a fact they also ignored.

David Ben-Gurion declares the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the beginning of the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict, according to the author.

Five Arab countries invaded the newly established Jewish state in 1948 – Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Kuwait. They were at ease about that little war, or what they clearly expected to be a little war, because Jews aren't fighters. Or so they believed.

But when they were actually defeated and had to use the United Nations to bail them out and stop the war, that didn't mean they were content to make peace with this infant country. Not at all! The waiting game had just begun. The next round would be better, they were certain. They had all kinds of rationalizations for their defeat. Somehow the Jews had a powerful army that was secretive, because "Jews were always secretive." Or maybe it wasn't Jews they were actually fighting. It was a conspiracy with the United States or Britain, or maybe some other power. But it could not have been the Jews who had defeated all those combined Arab armies.

As we know, no one came to the assistance of the Jews, and it was they alone who fought and salvaged their new, fragile, fledgling country.

However, there was some reinforcement of the conspiracy theory when the British and French attacked Egypt in 1956, along with Israeli forces, all of them acting in concert, each with its own reason. The French and British were attempting to reverse Egypt's takeover of the Suez Canal, while the Israelis were responding to Gamal Abdel Nasser's blocking of the Straits of Tiran, the narrow waterway that is Israel's outlet to the Red Sea.

Of course, the Arabs weren't giving up. The Six Day War of 1967 was the next attempt. They lost again, but were they convinced that they should therefore sue for peace? On the contrary, that was when they issued the famous three "nos" of the Khartoum conference – no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel.

Thus began their new war strategy, terrorism as war. Yasser Arafat was the master of their horrible murdering practices, which deemed that there was no such being as an innocent Jew. Children in kindergarten, bus passengers, people in old folks homes, air travellers, Olympic athletes, the more vulnerable the better – all were targets for this new form of war against the Jews. And the techniques were ingenious, the most amazing playing on the willingness of countless numbers of Arabs to commit suicide by strapping explosives to their bodies and using their own bodies as the weapon of choice for killing Jews. It is hard to fathom the death cult of Muslim Arabs if one conceives of life as the ultimate value.

Once upon a time the world would have been appalled at such barbarism, but the Palestinians were now winning over Jew-haters of all stripes and varieties; leftist professors; Muslims who were delighted that they had found an effective way of killing Jewish men, women and children; committed anti-Semites; much of the media of Europe (less so in North America, but still significant in significant numbers), and so on.

But the terrorist message and methodology have come home to roost. Muslims now are killing Muslims by means of suicide bombers. The war between Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq is essentially one relying on suicide techniques, using either an individual body or a car bomb with humans inside, or some other forms of the same concept. Moreover, similar methods have been used in Morocco, Algeria, Indonesia and other Muslim societies.

I once wrote an article titled "First the Jews, and then you." My point in that essay was that no one got excited when terrorist attacks were merely killing Jews. There was no moral outrage and outcry, and the world became accustomed to this horrible homicidal weaponry. Moral outrage at Arafat's methods from the beginning might have worked to prevent the attacks in Bali, London, Madrid – and perhaps even 9/11 in the United States. Instead Arafat became a hero of the left, and Yitzhak Rabin helped make the big lie bigger, by endorsing an image of Arafat as a peace-maker instead of providing the true picture, that of a mass murderer.

You might say that the peace agreements between Israel and Egypt and Israel and Jordan indicate that the Arab and Muslim world has come around to accepting the victory of the Jews in this long war. It's true there are written peace agreements between these two countries and Israel, but the people in these two countries are as hostile as ever. Jordan is still "Judenrein" (free of Jews) with laws that prohibit Jews from settling and owning property in that country. Egypt has withdrawn its ambassador from Israel and Israelis are unwelcome in Egypt in any capacity that normal relations would require, such as professional interchanges and courtesy. This isn't peace, it's a reality check: for now, Jordan and Egypt can't take on Israel in conventional warfare. Moreover, the voice of a non-Arab Muslim, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has threatened to make of Israel another Holocaust, is applauded throughout the Arab world.

What is happening now as I write this article is the exhibition of the Palestinians willing to destroy themselves, as long as they can continue to fight the Jews. For the first time in its history, Gaza is not dominated by another power – no British, no Egyptians, no Ottomans, no Israelis. Gaza is now in the hands of the Palestinians. So what is the Palestinians' first and only thing on the agenda for this freed territory? It is to build bunkers and tunnels for smuggling arms, and to bring in missiles to make war on Israel from Gaza. The businesses and the buildings that the Jews left in their withdrawal from Gaza have been razed. Palestinians are not about building an economy. They can continue to rely on handouts and spend their energy and time on making war on the Jews. This is still the fundamental Arab mentality, that to make war on the Jews is an ongoing Muslim obligation, even if it involves self-destruction.

Sally Zerker is a professor emeritus and senior scholar at York University.

Opinions

South Africa damns Israel

The African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's ruling party, actively participated in a recent "week of action" to promote the Palestinian cause.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

It embraced a newly formed coalition, the "End Occupation Campaign" and, on June 6, its parliamentary caucus opened a debate in the country's national assembly calling for "Israel's immediate, unconditional and permanent withdrawal of all of its forces to the 1967 borders" and "respect for the democratic state of Palestine and its legislative council." Other demands were also woven into what evolved into a heated exchange between the government and various opposition parties.

Leading the attack from the ANC benches was Intelligence Minister Ronnie Kasrils, who is of Jewish descent, but has a long history of antagonism toward the State of Israel. His address to the assembly, reproduced on the government's website, is a masterpiece of deception, brimful of quotations from Israeli leaders that lack context and verification and peppered with ugly analogies equating Israeli actions with the most repressive of apartheid practices.

Accusing Israel of having in 1948 "rolled out a systematic reign of terror, massacres, dispossession and expulsion" that "drove out the Palestinian population in a horrific episode of ethnic cleansing," Kasrils is now pushing for implementation of UN Resolution 194, "concerning the right of return of refugees" to Israel.

Unfortunately, the hostile positions articulated by Kasrils and the current ANC government are not isolated. They are manifestations of a seemingly visceral anti-Israel bias in a country that is still home to some 80,000 Jews.

South Africans such as Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories, John Dugard, are among Israel's harshest critics, while Willy Madisha, president of the Congress Of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) has called Israel an "evil state" and has expressed his organization's unwavering support for an international campaign of boycotts, divestment and sanctions against it.

Kasrils claims that he's received threats on his life from members of the Jewish community ever since he began speaking out against Israel. But death threats or not, he, too, will eventually fade from the political landscape. What will remain, however, and what will likely intensify, is the apparently endemic anti-Zionism of the so-called "new South Africa."

How an embattled and dwindling Jewish population copes with such an increasingly prejudiced environment remains to be seen.

Treading a fine line between measured protest and reluctant acquiescence would seem to be the key to survival for those who are committed to staying put. The alternative, of course, is to emigrate. These have always been the only viable choices for Jewish South Africans, regardless of the differing political agendas that have plagued them during both the apartheid years and, perhaps even more strikingly, since then.

The end of Palestine?

By EMANUELE OTTOLENGHI

Already in its death throes after seven years of futile struggle against Israel, the Palestinian national movement suffered a fatal blow when Gaza fell into the hands of Hamas. Now, instead of a state-in-waiting, Palestine is two failed states, under two governments at war with one another.

Emanuele Ottolenghi in Brussels

Hamas in Gaza might still pursue its fight against Israel, and Fatah in the West Bank might still voice the rhetoric of grievance against Israel as the occupier. But the two are now locked in a deadly struggle. Anti-Zionist rhetoric has been waving the ghost of a one-state solution – implying that Israel might disappear, replaced by a united binational state comprising the West Bank and Gaza as well as present Israel. It now looks like there will be a one-state solution after all – Israel, alongside two failed states, both Palestinian and fighting each other.

It hasn't been easy for Palestinian nationalists. Ever since their late leader and national symbol, Yasser Arafat, chose to exploit the intifadah, in September 2000, to extract more concessions from Israel, everything that could possibly go wrong did. First, violence turned Israeli public opinion against the now moribund Oslo process: Ariel Sharon quickly replaced the left-wing peace coalition against which Arafat unleashed his intifadah. Systematic resort by Palestinian factions to terrorism against Israeli civilian targets only created the momentum for Israel's military offensive in March 2002. West Bank towns were re-occupied and the backbone of the terror network that seemed so close to breaking Israel' s will was crushed.

Arafat's flirtation with gun-toting militias and myriad armed groups only earned him confinement by Israel and isolation from America. Sharon easily won the next electoral round and set the stage for unilateralism – Israel would withdraw to borders of its choosing and the Palestinians would be left behind once more. The spectre of this move did nothing to propel Palestinian leaders to bring an end to the mounting anarchy within their ranks and sue for peace.

Instead, Arafat allowed anarchy to grow, as if it would only harm the enemies of Palestine, and not Palestine itself. Eventually, the persistent refusal of the Palestinian Authority, first under Arafat, then under current president Mahmoud Abbas, to disarm all militias and dismantle all terror networks yielded the outcome that all but fools would predict.

Alas, it's too late to disarm the militias. Brother will fight brother, while the West Bank and Gaza go their separate ways. At last, Abbas seems to understand the need to establish a monopoly over the use of force. Hamas clearly understands this, too, and it has moved to disarm everyone not loyal to it in Gaza. But this is too little, too late. Two governments are now in place, and with them, two separate entities are slowly coming into being. They'll play this war out to the bitter end. The West has already chosen its horse, not realizing this is a cockfight in which the audience can do little else but watch.

There is little rejoicing in this turn of events, but it must be understood for what it is: the end of Palestinian national aspirations.

Hamas' takeover in Gaza has created a small Islamic state on the shores of the Mediterranean, next door to both Israel and Egypt. Helped by Iran and Syria, Hamas has now opened a southern front in its war against Israel, but in the process, it has made Palestine as a state even less viable than before.

Now, Hamastan needs to conquer the West Bank to make itself the credible and legitimate champion of the Palestinian struggle. Meanwhile, Fatahland will try to regain its lost territory of Gaza before it can even begin to negotiate credibly with Israel. An endless war will further contribute to Palestine's demise. For ordinary Palestinians, seven years of the intifadah yielded nothing but grief, death and poverty. The passage of time did nothing to strengthen Palestinian territorial claims: if anything it gave time to Israeli settlements to expand and Israeli control over Jerusalem to tighten.

As Hamas assumes control over Gaza, Gazans are longing for the return of the despised Israelis. Palestinian intellectuals have conceded that Palestinians might need to be "re-occupied" by an international force led by the Arab league – a return to the pre-1967 occupation by Jordan and Egypt, no less. Now, not even this option seems available – unless, that is, foreign forces are sent to fight Hamas and re-conquer Gaza.

With Hamas' takeover of Gaza, history has finally drawn its curtain on the two-state solution. Before Palestinian nationalism can reclaim one Palestine, complete, and before it can even settle for the meagre leftovers Israel has held for 40 years, Palestinians must face their own, wearing each other out, Hamastan against Fatahland, while the Israelis look on.

Emanuele Ottolenghi is executive director of the Transatlantic Institute in Brussels. A longer version of this column appeared on the Guardian*'s website.*

Nothing is inevitable in the Middle East

For years, talking heads and Middle East "experts," including academics from top universities, have been declaring the "inevitability" of a Palestinian state based on the "1967 borders" (which are actually the 1949 ceasefire lines).

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

According to this conventional wisdom, Jerusalem is going to be the shared capital of both Israel and this Palestinian state. Their quick peace recipe calls for knocking mostly Israeli and some Palestinian heads together until this deterministic prophecy becomes reality.

However, in international politics, and in the Middle East in particular, nothing is "inevitable." Instead, such predictions reflect wishful thinking that ignores or distorts deep-seated Palestinian rejectionism and violence that shows no sign of disappearing.

The myths also blame Israel and the "occupation" for the absence of peace, and even for internal Palestinian cruelty and civil warfare, including the brutal murders in the hospitals and streets of Gaza.

In contrast, a serious analysis leads to a very different source of responsibility for this all-directional violence. For almost 60 years, the international community has patronized the Palestinians, treating them as helpless victims who are unable to take control of their own fate. Just as Palestinians were not held accountable for decades of terrorism, they were also not encouraged to take action to prevent violence and corruption within their own society.

The massive welfare system run by UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) has contributed greatly to this process. The massive amounts of money kept flowing, and the photo opportunities continued, regardless of the corruption or the incitement and terror that was being promoted by some UNRWA employees and from within its schools and other institutions.

Similarly, for years, the main international aid donors provided Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his PLO henchman with steady bags of cash, much of which ended up in secret bank accounts, or bought weapons and explosives. There were certainly no signs of economic or democratic development. (The European Union's report on its role in Palestinian corruption remains secret, despite the emphasis on transparency in Europe's preachings to others.)

Canada, which often follows the European version of conventional wisdom, is also responsible for some of this disaster, having provided a great deal of funding to UNRWA and to the NGO network.

Hamas and its supporters grew resentful of the corrupt and inept leadership of the PLO and Fatah, and began to take power. Under these conditions, the effort to prop up the remaining façade of the Palestinian Authority, created under the 1993 Oslo agreement and headed by Mahmoud Abbas, could not have succeeded, and the capture of Gaza was the latest step in this process. Had the calls from the United States and others to provide Fatah with weapons been heeded, they would have simply been captured by Hamas.

As a result, instead of moving "inevitably" toward the promised peace agreement, we now have a civil war with two Palestinian Authorities – both of which are failed proto-states – turning into new Somalias or Afghanistans.

The main question now is how to respond. There is no basis for clinging to the myths that the radical Islamic leaders of Hamas will suddenly become responsible partners seeking stability in Gaza. Aid that continues to flow into this area must finally come under very strict controls, both to prevent diversion for terror and to end the culture of victimization and dependency.

At the same time, Fatah and the Palestinian Authority are in a stronger position in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria), and having finally awoken, they may be able to fight off the challenge posed by Hamas.

At best, this will take many years, and the Palestinian side will remain unstable and not readily predictable. In this environment, those who insist on clinging to the myths of "inevitability" and magical instant peace will cause even greater damage.

The Kirshner File

Israel weighs Syria's diplomatic overtures

Sheldon Kirshner
in Toronto

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert recently urged Arab League states to start peace talks with Israel without preconditions. Yet strangely enough, Olmert seems hardly eager to resume negotiations with Syria, saying that Damascus must fulfil a raft of conditions even before discussions can begin in earnest.

Syria's interest in renewing talks, broken off seven years ago, is clear. Last week, Syria's ambassador to the United Nations called on Israel to return to the negotiating table, and earlier, Syria's deputy foreign minister, Ahmed Arnous, said that his country desires "to renew talks upon the land for peace principle, without preconditions, to bring about stability and security in the region."

Nearly three months ago, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, relayed a similar message from Syrian President Bashar Assad. Shortly afterward, in an intriguing development, Ibrahim Suleiman, a Syrian American businessman with close ties to his homeland, informed the Knesset that Syria was ready for peace. Last December, following a trip to Damascus, United States Senator Arlen Specter told Olmert that Assad is interested in resuming talks. Around the same time, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Moallem sounded an identical theme, saying in a *Washington Post* interview that Syria is willing to renew talks "without preconditions."

Responding to these overtures, Olmert has expressed a willingness to sign a peace treaty with Syria. But like his predecessor, Ariel Sharon, he has laid down a list of conditions: Syria must end its support and sponsorship of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, both of which have yet to reconcile themselves to Israel's existence. Syria must refrain from providing logistical support and weapons to Hezbollah – which fought a war with Israel last summer – and stop trying to destabalize its neighbour, Lebanon. Syria must cut relations with Iran, whose president has repeatedly called for Israel's destruction. And, in a nod to Israel's ally, the United States, Olmert has demanded that Syria must prevent anti-American insurgents from reaching Iraq via Syrian territory.

Olmert's demands are echoed in an Israeli foreign ministry paper, which states that Israel is "committed to peace with all its neighbours, including Syria," but berates Syria for having failed "to demonstrate that it has made a genuine and strategic choice for peace." Citing particulars, Israel says that Syria allows Islamic Jihad and Hamas to maintain offices in Damascus and that it nurtures its alliance with Iran.

The paper adds: "In light of this record, Syria's recent calls for talks appear to be made for the sake of relieving international pressure and the isolation that its policies have produced." It concludes with these words: "To engage the Syrian regime, in the absence of any real change in its actions on the ground, would be to reward [Syria] for policies that have greatly endangered the Middle East and the cause of peace." David Baker, an official in Olmert's office, reiterated this stance: "The position of the Israeli government remains the same. The Syrian government is not pursuing peace but is merely posturing."

Despite its public skepticism, Israel has sent peace feelers to Damascus through Turkey, Germany and Greece, as Deputy Prime Minister and former defence minister Shaul Mofaz has noted.

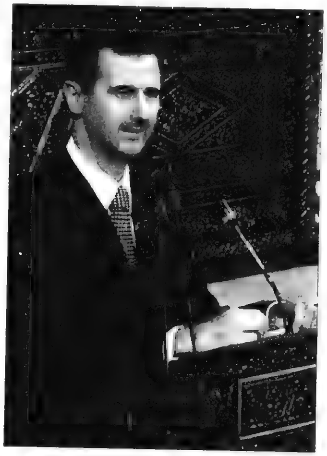
According to reports, Israel is currently in the process of reviewing Syrian motives, trying to assess what it might receive in exchange for giving up the Golan Heights (where 20,000 Israelis live in 33 settlements) and what the nature of future bilateral relations with Syria might be. Israel is also attempting to determine whether Syria would consider severing ties with Iran, Hezbollah and Palestinian radical organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The assessment is being conducted by the foreign ministry, which was charged with this task by Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni last August after the 34-day war in Lebanon.

Israel and Syria, which have fought three wars since 1948, entered into direct negotiations at the 1991 Madrid peace conference. These talks, which adjourned to Washington, lasted until Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists carried out three successive suicide attacks in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in 1996 that claimed the lives of 60 Israelis.

Before these talks collapsed, Israeli and Syrian negotiators addressed three central issues – the depth of and timetable for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan (which Israel annexed in 1981), the character of a peace agreement, and the contours of security arrangements. Syria demanded a full withdrawal to the pre-1967 armistice lines, while Israel insisted on a pullback to the 1921 international border, a difference of a few kilometres.

Talks resumed in 1999, though Israel and Syria maintained secret contacts until then. The second round of talks, brokered by the United States, broke down in March 2000 over Syria's refusal to cede the northeast corner of the Sea of Galilee, which Syria held prior to the 1967 Six Day War. Still, as Syria's then-foreign minister observed, 80 per cent of the contentious issues had been resolved.



President Bashar Assad of Syria

After becoming acting prime minister in January 2006, Olmert basically dismissed Syria's peace overtures and spoke of the need for Israel to keep the Golan, prompting Assad to remark that Israel was too weak to make peace. In fact, Olmert preferred to focus on the Palestinian track, despite the formation of a Hamas government that refused to renounce terrorism or come to terms with Israel.

Apart from his belief that the Golan should remain in Israel's hands, Olmert's reluctance to engage Syria is rooted in the knowledge that the United States is hostile to the Baathist regime in Damascus. The Bush administration, having accused Syria of stoking the current insurgency in Iraq and planning the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri, withdrew its ambassador in Damascus and imposed economic sanctions on Syria.

Washington argues that Syria will exploit talks with Israel to extricate itself from its international isolation. Shimon Peres, Israel's former deputy prime minister and now its president, has admittted that Israel "cannot go against American policy and hold negotiations with Syria."

Olmert, who was in Washington last week to meet President George W. Bush, is evidently constrained by the United States' attitude. But in Israel, there has been a groundswell of support for resurrecting the Syrian track, its proponents ranging from Chief of Staff Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi to Minister of National Infrastructure Binyamin Ben-Eliezer. They believe that an accord with Syria – which former U.S. president Bill Clinton thinks is eminently achievable – would encourage other Arab countries to establish diplomatic relations with Israel and prompt Damascus to distance itself from Iran, Hezbollah and Palestinian extremists, thereby contributing to a new regional order and a measure of stability in the Middle East.

Opponents of a rapprochement with Syria, such as Mossad director Meir Dagan, have voiced grave doubts about Syria's intentions. But Dagan's analysis has been challenged by Amos Yadlin, the chief of military intelligence, and Yossi Beiditz, the head of the foreign ministry's research department. Ilan Mizrahi, the chair of Israel's National Security Council, says that Syria's call for a dialogue is authentic, but admits that Syria may be more interested in a peace process rather than peace. Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's chief negotiator with Syria in the 1990s, has asserted that Israel should take advantage of Syria's outstretched hand.

Syrian officials from Assad on down have belligerently warned that war could break out if Israel rejects peace and clings to the Golan. This is not an idle threat. Syria, having learned the lessons of last year's war in Lebanon, has rearmed and built up its forces. In anticipation of a possible Syrian offensive, Israel has held intensive maneuvres on the Golan.

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Jewish Toronto

This edition of Jewish Toronto is devoted to the work of Reena, a UJA Federation partner agency dedicated to integrating individuals who have a developmental disability into the mainstream of society.

Dinner propels fundraising for unique project past half-way point

More than 1,200 supporters recently attended the Reena Foundation's gala dinner at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in downtown Toronto, honouring Ellis Jacob, CEO of Cineplex Entertainment.

Many representatives of film houses and studios came out to pay tribute to him and responded to his call for financial support of the Foundation. Special guests included noted lawyer Eddie Greenspan, who served as MC for the evening and Gerry Schwartz of Onex Corporation.

The funds raised at this year's dinner are dedicated to Reena's ambitious goal of purchasing an integrated apartment building that will provide housing for individuals with a developmental disability. Reena began planning and fundraising for this campaign last year, and this year's dinner brought Reena beyond the financial half-way point in raising enough for a down payment on the building. In addition to providing homes for Reena clients, apartments will be available to the general public, making it a self-sustaining operation.

"With up to 30% of the apartments occupied by Reena clients, they will have a strong sense of ownership of their environment, and a unique opportunity to interact with other tenants as they become integrated into the broader community," said Reena president and CEO Sandy Keshen.

"The money is going to a very special project that will have a lasting impact on the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The fact that it is self-sustaining means the Reena Integrated Apartment Project will deliver benefits far into the future. And that appeals to the business person in me," noted Jacob.

"I thank everyone who contributed to and worked so hard on this gala dinner to support an incredibly worthy cause. As in business, this shared commitment, this common bond, is a powerful force. It unites us and focuses our efforts, and allows us to achieve remarkable things," Keshen noted.

(l-r) Gala honouree Ellis Jacob, his wife Sharyn, with Fran and Ed Sonshine

Young woman finds success at the movies

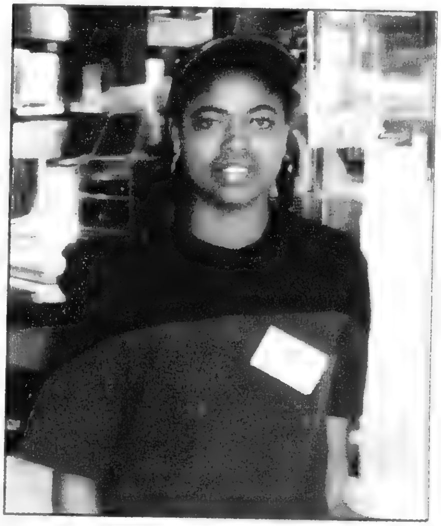
Cineplex Entertainment is not only known for its prominent role as a film exhibitor, it also assists Reena clients. One of them is Kimosha Renaud.

Since May 2006, Renaud has been part of Reena's Pathway day program, which helps young adults with a developmental disability make a successful transition from school to work or community participation.

Renaud has taken part in many activities such as delivering Reena's mail, math, reading, arts and crafts, and outings in the community. She also volunteers at The Salvation Army Thrift Store, Winners, and Homebase, a centre for homeless youth.

In mid-October 2006, Renaud, who was very determined to get a job in the community, put together a resume and started the job search. After all the hard work, Silver City Richmond Hill, owned by Cineplex, called Renaud in February of this year for an interview. It was so successful that Renaud has been working at Silver City for about three months, both on the floor and in ticket administration. Her training was not easy but she pulled through and made it all happen. "I work hard, but it's great fun," she said.

"We are all extremely proud of Kimosha. There is so much more ahead in this young woman's life. When you want to watch a movie, drop by the Richmond Hill Silver City. Say hi to Kimosha and commend her for doing so well," said Ann Szabo, Reena outreach director.



Kimosha Renaud

New home for aging Reena clients

David Smuschkowitz and his wife Luba were recently given a special preview of Reena's second ElderHome which will bear their name in recognition of their lead gift and leadership role to raise the funds for the facility.

Reena's newest residence at Weldrick and Bathurst, in Richmond Hill, across from UJA Federation's new Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus, provides a home for older adults with developmental disabilities.

During their visit, the Smuschkowitzes were introduced to the first of ten seniors who will live in the carefully designed spacious home. They met with three Reena clients whose group homes were no longer adequate for their growing needs. They also met Leonard Andrews, now 58 years old, who had lived in the Huronia Regional Centre for 50 of those years.

Currently five seniors are living in their new home and in the coming months, five more who are currently in institutions, will make the ElderHome a full house.

Having people with similar support needs living together allows them to thrive as active members of their community. Hence, the house is equipped with an elevator, wheelchair accessible washrooms, a state of the art therapeutic bath tub, ceiling tracks for motorized lifts in each room to assist people in wheel-chairs and a wandering persons alert system to ensure safety for individuals who require this extra support.

Residents who are able, and wish to do so, attend Reena's day programs for older adults at the Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre. Staff is on hand for those who choose to remain at the ElderHome or are too frail to participate. The home is situated beside Conservation Authority land with pleasant scenic routes for a wheelchair outing.

"It is heart warming to see that seniors who have a developmental disability have such a fine and welcoming place to live in as they age," said David Smuschkowitz. "I have to thank my friend Alex Eisen for persuading me to become involved," he added.

Luba and David Smuschkowitz with Reena clients (l to r) Bernie Reisman and Mary Fisher

CORRECTION

The photo for the story "Three Thornhill day schools..." in the June 7 Jewish Education Report should have been credited to Rebecca Ansel.

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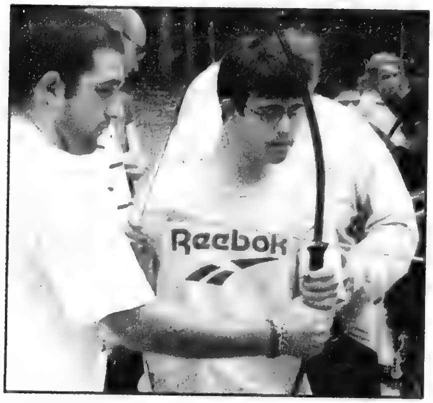
Reena expands successful camping program



Reena client Jesse Grunzweig practices archery at Camp Northland

Last summer was a first for Reena clients at Camp Northland B'nai Brith in Haliburton, when TEN young people, ages 7-16, enjoyed three days of swimming, water sports, arts and crafts and evening cookouts. The children were housed in their own cabins, but participated in many activities with the rest of the camp, including meals and dances.

This summer, the program will not only be expanded to three one-week trips, but four clients will spend all of the second session in a cabin with Northland campers and staff. "We could not be more excited about this upcoming summer," said Reena outreach director, Ann Szabo. "We know that just like last year, this summer will be incredible."

Szabo noted how amazing it was for the staff to watch the young Reena clients climb a six-foot wall, or take a trip around the lake in a canoe. The other campers, too, learned much from interacting with the Reena campers, she said, gaining tolerance, sensitivity and acceptance towards people with developmental disabilities.

She said that parents whose children are attending their first-ever overnight camp experience enjoy a great sense of freedom.

"They can totally relax knowing that their son or daughter is enjoying all the fun and challenges of camp life in a safe, nurturing and welcoming environment. This short respite is very welcome when dealing with the 24/7 responsibility of caring for a child who is developmentally disabled."

Camper Shawn Waldman prepares for a rock climbing adventure

This year's Walk With Israel embodies goal of inclusion

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA FEDERATION

Sporting blue and white hats and small flags emblazoned with the Reena logo, more than 30 Reena clients proudly walked with Israel on May 27 under the UJA Federation Inclusion Initiative banner, "We All Belong."

They were joined by Reena CEO and president Sandy Keshen and a number of "our incredible staff," says Arlene Margolese, manager of faith, cultural and volunteers services at Reena, which coordinated the group's participation.

"People with developmental disabilities, like all people with special needs, don't want to be singled out," Margolese says, explaining the importance for Reena clients of being able to join in the Walk With Israel. "They want to be part of the community like everyone else and I believe we accomplished that goal at this year's walk. While our group was, of course, proud to be representing Reena, they were like everyone else in that they were proud to be Jewish, proud to be counted, and proud to be contributing members of the community."

After helping to pack t-shirts and prize kits with other UJA Federation volunteers last year, Reena clients prepared for this year's walk through group discussions that explored their role in the community, the importance of taking pride in their Jewish heritage, and what it means to contribute to the community and be a part of something bigger than oneself.

"Everybody should have the opportunity to contribute and be part of something special, to be part of the community and be able to do their share," reflects Margolese. "And, in fact, the community is becoming more accessible to people with different needs. It's a long haul, but we are certainly making headway."

Reena clients at this year's UJA Federation Walk With Israel

Reena's participation also brought with it an unexpected chance to expose other ethnic communities to the Walk With Israel. "We have a diverse clientele and after we talked about the walk and encouraged people to attend, we had, for example, parents of a Portuguese client inquiring about it," Margolese recalls. "It gave us an opportunity to explain and educate people of other cultural groups. It was wonderful PR to increase awareness outside the Jewish community."

When all was said and done, "everybody had a wonderful time," says Margolese. "The entertainment and the celebrations before and after the actual walk were great and it was just a wonderful day, mostly because people came together and were one."

UJA Federation builds confidence in Reena client

By A.M. SEGAL
UJA FEDERATION

Ask Lorne Rothenberg's workmates at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto what they think of him and rave reviews are universal.

When Lorne comes to work, communicating with his colleagues requires a bit of innovation. That's because the 37-year-old, a Reena client, is autistic and, for the most part, unable to articulate his thoughts by speaking. In addition, his reading and writing abilities are somewhat limited.

"Lorne is very well accepted here," says UJA Federation's Joel Verbin, a mentor to Lorne. "I don't know of one person in the building I've ever come across who didn't appreciate him being around."

Physically fit and experienced with administrative duties, Lorne does everything from helping to move office equipment and loading materials, to assisting with mail duties and interfacing with couriers.

He works at UJA three times a week and, on the other week days, engages in packaging and assembling at JVS Toronto.

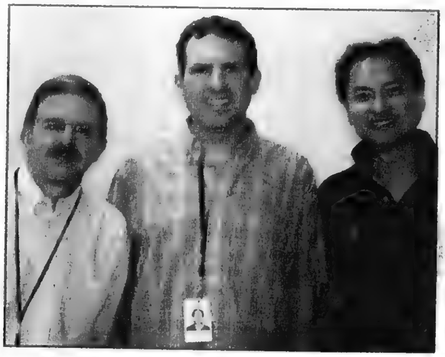
Lorne's employment at UJA is in line with the Federation's policy of inclusion, which promotes the participation of all members of the community – including those with physical and mental disabilities - in the workforce, and in communal life.

"One of the things that has worked out well for Lorne at UJA is the focus on what his abilities are, and there really are lots of abilities," relates his mother, Brenda Rothenberg, adding that Lorne is very independent and lives on his own during the week.

To facilitate his role, Lorne meets with Glenn Ip, an employment consultant from JVS, who previously assisted him at Rogers, where he worked for 17 years.

"In the beginning, Lorne worked one shift a week, and I stayed there with him to help him through every step of the job," explains Ip. "Now, Lorne has increased to three days and I only see him for an hour or two, twice a week." Ip says the initial employment period for a person with a developmental disability like Lorne is quite critical, as he or she needs to gain familiarity and confidence.

As their self-confidence grows, they are able to take on more duties, with less coaching. In Lorne's case, Ip says, the mentoring and accommodating culture at UJA helped him gain confidence quickly. "The way he is treated there is fantastic," Ip says." He is welcomed by the team and that has helped to build trust."



Joel Verbin of UJA Federation, Lorne Rothenberg and Glenn Ip of JVS

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CIC drops nine positions after budget cutback

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) has slashed nine positions in the wake of a budgetary cutback of slightly less than four per cent.

Five of the people were let go and new positions in Jewish organizations have been found for the others – three within CIC and one in its affiliated agency, the Quebec-Israel Committee (QIC).

The moves were painful but necessary given the fiscal realities facing the agency and the need to re-organize to better comply with its mandate of pro-Israel advocacy, said CIC chief executive officer Shimon Fogel.

"It was significant and required some important reflection by the CIC leadership how it wanted to go," he said. Part of that process included a reassessment of activities to determine which could best be done inside the agency and which could be done by other community groups.

Since the 2003 creation of CIJA, the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy, an organization that allocates funds among various community organizations, Jewish agencies have restructured to more effectively advocate on behalf of Israel and counter anti-Israel and anti-Semitic outbreaks. CIC has been a major recipient of CIJA-directed funding, with its budget more than doubling since 2003.

Some previous CIC activities have been shifted to partner organizations, and CIC has "tried to reconcile our essential mandate to the resources available," Fogel said.

"That led to the closure of some positions that had nothing to do with the individuals who served in those positions," he said.

It was "painful… to see loyal, dedicated people let go," he added

The areas affected included community outreach and grassroots development – not core CIC activities, Fogel said – as well as research. The latter cut meant the departure of well-respected academic David Goldberg, a long-standing CIC employee.

Fogel noted the nature of research has changed substantially in the last few years because of new technologies and easier access to materials that were not readily available 10 to 15 years ago.

Fogel said that while CIC's budget has been increasing since 2000, three years before CIJA came on the scene, the cutbacks come in the context of increasing community demand for limited resources allocated by CIJA. He suggested CIC might have been the first community agency to have to deal with funding restrictions. "Hopefully our process will serve as a template for other agencies to assess what it is they do and how they do it."

CIC – which employs 25 people in its Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal (home of the QIC), Vancouver and Israel offices – will focus its energies on government and policy issues, as well as missions to Israel and media relations, he said.

CIJA chief executive officer Hershell Ezrin said CIJA has doubled CIC's funding since 2003, but it also had demands to finance other community priorities, including security, fighting Internet hate and supporting students on campus.

Ezrin said even with the budget cutback of less than four per cent – which affects CIC, QIC and missions to Israel – "pro-Israel advocacy is the largest by far programming that CIJA does."

He declined to provide a dollar figure for the allocation.

Not all Israel-advocacy money finds its way to CIC. Other agencies, such as Canadian Jewish Congress, run programs and activities that affect how the Canadian public perceives Israel.

Congress, for example, has lobbied labour unions to modify their positions on Israel. CIJA's University Outreach Committee has successfully called on university presidents at York, Concordia, McGill and the University of British Columbia to condemn the British University and College Union's (UCU) proposed academic boycott of Israel.

Ezrin said CIJA operates on a fixed budget – not including one-time programs funded by donors – and faces competing priorities from various agencies, all of them meeting Jewish advocacy requirements.

The money CIJA allocates, which was raised in community fundraising campaigns, "is not for agencies; it's for programs and activities," he said.

"CIC has done a wonderful job and they are taking advantage of this opportunity to look at new, innovative ways of programming delivery," he added

20 YEARS OF SERVICE: **Five volunteers received 20-year "Length of Service" awards June 13 at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living's annual volunteer banquet. From left are Henry Icyk, president of the the centre's board of directors, volunteers Edward Kogut and Sadie Rose, executive director Esta Wall, and volunteers Rita Deunish-Turner, Anna Mativetskaya and Lucille Calder.**

Brosh prepares to return to Israel

Continued from page 3

During his tenure as consul general, he facilitated visits to the Jewish state by delegations from six universities, and he co-ordinated another mission from 12 Canadian medical centres.

In 2003, when he arrived, the intifadah was winding down, but Canadians' perception of Israel was that it was marked by a "terror war."

The average Canadian, Brosh said, was unaware of Israel's high-tech achievements, its music scene, its deaf-and-blind theatre group, its thriving film scene, its attention to fine cuisine, and other aspects of a rich cultural life.

He set about demonstrating these aspects of Israeli life, though he acknowledges it was sometimes a tough go, given the media's focus on terror attacks.

"With the terror war in control, it was easier to show the good face of Israel," he said.

Among non-Jews, evangelical Christians were quite supportive of Israel, but attitudes toward Israel from some unions, such as CUPE Ontario, and among many on Canadian campuses were problematic, Brosh said.

As for the news coverage of Mideast events, he said the Canadian media "does not generally portray Israel as the party in the wrong."

He believes "the man in the street" sees Israel as another democracy and supports its fight against terrorism.

"That's the view of the Canadian people. They do not always support all Israel does, but they see what's right and wrong and who seeks peace and who doesn't," he said.

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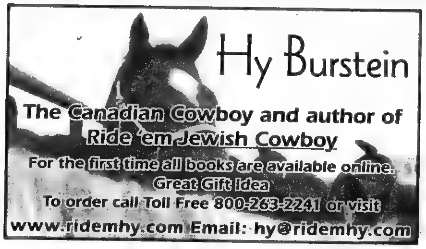
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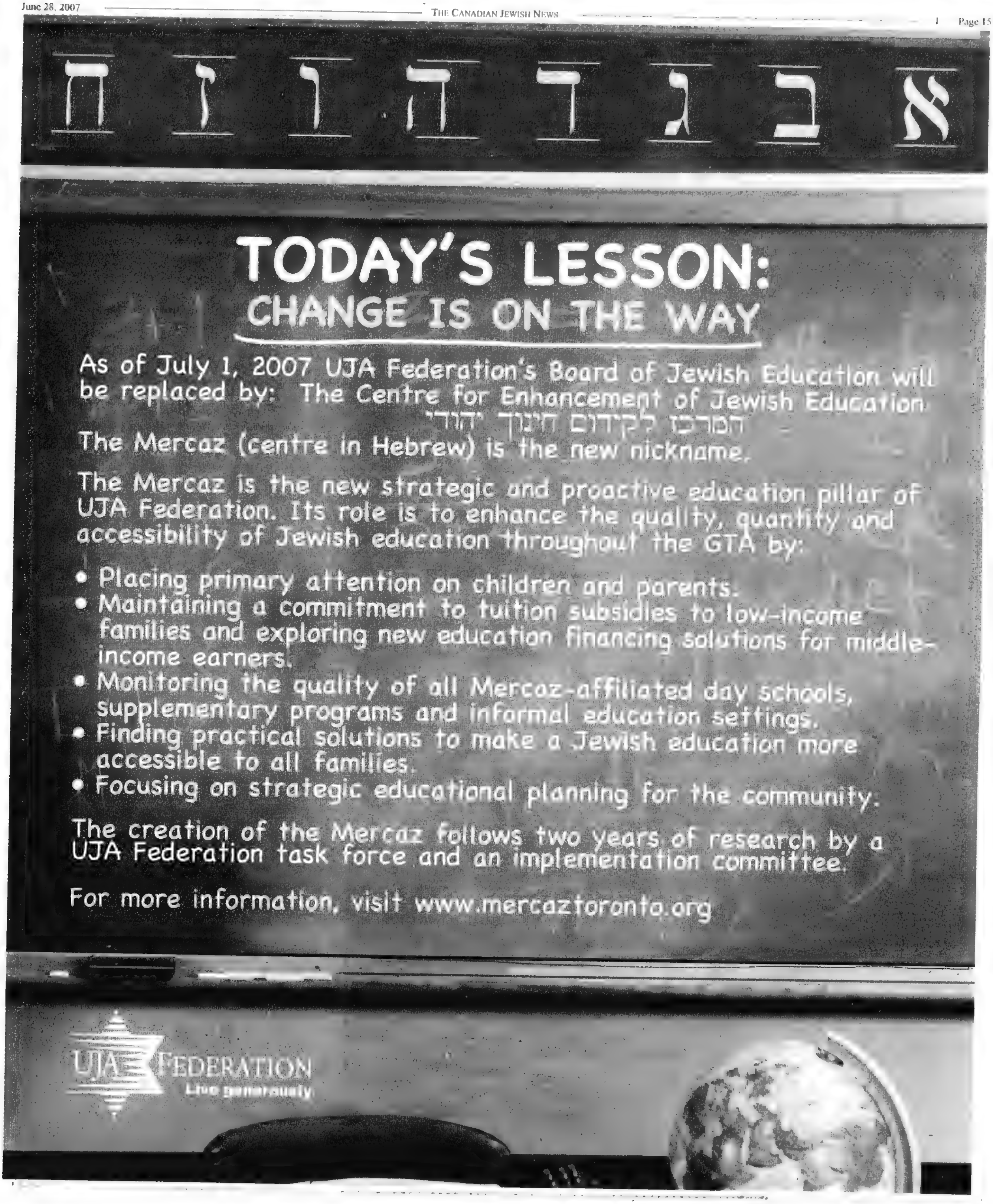

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Jewish Life

Of minorities and majorities

By RABBI LEIGH LERNER

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

With minority governments in both Ottawa and Quebec City, let's think about majorities and minorities in Jewish thought.

Exodus 23 tells us, "Do not follow a multitude to do evil." Rashi and Ibn Ezra suggest that we should not follow a majority blindly when our conscience demands otherwise, nor should we trust a majority without question.

This Torah dictum calls into question the notion of party discipline, by which government leaders muster their votes into a bloc and maintain their positions. The Torah might ask an individual MP to forsake party discipline and to vote his or her conscience if a situation is considered to be one of life or death.

The Torah is saying that majority rule only has benefit when it seeks good and not evil, life and not death.

Jewish courts in capital cases consisted of 23 judges: 10 for to argue for acquittal, 10 to argue for for conviction, plus one to assure a majority. Yet conviction can't be based on the word of one person alone, but upon the word of two or three, so two more were added, making 23. A court that large already has the nature of a small parliament or a modern-day board, where people can be swayed toward a large majority.

That's why the rabbis demanded that 10 argue for acquittal and 10 for conviction, to force even a majority who are inclined to recommend the death sentence to consider the other side and argue for it.

Similarly, in minority governments, argument, debate and question period become crucial. This is how all sides can criticize and respond, and how the public can learn about the full scope of issues. This requires us to be good listeners until the next election.

The Torah portion Balak also provides an example of using the power of a majority to shape opinion.

Balak fears Israel's passing through his territory. He wants the non-Jewish prophet Balaam to curse them. Balaam, aware of Israel's relationship with God, ignores Balak's command. So Balak sent a *rabbim* of princes, meaning "many princes" or "the majority of princes," or even "a group more honorable" than the previous bunch he had sent. They told Balaam, "Balak will promote you to great honour. Come, curse this people."

How often have we seen this ploy? Bedecked in their finery, arriving by palanquin or in limousines, the greats of the land appear before one whom they wish to influence, offering emoluments and hoping to leverage a decision.

Torah condemns the use of a majority of the greats of the land to shape decisions that favour their own cause. Balaam tells this group of princes that all the gold and silver in the world couldn't buy him.

But despite his denials, Balaam gets up early and goes to curse Israel. It's then that Balaam can no longer be considered a prophet by any camp, for he has thrown away his credentials in order to accept the benefits of wealthy princes.

A minority government has the opportunity to be a prophet, to do what's just and what's right, and even what's hard and disagreeable, but few have the courage to be prophetic.

Minority governments stand at the precipice of losing the confidence of the legislature throughout their term, creating a temptation to follow the will of the kingmakers – to do what will bring them more power, more election money and a future majority. That does not necessarily mean doing what is right.

If the prime minister and provincial premier can show leadership by adhering to principles and promises, they may be seen as prophetic, and they'll be respected. But if they listen to kingmakers, when the next election comes, they'll be perceived as another Balaam – puppets in denial, their strings pulled by those who can help their re-election.

With minority governments in place in both Ottawa and Quebec, *uvacharta vachaim*, choose life, should be the motto, and not choose popularity or princes.

Rabbi Leigh Lerner is spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Montreal.

A Jewish summer reading list

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

My suggestions for summer reading contain no potboilers or gossipy page-turners, but for those interested in Judaism, here are some books that I have found to be of worth in the last 12 months.

For several years, Yeshiva University has been publishing volumes that emerge from its Orthodox Forum conferences. The one released last year has proven to be especially timely. Titled *Jewish Spirituality and Divine Law*, it looks at the complex relationship and tension between Jewish rituals and obligations and the search for spiritual meaning. The essays touch on spirituality in the Bible, as well as in Jewish prayer and Jewish education, Jewish art, chassidut and Kabbalah. The writers are world-renowned and respected scholars, the subject matter is important, and the volume is, on the whole, very readable.

In the wake of the Gaza expulsions of 2005 and the general focus on settlements in Israel comes a book of historical essays by Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, the first chief rabbi of Palestine. *When God Becomes History* presents a sampling of Rav Kook's essays and letters on topics pertaining to the Land of Israel, as well as his historic address at the opening of Hebrew University in 1925.

A book that really snuck under the radar last year but is a very creative and insightful piece of biblical commentary is *Wrestling Jacob* by Rabbi Shmuel Klitsner, who teaches at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Jerusalem. Rabbi Klitsner and his wife, Judy, are renowned Tanach specialists, and in this book, Rabbi Klitsner analyzes, with great care and sensitivity, the passages in Genesis that tell the story of Jacob. His approach is psychological and literary while firmly based in traditional exegesis.

I am often asked about books that can be used by the whole family as a form of Jewish learning. One lovely series in this regard was produced by Joel Lurie Grishaver, a well-known maverick when it comes to creating Jewish educational materials. In a three-part series titled *You Be the Judge*, a number of hypothetical cases, usually with an ethical twist, are offered to readers to adjudicate, with possible Torah sources and answers for the problem appearing on the next page. It's perfect for Shabbat table discussion or just user friendly learning, especially for kids who don't like the traditional slogging through dense Hebrew texts.

Finally, I suggest two related texts about the times we live in, where terror seems to be the operative metaphor and catchphrase of the age. Mark Steyn's *America Alone* warns – with biting humour, quirky examples and a mass of statistics – of the growing threat of Islamic terror, starting with the plain problem of demographics. Put simply, western believers in democracy and liberalism are not having enough babies, unlike their ideological adversaries who are reproducing rapidly. Europe, in Steyn's thesis, is already lost, and America is the last bulwark against fundamentalist violence.

In a similar vein, but in much denser, more academic terms, Paul Berman's *Terror and Liberalism* dissects the philosophical roots of terrorism and places it in historical contexts that far predate Osama Bin Laden and even World War II.

Both books are well worth buying, but they're not for the squeamish. The potential horrors unveiled within, though not of the gross-out variety, are frightening indeed.

Quotations on every subject

The Yale Book of Quotations, **edited by Fred R. Shapiro, Yale University Press.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

At first, I didn't want to buy this book. The price is steep ($65 US), and my library already has a shelf of books that deal with quotations. But after a few moments of random browsing I was won over. This massive volume of more than 1,000 pages, containing 12,000 quotations, was different from the others.

It covers quotations not only from literary and historical sources but also from popular culture, sports, politics, law and the social sciences. Anonymously authored items appear in sections devoted to folk songs, advertising slogans, film lines, television and proverbs.

The quotations that follow should be of interest to readers of *The CJN*.

From physicist Albert Einstein:

- I am by heritage a Jew, by citizenship a Swiss, and by makeup a human being, and only a human being, without any special attachment to any state or national entity whatsoever.
- We know nothing about it (God and the world) at all. All our knowledge is but the knowledge of schoolchildren. Possibly we shall know a little more that we do now. But the real nature of things, that we shall never know, never. *Jewish Sentinel*, September 1931
- If I would be a young man again and had to decide how to make my living, I would not try to become a scientist or scholar or teacher. I would rather choose to be a plumber or a pedlar in the hope to find that modest degree of independence still available under current circumstances. November 1954

From former British prime minister Benjamin Disraeli:

- On his deathbed, declining a visit from Queen Victoria: No it is better not. She would only ask me to take a message to Albert.
- Replying to anti-Semitic taunting in the House of Commons: Yes, I am a Jew! When the ancestors of the honourable gentleman were brutal savages in an unknown island, mine were priests in the temple!
- Lies, damned lies, and statistics.

From writer Mark Twain:

- Man was made at the end of the week's work, when God was tired.
- Man is the only animal that blushes. Or needs to.
- I have no race prejudices, and I think I have no colour prejudices nor caste prejudices nor creed prejudices. Indeed, I know it. I can stand any society. All that I care to know is that a man is a human being – that is enough for me; he can't be any worse. *Concerning the Jews*, 1899

From diarist Anne Frank:

- Is discord going to show itself while we are still fighting, is the Jew once again worth less than another? Oh it is sad, very sad, that once more, for the umpteenth time, the old truth is confirmed: "What one Christian does is his own responsibility, what one Jew does is thrown back at all Jews." *Diary of Anne Frank*, entry on May 22, 1944

From former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir:

- Let me tell you something that we Israelis have against Moses. He took us 40 years through the desert in order to bring us to the one spot in the Middle East that has no oil.

From comic actor Groucho Marx:

- Responding to a beach club telling him he couldn't join because he was Jewish: My son's only half Jewish. Would it be all right if he went in the water up to his knees?

From former British prime minister Arthur Balfour:

- In Palestine we do not propose even to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants of the country… The four great powers are committed to Zionism. And Zionism, be it right or wrong, good or bad, is rooted in age-long traditions, in present needs, in future hopes, of far profounder import than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit that ancient land. Memorandum respecting Syria, Palestine and Mesopotamia, Aug. 11, 1919.

Resources for the deaf, Pt. 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish
Highway

How do you say mazal tov or Rosh Hashanah using sign language? David Bar-Tzur is one of the many people who shares resources on the web for deaf Jewish people, as well as for the larger community. Today, we continue our look at the best of them.

Bar-Tzur is working on creating a glossary of religious terms for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. In addition to religious phrases from other faiths, Bar-Tzur includes many Jewish words and terms in his glossary. Bar-Tzur's translation into sign language notation may look cryptic to most of us. But when these words are animated into sweeping arm movements and gestures, non-hearing Jews can share in the phrases that are so loved by the rest of the community. **[www.theinterpretersfriend.com]**

Bar-Tzur has also created the single best page that I have come across that summarizes resources (online and other) for Jewish deaf. This page has everything from recommendations about books and CDs to tips about dealing with biblical sign language that may carry Christian connotations. **[http://tinyurl.com/ys8w2b]**

For more practical information, check out the Orthodox Union's Our Way site, which includes Jewish holiday guides such as the Chanukah candlelighting sign-language blessing chart and Signs of the Seder, a pamphlet about celebrating a seder in sign language. The same page also has the handbook Hearing-Impaired Child in the Jewish Classroom, and strategies for creating a synagogue that is blind/deaf friendly. **[http://tinyurl. com/2toz36]**

Speaking of which, Bene Shalom is a reform congregation in Skokie, Ill., that has a membership of 200 deaf and hearing families. **[www.beneshalom. org/]** In 1992, the affiliated Hebrew Seminary of the Deaf was established. The seminary's five-year program includes all the standard curriculum and courses of study required for rabbinical ordination. In addition, all students must become proficient signers in ASL, as well as learning Hebrew Sign Language. These skills will enable them, as rabbis and teachers, to communicate with the Jewish deaf communities that they will eventually serve. **[www.hebrewseminarydeaf.org]**

There are several other organizations that offer a great deal of assistance for Jews who are deaf. They include the Jewish Deaf Resource Center **[www. jdrc.org]**, Haazinu **[www. haazinu.org]**, Britain's Jewish Deaf Association **[www.jewishdeaf.org.uk]** and the Association of the Deaf in Israel. **[www. deaf .org.il/2.htm]**

Many people will be familiar with Taglit-birthright Israel, which offers free trips to Israel to young adult Jews. Several of these trips cater to deaf Jews who are accompanied by professional interpreters and have the opportunity to meet with deaf Israelis. **[www.njcd. org/birthright]** Micah Brown describes his experience with birthright as "one of the most profoundly spiritual trips I've ever been on. It really made a major impact on my spiritual identity as a deaf Jew." **[http://tiny url.com/ 32msrw]**

Finding a soulmate can be tough enough for anyone. Many sites talk about additional challenges faced by Jewish people who are deaf. To address that need, Our Way organizes social events and maintains a Jewish Deaf Singles Registry. **[http://tinyurl.com/ 2wlqfz]**

It seems that Carolyn Ginsburg and Mark Stern were able to find each other without the assistance of the registry. They married last November, and the *New York Times* was at the ceremony, too. "Two interpreters who understand and can sign in both English and Hebrew stood at the ready," the *Times'* article said. "One was for the dozen or so guests who were deaf or hard of hearing. The other was for the bride and bridegroom, who were especially keen to take in the cantor's singing, which can be hard for them to make out because it often includes drawn-out syllables. 'We wanted to make sure we didn't miss anything,' Ms. Ginsburg said." **[http:// tinyurl.com /2l9hzf]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Young couple tries to 'bring students closer to Judaism'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Before they met, Eli and Shira Sack had lives that were, in some ways, mirror images.

"They are our teachers..."

Both born in April, a year apart, Eli, a native of Jerusalem, is the son of a Toronto-born mother, and Shira, a Toronto native, is the daughter of Israeli-born Dvora Shiderman, a former teacher at Eitz Chaim Day School.

Now married for four years and the parents of two-year-old Hila, the Sacks – who teach at Torah High in Vaughan – returned to Toronto from Israel two years ago.

Torah High is an after-school program affiliated with the Orthodox Union's National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY). It has seven locations in the GTA and is accredited by the Ontario Ministry of Education to give high school credits, including U-level credits that can be used as part of an Ontario university application.

Shira, 26, instituted Torah High's Hebrew-language studies two years ago to add another dimension to the school's Jewish studies program. She has been teaching Hebrew language to a Grade 9/10 class and an 11/12 class, and will teach a new program, visual art – with a Jewish approach – next year.

Eli, 25, has been teaching Torah and Jewish ethics to Grade 9 and 10 students for the past year.

Shira, who has a degree in special education with a minor in Jewish art from Bar-Ilan University, also teaches Hebrew and Navi (prophets) at the Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School. Eli, who worked in the technical support field in Israel, is studying computers at Seneca College.

Eli, whose English has only a trace of an accent (his father is also North American), said he likes to "be open, to listen, to understand where students are coming from."

He also likes to be "challenged with questions that these students have, and they usually have pretty good ones," he said.

The idea is to bring them closer to Judaism, Shira said.

Because of her formal teaching background, "in the beginning… I took a lot of advice" from Shira, said Eli. Also, he added, Torah High staff members were very supportive.

While Torah High is not Eli's first experience with non-Orthodox kids – he grew up playing soccer with them in his mixed neighbourhood in Jerusalem – he said non-Orthodox students at Torah High are different from their Israeli counterparts because they "don't live the Jewish culture, or the Israeli culture."

> **A lesson from the teachers:** *"When you teach, you always need to start at the level the child is on, and move up from there," says Shira.*
>
> *"Every little bit is a lot," adds Eli, regarding his approach to Jewish practice. "I am happy with any step they take."*

Teaching at Torah High, Eli also draws on his experience as the oldest of 10 children, and as a former youth group counsellor in Israel. He attended a Chabad Talmud Torah, but his parents were "kind of hippies" who affiliated with the Carlebach movement.

Shira is a graduate of Eitz Chaim and Ulpanat Orot who went to Israel after high school to study at Midreshet Lindenbaum (Brovenders), a Jerusalem seminary.

After a summer in Toronto, she returned to Israel on aliyah, and worked in a home for disabled children as part of Sherut Leumi (national service in lieu of army service) before entering university.

Although she had plans to study architecture, she realized during her Sherut Leumi stint that working with children gave her more satisfaction.

Eli and Shira met in Israel at a Shabbat meal for young, English-speaking singles when she was a first-year student at Bar-Ilan. He was studying at a hesder yeshiva, which combines Jewish study with army service, and was due to enter the army two weeks later. They were engaged within two months.

Shira and Eli Sack hold their two-year-old daughter Hila. [Frances Kraft photo]

Eli, whose interests include airplanes, music and cooking, enjoys teaching, but doesn't necessarily see it as a permanent career for himself.

However, he said, he "would probably look for something like NCSY and Torah High wherever I am" to share his love of Judaism with young people.

"They are our teachers…" will return at the end of September.

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Rabbi comes home to lead Oakville shul

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

For Rabbi Stephen Wise, the famous phrase "there's no place like home" very much rings true.

After a two-year rabbinical stint in sunny Boca Raton, Fla., the Canadian boy is coming home to serve as the new rabbi of Shaarei-Beth El Congregation in Oakville.

"I couldn't be more excited," enthused the 33-year-old hockey aficionado, who starts his new position June 30.

"I'm looking forward to being in a community like Oakville where everyone knows your name."

Indeed, one of the biggest allures for Wise to return north of the border was the small, intimate congregation, which has about 125 member families and serves all of Halton Region.

Rabbi Stephen Wise

As well, with his wife Cheryl and three small children, Rabbi Wise is looking forward to having his Toronto-area family and friends close by.

Flush with fresh ideas, the Reform rabbi has many creative ideas for all demographic groups that he looks forward to putting into practice at Shaarei-Beth El.

"I plan to teach a class that I've been developing called 'The Hero Inside Each of Us,' for the post bnai mitzvah program," he said.

"It looks at Jewish heroes of the past and present and shows how people who don't have supernatural powers can still be heroic."

Another idea for adults, cleverly titled "Prophets on Bay Street," caters to the established professional crowd and invites them to learn with the charismatic rabbi.

From synagogue services to social events, Rabbi Wise is looking to nurture strong ties with the already tight knit group of congregants.

"I envision being part of this community where my own family will be intimately involved with the synagogue," he said.

Originally from Toronto, Wise attended Holy Blossom Temple while growing up.

After studying at the University of Toronto, he pursued post-graduate work in Jewish communal service at Brandeis University.

He was certain about working in the Jewish community, but the recent graduate hadn't yet found his eventual calling, so he decided to work as a youth educator at a synagogue in Massachusetts.

"I watched the rabbi working in that synagogue, who guided, prayed, taught and worked with kids and adults, and realized he was doing everything I love to do," Rabbi Wise recalled.

So the inspired soul went off to begin his rabbinic studies.

He was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2005 and has been one of three rabbis at Boca Raton's very large Temple Beth El ever since.

The sojourn in Florida was great preparation for his new role, Rabbi Wise said.

"I worked with a gifted speaker and rabbi, Dan Levin, who has been an incredible mentor," Rabbi Wise said.

"Any time I do anything from a sermon to a wedding, I sit with him to process it, and he's been an incredible guide."

Rabbi Wise said he knew almost immediately after meeting members of the Shaarei-Beth El community that it was time to come home.

"At the interview for the position, one of the guys started telling me about his backyard hockey rink," Rabbi Wise said.

"That's when I really felt at home."

For more information about Shaarei-Beth El, visit www.sbe.ca.

CHORAL KIDS: The choir from Associated Hebrew Schools' Posluns campus on Neptune performed at the branch's recent Erev Tarbut (Evening of Culture). The event, held at Beth Tzedec Congregation, celebrated the first year of Posluns' Ra'anan program, which introduced new music, art, and physical education curricula to kids in grades 1 to 5.

The Board, Administration & Staff of Netivot HaTorah Day School extends Mazal Tov to the Graduates, Parents & Families of our graduating class of 2007:

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WEEKLY CLASSES

CONNECTIONS*: The How & Why of Mitzvahs between one Jew and Another

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7026 Bathurst Street, Thornhill
Note: No class on Monday, July 23

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CONNECTIONS

This programme is a joint effort between the Center for Jewish Values (under the direction of Harav Yitzchak Berkovits) & the Toronto Jewish Community

Teens donate bar mitzvah gifts to new arts scholarship fund

By **ABIGAIL BIMMAN**
CJN Intern

Using gifts from their bat mitzvahs, two 13-year-old Avenue Road Arts School students have raised $35,000 to launch a scholarship fund to help Toronto children attend art classes at high-quality institutions.

From left, Avenue Road Arts School student Dylan Kerdman, founding director Lola Rasminsky, school supporter Bob Rae and student Ariella Minden

[Abigail Bimman photo]

Ariella Minden and Dylan Kerdman both spoke last week at the opening of "460 Degrees of the Avenue Road Arts School," a show featuring works of adult students at the school, at the Women's Art Association Gallery.

"I realized that as I got older, when I started getting an allowance, that everything I did cost money, like art classes, guitars, instruments, art supplies," Dylan told *The CJN*.

"Underprivileged kids that can't afford that, who go to public schools that can't afford that, can't get [access to] a good art program," she added.

"So I decided for my bat mitzvah fund that I would take all my bat mitzvah gifts and put them towards this charity."

Said Ariella: "Tikkun olam means to repair the world, and I believe that if each of us does one little thing it will make a difference."

She added that she feels good about her positive impact on other children.

"I hope they'll improve in whatever they choose to do, whatever their interests are, and I hope they make many new friends and learn many new techniques."

The Avenue Road Arts School offers classes in music, writing, drama and visual arts to both children and adults.

While both are students at the school, the two girls raised funds independently and did not know each other.

Ariella and Dylan's bat mitzvahs were in November and January respectively, but the school just received charitable status three weeks ago, which allowed it to launch the fund.

Founding director Lola Rasminsky is putting together a board to look after it.

"I'm actually thinking of inviting the girls to join the board – I don't know what the legalities of that are," Rasminsky said. "I certainly want them to participate in how the scholarship program unfolds."

Rasminsky wants to hold a fall fundraising concert showcasing Toronto personalities who are also musicians, such as politician Bob Rae, architect Jack Diamond and Royal Ontario Museum CEO William Thorsell, to emphasize the importance of arts training.

Rasminsky wants to raise awareness about the importance of the arts, saying they make people smarter, improve self-confidence and help develop life skills.

Rae, a supporter of the school, also spoke at the show opening and echoed that sentiment.

"One of the terrible things that's happened in the last 15 years or so, there has developed a theory that the arts are some kind of a frill," he said.

"It's a terrible thing… there's all sorts of ways of understanding the world, [but] our school system only seems to understand one or two."

Jewish Mosaic Festival celebrates diversity

By **BILL GLADSTONE**
Special to The CJN

Toronto is one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities, so it should come as no surprise to learn that the GTA's Jewish population, estimated at about 185,000, is also highly cosmopolitan and consists of a spectrum of nationalities.

The Jewish Mosaic Festival, a one-day series of events held last summer at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC), allowed city-area residents to share and learn about the different customs of Jewish communities from countries including Argentina, Brazil, China, Czechoslovakia, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Romania, Tunisia and Uruguay.

Representing some 22 countries, participants presented displays, talks, workshops, films and musical and dance performances. Equal parts education and entertainment, the festival drew more than 2,000 people.

"It was quite gratifying to be able to educate – I use the word advisedly, but it's a large part of what we were doing – to educate the larger Jewish community about the presence of various different cultural communities within Judaism," said Turkish-born architect Moiz Behar, who joined with others on a presentation on the history of the Jewish community of Turkey and the revival of the Judeo-Spanish language, Ladino.

Festival presenters "said they kept hearing the same remark: 'I didn't know there were any Jews in China,' or Bolivia, Barbados, or Turkey, you fill in the blank," Behar said.

Something exciting and effervescent happens when you bring Jews from different national backgrounds together, said Janet Klein Slavin, the BJCC official who organized the first festival and is now planning a sequel for the BJCC and its partner agencies – namely, JIAS Toronto, Beth Hatefutsoth, Miles Nadal JCC, Schwartz/Reisman Centre, Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Koffler Centre of the Arts.

"The Jewish community is generally very well-educated, but there is still a lack of knowledge about the variety of Jewish cultures within it," she said.

Laura Rosemblit, whose husband's family is from Bolivia and who lived there briefly, has volunteered to help represent Bolivia in the next festival, scheduled for June 1, 2008.

"In La Paz they founded two different synagogues, one for the Polish and one for the Germans," she said, engendering knowing smiles among her listeners. Splinterization of the Jewish community along cultural lines is common, no matter where you're from.

So that the festival may represent as many countries of origin as possible, organizers are seeking volunteers to act as country representatives. "We want the programming to have an authentic international flair," Klein Slavin said.

A planning meeting is scheduled for July 10 at 7 p.m. For further details, please contact Klein Slavin at 416-636-1880, ext. 259, or visit the Jewish Mosaic Festival website at www.jewishmosaicfestival.com.

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Dvira Ovadia

Toronto designer battles for top prize on reality show

By **SHERI SHEFA**
Staff Reporter

She's got a degree in architecture, diplomas in technical design and a master's degree in interior design, but nothing could have prepared her for this competition.

Dvira Ovadia, the only Jewish contestant on the second season of design icon Debbie Travis' show called From the Ground Up, spent several weeks last fall battling 13 other contestants on national television for the coveted title of the new chief designer for Travis' line of design condos and homes.

Whether she was asked to design a fun yet functional cabin for summer campers, or create a chandelier for a hip, new restaurant, Ovadia had to be on her toes and work under immense pressure.

"It is not very often that someone throws a bunch of tasks at you, and you have to do it because you put yourself in this situation and everyone is watching you. You have the pressure, and on top of that you have the pressure of coming up with something usually within minutes, not even hours," Ovadia said, adding that they would have just two days or less to complete a task and could only work from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Israeli-born Ovadia, 27, grew up in Brussels before she settled in Thornhill. While the city she calls home changed a few times, her desire to work in the design world remained constant.

"Growing up, as a child, I always wanted to do something in design. I was always very creative. Whether it was fashion or design or product design, it was something I knew I really wanted to do," she said.

Having an Israeli mother and an Egyptian father, and having travelled the world, Ovadia said that being exposed to so many different cultures has shaped her own style.

"I definitely have a diverse cultural style, and I think that helps me a lot, because my mind is very open to mixing things... It has definitely influenced my design, who I am, how I think and how I analyze."

When Ovadia's fiancé found out about the show, he urged her to apply.

"I hesitated at first, but I read up about it and I'd seen a few episodes of the first season, so I decided that I would take on the opportunity and apply for it. Before I knew it, I was accepted," she said, adding that she had to resign from her position at Munge/Leung Design Associates to participate in the competition.

Although it was impossible for Ovadia and any of the other contestants to know what to expect, the biggest surprise was how well she was able to cope with the pressure of thinking on her feet.

"The tasks... were very unusual, and they weren't the conventional kind of tasks. It wasn't like, 'Here's a room, now go decorate it.' It was really about thinking outside of the box, being innovative and being able to come up with designs and ideas on the fly because there is no time. Somehow you have to pull it out of yourself, and it amazed me that I was able to come up with stuff so quickly," Ovadia said.

She said that it was physically and emotionally draining, but most of all, it was a great learning experience.

"Debbie made me realize that innovation and cleverness is the key to design and that's what she preaches... What I learned is that you have to make something out of nothing," she said, referring to her task in Episode 2, where she had to design a cabin using nothing but materials that were laying around the camp site.

"I think it made me stronger. I realized that I'm so much more capable than I ever thought I was, and I realize that if you want something you have to go out and get it... It gave me a deeper perspective in life."

She said that since the first few episodes have aired on Global Television, she has received a number of job offers.

"I've had a lot of job opportunities and a lot of people have contacted me. I guess people realize that there are only 14 people that were selected across Canada from thousands, and I guess that puts me up there and gives me more exposure within my industry. I have had a few job offers, but I'm trying to wait it out and see what's going to happen."

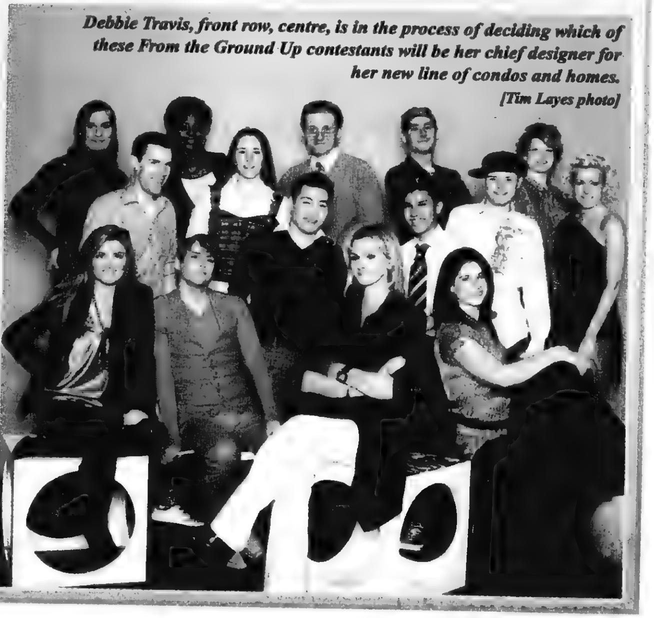
She said that no matter where she ends up, she hopes that she'll be in a position to reach the masses and make design accessible to everyone.

"I think that everybody in this world is starting to get a little more design conscious... I'd like to develop a philosophy that will be able to help the general public, for those who don't have a lot of money, but do want to have something unique in their house."

Ovadia said that she couldn't have gotten to where she is today without the support of her friends and family.

"My parents have always been extremely supportive. That might be the backbone of everything... Just to know that all my loved ones are behind me and are supporting me in everything that I do, it is definitely a big help."

Find out how Ovadia does in the competion by watching From The Ground Up on Global TV Thursdays at 9 p.m.



Debbie Travis, front row, centre, is in the process of deciding which of these From the Ground Up contestants will be her chief designer for her new line of condos and homes.

[Tim Layes photo]

Coverage of PA strife sideswipes Israel

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

The Canadian and international media have devoted a lot of attention to the recent violence between Hamas and Fatah, which resulted in a division of rule in Gaza and the West Bank, respectively.

While no single theme dominated the coverage, some journalists tended to blame the internal Palestinian strife on Israel. They were sure to mention that even though Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, it still controls the airspace and sea routes, and thus, in effect, still occupies this so-called "open-air prison."

Another common point was that Israel, the United States and Canada (with Europe mentioned occasionally) refused to accept the outcome of the democratic elections in which Hamas gained control of the Palestinian Authority. Thus, by withholding funding from the PA and trying to diplomatically isolate Hamas, these western powers bear much of the responsibility for the situation in Gaza.

For example, in "Breaking point in the Middle East" (BBC online, June 15), Jeremy Bower wrote that the West's economic sanctions "caused severe hardship and helped fuel the violence in Gaza by making the people even more desperate."

Like many others, Bower ignored the fact that according to the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, aid to Gaza amounted to $1.2 billion (US) in 2006, up from $1 billion in 2005. These funds were channelled through UN agencies and NGOs to help the Palestinian people directly.

A more accurate and appropriate response was the *Toronto Star* editorial, "Speed Palestinian aid" (June 20). The *Star* called on Canada to join international efforts to alleviate Palestinian suffering while avoiding any support for the "Hamas regime."

In two key paragraphs, the *Star* writes: "A Canadian response that generously supports [Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud] Abbas without abandoning Gazans is the best way [to] reinforce the message that Palestinians stand to gain by embracing leaders who are prepared to make peace.

"Palestinians who handed Hamas control of parliament in last year's election are bitter at the international community's refusal to deal with Hamas leaders, or to provide aid. Palestinians spurned Abbas' Fatah camp for its corruption and inefficiency, believing Hamas would deliver good government and better services. But Hamas also envisages 'obliterating' Israel. While Palestinians are entitled to elect whoever they choose, nothing compels the international community to support regimes that threaten the peace."

* * *

The June 14 *On the Map* with Avi Lewis (on CBC Newsworld) promised an inside look at the conflicts in Lebanon and Gaza, beyond what had been "packaged," Lewis claimed, for "the North American news machine."

In what Lewis said was an effort to "cool the hype" and sensationalism of mainstream news, he interviewed Beirut-based Alistair Crooke, a former British intelligence officer and now co-head of the Conflicts Forum.

Crooke said that what was "really" going on in Gaza was simply Hamas' effort to counter one of Fatah's major security services, not to defeat Fatah as a whole. He also argued that, contrary to what even a great many Lebanese think, it is "irrational" to believe that Syria was responsible for the June 13 assassination of anti-Syrian Lebanese MP Walid Eido. Why? Because, according to Crooke, Syria has been courting better ties with the United States and Israel in order to end its isolation.

Lewis did note that Crooke has long advocated engagement with Hamas. But he failed to point out that many experts view Crooke as an apologist for Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas. For instance, Crooke maintained with Lewis that what Hamas wants is (only) security and "tranquility" in Gaza and the West Bank, and he has even argued elsewhere (in *Asia Times*) that Hamas is interested in promoting democracy throughout the region.

But what about the violence and terrorism for which Hamas is otherwise well known? Well, Lewis might also have shown viewers the banner on Crooke's own Conflicts Forum website, which reads: "Listening to political Islam, recognizing resistance."

Paul Michaels is communications director of the Canada-Israel Committee.

STARS AT BAYCREST: NHL alumni Mike Pelyk, left, and Mark Napier met Millie Stein on June 20 at Baycrest's annual general meeting. Stein, who has Alzheimer's disease and lives at Baycrest's Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged, enjoyed receiving an autographed puck and Baycrest Pro-Am sweater from the two hockey players. Pelyk and Napier each received a Baycrest Chairs Proud Partners Award for their leadership of the fundraising hockey tournament which supports Alzheimer's research. This year's Baycrest Pro-Am saw 39 teams raise $2 million dollars. Next year's tournament is close to being sold out with 56 registered teams and a fundraising goal of over $3M.

Requests take time to get through the courts

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash

B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Partner, Beard Winter LLP

Question. I want to vary my child support payments, as my income has dropped because I moved into my investment property and lost rental income because of my separation.

Also, my son has moved in with me as he could not bear to live in the matrimonial home any longer and he is still attending high school.

I have retained a lawyer to vary my support but he has taken three months to do what I consider basically nothing other than sending e-mails, reviewing files, photocopies, courier services and instructing other associates.

They wanted a $4,000 binder and have just sent me another bill for $575 to "replenish the trust account." Should it take so long to accomplish a basic variation in child support? And secondly, why do I have to go through such an expense and long period of time to accomplish this? Who knows.

This is taking so long that by the time litigation ends either my financial situation or hers might change again. Then I may have start all over again with yet another variation application!

Answer. Without reviewing your file, I cannot comment on your case or whether your lawyer is handling it expeditiously. But it sounds like your expectation of costs and the timing of results was fashioned either by a lack of knowledge or a failure by your lawyer to explain the reality of the Ontario court system, its methods, limitations, paperwork and process.

First, it is quite normal for it to take at least three months before a client suing for a change in a child or spousal support court order can see a judge to discuss their case at something called a "case conference."

The courts are simply overwhelmed and there is a severe shortage of judges.

Prior to such a conference, which takes the form of a settlement meeting, each of your lawyers prepares detailed court briefs comprised of family law financial statements, showing budgets and asset/liability calculations. They also attach three years of tax returns/notices of assessments.

Your lawyer might also prepare a detailed list of questions for the other party to answer, asking for such documents as credit card statements, bank statements or past credit applications for car lease or mortgage applications to uncover someone's "real" income or assets.

If there is a private pension, it has to be valuated as to its current value. I cannot comment on whether $4000 was appropriate to charge on your file, but preparation is costly if you want a good result.

*John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of **Beard Winter LLP**. Neither Beard Winter LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at 416-306-1733, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@beardwinter.com. You can also visit www.beardwinter.com and www.spousalsupport.com.*

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Taglit-birthright israe

Last month, Taglit-birthright israel celebrated an impressive milestone as Dave
Israel this summer on Taglit-birthright israel programs, the stories and photos c

DAVE STEIN, TAGLIT-BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL'S 10,000TH TORONTO PARTICIPANT

Over 10,000 Torontonians have taken the trip of a lifetime

Since the inception of Taglit-birthright israel in 1999 over 130,000 young adults aged 18 to 26 - including 10,000 from Toronto - have traveled on this unique and exciting ten day, educational trip to Israel. The birthright israel initiative - funded by the Government of Israel, Jewish communities around the world including UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and private philanthropists - continues to positively impact the lives of our future Jewish leaders.

Taglit-birthright israel's co-founders, Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, created the program in order to send young Jewish adults from around the world to Israel - for no charge - to connect them with their Jewish identity and the State of Israel; strengthen solidarity among Jews worldwide; and ensure that Jewish traditions and Jewish heritage continue throughout the 21st Century.

"Those ten days spent in Israel gave me a lot of what I had unknowingly been searching for," says past birthright participant Leah White. "Growing up, I attended Hebrew day school, and participated in activities through a youth organization and my synagogue. While I had all the tools, I really was lost when it came to using them and bringing them all together as I begin my life as a young adult. And then I was given the gift of birthright israel."

Taglit-birthright israel alumni are emerging as leaders on university campuses and in Jewish life in general. At UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the majority of young adults involved in community life are alumni, and in fact, many even serve as *madrichim* (counselors) on current trips - taking time off from work and school to pass on their passion and knowledge to the current crop of birthright participants.

In the past 12 months, there have been nearly 50,000 birthright israel applicants from North America alone. However, only 29,000 will be able to participate due to funding limitations. "We are working to significantly increase fundraising in the community for Taglit-birthright israel," says Michael Bregman, Chair of the birthright israel Foundation Canada. "Additional funds are needed to reduce the wait list and ensure that all young adults can claim their birthright in a timely fashion."

To invest in the future of Jewish life by making a gift to Taglit-birthright israel, please contact Andrea Freedman at 416.631.5819 or by email at: afreedman@ujafed.org

Thornhill couple's birthright babies

What do you get when you send thousands of Jewish young adults to Israel together? Jewish children who will one day hopefully follow in their parents' footsteps.

Boaz and Esther Willinger are one of a number of couples who met through Taglit birthright-israel and have since started families.

Married within a year of their December 2001 trip, the Thornhill residents are now parents to a 21-month-old daughter named appropriately enough, Aliya, and a son, Ethan, who is almost three months old.

Taglit-birthright israel "really did change the direction of my life," says Boaz. "I grew up in St. Catharines, a small town with few opportunities to meet Jewish girls. Then I went to Israel and met Esther, and now we have a family and are raising our kids in a Jewish home."

The Willingers are "involved with the Sephardic Kehila Centre, with which Esther's family has strong ties to, and Chabad at Flamingo," he continues. "Aliya, who will be starting nursery next year at Chabad, watches *Oy Baby* DVDs, which is a sort of Jewish Baby Einstein, and says 'shabbat shalom.' When we light the shabbat candles and my wife covers her eyes, Aliya covers her eyes."

In some ways, the Willingers' life in Thornhill seems worlds apart from the disco dance boat on the Kinneret where they first met, but both are part of this story of Jewish continuity.

"Although I'd gone to Jewish schools and had Jewish friends, I wasn't meeting other Jewish people at that point in my life," remembers Esther, of the social opportunity Taglit birthright-israel offered her. "Like a lot of people in the age group that the trip caters to, I was in university and working and had already developed my circle of friends. If I hadn't gone to Israel, I don't know how - or if - I would have met Boaz. Taglit birthright-israel gives you an opportunity to connect with other Jews in a Jewish environment. We met and as a result were able to bring more Jewish people into the world."

l: the gift that keeps on giving

Stein became the 10,000 birthright participant from Toronto. With over 2,000 young Canadians in
n these pages celebrate its ongoing success in connecting Jewish young adults with all things Israel.

Toronto Taglit-birthright israel by the numbers

There's no way numbers or statistics can tell the emotional and life-changing story that is Taglit-birthright israel. Still, looking back since its launch in December 1999, some of the numbers behind the ten day educational experience are awe-inspiring. So far, more than 130,000 young Jewish adults world-wide have received this gift of a lifetime, a gift that not only connects participants to Israel, but creates lifelong friendships, relationships and our community's future Jewish leaders.

10,000	**participants from the Greater Toronto Area**
$18,950,000	**pumped into the Israeli economy - including hotels, restaurants, and tourism by Toronto groups - since Taglit-birthright israel began in 1999.**
138,750	**miles traveled in Israel by groups from Toronto**
30,000	**nights spent in Israeli hotel rooms by Toronto participants**
20,000	**young Jewish male and female feet to make it to the top of Masada**
300,000	**meals served to Toronto participants and staff**
1,500	**Israelis – mainly from the IDF – who have taken part in birthright's mifgash program**
7,480	**Toronto participants who have experienced a mifgash program with the soldiers**
500	**madrichim who have led trips from Toronto**

TAGLIT · תגלית
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Cooper family funds gala in memory of Andy Bronfman, z"l

On June 5th, over 600 students and young adults on birthright israel programs took part in a unique gala event planned by Canada Israel Experience (CIE) in memory of Andy Bronfman. Andy, the late wife of co-birthright founder Charles Bronfman who passed away following a tragic accident just over a year ago, was committed to strengthening Jewish identity and invoking values of leadership, tzedaka, and tikun olam. Bronfman was particularly passionate about and committed to Jewish youth, the arts, education, and, of course, birthright israel.

The event, made possible by a generous gift by Toronto's Sydney and Florence Cooper, commemorated Andy by celebrating her love of the arts. Hosted by Mini Israel, in addition to viewing the models of the country, participants created art projects at various stations and workshops set up throughout the site. In a letter from the Coopers read by Lorne Klemensberg, director of CIE and emcee of the event, the Coopers welcomed all the birthright participants from Canada and North America.

A DAY FROM THE BIRTHRIGHT DIARY OF DAVE STEIN

6:30AM – The phone rang with our wake up call. Although I was really tired from yesterday, I eagerly got up to start another new and exciting day.

7:15AM – Breakfast today was great as usual. The Kibbutz served a typical Israeli breakfast with vegetables, breads, cheeses, yogurts and fruits. The food in this country is so good. I eat enough at breakfast to last a full day!

9:00AM – We got off the bus on top of Mt. Arbel. What an amazing view! This hike was remarkable. After all the learning it was break time! Having studied art in school, I felt especially connected to Tzfat, which is known for being an artist's heaven. With the rest of my free time, I ate lunch and did some shopping. I was determined to get 5 Mezuzahs as a wedding gift for my sister. I knew they'd be extra special for her if she knew they were not only from Israel but from Tzfat.

3:00PM – We arrived at the Jordan River to go rafting. It was marvelous. We had 7 people in our boat and floated down the river with a boat on either side of us each filled with 2 soldiers. This was a great end to our activities of the day because it gave us a chance to cool off in the water.

5:30PM – At 5:30PM we arrived back at the Kibbutz for our Shabbat preparations.

6:30PM – We all met and did Kiddush together. We then discussed the meaning of wine and challah and talked about how we can make Shabbat our own. Shabbat on Taglit-Birthright Israel was very special for me because at this point we had already been together for 8 days and were like family. Celebrating Shabbat in Israel with 40 new friends, 2 madrichim, 9 soldiers and a guide is just so special. It's not something you can really explain with words but something you feel in your heart.

10:00PM – A huge party unexpectedly erupted in the kibbutz. The kibbutz was celebrating all the people who had lived there their entire lives. There were over 1,000 people there and being able to join in and dance and talk with the kibbutzniks was wonderful. Even people who no longer lived on the Kibbutz came out to this party.

What a great time! This has truly been an incredible day. But, boy, I have to get some sleep now!

buzz

MICHAEL BREGMAN
"Birthright is an immensely valuable program that creates an everlasting bond between young Jews and Israel. The resultant pride of association will help build a new generation of Jewish leaders who contribute positively to all aspects of society."

TONY COHEN
The impact birthright israel has on young adults is so profound and life-changing that it is crucial for the next generation. People should support birthright because the responsibility for the future of the Jewish people should not be solely on the shoulders of a few – it is our community's responsibility.

KAREN MORTON - "Having been involved with birthright from the beginning, it's hard to express the pride I feel today from seeing all that it has become. I suppose it's not unlike a proud mother who has watched her baby grow from an infant to an important and respected member of the Jewish community just like birthright israel. I couldn't be more proud."

Hillel sends aid mission to Africa and Israel

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Within the past two years, Hillel of Greater Toronto has organized volunteer trips to Israel, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, and it's just expanded its travel portfolio to Uganda.

Devora Schwartz Waxman and 10 students from Ryerson University, York University and the University of Toronto took part in a volunteer mission to Israel and Africa last month to give a helping hand to communities in need.

The trip was organized by the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), a group that funds non-governmental organizations that work to alleviate poverty and disease in developing countries.

The month-long trip was divided evenly between Kiryat Moshe, Israel – where students worked on renovating an old building used by the Ethiopian community as a community centre and worked with youth at an after-school centre – and a town in Uganda called Tororo, where students helped build a new school house.

Waxman said it's the first time AJWS has sent a delegation of students to Uganda, despite the fact AJWS has been working with the Uganda Orphans Rural Development Program (UORDP) for three years.

UORDP works with children who have been orphaned, primarily by AIDS and other diseases, and provides services such as health care and education.

"Our work project was to build another school house on an existing school site. The school is a very poor school, and they have a lot of orphans and children who come from very poor homes, and they're in a particularly impoverished area," Waxman said.

The delegation stayed with the UORDP director, who has a compound where he built guest quarters. Although the students didn't have electricity or running water, Waxman said it was a great experience to live in the community and hand-wash their own clothes and draw water from a well.

"What was really interesting was that part of the fees that we paid to come on this trip helped pay for the school house. It was a really nice feeling to know that even if we didn't contribute so much to the work, we still enabled this community to have another school house," Waxman said.

The delegation also had an opportunity to visit classes at the existing school to speak to students about life in Canada.

"We talked to them about the fact that we are Jews and what that means. They were very fascinated by the fact that we were Jewish," she said, adding that many of the children had never left their towns, so meeting white people was something that was very unusual for them.

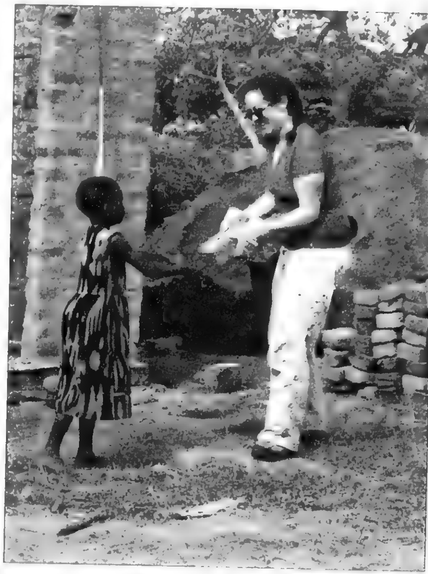
"Some of the little babies would see us and start crying because they thought we were ghosts," Waxman recalled.

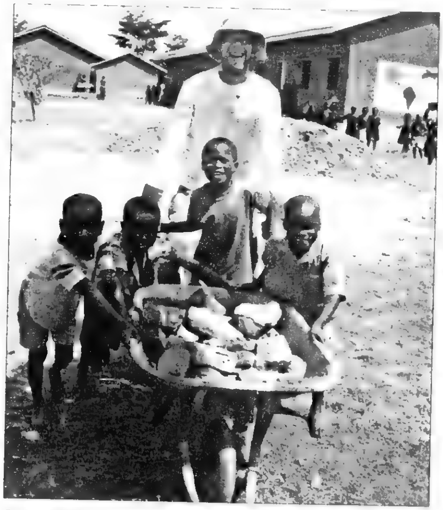
Trip participant Orlee-Rose Strauss spearheaded a project to paint a mural of a map of the world on one of the existing school houses.

"On the mural, Toronto and Tororo were labeled to show the children where we had come from and where they live in the world," said David Gordon, 22, a fourth-year global political studies student at York who went on the trip.

"They were so excited about this mural project that the day we started, the whole community came out to see what we were doing. Every time we turned around, there were more people there to see what we were up to," Waxman said.

"It was a really interesting side of Africa that I didn't know. People are really happy. Yes, there is AIDS and illness and sickness, but they're very happy people and so genuinely hospitable. We were so warmly welcomed."


Rachel Levy, another trip participant, works with a local child who is eager to help build the schoolhouse.


Local children in Tororo, Uganda, give David Gordon a helping hand while he transports bricks to be used to build a new school.

After spending two weeks with the community of Tororo, the group headed to Israel to work with the Ethiopian community in Kiryat Moshe, while families in Rehovot opened their homes to give the delegation a place to sleep.

"The municipality in Kiryat Moshe gave the community an old, dilapidated building that they could use for community events and simchahs and meetings. They are in the process of redoing it and renovating it, and so we worked on that building for a few days, and we also worked at an after-school centre for troubled youth," Waxman said.

Gordon recalled a conversation he had with a group of Ethiopians his own age who are living in Kiryat Moshe.

He said that they has asked him questions about his life in Toronto, and one asked, "Can I come with you back to Toronto?"

"Upon hearing the last question, I said, 'Why would you would want to come back to Toronto? You are living in Medinat Yisrael.' In a sarcastic voice, one of them responded, 'Oh, yeah. Medinat Yisrael. Would you live here?'

"Hearing first-hand how Ethiopian residents feel about Israel motivated me even more to help the community in any way which would assist them in creating the life they deserve in Israel," Gordon said.

"Those that live in difficult situations can have a very negative view of the world. Yet, their mindset can change once they see that there are people who are willing to help make their lives better."

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies
Communications Associate

Reporting directly to the President/CEO, this candidate will be responsible to:
- Manage, coordinate development, writing/production of communications/marketing and media materials. Liaise with designer and coordinate production of materials; coordinate content, writing, editing materials, copy for brochures, Annual Report, web pages, news/press releases, newsletters, reports, speeches, event briefing notes, letters, and other documents as required.
- Seek out opportunities for FSWC presence at community/educational events, assist with community building
- Manage advertising, media relations; develop/maintain media contacts

Qualifications:
- College or University graduate
- Excellent English written and verbal communication skills; written/verbal French an asset
- Demonstrated editing, and proof reading skills
- Strong Administrative and organizational skills
- Knowledge of the Jewish community
- Experience in communications and with local media, marketing, promotion
- Self-motivated; able to work independently and with staff and volunteers
- Proven ability to manage multiple tasks and projects
- Demonstrated research, analytical, problem solving and computer skills
- Experience in some or all of the following: Microsoft Office, Quark Xpress and Design software, Imovie, Photoshop, database, digital photography, video editing

Apply to: **Avi Benlolo, President/CEO, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies: 902-5075 Yonge Street, Toronto Ontario M2N 6C6. Fax to 416-864-1083 or email: tsteyn@fswc.ca**

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Four sessions:
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November 6 to December 18
January 8 to March 11
March 18 to May 27
$10/class *(Members)*; $15/class *(Non-Members)*

Thursday: Open to Everyone
Class Time: 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Three sessions:
October 11 to December 20
January 10 to March 13
March 20 to May 29
$10/class *(Members)*; $15/class *(Non-Members)*

All sessions held at Beth Tzedec Synagogue (*1700 Bathurst St.*). Registration is limited.
Contact Elly Bauman at **416-781-3514 x231** or email **EBauman@beth-tzedec.org**

BONDING WITH ISRAEL: Bialik Grade 7 students took part as a grade in the Bonding with Israel Program, in which families contributed towards the purchase of Israel Bonds instead of buying individual bar and bat mitzvah gifts. This year's class raised $85,000 and also contributed a portion of the proceeds to three charities chosen by the students. Pictured, from left, are Raquel Savatti and Laura Orzy of Israel Bonds, Grade 7 student council representatives Shira Segal and Maya Stein, parent co-ordinators Susan Tobin and Rosemary Greisman, and student council representative Kyle Ludmer.

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FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

As featured on
onlysimchas!
Celebrating Jewish Life
www.onlysimchas.com

Mazel tov to Devora & Ofer Strauss of Thornhill, Ont. on the brit milah of Adin Tzion Avraham.

Mazel to to Eli Spalter of Morristown, N.J., & Chanie Boyarsky of Montreal on their recent wedding.

Mazel tov on the upsherin (first haircut) of Dov Ber Soroka.

Mazel tov to Yehuda Korngut on his recent bar mitzvah.

Mazel tov on the birth of Malka Lieba Goldberger.

Mazel tov to Pesach Rotenberg & Penina Weitz on your recent engagement.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return.
Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments,
1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205,
North York, ON. M3B 3K4.
or email: cblackman@cjnews.com

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, July 9, is the deadline for the July 19 issue. There is no issue July 26, the July 19 issue will include events from July 19 through Aug. 1. Monday, July 23, is thc deadline for the Aug. 2 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Tuesday, July 3

SUMMER CONCERT

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents the Toronto Accolades at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park. 7:30 p.m. Free. For info, call 416-395-7873.

Wednesday, July 4

FUN WITH YIDDISH

Preschoolers accompanied by a parent, grandparent or other caregiver are invited to Kind Un Keyt: Summer Fun With Yiddish. Play, dance and sing in Yiddish, Wednesdays, beginning today through July 25 at the Jewish Public Library, 4600 Bathurst St., fourth floor. Library members $30 or $8/session, nonmembers $35 or $10/session. For information or registration, contact **Lil Nobel**, 416-635-2883, ext. 111, or latnercentre@ujafed.org.

NATUROPATHIC NUTRITION

The Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine hosts a free session on Naturopathic Nutrition, which explains the naturopathic approaches to nutrition and how eating right can keep you feel young, preserve your health and reverse illness. 6:30 p.m. at 1255 Sheppard Ave. E. (at the Leslie subway station). Registration required. Call 416-498-1255, ext. 263, or e-mail hgibson@ccnm.edu.

KIDS' ENTERTAINMENT

The Jewish Centre for Learning and Living hosts Kids' Entertainment in the Park, a free show every Wednesday through the summer, 7-8 p.m. at Thornhill Woods Public school. Different performers each week, including magicians, clowns, singers, storytellers and dancers. Performances take place in the field behind the school. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. 905-762-0566

Other News

SCHOLARSHIPS

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, offers the Helen Weisbrad Memorial Scholarship and the National Council York Mills Study Branch Scholarships, providing financial assistance to enable high school graduates to attend first year at any accredited university. For eligibility and information, contact 416-633-5100. Deadline for applications, July15, 2007.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Circle of Care launches a support group for older adults facing abuse, an eight-week group that will examine a variety of issues. Begins Thursday, June 28, 10-11:30 a.m. An eight-week caregiver support group for spouses will examine a variety of issues, including the caregiving relationship, the role of the caregiver and its challenges, changes in the care recipient and coping strategies for adapting to the new family reality. Begins Wednesday, July 4, 10-11:30 a.m. For information, contact 416-635-2860.

ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL

The Orillia County Shul resumes summer Shabbat morning services Saturday, July 7, 10:30 a.m. This year's leaders are July 7, **Lionel Sharp**; July 14, **Cantor Tom Schwartz**; July 21, **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**; July 28, **Elliott Melamed**; Aug. 4, **Rabbi Tina Grimberg**; Aug. 11, **Rabbi Daniel Gottlieb**; Aug. 18 **Rabbi Cory Weiss**; Aug. 25, **Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld**. 151 Creighton St. S., Follow signs to Casino Rama, pass the bridge on Hwy. 12, go south one mile. 705-327-7069

CANOE TRIPPING

Join Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club of Ontario for a canoe trip on the

Continued on page 29

Yeshiva University RIETS
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Yeshiva University Summer Leadership Experience 5767 - 2007
Keter Torah Summer Kollel • Teaneck Beit Midrash Program for Women • Passaic Summer Kollel • Toronto Summer Kollel • Chicago Summer Kollel • Beverly Hills Summer Kollel • Atlanta Summer Kollel • Zusman Counterpoint Israel • Counterpoint UK
For more information on YU Summer Programs, please visit www.yu.edu/cjf

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Continued from page 28

Magnetawan River loop north of Parry Sound. Receive certified instruction in introductory canoeing skills and introductory or advanced canoe-tripping qualifications. Sessions are three, six or nine days long. No experience is necessary. For details, visit www.mosaictoronto.org.

YARCHEI KALLAH

Nishmat's annual Yarchei Kallah takes place July 17-19 with **Gilla Rosen** on the topic "Structure and Spontaneity: The Varied Paths of Prayer." Paired learning followed by a shiur are offered for women Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and Wednesday evening there will be a program for men and women. To register, e-mail cfnishmat@gmail.com.

PRETEEN PROGRAM

JACS, Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others, offer an early intervention preteen program developed to meet the demand from preteens dealing with addicted parents and siblings, as well as those who are regularly experimenting with drugs and alcohol, Participating teens come to relate to issues on their own terms, without judgment or embarrassment. Teens are also introduced to constructive life coping skills and tools to help them make healthy and confident decisions. For teens that think they have crossed the line with drugs and alcohol, programs co-ordinators can facilitate the resources they need for recovery. For info, contact **Zalman Goldman**, 416-635-6446.

REGESH GOLF DAY

The Regesh Family and Child Services golf day takes place Tuesday, Aug. 14, at Clublinks Cherry Downs. For information contact, **Gary Gladstone** at 416-495-8832, ext. 225, or gary@regesh.com.

FALL LECTURE SERIES

Registration is open for the Temple Emanu-El Fall Lecture Series on Mondays 2-4 p.m., except for Nov. 12, which will be at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 5, "The Morally Uncomfortable Global Gap – Uncovering Its Complexities" with **Jillian Cohen-Kohler**, assistant professor of pharmacy at University of Toronto; Nov. 12, "Ethical Issues in Geriatric and Long-Term Care" with **Michael Gordon**, program director, Palliative Care, Baycrest; Nov. 19, "The Ten Deadly Sins of Opera" with **Ian Scott**, lecturer and author; Nov. 26, "The Minstrels" with **Mike Daley**, department of music, York University. $30 for the series. For information and registration, call 416-449-3880.

DON MILLS LODGE'S 50TH

Don Mills Lodge B'nai Brith celebrates 50 years service service to the community on Oct. 7 at the Venetian Banquet Hall. Members past and present from the entire B'nai Brith family are invited to attend. For info and tickets, call 905-731-6604.

NEW TO TORONTO?

If you are new to the GTA or know someone who is, make the move a little easier. Shalom Toronto welcomes new residents to our Jewish community with a warm greeting and a gift basket. Call 416-635-5600 or e-mail jinfo@ujafed.org.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse in the Jewish community is often considered a taboo subject, but it does exist and we all have a responsibility to learn more about it. Trained speakers are available for your group at no charge. Call Jewish Women International, 416-630-9313.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park. Sunday dance, July 8, 7-10 p.m., non-members welcome.; cruise and Casino Rama, Thursday, July 26. Activities include mah-jong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Scrabble, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; duplicate bridge, Wednesdays, 12-3 p.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m. For information, call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 416-395-7881.

Beth Emeth Sisterhood and **Chai Shalom** travel to the Stratford Festival Tuesday, Oct. 9, for performances of *To Kill a Mockingbird* or *Oklahoma!* at 2 p.m. $80 including transportation. To reserve, call 416-633-3838.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

How to Buy on E-Bay, a five-week mini-course beginning Wednesday, July 11, 2-4 p.m. For information, call **Michael** at ext. 128.

"Youthful Aging" with **Yossi Strauch**, Thursday, July 12, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free.

Join an information session on the Betel Centre's new photography club. Learn how to take better pictures and digitally enhance them in our computer lab. Friday, July 13, 9-11 a.m. Free. Call **Michael** at ext. 128 to register.

Israeli festival, Wednesday, July 25, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Free.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 23

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Computer Lab is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. One-on-one assistance is available. Contact **Mara** at ext. 2275 for further details.

Computer Education Sessions, register for the summer computer sessions available at three levels from beginners to advance. Registration is ongoing at the Wagman service desk, ext. 2267. For info, contact **Mara**, ext. 2275.

The Torah Study Program is held every Sundays in Classroom C from 10:30-11:30 a.m. All welcome to come and learn. Call **Rivka**, ext. 2272, or **Monica**, ext. 2297, for information.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Good Age Club visits the Mount Sinai Breast Health Program for an information session on breast health. Thursday, June 28. Meet at the JCC for 9:15 a.m. Session begins at 10 a.m. Call ext. 5190 for info.

MNjcc Full-Day Adventure Camp: For four- to five-year-olds, 10 weekly sessions through the summer, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fees, weeks of July 3 and Aug. 7, members $160/week, non-members $224/week; other weeks, members $200/week, non-members $280/week. Extended care fee $8/day. For registration, contact **Risa Antoine**, ext. 128, or risaa@mnjcc.org

Toronto IsReal Dance Festival: Highlights include the following teachers and choreographers: **Rafi Ziv, Naftaly Kadosh, Ofer Alfassi** and **Carina Sasalavsky**. June 29, 30 and July 1. Babysitting services available upon request.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Share in the Bathurst JCC's block of tickets to Cirque du Soleil on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 8 p.m. at Port Lands, on Cherry St. Tickets can be purchased by calling ext. 271. A tax-deductible receipt will be issued for the maximum allowable amount.

The BJCC has a block of tickets for the first night of *Jewtopia*, the story of two 32-year-old single men looking to meet perfect Jewish girls. Sunday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m. at the Diesel Playhouse on Blue Jay Way. Proceeds will help send children to Centre Camp at the Bathurst JCC. Tickets $118 or $150. E-mail bjcc@bjcc.ca or call ext. 271.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registrations for all fall classes in piano, violin, cello, guitar, Suzuki violin, babies and preschool music, children's choir, kids' band, adult band, rock band for teens and adults, African drumming, Brazilian samba and digital music. For information and registration, call ext. 228.

Volunteers Needed

VISIT SENIORS

Jewish Family and Child Service needs volunteers for one-to-one visits with seniors in nursing homes and hospitals in Toronto and suburbs. Flexible hours. Call **Laila Friedman**, 416-638-7800, ext. 287.

BETEL MEALS ON WHEELS

The Betel Centre Meals on Wheels needs drivers to assist in the delivery of hot, nutritious meals to seniors who could not or would not otherwise eat properly. This takes one to two hours during the lunch hour. The use of your own car is required. To volunteer, call **Naomi**, 416-225-2112, ext. 127.

GESHER FAMILY WEEKEND: Camp Gesher recently held its annual family weekend, at which new campers and their parents met with camp counsellors, support staff and other Gesher families that have been attending the camp for many years. The weekend offered activities for kids, question-and-answer sessions for the parents and a chance to get the camp ready for the upcoming summer session. For info on Camp Gesher, call 416-633-2511 or visit www.campgesher.com.

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OBITUARIES
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Steeles Memorial Chapel

Zigelstein, Honey	June 13/07	30 Harding Bl
Shorfer, Shalom	June 14/07	115 Antibes Dr
Koprov, Arieh Lionid	June 15/07	3560 Bathurst St
Ostrovskii, Boris	June 15/07	Private
Bernstein, Lily	June 17/07	330 Chelwood Dr
Miller, Louis	June 18/07	Private
Stercz, Israel	June 18/07	100 Canyon Av
Cohen, David	June 19/07	4383 Bathurst St
Ben Dovid, Ruth	June 19/07	
Good, Regina	June 20/07	327 Joicey Bl
Benhaim, Albert	June 20/07	56 Thornbury Cir

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Allan Kashin	Jun 9/07	29 Northern Heights Dr
Ruth Gilad	Jun 9/07	65 Spring Garden Ave
Samuel Zabner	Jun 10/07	17 Craigmore Cres
Sophie Katz	Jun 10/07	47 Brockington Cres
Larry Prussky	Jun 10/07	742 Woodbridge Ave
Angel Dermer	Jun 11/07	36 Denmark Cres
Margaret Grunberger	Jun 11/07	2 Neptune Dr
Michael Mocon	Jun 11/07	50 Routliffe Lane
Ecaterina Lebi	Jun 14/07	645 Castlefield Ave
Sylvia Lasky	Jun 14/07	515 Chaplin Cres
Molly Davis	Jun 14/07	55 Ameer Ave
Marvin Catzman	Jun 14/07	23 Pinnacle Rd
Ruth Forer	Jun 12/07	5935 Bathurst St
Otto Fleischer	Jun 14/07	3560 Bathurst St
Florence Baily	Jun 15/07	7420 Bathurst St
Jack Jacobson	Jun 17/07	35 Almore Ave
Doug Heron	Jun 17/07	71 Beaumont Pl

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of the late

ERNEST (ERNIE) M. STEIN ז"ל

Devoted father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend and comrade
Parade Marshall: Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Toronto Branch
will take place on

Sunday, July 8th, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.
at Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Community Section - EEE, B Row
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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שישאר בינינו

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מה יהיה

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נשיא המדינה הנבחר משכמו ומעלה, חתן פרס נובל, איש שיוכל להוציא את המוסד הזה מהבוץ המביך של משה קצב.

שר ביטחון, אהוד ברק, שלשם שינוי מבין בבטחון, היה רמטכ"ל ושר בטחון, אחרי תקופה קריטית שבה נוהלו ענייני בטחון ישראל על ידי ראש ועד עובדים.

ומלחמת אזרחים בין הפלשתינאים המתונים שרוצים פתרון מוסכם במזרח התיכון לבין רשת הטרור של החמאס. המקורות היהודיים מזהירים ש "בנפול אויבך אל תשמח", אבל, יש על הלב, אני מה זה שמח. עכשיו ברור על מה המלחמה, ובסוף המאבק הזה יהיה לישראל קל יותר להפריד בין שוחרי השלום לטרוריסטים, בין אלה שרוצים להכיר בהסכמים עם ישראל לבין אלה שרוצים להקים מדינת הלכה מוסלמית בסגנון איראן.

והחשוב מכל: ישראל יכולה לקיים משא ומתן ולתת תמיכה ממשית לממשלת חרום שאין בה אנשי חמאס, כל זה בתמיכת העולם המערבי, ואפילו חשוב יותר: בתמיכת הליגה הערבית שהכירה בממשלת החרום וגינתה את החמאס.

המדהים בסיפור מלחמת האזרחים הפלשתינאית היא האכזריות שלהם זה כלפי זה: מילא אתם נלחמים על שליטה, אבל הצורך להתעלל בגוויות, להעיף אנשים מבניינים גבוהים, ואתם סך הכל אחים, מראה לעולם שמדובר בחיות אדם. אבל שישאר בינינו.

אדמה משוגעת (Sweet Mud)

לפני כחצי שנה דווחתי לכם על הסרט הישראלי עטור הפרסים של דרור שאול, שמספר את הביוגרפיה שלו כילד בקיבוץ. הסרט התקבל בהתלהבות רבה בפסטיבל הסרטים של טורונטו, וזכה בפרסים רבים, כולל הפרס הגדול של פסטיבל סאנדאנס. זהו סיפור של ילד שגדל לאם שהיא אלמנה חולת נפש. הסרט מציג את הקיבוץ של שנות השבעים באור מאוד לא מחמיא, כחברה חסרת רגישות לחריגים ולצרכים שלהם. ההפקה הקפדנית של הסרט היא צרפתית, מה שעושה אותו מאוד אירופאי.

עכשיו הגיע הסרט לטורונטו, ואני מאוד ממליץ לכם לרוץ ל Grande (Sheppard & Yonge) כדי להנות וגם להיות גאים בעוד יצירה ישראלית שעומדת בכבוד בסטנדרטים של סרטים בינלאומיים איכותיים.

חרם המרצים הבריטי-

ארגון המרצים הבריטי הצביע בעד הטלת חרם על ישראל. אותו ארגון לא גינה מעולם, ולבטח לא החרים את איראן, שקוראת להשמדת ישראל, שבה אין שום חופש אקדמי, ולא שום מדינה טוטאליטרית אחרת. אין דוגמא חזקה מזאת לאנטישמיות בוטה. ושאט הנפש מתגברת שבעתיים כשמתברר שאחד ממארגני החרם הוא פרופסור ישראלי יורד שטוען שאם בפלשתין לא לומדים באוניברסיטה-גם בישראל שלא ילמדו. יד על הלב-יש אלמנט כל כך דפוק בעם שלנו, שכולל את נטורי קרתא שנוסעים לאיראן לכנס הכחשת שואה, ושרצים דומים להם.

העונש המתאים ביותר לבריטים הוא הטרור המוסלמי שגדל בקרבם. הם עוד ישלמו, ובגדול, בעוד שהחרם המגוחך שלהם לא יביא לכלום. בימים אלה של ידע פתוח, אינטרנט, של נגישות כמעט מידית לידע מכל העולם-שום קבוצה של אימבצילים בריטיים מנופחים לא יכולה להזיק לישראל. בישראל מתפתחים מדע וטכנולוגיה בשעור גבוה בהרבה מאשר באנגליה, כשמשווים את גודל האוכלוסיה. לכן אנגליה צריכה להיות יותר מודאגת מישראל מהחרם הזה.

Vigil held in support of Val David chassidic community

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — About 40 people showed up for a vigil to show solidarity with the Satmar chassidic community that summers in Val David where two homes were destroyed by three deliberately set fires this month.

The event was the personal initiative of David Birnbaum, executive director of the Quebec English School Boards Association, who was executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region, for five years until September 2004. He said he felt it was important for Quebecers to publicly deplore the arsons. The latest took place in the wee hours of June 17.

Birnbaum sent notices to every federal member of Parliament from Quebec, member of the national assembly and Montreal city councillor, as well as union and community organization leaders, and was disappointed by the lack of response.

Only Mile End borough councillor Eleni Fakotakis, who was asked by Mayor Gerald Tremblay to represent the city, and Cote St. Luc councillor Dida Berku attended. Also present was Guy Bouthillier, former president of the St. Jean Baptiste Society.

The provincial police, the Sûreté du Québec (SQ), have not labelled the fires hate crimes for lack of concrete evidence, but members of the Satmar community say they feel targeted because of who they are, and Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) said that, after three arsons within two weeks, anti-Semitism has to be suspected. The police are looking into two other recent arsons in the area, of commercial properties not owned by Jews.

The vigil took place across the street from the Satmar Congregation Yetev Lev on Hutchison Street at St. Viateur Street.

The congregants stayed away from the vigil and avoided the media. The congregation issued a press release expressing gratitude to Val David Mayor Pierre Lapointe and his council "for their continuous support through all our hardships, and for their encouragement to restore our lives in our community."

The release also thanked the SQ for its continuing investigation. "We fully trust their professional work in restoring security to our community."

Alex Werzberger, president of the Coalition of Chassidic Organizations of Outremont and a congregation member, told *The CJN* the community prefers not to draw attention to itself and did not want it to be thought that it organized the event, which might be interpreted as a criticism of the authorities.

"The thinking is, rightly or wrongly, 'Let's be quiet, maybe it will die out and go away.'"

Werzberger is confident the police are taking the incidents seriously, and he was pleasantly surprised to receive a long letter – in English – from the SQ, reassuring the community that it is dedicating the necessary resources to the case.

"They are definitely not ignoring it. The pressure on them is big. This story has made the international media," he said.

Birnbaum said he had checked with three Satmar leaders in advance, and only one objected to the vigil.

The congregation has been in the media spotlight in the past year after it requested that the Park Avenue YMCA cover windows that are in view of the synagogue's rear windows.

Several chassidic women passing by the vigil stopped to ask what it was about and expressed appreciation for the gesture. One said it was her neighbour in Montreal who had lost a house, and another that she has sent her son to spend the summer in Val David with a sense of uneasiness.

Rabbi Reuben Poupko, co-chair of the Jewish community's security co-ordinating committee, blamed the arsons on the "antagonistic climate" for Jews in the wake of the "reasonable accommodation" debate.

"While I don't believe Quebec is any more anti-Semitic than anywhere else in North America, the silence from our political leaders, mainstream media and all good people has signalled to the bad people that it's fair game to attack Jews."

Nearby resident Stéphane Gelinas came to the vigil because he is fed up with what he sees as growing prejudice against Jews. "Enough is enough. In the last few years, I have witnessed too many actions against the Jewish people in Quebec. People are hypocrites to say the opposite.

"Whatever I talk to people about – politics, the economy, sports – the end of the conversation is always about Jews, that there's too many of them," said Gelinas, 44, who is originally from Ste. Agathe, near Val David.

Evie Applebee of Chomedey took part because "it's the least we can do. I believe it was anti-Semitism and I'm very disturbed… They are a small community that is alone and needs our help."

There is no doubt in André Zoldan's mind that the arsons are hate-motivated. "I think the climate in Quebec is deteriorating. And I'm afraid one act of boldness will encourage others to try it, and our leaders are not standing up and condemning it," said the Hampstead resident.

Werzberger said the 50 or 60 families who vacation in the Val David enclave are anxious, but it will not dissuade them from going back this summer. "The fear is not so much about personal safety. We don't think anyone will attack while we are there, but what about after September when everyone leaves. Will there still be a house standing after the eight or nine months that the place is empty?"

Mayor Lapointe told *The CJN* that he is trying to dispel misconceptions about the Chassidim among the town's 4,500 citizens, especially the children. "They have lived in the area since the 1940s, longer than a lot of the people here. They are not going to change their insularity or their beliefs. But they are a peaceful people."

He said the worst complaint the town has received about the Chassidim is related to littering, and the community has tried to address it.

Preventing crime is a problem for the area because of limited policing in the Laurentians, he noted. "The villages feel very, very neglected. At night, only two cars are on patrol in 20 villages."

A $5,000 reward from an anonymous businessman is offered through the Sun Youth Organization for information leading to arrest and conviction in the arsons.

Anyone with information is asked to call the SQ at 1-800-659-4264.

University's first Jewish president has big plans

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Harvey Weingarten, the Montreal-born president and vice-chancellor of the University of Calgary, is working overtime to ensure that his major initiatives are carried forth to fruition.

Since becoming its first Jewish president almost six years ago, Weingarten, 54, has taken steps to enhance the student experience, launched a $1.5 billion capital expansion plan and accelerated the pace of research.

A psychologist who was previously dean of McMaster University's faculty of science, he introduced these initiatives to catapult the University of Calgary into a world-class institution.

As he suggested in an interview during a brief visit to Toronto recently, he hews to a strategic approach to learning.

"The work of Canadian universities is critical to the social and economic health of Canada," he observed. "The challenge is to make sure that the academic programs we provide are constantly evolving to meet the current and future needs of our students and the public."

Weingarten strongly believes that students are entitled to a "contemporary, relevant and useful education" that prepares them for the real world.

This objective is achieved by means of two separate but related methods, he explained.

First, academic programs are increasingly based on "experiential" learning – co-op education, internships, study overseas and mentorships with leading scholars. Second, these programs foster analytical skills, intellectual curiosity, adaptability, communication and teamwork.

No ivory tower type, Weingarten maintains constant contact with student leaders so that he does not lose touch with realities on campus.

Harvey Weingarten

"They can tell me anything they want. The good, the bad, the ugly."

He supplements these meetings by random talks with students. "I enjoy these encounters," said Weingarten, who still gives occasional lectures.

At present, the student body numbers 28,000, but the demand for more places is growing. Hence the four new projects that will make room for an additional 7,000 students by 2010.

Thanks to government funding, the university will have a new digital library, a health research centre, a health sciences program, a faculty for veterinary medicine and a child development centre. In addition, new schools of business and engineering will be built.

"We are constructing new buildings and refurbishing old ones so that our students can study in cutting-edge facilities," he said.

His biggest challenges are three-fold: to set strategic directions, hire the right people to implement plans and find the necessary financial resources.

A typical day for Weingarten, a burly bear of a man, begins at 7 a.m. and rarely ends before 6 p.m.

"I work in a very fast-paced environment. Business is done by a handshake, though lawyers still get involved. I quite enjoy that."

The pace is faster than at McMaster. Weingarten, a McGill graduate, joined McMaster in 1979 after finishing post-graduate degrees at Yale.

It never occurred to him that he might be president of a university one day. "They – the University of Calgary – approached me to apply for the job. It never entered my mind."

As he tells it, he was surprised to be chosen as its seventh president. He signed a seven-year contract, and earlier this year, it was extended by three years. "My job has been an adventure, and very satisfying."

His Jewish background was not an issue when he applied for the presidency, saying that the rival University of Alberta was headed by a Jew, Myer Horowitz, in the 1980s.

Weingarten has no idea what he'll do after Calgary. "I don't know where I'll be in five years from now. I'm not making any predictions."

But he is certain that he will not go back to being a researcher. Weingarten specialized in the psychological and biological controls of eating and eating disorders, and his research activities were supported by grants.

For all intents and purposes, he stopped being a researcher when administrative duties at McMaster made that impossible.

Weingarten, however, remains a researcher at heart. "I have scholarly interests in education and public policy issues."

Weingarten is reluctant to discuss his private life, but he offered some tidbits.

His father was a pharmacist, and Weingarten grew up in the Montreal suburb of St. Laurent and studied at the Hebrew Academy in Outremont

He and his wife, who is not an academic, have two daughters, one of whom is a university student.

Asked to list his interests outside academia, he said, "I cycle. It's very outdoorsy, and I'm trying to be outdoorsy. I also watch TV and see friends and family."

In summing up his presidency, he concluded, "It's been an interesting adventure. The West is an interesting and different place. I now have a greater appreciation of Canada's diversity and I'm grateful for that."

Ahenakew appeal begins

Has the rehabilitation of disgraced native leader David Ahenakew begun?

Last week, as the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal considered a Crown request that it overrule a lower court's reversal of his conviction for promoting hate, news organizations in Saskatchewan reported that Ahenakew recently served on a task force associated with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Though a federation spokesperson would not comment, Jim Sinclair told Canadian Press he and Ahenakew had been asked to join the task force because of their knowledge of treaties and the Canadian constitution.

In March, meanwhile, the federation asked its senate to see if an individual could be reinstated. The native organization had stripped Ahenakew of his senate position following his comments attacking Jews at a December 2002 meeting of the federation.

Ahenakew, who once headed the Assembly of First Nations, was charged with promoting hatred of Jews, convicted and fined $1,000. Evidence showed that in an interview with a reporter, Ahenakew expanded on his remarks to the federation in which he blamed Jews for World War II. In the interview, he called Jews a disease and said Hitler was justified in murdering six million of them.

He was subsequently removed as a member of the Order of Canada.

His conviction was overturned when Judge Robert Laing of Court of Queen's Bench ruled the trial judge did not adequately assess whether Ahenakew actually intended to promote hate. He noted that Ahenakew's initial remarks prompted a local reporter to seek an interview and his hateful remarks were then uttered spontaneously in response to questions.

In court last week, Crown prosecutor Dean Sinclair argued Ahenakew knew he was talking to a journalist and that his comments would be reported. Theirs was not a private conversation, he stated.

B'nai Brith Canada, which has intervenor status, argued the court should consider the content of Ahenakew's statement and that there need not be repetition of the comments to show intent.

Outside the court, Ahenakew blasted the proceeding as a "farce," complained about the injustices done to native people, and called himself a victim.

Bernie Farber, CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress, said the inclusion of Ahenakew in the federation's task force "is a huge mistake. It sends exactly the wrong message, especially to young people."

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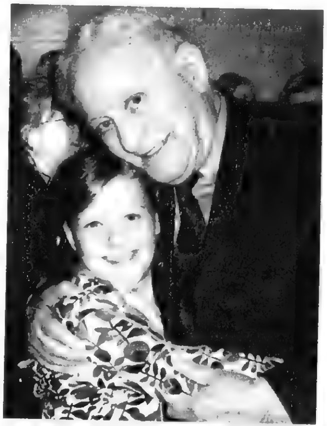
Cape Breton students write poetry about Shoah

By **JOEL JACOBSON**
Atlantic Correspondent



Toronto businessman and Holocaust survivor Joseph Tenenbaum hugs Brianna Stubbert, a Grade 6 student at Brookland Elementary School in Sydney, N.S., after he spoke to her class and their families.

HALIFAX — Alaura Moore, a Grade 6 student at Brookland Elementary School in Sydney, N.S., read the following words, which she wrote herself, before an overflow crowd of more than 125 students, parents, educators and members of the Cape Breton Jewish community.

"I can run from my fears/ I can run from my tears/ Yes, it is true that I run very fast/ But it is also true that I am a Jew/ And there is no running from the Holocaust."

Listening intently to the poem with tears in his eyes and pride in his heart was Joseph Tenenbaum of Toronto, a Holocaust survivor.

He was hearing young people, none of them Jewish, read poetry they composed after studying the Holocaust over the last few months with teacher Kevin Linden.

Tenenbaum, now a successful businessman, flew to Sydney at his own expense to speak to these students, to further their understanding of the Holocaust and what it did to him, what it meant to him, and even how it turned him into a man who can forgive.

"Even though I was stripped of my home, my family, my town, my name, of my belongings, and left naked to be no longer human, just a number, like an item in an auction that no one wanted to bid on, the Nazis couldn't strip me of my dignity," he said, his voice cracking as many members of the audience wiped tears from their eyes.

"What you have done [in studying the Holocaust and writing poetry about it] is indescribable and very magnanimous," he told the children.

With support from the Jewish Community of Cape Breton, the Atlantic Jewish Council, the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board, and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, three teachers – Linden, Diane Lewis and Lynn Crawford – attended a three-week seminar at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem last summer. They were instilled with the enthusiasm to teach Holocaust education to their students, to keep the story alive as the number of survivors, and the Jewish population of Cape Breton, continues to dwindle.

Linden canvassed for money (which was willingly given by the community) to publish the poetry that he urged his students to write. Lewis, an art teacher at Memorial Composite High School in Sydney Mines, N.S., encouraged her students to use their work as illustrations in the book.

The result is a 180-page volume titled *The Future Is In Our Hands*, consisting of poems, the history of the Cape Breton Jewish community, and comments by parents on the positive effect the project has had on their children. It will be distributed to schools, libraries and all Grade 6 teachers in Cape Breton, Linden said.

Herman Nathanson, who financially supported the publication, praised Linden for his work with the children.

"He has a good heart. The children are his interest. He has such a good rapport with them that he can reach them and continue this message of hope."

Alaura Moore, like many of her 28 classmates, has more than one poem in the book. Some wrote up to five.

"I learned a lot during our classes but today, hearing Mr. Tenenbaum, I learned so much more," she said. "It truly makes a difference hearing from someone who was there rather than reading books. I think everyone today should be talking about the Holocaust and remembering, because of what's happening now [with genocides] throughout the world."

Parent Don Brien, whose son Will recited passionate words of thanks to Tenenbaum for telling the students his story, said a Holocaust memorial program that the kids presented in school "brought out the humanistic side. I learned a lot, too, from this project. I had never listened to a survivor tell his story before. It had an impact on me and the other parents, as well as the children, to hear his words."

Evy Druker, chair of Cape Breton's Holocaust Education committee, which includes Jewish and non-Jewish members, praised the event.

"We started eight years ago by bringing in Holocaust speakers for Yom Hashoah," she said. "Now we have teachers and [non-Jewish] clergy on our committee. The seminar the teachers attended [in Israel] was for them to learn to teach other teachers. The response has been unbelievable."

Lewis stressed the program's significance.

"It's important for me as an educator to teach about [the Holocaust], to carry it on. There are so many young teachers coming into the system who don't know. It's important that we, as teachers, educate them so they can teach the children. There are lessons still not learned."

Copies of *The Future Is In Our Hands* are available through City Printers in Sydney, N.S., 902-564-8245 or csr@cityprinters.com

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Canadian author writes guide to spiritual growth

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Although it was only by chance that Alan Morinis came to the study of Mussar, he says that in retrospect almost everything he did in the first five decades of his life furnished him with the skills to devote himself to its study and teaching on a full-time basis.

The Toronto-born author, who has lived in Vancouver for 27 years, was in Toronto recently to speak at a Toronto Jewish Library event about his new book *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar*.

The hardcover guide to Mussar, which Morinis describes in the book as "a path of spiritual self-development," follows his 2002 book *Climbing Jacob's Ladder*, an account of his personal Mussar journey.

A former academic who completed his PhD in anthropology at Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship, Morinis reached a personal crossroads when his successful career as a filmmaker of award-winning productions crashed. Devastated, and depressed by his own role in his company's collapse, he was motivated to search for answers, much as he had as a younger man when he delved into Indian spirituality and wrote his doctoral thesis on Hindu pilgrimage.

This time, his search led him to Jewish writings. Initially he thought he might find answers in Chassidism or Kabbalah, but instead it was Mussar – a movement founded in Lithuania in the mid-1800s by Rabbi Israel Salanter – that resonated with him.

His readings led him to a rabbi in New York who became his Mussar guide, and today Morinis runs the Mussar Institute (www.mussarinstitute.org), an online learning resource, from his Vancouver home.

Morinis, 57, is one of the few non-rabbis (or non-rebbetzins) to teach Mussar. Although he was raised in a secular home, he said all the previous chapters of his life prepared him for what he is doing now: being born into a Jewish family with parents from eastern Europe, being a university student and learning how to research, and learning how to lecture as a university professor.

His Mussar students range from Orthodox rabbis to non-Jews and secular Jews, with a diversity of ages from 20-somethings to septuagenarians, he said. Sometimes, as in his case, they were motivated to pursue a spiritual quest by a catalyst, but not always, he noted. "Sometimes it's just a craving, just a search."

His own catalyst, he said, was "in a sense the worst way to come upon something that changes your life. Part of the reason I do what I do is to offer people a way of getting introduced to these guidelines for living without having a very harsh catalyst. It's not necessary to have the heart broken in order to grow spiritually."

One of the byproducts of Morinis' journey has been "considerably" increased religious observance, including the recitation of blessings before he eats and daily prayer in a traditional synagogue.

Morinis and his wife Bev Spring, a physician, are a strong couple, and with their two daughters are a strong family, he said. However, his increasing involvement in Mussar and religious practice was met with "resistance and almost fear" at the beginning. "I was changing, and almost potentially changing the relationship. And it was coming about not out of a mutual contract," he said.

His Mussar teacher, Rabbi Yechiel Yitzchok Perr of the Yeshiva of Far Rockaway, on Long Island, NY, advised him early on not to go to extremes and "not to go faster" than his wife.

Now things have evolved, said Morinis. His wife is involved in Mussar studies and is a board member of the Mussar Institute, and one daughter has taken more of an interest, he said. "I don't think religious life and spiritual life are supposed to break up relationships. The challenge is to follow your spiritual motivation, and bring it into the loving relationship…

"It's challenging, of course, but so is life."

Believing in yourself

Life Coach Corner

Judy Siblin-Librach

In coaching, the word comes up over and over again. We all do it. We put off applying for that job until we lose the magical 20 pounds. Or we don't write the thank-you note right away or make the difficult phone call. We leave memos, speeches, presentations and homework until the last minute, working breathlessly to finish what we should have started earlier. It's that 15-letter word that affects all of us and reminds me of this line: "Procrastination is like a credit card: it's a lot of fun, until you get the bill."

It is a constant refrain in coaching, and as Alice P. Cornyn-Selby puts it, "Procrastination is, hands down, our favourite form of self-sabotage."

So how do we become "unstuck" and thus have more happiness, peace and calm in our lives? First of all, recognize that you aren't alone. Often we procrastinate because we are perfectionists who become so stuck on perfecting the details that we delay moving the project along until the last minute. This is a way of not having to face the fear of imperfection.

We also procrastinate because we would rather have fun. But ironically, until we complete the task, we can't fully enjoy ourselves anyway, so we might as well do what we have to do in the first place and get it out of the way.

Another common form of procrastination is seen in the crisis junkie or adrenalin seeker, who only gets motivated at the last moment when the pressure is on. There are also the people who take on too much and never face the most important task they are responsible for because they are juggling so many balls.

In their book *Time Efficiency Makeover*, Dorothy Breininger and Debby Bitticks state, "Very simply, procrastinating is the deliberate act of excessive postponing. Procrastination is the avoidance of doing a task that needs to be accomplished. And this avoidance can lead to feelings of guilt, inadequacy, depression and self-doubt. Procrastination interferes with professional, academic and personal success."

So how do we control it and really get unstuck from this habit of leaving a task to the last minute?

For one thing, make sure that your desk or work area is neat and organized before you start whatever task you're working on. If necessary, clean the clutter first and you will be able to see clearly what you need to accomplish. Set aside time every day to do your correspondence – thank-you notes, bills, responding to e-mails – and just sit down every day and show up at this appointment you make with yourself. This also applies to homework. If it is done every day at the same time, it becomes a good habit that can replace the postponing habit.

Also, have a great scheduling tool, whether it's manual (the old-fashioned appointment book), or a Blackberry or Palm Pilot, and let it work for you. I also find preparing a "To do" list on a fresh piece of paper every day and putting it in your workspace can be very helpful. This can be typed or handwritten, but it is a great visual aid. Also make visual reminders of the work you want to accomplish.

Remember to acknowledge what you have accomplished and what successes you have created already, instead of dwelling on what is still left to do.

Take small baby steps and break down all of the big items into manageable pieces. It also really helps to put a date beside each goal or project or assignment and stick to it. Try to visualize yourself as a person who doesn't procrastinate. Or think of someone who is very well-organized and imagine stepping into their shoes and visualize what they would do to get the job done.

Finally, take action. Once you start, the momentum really does propel you to finish the task before you know it. And just think of the great feeling you'll have when you've completed what you set out to do!

Judy Siblin-Librach is an Adler-trained life coach. Her website is www.findingyourbliss.com; e-mail is judyelle@ican.net.

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Summit bids to bolster moderates

By DAN BARON

JTA

JERUSALEM — Israeli and Palestinian leaders again were poised to meet on the pristine Red Sea shore this week in a bid to find a way out of more than six years of bloodshed.

But there was one key difference to the by-now familiar backdrop of Monday's summit at Sharm el-Sheik: this time it was intra-Palestinian rather than Israeli-Palestinian violence giving urgency to the show of diplomacy.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, fresh from his break with Hamas after the Islamist group violently seized control of the Gaza Strip, was to meet Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in hopes of kick-starting peace talks that may bolster the moderates.

Hosting the summit was Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordanian King Abdullah, both keen to see Hamas contained lest their own Islamist dissidents take note and become restive.

"The events in the Gaza Strip dealt a blow at the core of Palestinian unity," Abdullah said Sunday. "The Palestinian people have reached a critical juncture in their history."

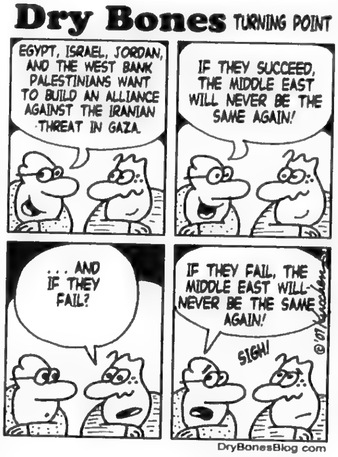
Israel wants to shore up Abbas and the PA emergency cabinet he formed to replace the Hamas-led government, though its mandate is effectively limited to the West Bank.

"We will try, in a level-headed and cautious manner, to take advantage of the opportunities created as a result of recent events in the Gaza Strip in order to build a diplomatic process with the Palestinians," Olmert said.

Convening Sunday, Israel's cabinet decided to transfer some $350 million in withheld tax funds to the Palestinian Authority, a windfall that could help Abbas' Fatah faction maintain popularity while undermining the cash-starved Hamas.

While another $350 million remains locked up by Israeli court order, the cabinet vote cleared the way for Jerusalem to resume collecting and handing over $50 million in tax and customs due from commercial crossings on the borders of the West Bank and Gaza.

At Sharm el-Sheik, Olmert also is expected to announce that Israeli security forces will ease restrictions on Palestinian movement in the West Bank. By contrast, the Hamas-ruled Gaza is penned in by Israel and Egypt, deprived of all imports other than vital aid.


Dry Bones TURNING POINT
EGYPT, ISRAEL, JORDAN, AND THE WEST BANK PALESTINIANS WANT TO BUILD AN ALLIANCE AGAINST THE IRANIAN THREAT IN GAZA
IF THEY SUCCEED, THE MIDDLE EAST WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN!
. . . AND IF THEY FAIL?
IF THEY FAIL, THE MIDDLE EAST WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN!
SIGH!
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Hamas was quick to denounce Abbas, with Ismail Haniyeh saying that Abbas meeting with Olmert would amount to "bribery" following a Fatah "coup."

"This money should be reaching all of the Palestinian people," Haniyeh, who was prime minister in the government dissolved by Hamas, said in a speech.

Haniyeh called for Hamas and Fatah to enter new rapprochement talks, something Abbas ruled out last week. But Abbas may need more than defiance to produce a viable peace deal with Israel that excludes Hamas.

Egypt believes the onus is on the Olmert government. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit's office quoted him telling his Israeli counterpart Tzipi Livni by phone that Jerusalem should consider "halting settlement operations, ending construction of the separation wall, stopping raids on cities and removing the checkpoints."

But Olmert indicated that he would want to see concrete action by Abbas against Palestinian terrorists – whether from Hamas or from his Fatah – before Israel makes such concessions.

Israel is willing to work with a Palestinian Authority "that is committed to the principles of the international community," Olmert said in reference to past peacemaking accords.

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'Violation of international law'

Continued from page 1

"And just as I have a mother and father, the Palestinians also have mothers and fathers – and their children must be returned to them. I have great confidence in my government, that they will focus more on my issue and accept the demands of my captors."

The release of the tape on Israel's Channel 2 television followed an announcement that there would be a "positive surprise" regarding Shalit Monday, exactly a year after his abduction. The announcement was made by Abu Mujahid, a spokesman for the Popular Resistance Committees, one of three Hamas-linked groups that captured Shalit.

"Shalit is alive and in very good shape," Mujahid said. "His health is good and he's stable. We are treating him according to our religion's instructions on how to deal with war prisoners." Mujahid also said Shalit does not need anything and is receiving good treatment.

Shalit, 20, was kidnapped by Palestinian gunmen in a cross-border raid into Israel from the Gaza Strip on June 25, 2006. He has not been seen or heard from since he was captured.

The Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem declared on Monday, the one-year anniversary of the abduction of Shalit, that holding him hostage was a war crime and he must be immediately released.

The organization, which mainly works to protect the human rights of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, emphasized in a press statement that those involved in the kidnapping bear individual criminal liability for the war crime.

"The circumstances of his capture and the behaviour of his captors clearly indicate that he is a hostage," B'Tselem said.

International humanitarian law absolutely prohibits "the taking and holding of a person by force in order to compel the enemy to meet certain demands, while threatening to harm or kill that person if the demands are not met," the organization stated.

B'Tselem said the Hamas leadership has to work for Shalit's immediate release, and without conditions. Hamas currently controls all security apparatus in the Gaza Strip after ousting Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah more than a week ago.

Until the soldier's release, B'Tselem said, his captors have to treat him humanely and grant Red Cross representatives access to him. The organization noted that preventing the Red Cross from visiting Shalit is a "flagrant violation of international law."

At a ceremony near the Knesset to mark Shalit's abduction Sunday, his father, Noam, called for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to secure his son's release or step down.

Channel 2 television reported Sunday that Gilad Shalit was being held in the southern Gaza Strip in an underground room inside a booby-trapped building.

Canadian universities decry boycotts

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Britain's largest public services union, UNISON, last week adopted a motion calling for international sanctions against Israel via a boycott of the Jewish state's "economic, cultural, academic and sporting" institutions.

The motion follows the May 30 call by the University and College Union (UCU), Britain's largest teachers union, to consider an academic boycott of Israel's universities.

In an e-mail to *The CJN*, Karen Burke, executive director of the university outreach committee at the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy, called the UNISON and UCU motions attacks "on the core values of academic life."

Burke said the academics who stand behind these motions have "decided to teach their students narrow-mindedness and intolerance."

Canadian academics and international Jewish groups, however, have risen to Israel's defence.

Heather Munroe-Blum, president of McGill University, called the UCU motion "a gross violation of the values which form the foundation… of civil society," and she "thoroughly condemned" it in a June 19 press release on the university's website.

"If [UCU members] choose to isolate Israeli universities, you should add McGill to your boycott list. We will stand steadfast against those who seek to undermine academic freedom," she wrote.

Colleagues around the nation seconded Munroe-Blum's stance.

Claude Lajeunesse, president of Concordia University, echoed Munroe-Blum's remarks in a statement on his institution's website.

"As a university president and an academic, I say with full conviction that this boycott attacks the very nature of academia, and it must be denounced," he wrote.

Stephen J. Toope, president of the University of British Columbia (UBC), called the UCU motion a "dangerous and unsupportable attack on the core values of academic life" and an attempt to "stifle" scholarly activities.

"Those British professors who have brought forward this shameful scheme ought to reflect on the example and consequence of intolerance they are communicating to their students," Toope wrote on the UBC website.

In Toronto, Lorna Marsden, president of York University, expressed similar sentiments on the university's website last week.

Marsden called the attempt by one set of academics to "dictate to another group… which academics they are permitted to communicate with… something that needs to be consigned to the dustbin of history forthwith."

In a June 14 press release, Canadian Federation of Jewish Students president Alex Halpern called on Canadian faculties and student bodies to discredit the UCU motion.

"The resolution is… a blatant display of discrimination, bias and prejudice towards Israel and targeted groups on British campuses," Halpern said. "It undermines the positive efforts of Israeli academic institutions who work towards peace, and politicizes the international academic sphere."

'Not willing to surrender its convictions'

Continued from page 1

"Any other view would forever preclude the ability of a UN committee to adjourn decisions and debate for further consultations. Striking the table with a gavel while stating that action has been postponed does not constitute a decision on a substantive point.

"By denying Canada its right to call for a vote on this subject, this council threatens to undermine not only its own rules of procedure and those of the General Assembly, but more than 60 years of established practice of the UN, which is based on the fundamental principle of equality of all its member states," Cormier said.

Foreign Minister Peter MacKay said in a news release that "Canada is very disappointed that the council, in the important decision that affects its future work, did not fully respect the principles upon which it is founded. In our view, the council has failed to meet the test of its principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity. Specifically, Canada cannot accept the inclusion of a permanent agenda item on Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, as it singles out one situation for highly politicized, partial and subjective treatment of a complex issue."

A UN news release indicated that Louise Arbour, the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, and a former judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, extended "her appreciation to all those who contributed to launching the council on a consensual basis. Despite the potentially divisive issues that the council had confronted, the spirit of co-operation and mutual respect would, she hoped, remain the hallmark of the Human Rights Council."

Canada's position was applauded by the Canada-Israel Committee, the Jewish community's Israel-advocacy organization. "The pro-Israel community continues to be impressed and appreciative of the consistency of Canada's principled stand on these issues," said Shimon Fogel, chief executive officer of the organization.

"Even in face of substantial pressure from others on the council, Canada was simply not willing to surrender its convictions of what ought to inform the actions and decision of the UN and its agencies."

He said Canada's position denying the council had reached a consensus – other council members said a consensus was reached even without Canada's approval – would have repercussions. "In the UN lexicon, consensus means having a certain moral authority," Fogel said. By challenging the purported consensus and calling for a vote, where it could have opposed the procedural steps, "it builds into the narrative a formal challenge to what they did."

Fogel noted that the United States, which is not a council member, and the European Union had issued statements criticizing the measures.

In Geneva, Hillel Neuer, executive director of UN Watch, said the EU countries had backed adoption of the reform package as a compromise and that the Mideast issues were not a deal-breaker for them.

However, "this is not something that is imperfect. It's evil. It's part of the demonization of Israel. [Iranian president Mahmoud] Ahmadinejad can cite it to show the world considers Israel the grossest violator of human rights. It fuels anti-Semitism. It is an evil decision."

Neuer, whose stinging March 23 critique of the council is widely viewed on YouTube, contrasted the creation of the special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories to that in other regions. John Dugard, the Palestine rapporteur, has no term limit, while all others are asked to examine the situation in a region without singling out one party, while the Palestine rapporteur can only examine violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by Israel. It is outside Dugard's mandate to report on violations of the human rights of Israelis by Palestinians, Neuer said.

Neuer pointed to another example he said shows how far the council is straying from the promotion of human rights. Last week, the council announced that Libya was designated head of an anti-racism panel and will oversee two years of preparatory meetings leading up to a world conference in 2009, which is a successor to the notorious Durban conference.

"Choosing Col. [Moammar] Khadafy to head a world anti-racism conference is like appointing a pyromaniac to be fire chief," said Neuer. "It is obscene that the same racist government that awarded its highest prize in 2002 to convicted Holocaust denier Roger Garaudy is now in charge of fighting racism" and may host the conference.

Israel Briefs

Abbas denounces Hamas

Mahmoud Abbas ruled out reconciliation talks with Hamas, denouncing the Islamist group as "putschist assassins." The Palestinian Authority president said last Wednesday that he was firm in his decision to dissolve the inter-factional coalition government. "There will be no dialogue with those killers, those coup plotters," Abbas told lawmakers in Ramallah. "I turn to our people in Gaza and tell them, the designs of these putschist assassins have no future." Hamas has accused Abbas of being party to an Israeli-American "plot" to cut off Gaza from the West Bank and thus make the Palestinian Authority more malleable in peace negotiations. But Abbas denied this. "I stress my rejection of any Israeli attempt to take advantage of this act perpetrated by the coup militias to pave the way for the separation of Gaza and the West Bank," he said.

Barak defence minister

Ehud Barak's appointment as defense minister was ratified by the Knesset. The former Israeli prime minister assumed the key cabinet post last Monday following the parliament's 46-22 vote. Barak replaces Amir Peretz, whose year-long tenure was clouded by the failures of the Lebanon war. In a parting speech, Peretz said he had been "forced to pay for the foul-ups of the past" – a veiled reference to policy mistakes by previous, more experienced defence ministers. Barak, who served as prime minister and defence minister between 1999 and 2001, also ended the term of Peretz's deputy, Efraim Sneh. He did not immediately name a replacement. In one of his first acts as minister, he ordered the army to allow wounded Palestinians gathered at the Gaza Strip border to enter Israel.

Gay pride parade held in Jerusalem

About 2,000 participants turned out last Thursday for Jerusalem's annual gay pride parade. The event, which went ahead after Israel's Supreme Court rejected last-minute appeals by opponents, was held under massive police security, as some 7,000 officers were deployed following threats by fervently Orthodox Jews. Earlier in the day, a 32-year old fervently Orthodox man with an explosive device was apprehended by police in downtown Jerusalem. The man said he had planned to set off the bomb in bushes near the march to scare away participants. Protests against the annual gay pride event in Jerusalem had increased in recent days despite calls by some fervently Orthodox rabbis for community members to stay home and pray.

Sharansky named museum chairman

Natan Sharansky was appointed board chair of the Beth Hatefutsoth museum in Tel Aviv. Sharansky received the unanimous support of the museum's board of directors, according to a statement released last Monday. The museum tells the story of the Jewish Diaspora. "I am thrilled to welcome Natan as our chairman," said Hasia Israeli, the museum's director general. "He feels the importance of our two-fold mission – to build a world-class museum that tells the global Jewish story using the most engaging methods and to find new ways to create mutual identity among Jews for generations to come – wherever they live." Sharansky, a former Russian refusenik who moved to Israel in 1986, retired from the Knesset in November.

Israeli company building malls in Ukraine

An Israeli company has recently purchased a 2.6-acre lot in Kiev on which it plans to build a shopping mall. Engel Europe is reportedly going to build a portfolio of at least 10 malls in Ukraine and then float its Ukrainian business on a European exchange, perhaps the London Stock Exchange. Since the 2004 Orange Revolution, Ukraine has managed to attract significant investment from Israeli developers. Engel Europe is also negotiating to build malls in Volgograd in Russia and in the Belarusian capital of Minsk. In related news, Bank Leumi is said to be close to finalizing the purchase of Vneshtorgbank Ukraine from VTB, one of Russia's largest banks.

- from JTA

Rabbi and other faith leaders condemn terrorism at Bali conference

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Daniel Landes, director and rosh yeshiva of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, has spent the better part of his 32-year career serving the Jewish people and working in a Jewish environment, although he has interacted with counterparts of other faiths on an academic level.

But now that he has returned from a groundbreaking multi-faith conference in Indonesia where he was the first rabbi to speak publicly in the world's largest Muslim country, he feels it was a mistake not to have become involved in this kind of dialogue before.

"I went from almost zero to 100," he said in a phone interview from his office at Pardes, which is open to students of all Jewish backgrounds. "I'm an Orthodox rabbi. My life has totally been very much within my people."

Rabbi Landes joined Indonesia's former president, Abdurrahman Wahid, and Hindu spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar (not the sitarist of the same name) as one of three main speakers sharing a platform at a June 12 Bali conference called "Tolerance Between Religions: A Blessing For All Creation." Protestant, Catholic and Buddhist leaders responded to their presentation before an audience consisting mainly of 100 community activists, young imams, and Muslim and Hindu students.

"You cannot underestimate the symbolic importance of [my] sitting there with two great leaders," said the rabbi, who called the conference "uplifting.

"Those who are strong in their own faith commitments – those who represent the tradition – need to be in this type of conversation."

The trio of leaders was the first to sign a "call to action" condemning the link between religion and violence, according to a press release from the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Conference goals also included reducing the growing polarization between faiths since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States, according to a press release from Pardes.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Wahid Institute, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance, and LibForAll Foundation. Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the centre's associate dean, was moderator for the day-long event.

From left, Hindu spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, former Indonesian president Abdurrahman Wahid, and Rabbi Daniel Landes share a platform at the recent multifaith conference in Bali. [Photo courtesy of the Simon Wiesenthal Center]

Rabbi Landes – a 57-year-old native of Chicago who lived in Los Angeles before moving to Israel 12 years ago – said the big fear about dialogue, not just within Orthodox Judaism, but in traditional circles in other religions, is that "you'll lose part of what you yourself believe.

"Of course what really happens – there is a transformation, but you become the better part of your own religion. You become more of who you are in a better way. That's the notion of true dialogue. On a personal level, this was a very extraordinary benefit."

Rabbi Landes – who said he was initially "the 'B' rabbi" on the program – became a main speaker after Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, former Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel, was denied a visa for the gathering because of his Israeli diplomatic passport. Indonesia does not recognize the State of Israel.

Rabbi Landes, a former professor of ethics and values at Yeshiva University of Los Angeles and a former director of educational projects at the Wiesenthal centre, travelled on his American passport and wore his kippah wherever he went.

However, he said he spoke on condition that he be introduced as a rabbi from Jerusalem. "The word Israel didn't come up as much as Jerusalem, but that's okay," he said. "You do this step by step."

Rabbi Landes said that people he told about the conference in advance were concerned for his safety. He himself was "concerned, but I wasn't really fearful.

"I think I rose to the level of my compatriots," said the rabbi, referring in particular to Wahid, who has "stood for human rights on an amazing level."

At the opening plenary, Wahid – who co-authored a June 12 *Wall Street Journal* article with Rabbi Lau titled The Evils of Holocaust Denial – condemned Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for Holocaust denial. "He is wrong, and I say so publicly," said Wahid.

Sol Teichman, a Holocaust survivor who spoke at the event, "represented not only destruction but renewal of Jewish life," Rabbi Landes said. "In Balinese culture renewal of life is a very important cultural trope.

The Balinese people, he noted, are "tremendously traumatized" by bombings in 2005. "They no longer understand that [bombings are abhorrent] in an abstract way. They understand that in reality."

Survivors of bombings in Indonesia and Israel spoke in a session that was televised in the Middle East and Europe on the Arabic language Al Hurra satellite network, according to the Wiesenthal Center.

"Authentic purveyors of religion want to preserve life," not destroy it, said Rabbi Landes. The appeal of extremists lies in their knowledge of religion, but they're "really going against a fundamental in each religion – that life is sacred, and that God is the God of life. Terrorism is very heretical."

Rabbi Landes was surprised to see how many people knew who he was and why he was in Bali. "Everyone from the airline crew to government officials to shopkeepers" greeted him in their "very graceful way" and told him he was the first "Jewish priest" to speak publicly in Indonesia.

"There was a tremendous validation of my being there with the people," he said. Although he faced questions about Palestine and Israel that were "sometimes pretty pointed," he said he felt they were rooted more in "inquiry" than anything else.

What surprised him, he said, was "how much hope people took in [the conference]." Part of his message, he said, was "the notion of hope."

"Tolerance in many parts of the world needs a religious basis," he explained. Having that basis "strikes a very deep chord with people."

He anticipates follow-up to the conference. A professor of Jewish law, Rabbi Landes said he met professors of Islam who expressed interest in coming to Jerusalem.

"A dialogue between Muslims and Hindus on the area of religious law could be very productive not just theoretically but practically," he added.

Two years later, Gaza evacuees still need housing and jobs

By NADAV SHRAGAI
© *Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.*

JERUSALEM — Almost two years after Israel's pullout from Gaza, construction of permanent housing has started at only two of the 26 sites intended for 9,000 evacuees, according to a report by the Gush Katif Settlements Committee.

For example, no groundwork has been laid at Nitzanim and Talmei Yafe, projects decided upon months before the pullout began.

The committee predicts that the trailer parks now housing the evacuees will remain in use for at least five years, instead of the two years that the government intended.

The resulting problems are legion:

- Some 1,450 former residents of Gush Katif are still unemployed.
- More than 500 families are in bad financial shape, and some even receive food packages and help from welfare agencies.
- Because of the rampant unemployment, many families are using their state compensation funds for daily subsistence instead of saving it for building a house.
- Only 33 farmers out of 400 have been given alternate lands, and of these, only a handful are back in real business. Those who have resumed growing crops face major infrastructure hurdles such as erratic electricity, sewage and drainage.
- Farmers lost their overseas markets, buyers and distributors.
- A memorandum of understanding with the government on amendments to the Evacuation Compensation Law improved matters on a personal level. However, business owners and farmers will not be compensated for lost income until they can rebuild their businesses. Furthermore, compensation for Gush Katif evacuees is low and does not reflect the true value of their property, the report said. For instance, compensation for greenhouses is 60 per cent of the cost of erecting them. Compensation for seniority is 10 per cent of that granted to people evacuated from Yamit under the peace treaty with Egypt. And 650 people who requested individual property appraisals have received either no decision or a very low assessment, because the state froze individual appraisals after it turned out that many were higher than the compensation afforded by the law.

Despite all the above, the committee noted that more than 85 per cent of evacuees continue to live in a community framework, in order to uphold their ideals and provide a support network for each other.

MK Uri Ariel, who chairs both the National Union-National Religious Party faction and the Knesset lobby for the evacuees, said the report underscores the state's colossal failures.

"Housing at temporary sites is continuing long beyond the period intended, and no government ministry has a working plan for the extended stay," he said.

Centre gives Jerusalem neighbourhood new hope

By WENDY ELLIMAN
IPS

JERUSALEM — The two oldest children of Yulia, a divorced mother of four who made aliyah from Russia six years ago, were poor students who found math and English especially unfathomable. One scraped through his matriculation, his grades too poor to get him much further. The other failed to matriculate at all.

Yulia is determined that her two younger children, now in grades 4 and 6, will do better. In the fall, they will attend a new centre, the Israel Asper Community Action Center, that will provide resources to help children improve their educational achievements.

"They know all about the computer as a toy, judging by the time they spend playing computer games," Yulia says. "But soon they'll have a chance to use the computer to improve their math and English through specially designed programs."

Ethiopian youngsters take a break from studying math at the Asper Community Action Center and play a computer game. [IPS photo]

The centre, which was dedicated in early June, is the fourth in a lengthening chain of Community Action centres built as an initiative of Canada's 24-year-old Asper Foundation, in partnership with Jewish National Fund (JNF) of Canada.

"In the past four years, we've initiated centres in Ofakim, Migdal HaEmek and Be'er Sheva, but it was important to us to be in our beloved Jerusalem as well," says the foundation's managing director, Gail Sheryl Asper, a Winnipeg-born lawyer who directs CanWest Global Communications Corporation and the CanWest Global Foundation.

"As Israel is the soul of the Jewish people, so Jerusalem is the soul of Israel. And once we began planning in Jerusalem, we found a wonderful partner [for this centre] in the Jerusalem Foundation," Asper says.

The centre is in the city's Ramot Alon neighbourhood, which is home to veteran Israelis and immigrants, mainly from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia. Established in 1974 and today home to 47,000 people, Ramot's social and economic future now hangs in the balance.

"This was once a pluralistic community of secular, religious and [haredi] veterans and newcomers," says Ramot Alon Community Center chair Ze'evik Landner, who has lived in the neighbourhood for the past 24 years. "Although there is still one section consisting of beautifully landscaped homes and apartment buildings owned by affluent and upper-middle class residents, many of them have moved out. Now there are mostly large pockets of… areas facing poverty and social problems. We must invest in our community to stop its slide into a downward spiral."

The investment shared by the Asper Foundation, the Jerusalem Foundation and Canadian JNF is close to $350,000, a portion of which will go to renovating premises provided for the centre by the Jerusalem municipality. The lion's share, however, will go to finance educational enrichment programs and activities largely geared toward disadvantaged youngsters. It will also serve as a multicultural meeting place for residents from vastly different backgrounds, and enable the new immigrant population to integrate into the general population of the neighbourhood.

One of the centre's four sections will be for youngsters like Yulia's. Its tutors will help with homework and oversee computer courses that reinforce English and math based on the school syllabus. A second section for younger children will have supervised games and toys, computer games for infants and a puppet theatre. Teens will be given "green" tools in the centre's third section, where a unique program run in tandem with the JNF will operate. Through field trips and day and summer camps, the youngsters will learn leadership skills, Zionism, Israeli history and how to maintain a green environment

The fourth section will be a computer lab with 20 computer stations, which will teach kindergartners the three Rs in preparation for first grade and include educational games. The computer lab will also be used to train teens to become computer instructors, all the way to website-building; and it will provide unemployed residents with computer training and young couples with a family budget planning course.

"As we've seen at our three community action centres already up and running, these are places that can provide educational support beyond the reach of the school system," Asper says. "While they particularly help youngsters with educational difficulties or children from deprived families, their combination of technology-oriented education and teaching of leadership skills and heritage can help all comers achieve their optimal educational level."

"I believe that the Israel Asper Community Action Center will become the breathing heart and center of community life in Ramot Alon," Landner says. "Perhaps it will hold the key to a brighter and better future for Ramot's deprived youngsters. At the very least, it will bring children and families from vastly different backgrounds and beliefs together under one roof."

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Aspects of DeLillo's 9/11 novel are startlingly effective

- *Falling Man* by Don DeLillo, Scribner.

By NORMAN RAVVIN
Special to The CJN

A novelist who chooses recent history as his subject faces unusual challenges. In Philip Roth's view, life in his country – what he has called the "American berserk" – outdoes anything that might be conjured by the creative imagination.

Norman Ravvin

In Roth's recent novella, *Everyman,* Sept. 11 is given only glancing mention, as the reason why certain New Yorkers decide to abandon Manhattan. The most notable efforts to portray the repercussions of Sept. 11 in fiction have been those by Jay McInerney, Jonathan Safran Foer and Martin Amis. All of these, it could be argued, have fallen short of the demands raised by the events themselves.

Don DeLillo may be the American novelist best suited to fictionalize events that appeared out of what he calls "a clear sky that carried human terror in those streaking aircraft, first one, then the other, the force of men's intent."

DeLillo's novels include *Libra* (1988), a dark and detailed portrait of Lee Harvey Oswald and the events leading up to the Kennedy assassination. His 1997 novel *Underworld* opens with a bravura set piece picturing Jackie Gleason, Frank Sinatra and restaurateur Toots Shor in the stands at the Polo Grounds to watch the New York Giants. DeLillo is an ironist – his fiction is often bitterly funny, satirizing the impact of politics, the media and mass market culture. The recently released *Falling Man* is DeLillo's take on the "American berserk" in the weeks immediately after Sept. 11.

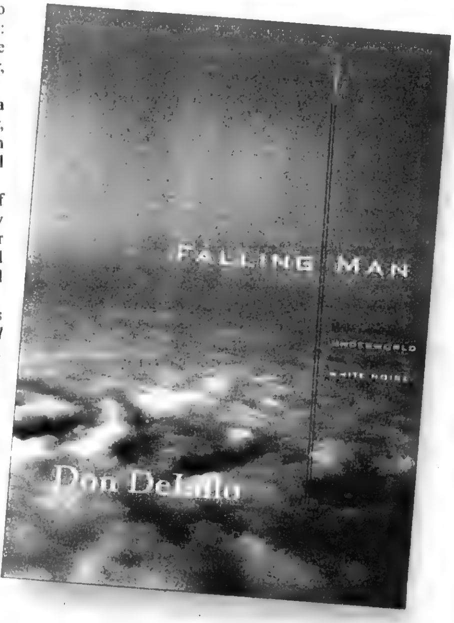
Aspects of the book are startlingly effective. In the early chapters, which have appeared as excerpts in *The New Yorker*, DeLillo captures the look of survivors immediately after the towers fell: "When he appeared at the door it was not possible, a man come out of an ash storm, all blood and slag, reeking of burnt matter, with pinpoint glints of slivered glass in his face."

Falling Man recalls Lower Manhattan's transformation into a strange sepulchral place: "The dead were everywhere, in the air, in the rubble, on rooftops nearby, in the breezes that carried from the river. They were settled in ash and drizzled on windows all along the streets, in his hair and on his clothes."

There is, as well, effective attention paid to the behaviour of the survivors, who find their lives poisoned by the fact that they didn't die alongside their colleagues. One character explains her predicament this way: "I know I can't sit here alive and safe and talk about our falling down some stairs when all that terror, all those dead."

Falling Man follows four characters' lives in the first weeks after Sept. 11. As in Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, one of the four is a child, but DeLillo manages this without the mawkish sentimentality employed by Safran Foer.

DeLillo struggles to come to terms with the character and motivations of the terrorists. The novel does this most directly in a short section set in Hamburg, where the would-be terrorists hide out and ready themselves. Here we are introduced to Hammad, whose memories include fighting in Saddam's army during the Iran-Iraq War, and who seems at once ambivalent and determined to submit himself to his compatriots' strange forms of self-discipline and indoctrination. The cell's leader, who lectures and reins in any form of backsliding, is known as Amir, a "small, thin wiry man who spoke to Hammad in his face. He was very genius, others said… His full name was Mohamed Mohamed el-Amir el-Sayed Atta."



In these sections, DeLillo strives to fill a gap in the response to Sept. 11. In accounts both fictional and factual, the character and motivations of the terrorists has remained shadowy. Some effort was made in the immediate aftermath of the events to trace the family history of the men who flew the planes into the World Trade Center. The *New York Times* ran photographs and interviews with Atta's family. But in ways reminiscent of other literatures of atrocity, the perpetrators have proven difficult to depict and understand. DeLillo confronts this dilemma in scenes that portray a writing group made up of men and women suffering from the early stages of Alzheimer's. "They wrote about the planes," he tells us. "No one wrote a word about the terrorists. And in the exchanges that followed the readings, no one spoke about the terrorists."

DeLillo offers no grand theories, no overt interpretations of fundamentalist ideologies or the impact of nihilistic terror on modern history (there is much to be learned about the latter in the anti-czarist terror of the late 19th century, and its evocation in the novels of Dostoyevsky).

Instead, Delillo offers a curious analogy. Much of *Falling Man* focuses on the obsessive behaviour of a foursome of Wall Street workers who gathered routinely to play poker before the collapse of the towers. Here DeLillo explores the closed, ritualized behaviour of a group of like-minded males. In much the same way the terrorists are described as "strong-willed, determined to become one mind. Shed everything but the men you are with. Become each other's blood."

This analogy has a certain superficial impact. But it ultimately allows DeLillo to take his narrative to Las Vegas, where two survivors of the towers' collapse immerse themselves in gambling as a form of escape and self-abnegation. Other novelists have handled Vegas with greater verve, and here *Falling Man* becomes something less than we expect it to be. It takes on qualities much like those of DeLillo's earlier novels, and the narrative does not live up to the particular demands of the extreme events it means to explain.

By the time the novel's final pages arrive at a portrayal of the interior of the towers after being struck by planes, *Falling Man* has lost a good deal of the wind it needs to present these events in a startling new way. One gets the disheartening feeling, as DeLillo describes flying bodies and collapsing walls, that he has seen all this at the movies and has lost sight of the particular catastrophe he means to convey.

Norman Ravvin's novel Lola by Night *was recently released in Serbian translation. His essays on American and Canadian literature appear in* A House of Words: Jewish Writing, Identity and Memory. *He is chair of Concordia University's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.*

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

MEMORABLE CONCERT CAPS HOLY BLOSSOM'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The excitement emanating from the Roy Thomson Hall stage was palpable last week as conductor **Peter Oundjian** led the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** and esteemed guest clarinettist **Giora Feidman** through a delectable musical program to end a season of celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Holy Blossom congregation.

Jeffrey Beecher on double bass and **Joaquin Valdepenas** on clarinet lent further kinetic energy to proceedings as the TSO presented **Rossini**'s *Barber of Seville Overture* and *Opus 47* from *Kol Nidre* by 19th-century German-Protestant composer **Max Bruch**.

Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner sang and helped lead a *Shehechiyanu* prayer, demonstrating (as Feidman did at several times), how easily the audience could be coaxed into joining in. A tremendous sense of goodwill seemed to fill the acoustically pure hall.

The second half of the concert consisted of **Ora Bath Chaim**'s *Love for Life*, **Astor Piazzolla's** *Two Tangos* and **George Gershwin's** *Porgy and Bess Suite*. The orchestra achieved superb clarity, allowing Feidman's jazzy notes to soar. All that was missing was the schmaltz.

As anniversary chair **Henrietta Chesnie** noted in the program, this was not the first time the TSO has figured in a Holy Blossom celebration. Fifty years ago, on the congregation's 100th anniversary, the occasion was marked with a TSO concert under the direction of **Walter Susskind** and featuring guest pianist **Glenn Gould**.

* * *

Fringe Festival Offerings: This year's Fringe Theatre Festival (www.fringetoronto.com, 416-966-1062) runs July 4 to 15, with many exciting productions, including these with specifically Jewish content or participants.

- Total Score presents *Don't Look*, an "incest drama" written and performed by **Daniel Sadavoy** and **Rebecca Applebaum**; directed and co-created by **Maya Rabinovitch**. This "multilayered piece full of delightful tension and unnerving hilarity" focuses on two first cousins who try to escape from a humiliation shared in their youth. Royal St. George Theatre, 120 Howland Ave.
- *Two in the Bush*, the sequel to last year's *The Burning Bush!*, marks the return of "the stripping rabbi" from her world tour, saving souls one lap dance at a time. Presented by Toronto native **Tracey Erin Smith**. Royal St. George. www.theburningbush.ca
- In *Windows, Walls and Doors,* by **Yael Sirlin**, two actors create four diverse roles in this touching and humorous drama. Having moved from Israel, a limo entrepreneur and his wife build a new life, while a cupcake franchise hopeful and her husband struggle with their marriage. A drive to the airport unites them. St. Vladimir's Theatre, 620 Spadina Ave. www.kissandtellinc.com
- *Shiksas Sit Shiva*, by **Catherine Hayos** and **Melinda Little**, is a comedy about loss, love and interfaith marriage. Royal St. George
- *Like, Omigawd!* is a "sugar-pop '80s rock musical" that focuses on a small-town girl with big dreams who moves to the big city for her final year of high school. Walmer Theatre Centre, 188 Lowther Ave. www.likeomigod.ca
- Actor **Avi Phillips** and his father and two sisters have created an original play, *Eleanor*, an imaginary account of what might have preceded the events in the Beatles' song *Eleanor Rigby*. Robert Gill Theatre, 214 College St.
- *Talk Thirty To Me*, a documentary play by **Oonagh Duncan** with **David Schokking**, reflects an age and era of uncertainty and demonstrates that the truth is stranger and funnier than fiction. Tarragon Extra Space, 30 Bridgman Ave.
- *Ex-Zhyle*, directed by **Sasha Kovacs** and with **Jonathan Heppner** and **Marni Van Dyk**, is derived from the writings of **Pauline Johnson** and **José Martí**, and focuses on two clowns on a sacred quest. Tarragon Theatre Extra Space
- Di-To Co-Operative presents *Spilling Beans*, by **Dina Ajlenberg** and **Thomas Junek**, with a cast of five. The play dives into the minds and consciences of four not so random people in a café – an unhappily married couple, an exiled princess and a recent widow. Tarragon Theatre Main Space. www.ditocoop.com
- *Corporate Valentines*, by **Andrew Borkowski** and featuring **Jennifer Lieberman**, **Candi Zell**, **Matt Mccarthy** and **John Palmieri**. Over-educated corporate types misbehave in the men's washroom in this satire of "our morally decadent business culture." Tarragon Theatre Main Space
- *The Gladstone Variations* consists of four plays involving Toronto's 118-year-old Gladstone Hotel. With **Aviva Armour-Ostroff**, **Stewart Arnott**, **Marc Bendavid**, **Brett Christopher**, **Richard Greenblatt**, **Marcia Johnson**, **Lori Nancy Kalamanski**, **Athena Lamarre**, **Dov Mickelson**, **Bob Naismith**, **Christopher Stanton** and **David Yee**. Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St. W.
- Three Fringe shows are being performed at the Miles Nadal JCC (416-924-6211, ext. 606). *Conservatives in Love*, by **Dave Carley** and directed by **Sue Minor**, is a study of city urbanites who move into downtown condos; with **Jason Jazwary**, **Richard Lee**, **Anne Page** and **Naomi Snieckus**. *Napoleon's Secret Diary* presents the emperor as a bumbling fool, a combination of Inspector Clouseau and Bob Newhart. www.monstertheatre.com *Scratch* features a comic duo who improvise dozens of characters and story lines. www.myspace.com/ scratch_improv
- *Rumpleforskin, A Revised and Circumcised Virgin of an Old Fairy's Tail*, is veteran writer/actor **Don Harron's** Fringe debut. Queen Dragonella worries about her son Etheldred's ability to rule the land of Tatterdemalia. Gold would help. It also stars Yiddish star **Gloria Valentine**. At the Tarragon Theatre Extra Space.
- *The 'Welcome to the Show' Show* is a 60-minute bombardment of clever sketch comedy by **Picnicface**, described as "the best comedy troupe currently working in Canada." At the Helen Gardiner Phelan Playhouse, 79A St. George St.
- **George Bernard Shaw**'s comedy *Mrs. Warren's Profession* is resurrected at the historic Hart House Music Room, 7 Hart House Circ., second floor. This once-banned play is directed by Laurel Smith. www.burningpassionstheatre.com.

Debra Hale, left, and Shaun Clarke in *Windows, Walls and Doors* by Yael Sirlin at the Fringe Festival.

***

Arts in Brief

- Toronto IsReal Dance Festival features teachers and choreographers **Rafi Ziv**, **Naftaly Kadosh**, **Ofer Alfassi** and **Carina Saslavsky**. Miles Nadal JCC, June 29, 30 and July 1. Babysitting services available upon request. www.israelidancetoronto.com. E-mail, info@israelidancetoronto.com

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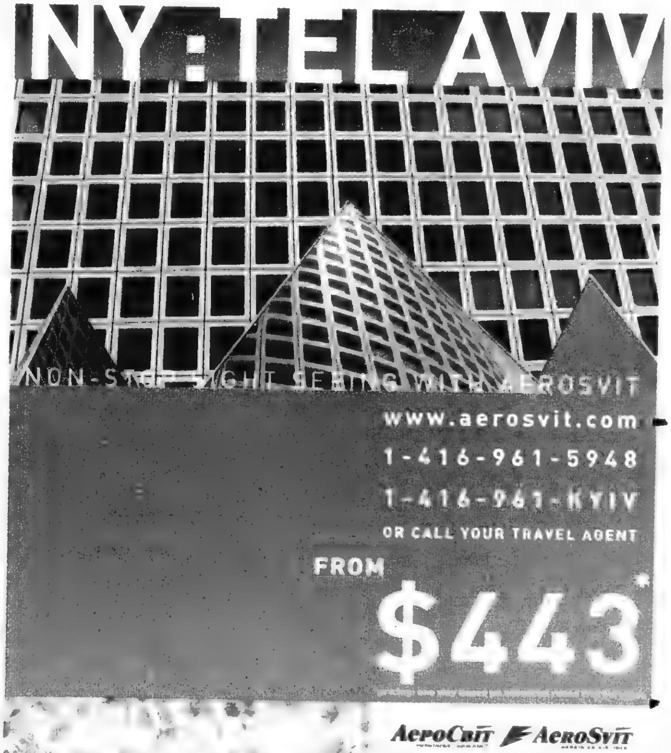

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Israeli dance pioneer honoured at upcoming festival

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Anyone with a connection to folk dance in Toronto is almost certain to know Teme Kernerman, and more than likely to have worked with her.

The pioneer dancer, teacher and choreographer's career in Israeli, international and modern dance has included work across North America, in Israel and even in China. In her 60 years of dance, Kernerman has choreographed a presentation [illegible] the Queen and founded dance groups for people of all ages in Toronto.

She was recently recognized in a new CD-ROM, *Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia*, under the section *Israeli Folk Dance Pioneers in North America.*

This weekend, Kernerman will be honoured by the Israeli dance community, at the second annual Toronto IsReal Dance Festival.

"I did all this because there was something in me – I had to do this," she said in an interview. "I never considered myself as a pioneer, I just did these things."

Born and raised in Toronto, Kernerman's first taste of Israeli dance was as a 15-year-old at the Habonim Labor Zionist Movement's Camp Kvutza.

Hired as an arts and crafts instructor, she was a disaster, she said, but she quickly found her niche with Israeli dance each Friday night.

Her husband, Barry, who was then a counsellor too, took over arts and crafts and Teme led dance.

"She was an amazing teacher. I can still hear her voice in my head as she taught," said Naomi Fromm, one of Kernerman's former campers.

Kernerman's early dance days included a trip to Israel with the Habonim movement, where she organized folk dancing and concerts at Kibbutz Geva, and studies in Toronto with Ernie and Ivy Krehm at the University Settlement Recreation Centre. She studied folk dance and modern interpretive dance at the YM-YWHA on Bloor Street (now the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre).

After a brief stint as a nursery school teacher, she moved to New York to pursue dance studies full time.

There, Kernerman studied modern dance under some of its early leaders, including José Limón, Murray Louis and Alwin Nikolais. She also received two scholarships for summer courses at the Connecticut College School of Dance.

She honed her Israeli dance skills with the late Fred Berk, an Israeli folk dance pioneer in New York and North America.

"I taught for him, I demonstrated for him. He was an inspiration to me," Kernerman said. "He really assisted me and gave me a lot of knowledge and a lot of experience."

In New York, Kernerman also helped run folk dance competitions for children in Hebrew schools, setting the stage for Rikudiyah, the annual children's dance festival she founded in Toronto, now in its 28th year.

"Thousands of children have been exposed to Israeli folk dance through Rikudiyah, and it's because of that program that there is Israeli dance in the schools," Kernerman said.

She moved back to Toronto in 1957 and became the first full-time dance director at the YM-YWHA. She then founded Nirkoda, Toronto's first performing Israeli dance group, which she led for 25 years. The group still performs today, under the guidance of a former Nirkoda dancer, Ronit Eisenman.

Teme and Barry married in Toronto and made aliyah in 1960. They lived in Israel for eight years and had a son and daughter.

Upon returning to Canada, Kernerman headed the folk dance department of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, where she has worked in various capacities and is still folk dance co-ordinator.

Her achievements stretch beyond the wooden floors and mirrored walls she helped design. In addition to Rikudiyah, Kernerman started a similar festival, Machol Hanoar, for teenagers, and a group called the Chai Dancers, for people 55 and over.

Kernerman founded both the Ontario Folk Dance Association and the Ontario Folk Dance Teachers Association. She created and runs a teacher training dance program, and has served as consultant and choreographer for TV shows and movies.

Kernerman is currently president and examiner for the folk dance division of the Performing Arts Educators of Canada.

Teme Kernerman, Toronto's Israeli folk dance pioneer.

She is a member of Darchei Noam Congregation, Toronto's Reconstructionist synagogue, and created the Israeli Dance Chevra there with Simon Shapiro.

She recalled a favourite anecdote about being asked to teach a master performance class in China without her music. It seems the multi-talented woman simply can't sing. She had tears in her eyes when she recalled teaching the Chinese class with only her voice as background music. They picked up the moves and were a joy to teach, she said. But as she and Barry drove away, the students waved to them and sang *Mayim*, the song she had taught.

"Teme!" her husband groaned "They're all off-key!"

While she doesn't have perfect pitch, her heart and feet have been in the right place for decades.

"Anything that has to do with Israeli dance in Toronto, basically, she started it," Fromm said. "She would go in anywhere that she saw a void and she would create a department."

"It's the kind of thing that you can come and lose yourself – whatever your problems are, they don't exist when you're dancing," Kernerman said of her craft. "I want to keep dancing for as long as I can."

Kernerman will be honoured Friday night at the IsReal Dance Festival, which runs June 29 to July 1 at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre. The festival features out-of-town choreographers and teachers who introduce new dances.

For more information or to register, visit www.israelidancetoronto.com.

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Prolific composer dies at 90

One of Canada's best known and most prolific composers, whose work has been performed by such artists as Glenn Gould, Maureen Forrester, Ben Heppner, Anton Kuerti and Zubin Mehta, died of complications from Parkinson's syndrome in Toronto on June 13. He was 90.

Oskar Morawetz was born in Czechoslovakia in 1917, the second son of a secular Jewish couple.

After the Munich Agreement was signed in 1938, givnig the Sudetenland to Germany, Morawetz was sent by his father to Paris to study music. In March 1940, he evaded the invading Nazis by fleeing to the Dominican Republic. He immigrated to Canada in June 1940, where he joined his parents and two of his siblings who had immigrated to Canada in 1939.

Morawetz wrote more than 100 orchestral and chamber works, including *From the Diary of Anne Frank*, *Carnival Overture*, *Piano Concerto No.1* and *Memorial to Martin Luther King*.

Morawetz was a member of both the Order of Ontario and the Order of Canada, and he won two Juno awards, three senior fellowships from the Canada Council and a Golden Jubilee Medal.

He is survived by two children, two grandchildren and an extended family. He divorced his wife Ruth Shipman in 1984.

More arts on page 45

An interview with Michael Winterbottom, director of *A Mighty Heart.*

Local's low-budget rock opera plays the Fringe

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Evan Malach

Onstage, Evan Malach looks, acts and sings like a young Bruce Springsteen, back when "The Boss" was still a hungry, lean and passionate troubadour, looking to be the world's next rock 'n' roll star.

Offstage, the driven 22-year-old Toronto playwright and musician is pretty much the same, only with less singing.

And starting July 4, after a successful run in Montreal, Malach will bring his latest play, *In Adequacy*, back home for audiences to experience at Toronto's Fringe theatre festival.

Malach conceived the idea for this new play after his first production, *Being John Cusack*, was a big hit on the alternative stage during his student days in Montreal in 2005.

"I felt like it had gone very well, and I was into the idea of writing another play," he said. "But I couldn't come up with that unique idea of something that would continue the momentum I had from [*Being John Cusack*]. I was feeling very inadequate… feeling like I was just a one-hit wonder."

Enter *In Adequacy*, a low-budget rock opera in the comedic mould of *We Will Rock You* and *Spamalot*, about a forlorn musician who aspires to rock greatness, into which Malach cast himself as the protagonist, Donny.

In his quest to find musical glory, Donny sets off to Los Angeles, same as anyone who wants to make it in showbiz. Along the way, he gets stuck in the Mojave Desert, in a town called Adequacy, only to discover hard truths about himself and his dream.

While there, he ends up befriending some of Adequacy's quirky residents including Hugh Bris, the town's haughty circumcisionist; Danté, the town's diabolical innkeeper; Path Girl, the local nightclub chanteuse and Fallacy O'Neill, a meteorologist who suffers from seasonal affective disorder.

Malach penned 11 original pop-rock songs for *In Adequacy*, and the general tone of the play is a loving, tongue-in-cheek poke at what his press release terms the "cheesiness" of musical theatre.

The cast is backed by an eight-piece band using guitars, drums, bass, saxophone, piano and harmonica to power Malach's humorous and thoughtful narrative along.

Still, Malach uses the genre to great effect, eliciting laughs and inspiring audience members to remember and sing along to his catchy songs well after the curtain goes down.

And that's just the response Malach hoped for.

"It's absolutely exhilarating," he said. "Having your words and music come alive in the voices and instruments of others… working with such talented musicians and actors, it's an amazing experience. Every time I do it, I have so much fun."

Malach recently moved back to Toronto, having just graduated "with great distinction" from McGill University, where he majored in humanistic studies with a focus on music and a history minor.

He's since founded his own company, Infinite Potential Entertainment, with an eye toward achieving his manifold career goals.

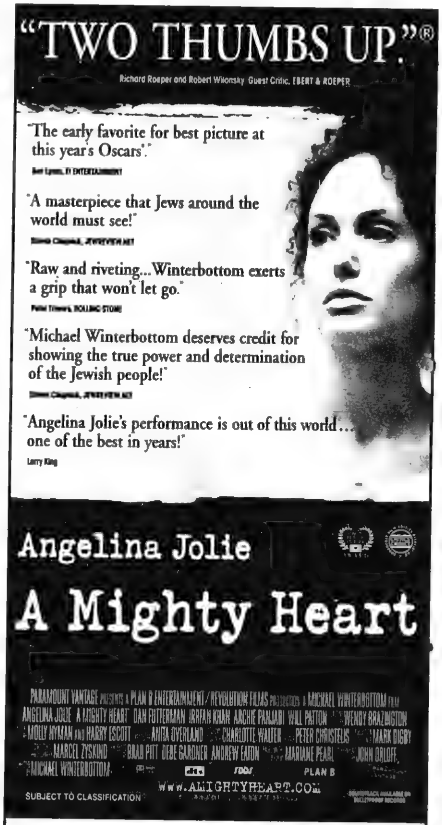
"I started it with the mindset that I didn't want to limit myself to any one [entertainment] industry path," Malach said. "I want to keep my options open for different fields… ranging from theatre to film and writing and performing. This is the perfect opportunity to amalgamate so many of my different passions."

With his knack for songwriting and ability to delight audiences, Malach is ensuring he remains far from inadequate.

For more information and showtimes, visit www.welcometoadequacy.com.

A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME

Montreal acoustic-based country/folk outfit, Little Birdie, fronted by singer/songwriter Orit Shimoni and sideman Andre Kirchoff will be performing three gigs in Toronto this week. The first is June 30 at Gate 403, 403 Roncesvalles Ave. at 4 p.m. On July 1 they play at the Free Times Café, on College at Spadina at 8 p.m. and on July 5 at Mitzi's Sister, 100 Sorauren Ave. at 9 p.m. The group will also be performing at the 2007 Mariposa Festival in Orillia, Ont. Little Birdie recently released their debut album *Cinematic Way*, produced by veteran musician Mark Goodwin. It can be purchased at www.archambault.ca and at cdbaby.com For more info visit www.myspace.com/weelittlebirdie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- **STORMONT AVE.** 3 bdrm. sidesplit + fam. room, $2,500 / mo.
- **GLENGARRY AVE.** Spacious 3 + 2 bdrm., 3 baths, desirable location close to TTC, parks, schools, shops, $2,600 / mo. Aug. 1.
- **NEW LISTING, Caribou Pk.** Spacious ranch bung., $3,500 / mo.

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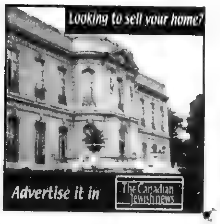
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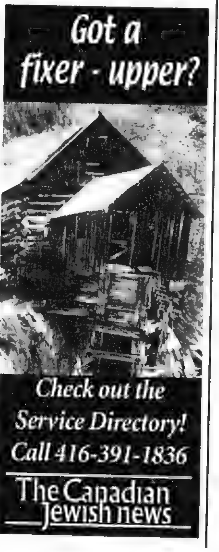
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The Canadian Jewish news

Michael Winterbottom, right, directs Angelina Jolie in *A Mighty Heart*.

British director describes the making of *A Mighty Heart*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Michael Winterbottom, the British director of *A Mighty Heart*, was coincidentally in Pakistan when Daniel Pearl, the Jewish American journalist, was murdered by Islamic radicals in 2002.

He was filming *In This World*, which depicts the flight of two Afghan refugees trying to make their way to Europe, when he heard the sombre announcement of his death.

"It was incredibly shocking news, though I did not have any special knowledge of the case," he said in an interview to promote *A Mighty Heart*, which opened last week.

Adapted from the memoir of Mariane Pearl, the late journalist's wife, the movie charts Pearl's final days in Karachi in tense semi-documentary style.

Winterbottom was drawn into the project when Dede Gardner, the co-producer, asked him to read Pearl's book, *A Mighty Heart: The Brave Life and Death of My Husband Danny Pearl*.

"I thought it was a very powerful story," said Winterbottom, 46, a prolific director whose credits include *Welcome to Sarajevo*, *The Road to Guantanamo* and *24 Hour Party People* and whose films have been nominated for three Palme d'Or prizes at the Cannes Film Festival. "It was incredibly impressive."

He was further initiated into the film when one of the co-producers, the actor Brad Pitt, called Winterbottom. Pitt had seen *The Road to Guantanamo* – a docudrama about three young British Muslim men who were captured by American forces in Afghanistan, accused of being enemy combatants and held without charges in a U.S. prison in Cuba – and liked it immensely.

"We talked about Mariane's book and his ideas about how the film should be made," said Winterbottom.

This was followed by a meeting between Winterbottom and Mariane Pearl – a journalist herself – in Paris.

It went well and led to a meeting with Pitt and his wife, the actress Angelina Jolie, who was slated to portray Mariane.

"Angie and Mariane were already friends," said Winterbottom. "They were very close and very similar, straightforward and easy to deal with."

A Mighty Heart was shot on location in Pakistan, India and France in the summer and autumn of 2006.

"I don't think it would have been possible to make without filming it in Pakistan," he explained. "The whole point would have been lost."

The production company secured the co-operation of the ministries of interior and culture, of Sind province and of the Karachi police.

Filming took place in Karachi, Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

To Winterbottom's consternation, the intelligence services – which are alleged to have ties with Islamic extremists – were not as forthcoming.

"People followed us and gave us grief," said Winterbottom. And, he added, some crew members were arrested and then released. "I don't know why they had this attitude."

Another problem was that Pakistani actors due to shoot scenes in India had trouble obtaining Indian visas.

Nevertheless, Winterbottom and his crew muddled through.

Although he is quite familiar with Pakistan, he does not pretend to know it. "The more time you spend there, the less you understand it. It's a complex, contradictory country on the fault line of various ideas."

Asked whether Islamic radicalism is of concern to him, Winterbottom dodged the question and focused instead on Mariane Pearl.

"Mariane is saying that you have to reject extremism and not respond to terror with terror, and not to give in to prejudices on either side."

Winterbottom is currently in the process of finishing *Genova*, a film he set aside when he committed to *A Mighty Heart*.

Starring Colin Firth, Catherine Keener and Hope Davis, it is described as "a ghost story" about a British man who moves his two American daughters to Italy after his wife's death.

"I'm glad to be doing something so different," he said.

Genova will be his 15th film, not counting BBC television movies such as *Jude the Obscure* and *Family*.

As far as he is concerned, there is no mystery to his prolificacy. "I keep them simple and cheap."

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Cohen is first Jew since 1978 to win NCAA singles tennis

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
Special to The CJN

MIAMI — When tennis player Audra Cohen won the NCAA singles tennis championship for the University of Miami this year, she became the first Jewish player to win the title since Stacy Margolin of University of Southern California in 1978, as well as the first University of Miami player ever to do so.

The 21-year-old Plantation, Fla., resident has now taken the bold step of turning pro, forgoing her senior year in college.

"I have achieved all that I wanted in intercollegiate tennis and am delighted to have made history for my school, and Jewish history as well. But now it's time for me to move on and see what I can achieve on the professional tennis circuit," Cohen said.

The odds are good that Cohen's NCAA title will lead her to a long career in professional tennis. In the past decade, former NCAA singles champions Jill Craybas and Lisa Raymond went on to top-30 pro rankings, played Fed Cup for the United States and enjoyed careers of more than 10 years on the women's pro tennis circuit.

"Audra's best tennis lies ahead of her. She has tremendous belief in herself and she has the physical game to go with her mental toughness," said Cohen's coach, Paige Yaroshuk-Tewes. "She has a huge serve, great ground strokes and volleys. I wish her well, because she gave her all to her school and team mates."

Unlike other great tennis players who had stories of starting the sport at age two or three, Cohen's feat is even more remarkable because she didn't take up the sport until she and her family moved to Florida when she was 11.

Born in California, Cohen was an avid swimmer, excelling in the butterfly and breast stroke. But as soon as she came to Florida, she began to pursue tennis.

"I was literally bored with swimming and wanted the change, " she said.

She didn't excel at tennis right away, but by age 14, she had made up for lost time and was rarely losing matches. As a student at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, she went undefeated in her junior and senior years, and she was named all-state four times.

Audra Cohen has the talent to turn pro.
[University of Miami photos]

Cohen became even better as the competition improved in college. In her freshman year at Northwestern University, she advanced to the NCAA finals, compiling a 51-7 record in 2004. Since transferring to the University of Miami in 2005, she's won 70 of 80 matches in two years and was ranked Number 1 in college tennis in 2007.

"Being a late bloomer had its benefits. I went to college, became more mature and made up for not having focus when I was younger," she said.

Unlike some parents who push their athletic children, Cohen's mother and father never pressured her.

"I am thrilled for Audra's success and am proud that we let her choose tennis, rather than us pushing her in the sport," said Cohen's mother, Mary Ann, a fine art publisher and dealer in Dania, Fla.

While Audra is the first athlete in her family, she might have been the next Steven Spielberg or Picasso-in-waiting, judging by what other family members love to do.

Cohen's father, Richard, was in the film business doing special effects for films such as *Star Trek* before joining Audra's mother in the family's fine art business, while her sister is a filmmaker in Los Angeles.

Although Cohen's mother is Catholic and her father is Jewish, Cohen identifies herself as Jewish.

"I am Jewish, not Catholic. I celebrate all Jewish holidays and hope to visit Israel one day. My parents are liberal and allowed me to choose what I want to be. I went to a Catholic high school because Florida law said I had to go there, but I survived," she said with a laugh.

Despite Cohen's impressive record in 2007, wining the NCAA singles title was no cakewalk.

In the final match, she trailed Lindsey Nelson of the University of Southern California 5-3 before rallying to win the next eight games to take a 5-0 lead in the second set en route to her 7-5, 6-2 victory.

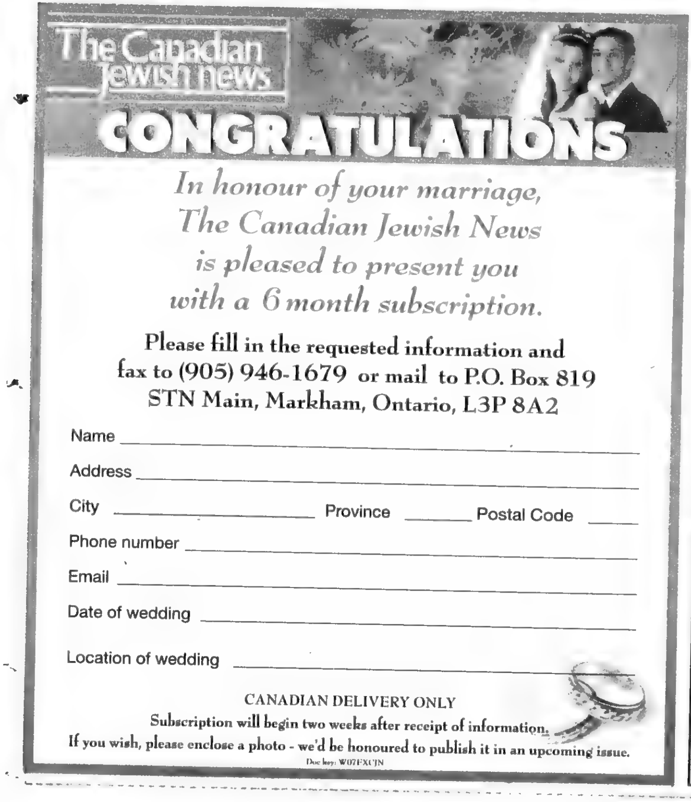
"Audra has the right disposition, and is such an easygoing person and smart that she will find a way to win on the pro circuit. Lisa Raymond and Jill Craybas became top players within two years of winning their NCAA singles titles, and Audra will as well," said former Hurricanes tennis player Melissa Applebaum, who teamed with Cohen to reach the NCAA doubles finals in 2006.

In early June, Cohen also won the prestigious Honda Award as top collegiate player in the nation.

"I can't wait to do well and meet expectations," she said.

She will be a wildcard entry in the U.S. Open in September, and may compete in qualifying at the Rogers Cup tournament in Toronto in August.

To follow Cohen's progress in the pros, go to www.audracohen.com.



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Making a difference

Sandie Benitah
20Something

Jewish thoughts on charity have been pretty clear about our responsibilities. It is our duty to give 10 per cent of our livelihood to people who have less to enjoy than we do.

However, it's always been pretty easy to rationalize reasons why at our age, we shouldn't have to. There's that first home we're all saving up for, the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) debt that still needs to be paid… by no means, we're just not rich enough to give back yet, right?

So wrong.

I'd like to think that the philosophy applies to the poorest of people, as well as the most affluent, and to young people and the older, established crowd.

At my high school graduation, I remember this girl standing on stage receiving one award after another, from working as an aide in Africa and raising money for Kosovo to excelling in her studies.

My friend and I rolled our eyes at each other and joked how this girl was about to get us into a lot of trouble with our own parents, who were watching in the audience. We felt bad that we couldn't make our parents as proud as her parents must have been.

But instead of understanding that we could give back and make a difference despite our young age or our meagre finances, we both dismissed activism as not being our thing.

I know that at some level, I dismissed activism because I didn't want to feel stupid. I knew world issues superficially, and didn't necessarily want to hear a boring lecture on the ramifications of the seal hunt, or whatever was particularly gripping the public at the moment.

I had nothing to contribute, I thought.

But it turns out I didn't need to travel to Africa or have a PhD on a topic to make a difference. All I needed was good intentions.

It took me a while to realize that after a friend of mine, a well-known environmentalist, pretty much laughed in my face when I told him of my plan to raise money for some local environmental groups.

"You just started recycling last year!" he said, laughing.

I felt deeply ashamed, and for a week, I was discouraged enough to quit my plan altogether.

But then I thought about what making a difference really means. Have we only made a difference once our lobbying efforts actually effect political change? Are we only sincerely concerned when we dedicate our life's work to an issue? In other words, do I need to be David Suzuki to care about a healthy planet?

Asking myself these questions, I felt like ditzy Elle Woods in the movie *Legally Blonde,* as she attempts to move past her sorority lifestyle and get into Harvard law — still insecure but determined.

Determined to raise money and even more determined to break through the elitist air that sometimes develops in activism circles and get back to what giving back really means.

I hate that I grew up to be the type of person that is hypocritically concerned, never moving a finger to make a difference. If so-called activists can't get through to spoiled brats like me, then are they really making a difference at all?

People have more than money to offer. I've got friends selling their art and jewelry to raise money for causes. Another buddy donates her writing and marketing skills to a non-profit group. She learns about the issue with each paragraph she writes, and while she's by no means an expert, she's definitely a valued volunteer.

It's our duty to be compassionate and give back. But it's an activist's duty to encourage us, because if they're preaching to the converted, they're not making a difference at all.

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1 x 12 oz. Brie, rind removed, cut into 1/2" cubes (about 2 cups)
1 pkg grape tomatoes, halved
1/2 c quartered pitted Kalamata olives (optional)
2 large garlic cloves, minced
1/4 tsp dried crushed red pepper
1 c fresh basil leaves, coarsely chopped, plus sprigs for garnish
3/4 lb. rigatoni noodles

With heat OFF, put cheese, tomatoes, olives, garlic, crushed red pepper in large skillet. Stir, separating cheese pieces. Mix in chopped basil. Set aside.

In large pot of boiling salted water, cook pasta until tender but still firm. Drain, reserving 1/2 c cooking liquid. To skillet with cheese mixture, add hot pasta & 1/4 c reserved liquid. Turn on stove; over medium heat, toss until cheese is partially melted and sauce coats pasta, adding more reserved liquid by tablespoonfuls if dry, about 5 min. Transfer to large serving bowl. Garnish with basil sprigs and serve. Yield: 6 servings.

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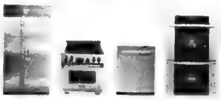

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About Life

Dear Ella,

I have a very strong attraction to my personal trainer. We meet three times a week and I count the hours until I can see him again.

Here's the problem: I'm married to a very nice man. We have been married for almost 13 years, and we have two very active boys, ages nine and 11.

My life at home is very routine and boring. I guess you might say I am in a rut. Life with my husband Gary is uneventful. We rarely talk about anything that isn't family-related. I can't remember the last time we went out alone together, and we haven't been intimate in ages, but the worse thing is, I don't care.

When I see Jamie, my personal trainer, I get goose bumps. He has awakened feelings in me that I forgot existed. I haven't acted on any of this yet. I'm still in the fantasy stage.

What am I going to do?

Needs Excitement

Dear Needs Excitement

I'm glad to hear you haven't acted on any of this yet. I don't have to tell you that a successful marriage is a constant work in progress. It's very easy to get caught up in the everyday running of a household while putting your needs on the back burner. Jamie represents freedom and excitement, while Gary represents safety and comfort. Imagine being able to have all this in one package. You can.

You need to satisfy your emotional and physical desires, and what better person to do that with than with the man who loves and adores you – your husband.

Communication and opportunity are two important tools you need to get things back on track with Gary. You need to bring back the passion that you felt before "life" got in the way.

Start with discussing how you are feeling. My guess is that Gary is probably missing the very same things you are. You both need to make time to go away alone, away from your usual surroundings and responsibilities. The two of you need to actively set out on a mission to get back some of the passion that has been replaced by everyday life.

This needs to become your priority. If you need the help of a counsellor, don't be embarrassed. Get it. Remember the most powerful sexual part of a human being is your brain. Use it and rekindle your relationship back to unimaginable heights.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Let your tzitzit fly in the wind

URBAN WRITER

Are you proud to be Jewish? Are you brave?

I ask because I'm hearing questions from Jewish people I know, such as: "Should I fly the Israeli flag from my balcony?" "Should I wear my kippah in public?" "Should I be as openly Jewish in today's world?"

These questions need to be addressed. I asked them of myself, and positive answers did not roll off my tongue as easily as they might have a couple of years ago.

It's 2007, and there's a smell of fear and discomfort in the Jewish world. I realized this as I gauged my own feelings about the safety of frum Jews walking the streets on Shabbat dressed in their religious garb.

Yet, I don't believe we live in a country that's frothing with hatred for our people. Not at all! I do recognize, however, that for my son, my family and my people, those who are anti-Semitic, and by extension anti-Israel, are gaining a stronger foothold, and, therefore, our level of vigilance must skyrocket.

By vigilance I mean staring anti-Semitism squarely in the face and taking advantage of our freedom to act against it. Let's use our vast resources to ensure that when an extremist group in Vancouver prints venomous hatred toward Jews in a mock-up of a local newspaper, we respond, and respond effectively.

Let's create a treasury of our own and call it "The fight against anti-Semitism pushka" (a pushka is a vessel in which one puts tzedakah – charity). We could use that money to counter the strong organizational and individual efforts of the hateful ones.

To Canadian Jewish Congress, B'nai Brith and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, I say, "Create the fund, and when you do, make sure more than just your own professionals can access it."

If we are to be successful in our efforts to counter those who perpetuate lies against the Jewish people and Israel, it must be through a concerted effort. I have called for this before, yet a true community effort is still not underway.

Ask Jewish students. Quietly, they'll give you the skinny. They are on the front lines of the fight but are vastly under-funded, despite the hyperbole coming from our funding agencies.

It's time we look squarely at our enemies and their intentions, and fight them on the ground.

Don't shy away. It's your chance.

To repeat what I've said before, I'm not suggesting that we're witnessing the rebirth of the old, stodgy, Christie Pits, "None is too many," Jew-hating Toronto – where infamous signs said, "No Dogs and Jews Allowed."

Anti-Semitism does not lie at the core of our society. Canada is not France or England.

I encourage you to wear your kippah proudly, or start wearing one, and to let your tzitzit fly courageously in the wind. Jewish bookstores should create a bumper sticker that reads: "Proud to be Jewish." Wear an "in your face" blue and white button in support of Israel, and fly its distinctive flag from your balcony.

"It's better to be a lion for a day than a sheep all your life," Sister Elizabeth Kenny, an Australian nurse, once said.

To be a Jew is to be bold. This is our way. Men, women, children – be emissaries for our people. We live in Canada. This is the place to spread our good story – to beat down the bad guys and embrace the good folk, to influence the world, to show our valour, and to fight this winnable fight.

This is a movement. It's incumbent on us to get involved.

There is no place to hide. The hiding places are full.

Are you proud to be Jewish? Are you brave?

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– Anne Frank

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Israelis pioneer green car fuel

By KARIN KLOOSTERMAN
Special to The CJN

TEL AVIV — Biodiesel is the hip, new and responsible car fuel of the 21st century and one of today's hottest biotechnology products.

Environmentalists are enthusiastic about it. Daryl Hannah rides around in her 1983 El Camino making biodiesel seem sexy, while Willie Nelson sings about it and brews his own recipe. Meanwhile, Woody Harrelson says he is "addicted" to it.

Ormat, an Israeli alternative and renewable energy company, is poised to take the use of biodiesel out of the realm of celebrity and environmentalism and into the mainstream. Ormat recently unveiled a new, improved biodiesel formula and expects biodiesel will be in wide use within the next two years.

Yehudit and Lucien Bronicki co-founded the alternative energy firm Ormat.

After 40 years of pioneering new forms of energy around the globe with her husband Lucien, Yehudit (Dita) Bronicki, Ormat's CEO, is revving her company's engines to help phase out polluting, traditional diesel.

"We have developed biodiesel which has the same features as conventional diesel, but that can be used in engines with a concentration of 100 per cent biodiesel and without

Continued on page 28

Nine authors receive Jewish book awards

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Nine authors and a publisher were honoured with Jewish book awards in Toronto two weeks ago, demonstrating yet again that there is no shortage of books published in Canada that reflect Jewish concerns and themes.

A near-capacity crowd filled the Leah Posluns Theatre for the 19th annual Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards ceremony on June 21, showing its appreciation as the authors won in a range of categories, and as guest speaker Robert Fulford spoke on the power of Jewish writing.

The prize for best fiction went to Susan Glickman for *The Violin Lover* (Goose Lane Editions). Her first novel, it is a tale about a clandestine love affair set in Jewish London in the 1930s against the backdrop of Hitler's escalating campaign against the Jews. A poet and critic, Glickman grew up in Montreal and now lives in Toronto.

As usual, the Holocaust was well represented during the evening, with more than half of the winning titles dealing with some aspect of that theme.

Rosemary Sullivan received the prize for Holocaust history/scholarship for the non-fiction work *Villa Air-Bel* (HarperCollins Canada). Partially set in Paris in 1940, the book is a meticulous study of a group of high-profile cultural refugees denounced as enemies of the Third Reich – including André Breton, Max Ernst, Marc Chagall and Consuelo de Saint-Exupéry – and the heroic young people who saved them in the Villa Air-Bel, a chateau outside Marseilles.

Eric Koch received the prize for biography/memoir for *I Remember the Location Exactly* (Mosaic Press), his memoir on growing up in Frankfurt, Germany, between the wars. Writer-artist Bernice Eisenstein won in the Holocaust memoir/literature category for her graphic novel *I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors* (McClelland & Stewart); and Carol Matas won in the category of children's and youth literature for *Turned Away: The World War II Diary of Devora Bernstein* (Scholastic Canada).

Two prominent Yiddishists were honoured for their respective works. Michael Wex was given the prize in scholarship on a Jewish subject for *Born to Kvetch: Yiddish Language and Culture in All of Its Moods* (St. Martin's Press/ HarperCollins). Unfortunately, the assembly was deprived of hearing some choice Yiddishisms from Wex because he, at the very moment he might have been giving an acceptance speech, was instead winging to Poland for a speaking engagement.

Editor-translator Shirley Kumove received the prize in Yiddish literature and translation from Yiddish for

Continued on page 41

CJN wins Rockower awards

SAN FRANCISCO — *The Canadian Jewish News* won three Rockower awards for newspaper excellence at the annual American Jewish Press Association (AJPA) conference.

Founded in 1944 as a voluntary not-for-profit professional association for the English-language Jewish press in North America, the AJPA represents almost 250 newspapers, magazines, individual journalists and affiliated organizations throughout the United States and Canada.

Staff writer Paul Lungen won top honours in the category of excellence in news and features writing for newspapers with more than 15,000 circulation for his article "Canadian completes Israeli astronaut's mission."

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This Week

National

It's business as usual for new UIAFC head. ***Page 24***

El Al Canadian GM Stanley Morias makes aliyah. ***Page 25***

Seniors' Scene

Geri Migicovsky creates *A Trip Down Radio Lane.* ***Page 17***

Arts & Travel

25-year-old singer launches debut album. ***Page34***

Local actress makes waves on YouTube. ***Page 35***

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Russian businessman now heads European Jewish Congress — see page 28

The News in Brief

CANADA

Shell To Coach RMC

KINGSTON — The Royal Military College (RMC) of Canada has named Adam Shell as head coach of its men's hockey team. A Toronto-area native, Shell has served as assistant coach with McGill University the past two seasons. He also played four years of university hockey at McGill from 1999 to 2003. The RMC Paladins missed the Ontario University Athletics playoffs for the first time in seven years last season. Shell takes over for Jim Hulton, who was named to an assistant coaching position in the Ontario Hockey League.

WORLD

Hotel Returned

ALEXANDRIA — A luxury hotel in Alexandria that had belonged to Jews until it was nationalized by Egypt in 1952 was returned. Founded in 1929 by a French Jewish immigrant, the hotel was seized from the Metzger family in 1952 during Gamal Abdel Nasser's nationalist revolution. Five years later, the Metzgers were expelled from Egypt. Now an 86-room, four-star hotel run by the French company Accor, the Cecil Hotel was returned recently to the Metzger family, then resold to Egypt for an undisclosed amount, Agence-France Presse reported. In its heyday, the Cecil hosted such figures as Winston Churchill, and Al Capone. A 1996 Egyptian court ruling returned the hotel to its Jewish owners, but it was never carried out for fear it would set a precedent for the restitution of nationalized Jewish property in Egypt.

Rice Nixed Bid to Free Pollard: Report

JERUSALEM — Condoleezza Rice reportedly quashed an Israeli proposal in 2005 for Jonathan Pollard to be freed in exchange for a jailed Palestinian militia leader.

On the eve of the Gaza pullout, then-prime minister Ariel Sharon proposed that Israel would free Marwan Barghouti, a Fatah leader jailed for terror attacks but seen as a potential counterweight to Hamas' ascendancy, if the United States in turn released Pollard, *Ma'ariv* reported June 24. According to the paper, Israel's ambassador to Washington at the time, Danny Ayalon, raised the top-secret proposal with the U.S. secretary of state, but she rejected it. "Pollard's release is out of the question," *Ma'ariv* quoted her as telling Ayalon. "Danny, I'd advise you not to pursue this any further. Pollard betrayed his country, and that issue is taboo in Washington."

Jonathan Pollard

U.S. officials had no immediate comment on the report, which was consistent with the position of successive U.S. administrations that Pollard, a former U.S. Navy analyst who passed classified information to Israel, should serve out his life prison sentence. Israeli sources confirmed the Sharon government put together a prisoner-swap proposal at the time.

Law Change Backed

WASHINGTON — A coalition of 16 U.S. Jewish groups is backing a proposed provision to the U.S. Terrorism Insurance Act that would keep insurers from withholding insurance based on a client's Israel travel. Insurers often reject travellers who have visited or plan to visit nations on the U.S. State Department's travel warning list, which frequently includes Israel. A letter sent June 27 to the U.S. House of Representatives financial services committee, which is considering renewing the 2002 act, said that "travel in Israel is not statistically more dangerous than travel in the United States" and that the U.S homicide rate is higher than Israel's.

Spy Found Dead

LONDON — A retired Egyptian official who was exposed as one of Israel's top spies has died in Britain. Ashraf Marwan, a former Egyptian intelligence officer and son-in-law of the late president Gamal Abdel Nasser, was found dead outside his London apartment June 27, apparently having fallen from his balcony. Police are investigating. Israeli experts speculated Marwan, 62, may have been assassinated or committed suicide. Egypt has not formally commented on his death. Marwan was a Mossad informant who passed Jerusalem a warning that Egypt planned a surprise attack in October 1973. The information was ignored, and after the ruinous Yom Kippur War, the Mossad chief and his counterpart in military intelligence traded blame over the incident. The case went to court, and Marwan's identity was leaked to the press.

Milestone Reached

ST. PETERSBURG — A Jewish newspaper in Russia marked its 400th issue. *Ami*, the St. Petersburg bi-weekly, was founded in June 1990 at the height of then-Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev's Glasnost policies. Yakov Tsukerman, *Ami*'s founder and editor, recalled that the early issues were checked by Soviet censors. The paper's print run of 2,500 copies goes to subscribers in Russia, western Europe, Israel and the United States.

More Aussie Jews?

SYDNEY — The number of Australian Jews rose 5.4 per cent in five years, to 88,801 people, according to Australia's 2006 census. The results, released July 27 by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, showed that more Australians designated Judaism as their faith in the 2006 census, but because religion is the only non-mandatory question in the census, the growth could indicate more willingness to identify as Jewish, rather than Jewish population expansion. Australian Jews generally estimate their community at more than 100,000 people, explaining that many Holocaust survivors dislike disclosing their religion to census takers. Melbourne has 46 per cent of the country's Jews, followed by Sydney, with 41 per cent. The country ranks as the 10th-largest Jewish community worldwide, according to the 2002 World Jewish Population Study. Jews constitute about 0.4 per cent of Australia's 20 million people.

Survivor Pensions Rise

BERLIN — Germany agreed to a cost-of-living pension hike for at least 50,000 Holocaust survivors in Europe. The decision was announced June 27 by the Conference for Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Negotiators also secured an extra 1,500 pensions for survivors who are or were citizens of certain western European countries. The cost-of-living increase will take effect Oct. 1. Germany will increase monthly payments from $235 to $268 (US) for eligible survivors in the European Union. About 14,500 survivors in non-EU former eastern bloc countries will see their payments increase from $168 to $221.

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Families sue for disabled funding in faith schools

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Eight Ontario families and an advocacy group for faith-based schooling are suing the province to force it to fund children with disabilities in private schools in the same way it funds those in public schools.

They allege the province discriminates against students with disabilities in religious private schools by not funding kids with hearing or visual impairments and learning disabilities. Support services for those disabilities are funded in public and Catholic schools through the Ministry of Education, meaning kids in other faith-based schools are not eligible for similar funding.

The families want the Ontario Superior Court to rule that their religious freedom under the Charter of Rights has been violated, and to force the government to fund the same kinds of disabilities in private religious schools that are covered in the public system.

At a Queen's Park press conference last week, lawyers for the families and the Multi-Faith Coalition for Equal Funding of Faith-Based Schools (MFC), which represents Jewish, Sikh, Muslim and non-Catholic Christian education interests, announced they had commenced legal proceedings.

Brian Shell, a lawyer for the eight families, said the case is "a challenge to government to explain why these children [in private religious schools] are provided with none of the in-school supports they would have in public schools. Where is the fairness?"

In 2000, the Conservative government extended support funding to private school and home-schooled students with disabilities.

The Ministry of Health oversees the annual $14.4 million fund, but only private school students who qualify medically for specific special needs – such as speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy – can get money through the Health Ministry's Community Care Access Centres (CCAC).

But the families and the MFC say the criteria exclude some prominent disabilities.

In a June 26 press release, the coalition said that "the [Liberal] government arbitrarily decided that funding for blind, deaf, and/or children with learning disabilities [in private schools] would not be available since [that support funding] comes from… the Ministry of Education."

David Spencer, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Health, disagreed with the coalition's claim that certain disabilities are not funded by the government, saying his ministry could fund all applicants.

"Anyone can apply to the CCAC for assistance, [but] the need must be identified as medically necessary, as opposed to what [the MFC] is talking about as an 'educational support,'" Spencer told *The CJN*. "There's no arbitrary line drawn that sets certain disabilities against others. It's a matter of assessment... whether the need that has been identified is medically necessary instead of something needed to assist in an educational setting."

However, another Health Ministry spokesperson said that the "ministry does not fund CCACs to provide services that address the intellectual/developmental, behavioural or learning needs of children."

Missy Hecker and her son, Max Greenberg, 11, attended last week's press conference as one of the eight families named in the lawsuit.

Max, who just finished Grade 5 at Associated Hebrew Schools, was diagnosed with non-verbal learning disorder years ago.

"When Max was in Grade 3, he could barely function in class," Hecker told *The CJN*. "This wasn't a shortcoming of his school, this was a failing of our government. [The province] has ignored Max's basic rights as a child with a learning disorder."

Hecker estimates it has cost her family around $6,000 dollars to equip her son with scholastic aids such as a laptop computer and digital recorders to help him keep up in school.

She acknowledged her family is financially able to continue sending Max to private school, but wanted to join the lawsuit because "it's the right thing to do."

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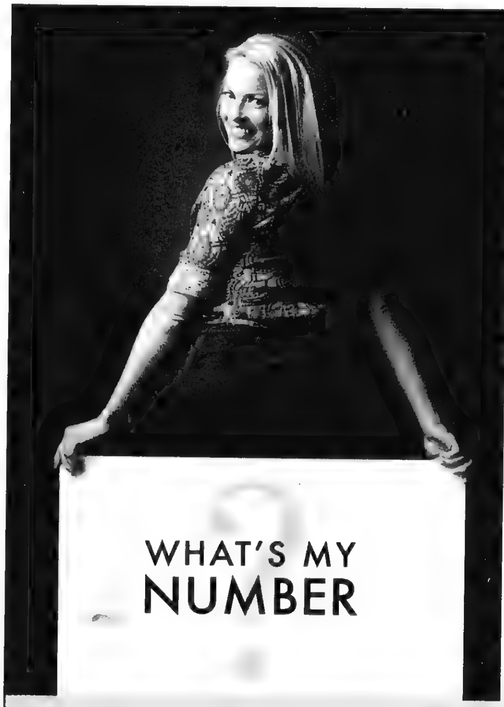

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Musicals at Stratford

From the editor's desk

This season's playbill at the Stratford Festival of Canada reaches back more than eight decades in bringing to the stage the storied musicals *My One and Only* and *Oklahoma*.

My One and Only is a music and dance review of the songs written by the then-avante-garde, revolutionary music-makers George and Ira Gershwin. It follows a story based on a book by Peter Stone and Timothy S. Mayer. It premièred in 1983. George, the younger of the two Gershwin brothers, did not live to see the show. He died, alas, at the age of 38 in 1937.

With dazzling fluidity, the show strings together more than a dozen songs that the brothers wrote in the jazzy, Tin Pan Alley, Broadway-belting, flapper-dancing days of the late 1920s and '30s.

Cynthia Dale and Laird Mackintosh

The story takes place in 1927, the year Charles Lindbergh was the first to fly solo across the Atlantic, from continental United States to Paris. Indeed the contest to become the first trans-Atlantic solo pilot is an important part of the tension in the plot.

Billy Buck Chandler, a young testosterone-oozing pilot, falls deeply, if quickly, in love with the beautiful Edythe Herbert, a champion swimmer, star-performer in the extravagant Acquacade dance troupe controlled by the sneering and sinister Prince Nicolai.

But there are major stumbling blocks strewn along the path of the hopeful, burgeoning relationship. Whether pilot and dancer ultimately are able to overcome them resolves only at play's end.

Before we arrive at the play's resolution, however, we feast on non-stop, intricate interlacings of dazzling, colourful dance and song.

The entire troupe stands out. Cynthia Dale, both elegant and delicate, as Edythe, commands the stage whenever she appears. Laird Mackintosh, as Billy, is smooth and charming. Mark Cassius as Mr. Magix is velvety cool as the relaxed, more experienced mentor. Marcus Nance's booming base voice is an arc of compelling sound. And Dayna Tekatch is sneaky smart as Mickey.

Director Michael Lichtefeld has brought to the stage a marvellous frolic of finely imagined, deeply visual work. The costumes are eye-popping and the number of quick changes by the actors and dancers, a tremendous display, in and of itself, of performance magic.

Oklahoma was the first collaboration between Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein. The famous songwriting duo would go on to write hit after musical hit on Broadway.

Written in 1943, the story of *Oklahoma* uses the late 19th century in the Wild West territory of mid-United States as a backdrop to explore darker, more complicated human issues. Rogers and Hammerstein confront real situations of human dilemma in the unique manner that became their signature: with thoughtful, poignant music and lyric.

Curly McClain, a cowboy, strives for the affections of Laurey Williams, a farm girl. He wins her over, of course, but it is not a smooth campaign.

The very opening of the play promises the enchantment that follows.

One of the staging sets, which is divided into 14 sections on the wall, wondrously depicts, through lighting, a prairie night sky slowly awakening to day.

Curly, played by Dan Chameroy, enters and sings *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning*. His voice is controlled and softly melodic.

The song is immediately familiar to baby boomer and older listeners and is the pleasant augury for the rest of the play's toe-tapping or humming-along music.

Blythe Wilson, as Laurey, the strong-willed farm girl is vivacious. The ballet dream scene summons forth strength, agility and composure that characterize her standout performance throughout.

Blythe Wilson and Dan Chameroy

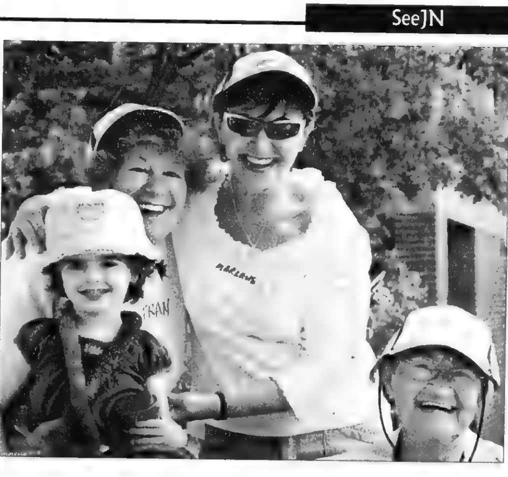
Jonathan Ellul as the schlemiel-like Ali Hakim is superb. David Keeley convincingly portrays the disturbed and troubled Jud Fry. Lindsay Thomas is a sizzling sparkplug as Ado Annie, and Nora McLellan, as Aunt Ellen, the woman with the country smarts, has an edge but a soft-hearted one.

The high-energy, high-stepping dance and compelling broad harmonies of the full ensemble pieces are masterful. Director and choreographer Donna Feore's star shines deservedly as a brilliant light, reflected back to the attention-wrapt audience in the full, breathtaking splendour and seemingly impossible hard work of the entire cast.

Both plays, *My One and Only* and *Oklahoma*, as performed by the Stratford Festival's players, are musical and dance entertainment at their highest level.

– ***MBD***

SeeJN



RAISING MONEY FOR NEUROBLASTOMA RESEARCH: From left, Lilah Petersiel, 3, her bubbies Fran Petersiel and Marlene Moscoe, and great-bubbie Lil Rose prepare for the arrival of more than 700 guests for Sunday in the Park with Lilah, held June 24 at the Toronto French School. The event, now in its third year, raised more than $50,000 for Lilah's Fund. The fund has raised a total of almost $250,000 for research into neuroblastoma at the Hospital for Sick Children. Lilah is a survivor of the childhood cancer, which affects the sympathetic nervous system. The event included a fundraising walk, a barbecue, a silent auction and appearances by musicians Mark Weinstock and Kayla, along with local celebrities Patty from CBC Kids, Fan 590 radio personality Gord Stellick and two-time Olympic medallist Alison Korn.

Toronto's BJE becomes the Mercaz

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

On July 1, the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education – known as the BJE – officially became the Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education, or more informally, the Mercaz, which is Hebrew for "centre."

"The name says what the priorities are," Mercaz chair Lou Greenbaum told *The CJN* at a reception held last week at Beth Tzedec Congregation to celebrate the change, one of four key recommendations, out of a total of 23, to come out of a study released last year on the future of Toronto's Jewish day schools.

The study's other three main proposals were a test loan program for tuition, a $100-million education endowment fund, and a study to examine the idea of creating a community-wide middle school in Vaughan.

The middle school idea was rejected because of lack of support from existing schools, but the test loan program will be implemented some time in the coming year, as soon as the Mercaz' lay leadership structure is organized, the BJE's executive director, Seymour Epstein, told *The CJN*.

Rabbi Joshua Elkin

As well, the endowment fund – now called the Education Megafund – "will be one of the first priorities of the new administration," he said.

"The truth is, it already exists. There's already a significant amount of money, in the millions of dollars, designated to education."

In a speech at the Mercaz launch, Greenbaum said that without Jewish education, a community has no future. "We need to find ways of making a Jewish education and life experiences more affordable for our young and middle income families – and we need to ensure that the quality of education is enhanced to maintain our position as a world leader."

The Mercaz mandate will include formal and informal education, including adult education. As well, according to its website, the centre is committed to increasing tuition subsidies and exploring new education financing solutions.

"I hope the change will eventuate in increased funding for education, and that the community has seen fit to give this pillar the kind of power it needs to get more work done in terms of quality enhancement," said Epstein, who headed the BJE and will also lead the renamed entity, while retaining his title as federation's senior vice-president of Jewish education and identity.

"You can't really broaden and deepen the commitment without taking on a fiscal commitment as well, and I think over the next few years, we will see that," he said.

As in the past with the BJE, schools will not be accountable to the Mercaz for their quality, but an approach called "quality review and enhancement," to be instituted in all funded institutions, will "allow them to assess their own work," Epstein said.

"There was some element of that [before]. We're now making it systemic and systematic," he said.

The BJE, which was established in 1949 as the Bureau of Jewish Education, has been through several periods of reorganization, outgoing BJE chair Baila Lubek told the event. It now serves more than 70 day and supplementary schools in the Toronto area.

Sandy Brown, a past BJE chair, noted that a 1975 recommendation for preschool subsidy funding still has not been achieved. "I think it's something we need to revisit," she said.

Challenges that were met but still require attention include a need for more and better-trained teachers, and the climbing cost of tuition, Brown said.

Keynote speaker Rabbi Joshua Elkin, executive director of the Boston-based Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE), said that "central agencies like the BJE, now morphing into the Mercaz, are being asked across the country to remake themselves to adapt to changing circumstances."

He said challenges include "the pervasiveness of a majority culture intruding more and more, mostly through technology," the difficulty of finding and reaching large numbers of unaffiliated Jews, and a dearth of "quality" lay and professional leaders.

He credited the Toronto community for its "vision," and challenged the audience of about 130 people to "keep that vision hot, and… push beyond the present."

He added: "We need more people thinking 10 years out."

The rabbi also identified two groups that need to be targeted so that they can "fall in love with Judaism": parents of infants to three-year-olds, and grandparents, a significant number of whom contribute financially to their grandchildren's education.

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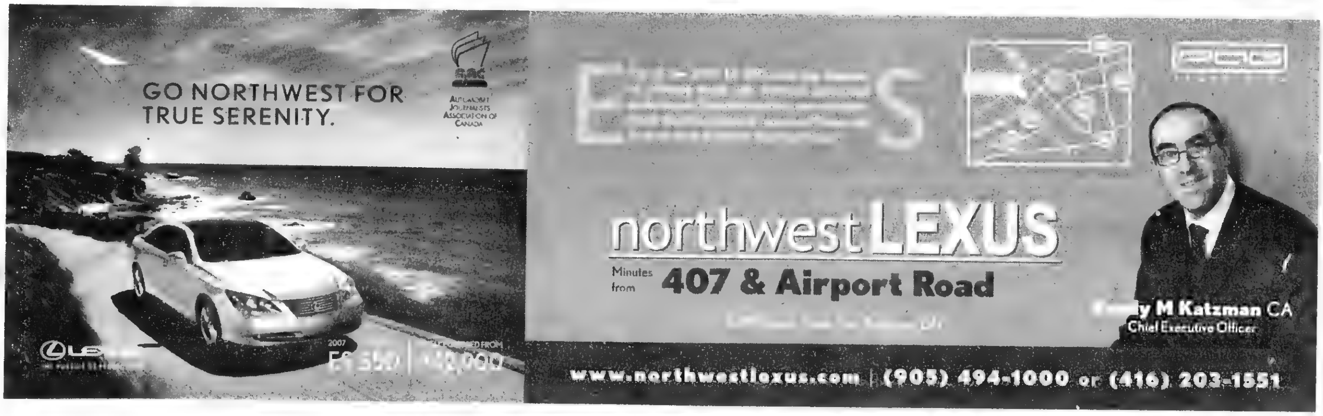

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Israeli official pleased with bilateral trade growth

By **PAUL LUNGEN**
Staff Reporter

When Ephraim Shoham arrived in Toronto as Israel's trade commissioner four years ago, he quickly learned that the hardest part of his job would be to get Canadian businesses to think of Israel when they considered trading partners.

"The question was exposure, just exposure," he said. "If you look at Canadian statistics, 85 per cent of Canadian exports are to the United States. Forget about Israel. They don't export to other countries."

Changing Israel's image among Canadian business people and exposing them to potential business opportunities became his top priorities.

As he prepares to depart for Israel at the end of his pre-set four-year stint in August, Shoham said he is satisfied he was at least partly successful in facilitating a growing trade relationship between the two countries.

When he arrived in Toronto in 2003, two-way trade was $559 million ($326 million in Israeli exports and $233 million in Canadian sales to Israel – all figures U.S.)

Today, total trade is $951 million, of which $528 million is attributable to Israeli exports and $369 million is the value of Canadian exports.

That's an 80 per cent jump in Israeli exports to Canada and a 50 per cent growth in Canadian sales to Israel, he said, and it doesn't include Israeli exports to Canada via the United States (add 30 per cent to the above figure), nor does it take into account $1 billion a year in Israeli investment in Canadian real estate.

While not all of this increased trade can be laid directly at his doorstep, Shoham is satisfied Israel has taken some giant steps towards meeting the trade potential between the two countries.

Ephraim Shoham

In this equation, Israelis are not so much the problem, he said.

"Israelis have become very international," he explained. "Because Israel is a small marketplace, the majority of Israeli production is focused on exports. We are English-educated. Many of us have been studying in North America, so [difference in business] culture is not an issue anymore.

"The missing point is exposure by Canadians to Israeli opportunities."

Shoham was aided in his goal last year when legendary U.S. investor Warren Buffett paid $4 billion for an 80 per cent stake in Iscar Metalworking Cos., an industry leader in metal-cutting tools, in his first major investment outside the United States.

That put Israel on the global investment map, Shoham said. "Canadian business people heard about the deal, so they know Israel is a place to invest."

Of course Shoham had to do his own selling job, and for help in setting up meetings, he relied on business contacts within the Jewish community, on networking at trade and business shows and on referrals from friends at prominent law firms. He also receives calls and e-mails from Canadian companies seeking advice on Israeli products and technology.

Shoham points to a meeting with Jerry Zucker, the Charleston, S.C.-based owner of the Hudson's Bay Company, that was arranged after the latter's speaking engagement at a UJA campaign event.

Shoham introduced Zucker to a variety of Israeli products that he felt the giant retailer could sell, including cosmetics and other beauty aids, textiles and home products. That meeting led to further meetings with HBC senior managers and purchasing directors, and they have identified seven Israeli companies of interest.

A concrete purchase order has also been received from the Katz Group, which operates the Rexall and Pharma Plus drugstores. The pharmacies have agreed to buy about $1 million in cosmetic products, with that total expected to climb to $5 million in a few years, Shoham said.

Shoham has met with executives of Bombardier – which already does business in Israel, supplying the country's rail locomotives – to convince them to consider Israeli-made aircraft components for the company's aerospace division.

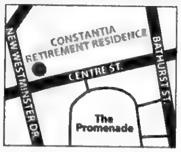
As well, he has promoted venture capital meetings between Israeli and Canadian investors, and he has directed entrepreneurs to a research and development fund established jointly by the governments of Ontario and Israel.

Shoham came to Toronto from a position as director-general of the Industrial Co-operation Authority, a government agency that promotes business between foreign suppliers and Israeli companies.

His boss was Ehud Olmert, Israel's current prime minister who was trade minister at the time. Shoham asked for the Toronto posting, but had to beat a field of 14 other applicants to get the job.

As he contemplates his return to Israel along with his wife Ariela, he has a couple of job offers on the table. Though he won't say what they are, he said, "I would like to continue working in Israel-Canada trade in the private sector."

As for his time in Canada, "I think it was a fantastic period. I travelled all across Canada. This is my best job ever, because of the active work, the variety, the technical products and economic-related activity, and of course, the results."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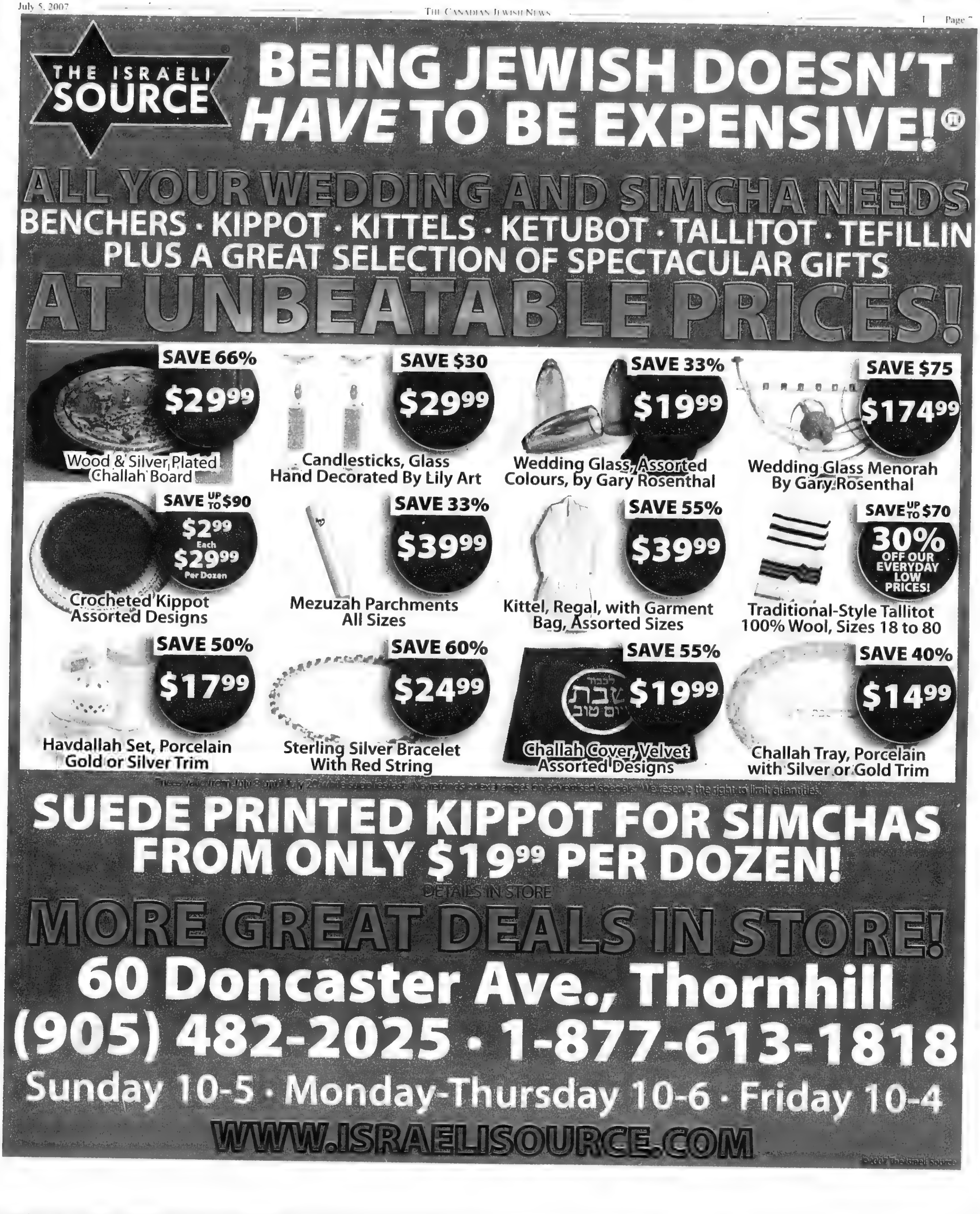

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Tremors in Iran

Two weeks ago, the *New York Times* published a report about the state of social and economic affairs in Iran that was as shocking as it was revealing. "Iran is in the throes of one of its most ferocious crackdowns on dissent in years, with the government focusing on labor leaders, universities, the press, women's rights advocates, a former nuclear negotiator and Iranian-Americans. The shift is occurring against the backdrop of an economy so stressed that although Iran is the world's second-largest oil exporter, it is on the verge of rationing gasoline."

Three days after the news report appeared, the government of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad did indeed ration gasoline. Last Tuesday, the Islamic Republic of Iran limited the private consumption of gasoline to 100 litres per month. Taxi drivers are allowed 800 litres per month.

Riots ensued. Some gasoline stations were set ablaze, some banks and businesses were attacked. Three people were reported killed. As of this writing, the unrest had swept unabated into a second day.

But the riots may not only have been in response to the hardships caused by the government's corrupt and inept economic policies. Its harsh, repressive theocratic policies may also be a factor.

The crackdown recorded in the *Times* entailed public humiliation of fellow Iranians who do not conform to the regime's medieval codes of behaviour that was brutal, sadistic and quite reminiscent of the public humiliations by the brown-shirted thugs of the Nazi party against Jews and other "undesirables" some 70 years ago in the streets of Germany.

"Young men wearing T-shirts deemed too tight or haircuts seen as too western have been paraded bleeding through Tehran's streets by uniformed police officers who force them to suck on plastic jerrycans, a toilet item Iranians use to wash their bottoms… The country's police chief boasted that 150,000 people – a number far larger than usual – were detained in the annual spring sweep against any clothing considered not Islamic."

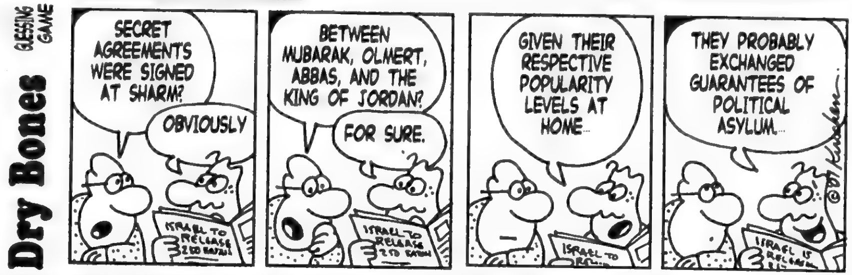
There is now no doubt that Ahmadinejad is facing growing discontent. He suffered a major setback last December when his party and its candidates fared poorly in local elections. In nine months, he faces crucial parliamentary elections. Before then, however, he will attempt with all his scheming, demagogic might to win his people's favour by scapegoating Israel and the United States for his countrymen's suffering. Many people fear that the rationing of gasoline is merely a way of hoarding scarce fuel for the army to use in the showdown with America that Tehran believes is inevitable.

The public protests are a testament to the courage of the Iranian people. They are also a testament to the effectiveness of stiff, systematic economic sanctions. When the question of further sanctions is debated in the United Nations, we hope the government of Canada will be in the vanguard urging that they be made even tighter.

Tremors of protest are shaking in Iran. Perhaps they may yet cause a spontaneous toppling by the people of their abusive government.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

More than 500 people turned out for a ceremony naming a roadway in Toronto's Earl Bales Park for Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who is credited with saving thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. Municipal, provincial and federal politicians, along with Sweden's ambassador to Canada, were among those in attendance.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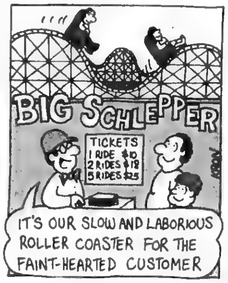
Stranger than fiction

Thanks to modern technology, my cable company now provides me with news in Hebrew straight from Israel. By now, most of us know that Hamas released a tape featuring kidnapped Israeli soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit ("Hamas plays tape of kidnapped soldier," *CJN*, June 28). Gilad's father obviously saw the tape as well. A Hamas spokesperson was in the midst of giving an interview when his cellphone rang and it was Noam Shalit, Gilad's father. The strangest conversation ensued.

Protocol would have it that they both inquire about each other's health, and Shalit asked if he could call the Hamas spokesperson again, but off camera. The spokesperson was extremely polite and answered, "Call me anytime. You have my number." I felt as if I was watching a scene from an Alfred Hitchcock movie. It was unbelievable, almost surreal. As a parent, I know Shalit's heart was breaking and he probably wanted to scream; however, his composure was admirable and also unbelievable. The entire episode must have lasted only a moment or two, but I can tell you that it made a lasting impression on me. It was truly stranger than fiction.

Vardit Zafri
Toronto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Threatened boycott attacks all universities

The proposed boycott of Israel by the British University and College Union goes against the fundamental university values of freedom of expression and free circulation of ideas ("Response to U.K. boycott threat," *CJN*, June 14). To attempt to limit the ability of Israeli universities to freely engage in scholarship and teaching with other sister institutions in the world is attacking all universities at their core mission. Acts of exclusion, such as those proposed by the British University and College Union, will only further exacerbate existing tensions. I urge my fellow British university colleagues to oppose this potentially disastrous and deplorable move. Scholarly understanding and free academic exchange and expression can only contribute to a peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Gilles Patry
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Ottawa

* * *

Response to Rabbi Tanenbaum

In his column, Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum argues that what professors Steven Cohen and Arnold Eisen have termed the sovereign self "feels free to approach Judaism with his or her own sense of authority and with no sense of communal or divine boundaries" ("Dethroning the sovereign self," *CJN*, June 21). This phenomenon is a growing trend in American Jewish society and is in opposition to accepting "heavenly sovereignty," by which one can be measured as a "good Jew" or a "poor Jew."

As a secular Jew, I firmly believe that what our society needs today is not a sense of "Divine commandedness" but rather a sense of collective introspection. In our modern society, personal authority has been constantly eroding due to the influences of religion, commercialism and scientific materialism. I do not have a problem with the idea of believing in something beyond oneself. I can actually see a reverence for God or for the divine as laid out in biblical and rabbinic texts as a potential source of liberation. But I would subordinate such a belief to a strong conviction and knowledge of self.

If one is familiar with the notions of "teenage angst" or "middle age crisis," one can begin to understand that the "sovereign self" is really part and parcel of the human condition when personal sovereignty is allowed to blossom.

Perhaps there is something to the notion that many American Jews worship themselves and are in this sense idolaters. However, the corrective is not indoctrination but education.

Michael Helfield
Toronto

* * *

German-Jewish History Awards

Today's Germans are dealing with their country's horrible past in a constructive manner. Thousands of them have made extraordinary contributions to preserving vestiges of former Jewish life in their local communities, including historical records, cultural material, cemeteries and synagogues. They carry out such activities as volunteers because they feel it is the right thing to do – the preservation of Jewish material is one of the few ways in which they can respond constructively.

On Jan. 24, 2008, five Germans will receive the Obermayer German-Jewish History Awards in the Berlin Parliament. They will be selected by a jury of seven eminent and knowledgeable individuals, based on nominations to be submitted by Sept. 20, 2007. The call for nominations can be found at www.obermayer.us/award. A hard copy of the call for nominations can be requested from the German-Jewish Community History Council, 239 Chestnut St., West Newton, Ma., 02465, U.S.A. or by e-mailing germanaward@hotmail.com.

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First Blair, now Brown

By VANESSA BULKACZ
JTA

After Tony Blair was elected prime minister of Great Britain a decade ago, he proved himself to be a friend of Jews and of Israel, a position that at times has caused him trouble within his own Labour party.

Now, with Blair stepping down this week as prime minister, the question arises: will his successor, Gordon Brown, be as solidly behind the Jewish state and the British Jewish community?

The transition comes as British Jews are feeling increasingly under attack. Several trade unions, long allied with the Labour party, have spearheaded efforts to boycott Israel.

And a report last February published by the Community Security Trust, which represents the Jewish community on matters of anti-Semitism, terrorism, policing and security, showed anti-Semitic incidents in the United Kingdom at record levels since documentation began in 1984.

Despite the tense atmosphere, Jewish leaders here praise Blair for his commitment to their issues.

"Since becoming prime minister in 1997, the Jewish community has been able to look on Mr. Blair as a friend and ally, addressing our concerns and defending our interests both domestically and on the international stage," the president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Henry Grunwald, said in a statement.

Blair will continue to play a role in the international arena – last Wednesday he was to be named the special envoy to the Middle East for the Quartet, the diplomatic grouping of the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations.

Beyond the Middle East, the Board of Deputies points to more than a dozen new state-aided Jewish schools, an increase in funding for Holocaust education and the establishment of Holocaust Memorial Day as examples of Blair's positive record.

Responding to a parliamentary inquiry into the rising tide of anti-Semitism in the United Kingdom, the British government made 35 recommendations recently to combat what one official called "the absolute scourge of our society."

Tony Blair

Blair visited Israel several times a year in attempts to boost the peace process. He appointed Lord Levy, one of his inner circle advisers, as Middle East envoy.

A year ago, in a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Blair proclaimed that "relations between Britain and Israel have never been better or deeper."

While Blair's unflagging support of Israel has produced accolades from the Jewish community, it has brought aggravation from his party.

Yet even during predictions of, and requests for, his departure – largely over issues in the Middle East – Blair offered the keynote address at Labour Friends of Israel's annual conference in September.

In his remarks, Blair said that Israel wants to know that "other countries in the region respect its desire to live in peace and are prepared to recognize the most basic and fundamental thing, which is its right to exist. And I believe that is a reasonable position for Israel to adopt."

This understanding in the face of mounting opposition from party members and the public did not go unrecognized by supporters of the Jewish state.

Jane Kennedy, a member of Parliament and chair of Labour Friends of Israel, told JTA that Blair has had enormous success in terms of Britain's relationship with Israel.

Even some in the opposing party bestow accolades.

"There's no doubt that Blair gets it in terms of Israel," Stuart Polak, director of Conservative Friends of Israel, told JTA. "He understands and is a great supporter."

Blair has cited the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as one of the biggest challenges facing the international community, and last year he vowed publicly to use his final months in office to try to secure peace.

His new post as special envoy will be based in Jerusalem, with a potential second office in the West Bank.

The Israeli government approves the idea of Blair as envoy.

As for Brown, who is taking over as head of the Labour party, observers believe he will maintain his predecessor's strong relationship with Israel and the Jewish community.

As chancellor of the Exchequer, Brown has consistently provided increased levels of funding for Holocaust education. In his keynote speech at a recent dinner of the Board of Deputies, he praised the Jewish community for overcoming challenges "from discrimination and racism to terrorism and security" and emerging stronger than ever "precisely because you are built on the greatest and strongest of foundations. Your ethos is the living embodiment of community in action."

Brown reportedly is also a confidante of Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, a relationship that appeared to strengthen after their fathers died within a short period of each other. Brown's father was apparently a strong influence in his connection to Jewish and Israeli issues.

In an interview with *Time* magazine last May, Brown said his father "used to visit Israel twice a year, so I learned quite a lot about the Middle East."

Brown already has visited the Middle East several times. And among the new cabinet members he announced last week were prominent pro-Israel and pro-Jewish politicians.

Labour Friends of Israel, for one, has no fears about Brown replacing Blair.

"I have found him to be very well informed, personally committed to supporting Israel and very keen to help in bringing about the lasting settlement that we all want to see," Kennedy said.

Gordon Brown

And as the voice of Britain's Jewish community, the leadership of the Board of Deputies is "delighted" by the prospect of Brown's imminent prime ministership.

"We were delighted that when Gordon Brown spoke at the recent Board of Deputies President's Dinner, he reiterated his pledge to fight anti-Semitism," Grunwald told JTA. He said they were encouraged by his comments that the Jewish community "does not cause anti-Semitism and it must not fall on them to have to defeat it."

He also said, 'I recoil in revulsion at the prospect of boycotts of Israel and the Israeli academic community.'"

What Tony Blair brings to his new role

By RON KAMPEAS
JTA

WASHINGTON — Tony Blair brings a lot to his new job as a peace envoy: his hands-on experience as British prime minister in dealing with Middle East issues; the confidence U.S. President George W. Bush places in him as a loyal supporter of the Iraq war; and a long-held view that resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is vital to stabilizing the region.

The question in this case is whether "a lot" constitutes useful experience or debilitating baggage.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders are welcoming, if a little wary of Blair, whose new role was announced last Wednesday. Blair will be the envoy of the Quartet, the diplomatic grouping of the United States, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union.

"Blair comes with baggage on the Arab side of having done Iraq," said Stephen Cohen, a scholar with the Israel Policy Forum, referring to Blair's lockstep involvement with Bush in pursuing the war, now seen as a destabilizing debacle.

"On the Israeli side," Cohen continued, "he comes with the baggage of someone who has supported the idea of linkage" of the Israeli-Palestinian problem to reforming the Middle East, "and Israel is afraid of linkage."

Blair has consistently linked Israeli-Palestinian peace to broader Middle East stability, something that officials in Jerusalem resent because of the burden it places on them.

However, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert endorsed the new appointment when he met with President Bush recently.

Miri Eisin, Olmert's spokesperson, has said that Israel is "very supportive of Prime Minister Blair and of his continuing involvement in the Middle East and the peace process."

Still, some of Olmert's advisers are believed to see a Blair appointment as dangerous. Bush until now has been unquestionably pro-Israel, but he also trusts Blair implicitly. The worry is that Blair could nudge Bush into pressuring Israel into making security concessions to allow greater freedom of movement for the Palestinians.

The Palestinian Authority leadership also has welcomed Blair's appointment, partly for the same reasons as Olmert. Both Olmert and P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas are weak because of military debacles – Olmert because of Israel's failure to crush Hezbollah in last summer's Lebanon war, Abbas because of the Hamas victory against forces loyal to Abbas' Fatah Party last month in the Gaza Strip.

Both are looking for a dramatic way out of the political wilderness.

Blair's mandate will be to build institutions and economic capacity among the Palestinians. American officials say he will not deal with final-status issues.

Blair may have won over Abbas, but he has a credibility problem in the Palestinian street, said Samar Assad, who directs the Palestine Center, a Washington-based think tank.

Cohen, the IPF analyst, said Blair's performance is ultimately less important than that of his Israeli and Palestinian interlocutors.

"The problem is not the baggage, but if they're willing to travel," Cohen said. "If they were willing to travel, he could carry the baggage."

On supporting Israel

Recently, a friend noted that it was hard to find a non-governmental organization that was not pro-Palestinian/anti-Israel. Why? Why are those two ideological positions wedded? How did Israel become everybody's "bad boy"? How can western liberals so easily blame the victims of suicide bombings?

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

We have witnessed a strange transformation in public opinion and media attention. Israel was once seen as the underdog, its heroes praised globally. Its success in the Six Day War, its rescue at Entebbe, its losses at Munich were shared throughout the democratic world. It is too facile to say that once it started winning it lost public support. It is frightening to say that it is all a familiar anti-Semitic narrative.

It is equally incorrect to say that Israel and Israelis are totally innocent of any wrongdoing. The government made mistakes and is guilty of many human and political flaws. Equally, some Israelis are racist. Arabs living in Israel are not integrated in social and political spheres.

But the comparison of Israeli and Palestinian acts is highly problematic, even patently treacherous. This is not two sides of one coin. The tactics and methods of Palestinian representatives are contemptible. Israel does not intentionally attack civilian positions or use suicide bombers. It does not kidnap, torture and hide enemy soldiers.

Significantly, Jews from Arab countries were not left in transit camps to fester. The *ma'abarot* were dreadful, but the hundreds of thousands of Jews who were forced to flee their homes were able to rise to positions of power and respect. Israel did not hold them hostage to political barter. The Arab world, regrettably, has done this to the Palestinian refugees. Sympathy aside, we cannot condone global memory loss of the real political context and its ugly reality. We know who is guilty, and it is not Israel.

Palestinian support should not equal condemnation of Israel. Ironically, we support the needs of a people for a homeland. One can sympathize with those who live in abject poverty and have been mistreated by their corrupt representatives. That does not equate with accepting all their rhetoric of political ideology and destruction. Only the simple-minded seek absolute polarities and follow the reasoning that if I am right, then you are wrong. Liberal principles of democracy, justice and freedom should be reinvested in this controversy. Understanding of causes or sympathy for the participants cannot excuse wrongful and lawless acts. No matter the scenario, no matter the background, suicide bombers and civilian murderers are guilty!

Israel has been held accountable to a very high standard of morality and legitimate action. Good, but be fair. That same standard of justice and lawfulness should be applied to any Palestinian group that claims to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people. Demand it!

The way of all the Earth

The last issue of the Smithsonian magazine had an article about Petra, the great Nabatean rock city in Jordan. You may recall its façade from *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, as the cave where the evil Nazi came to grief. The film was deliciously silly, the city itself anything but.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Someday I may actually get to see the place, even though every effort on my part has been frustrated by: flooded wadis (the first attempt); war (twice); illness (my fault). In the meantime, I have to make do with magazines.

But what in this edition caught my eye was a sidebar article about the Tomb of Aaron (in Arabic, Jebel Haroun), a small whitewashed domed building two hours' donkey ride from Petra, where Aaron, the brother of Moses, is supposed to have been buried. The tomb itself was built in the fourth century and renovated by a 13th-century Egyptian sultan. The Bedouin guide to the writer maintained that Muslim, Christian and chassidic pilgrims travel to this site to pay their respects.

According to the article, "The Old Testament [sic] relates that, at God's command" this is where "Aaron was left naked to die of exposure at the top of the mountain for a lack of deference to the Lord."

Leaving aside the fact that the biblical account is hardly that draconian, it seems that we cannot escape our human need to locate the graves of our patriarchs – and matriarchs – somewhere on Earth so that we can commune with their spirits, if not their actual physical being.

Why is it that we need to commemorate the dead with tomb monuments that become sites of worship? I am strongly reminded of the tomb of David on the Mount of Olives, its interior covered in candle wax (or was last time I was there), women beseeching the once and future king for their heart's desire. I don't believe that David is actually buried there – more likely the Muslim-style tomb protects the body of a Crusader or a Muslim holy man. But the aura given to it by the weight of human prayer can't help but have an effect on one in that close, smoky atmosphere.

As archeologists literally dig deeper into the past, they find that at a very early stage – Neanderthal it seems – humans began to consciously bury their dead with ritual and ceremony, rather than plopping them in the earth and moving on.

In death as in life, there was little equality. The high ranks got the best of grave goods and, when monuments were erected, the best pyramids, obelisks, stone cairns and so on.

How wise, then, the Jewish way of burial and remembrance. In my community, the richest and the poorest, the most famous and the most obscure, all get the same plain pine box. All are tended by the chevrah kadishah, all commemorated with modest gravestones. Well, at least today. Some monuments in the older section of the cemeteries are rather grand, but nothing like the mausoleums in other cemeteries.

We visit the graves of our ancestors before the High Holy Days. What do we want to tell them? Can they appreciate our attention? Who knows? We humans continue to hope that somehow, somewhere, someone is listening.

The most moving yizkor I ever attended was not the usual drone of psalms and readings about the brevity of life. The service was simple. "There are many things," the rabbi said, "that we may have wanted to tell those whom we remember today, but in life never got the chance. Today is your chance to take time and silently say to them what in life went unsaid."

That was all. We stood silently, and as the tears began, we spoke in our hearts to those who, in life, were closest to us, most beloved. Yet some of our heart's deepest thoughts were never spoken. Was it for them, or for ourselves, that we wept? I don't know. I only know that in those moments a more lasting monument was created to our lost beloved, one that will endure longer than the whitewashed domes, longer than the graves themselves.

Jewish demographics and continuity

Two major issues facing Jewish communities throughout the world are growth and continuity. When examining the projected demography of the Canadian population over the next decade, this is of particular concern for Canadian Jews. Although the actual numbers may appear higher than they are today, when compared to other religious minorities, the relative proportion of the Jewish community is on the decline.

Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

Statistics Canada recently released population projections for the year 2017 as they relate to Canada's religious demographics. These projections are neither particularly dramatic nor surprising; however, they do point to three general conclusions.

First, the number of persons in some religious minorities will increase substantially. This is essentially a result of immigration patterns at present and projected into the future. For example, there will be an increasingly greater number of Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Buddhists in Canada in the year 2017.

Secondly, for some other religious minorities, there will be a decline in their relative numbers. For example, since there are very few Jewish immigrants to Canada, the proportion of those in Canada's Jewish minority will decline compared to other religious minorities.

Thirdly, in 2017, the Christian population in Canada will still constitute a significant majority but will do so in an increasingly smaller proportion when compared to the entire Canadian population.

Most of the foregoing will largely occur in the large urban centres throughout Canada.

"The number of individuals who identified themselves as Jewish [in the last census] increased 3.7 per cent during the 1990s to nearly 330,000," Statistics Canada reports.

"They accounted for 1.1 per cent of the population in 2001, virtually unchanged during the decade. Well over one-half of these individuals, about 190,800, lived in Ontario.

"According to the census, nearly one-third (31 per cent) of people of Jewish faith in 2001 were born outside Canada. However, Jewish people accounted for only one per cent of the 1.8 million immigrants who came to Canada during the 1990s."

What then is the significance of these population figures and projections? There is, of course, a legal consequence. Predictably, there may be an increase of minority religious assertions in the courts, and/or greater instances of so-called "reasonable accommodation," to adjust social norms to the needs of religious minorities. In turn, this might lead to a backlash as a result of frustration, perhaps some intolerance or simply a sense of fatigue experienced by the majority population.

More importantly, however, Jewish communities have always been aware of the need to sustain numbers and encourage growth. Our religion does not advocate proselytization or active recruitment of new members. But there are things we can do.

We can educate our children about our history and culture to give them a solid background in their heritage. We can encouraging our youth to attend programs such as Jewish summer camps, the birthright experience and the teens and twenties programs offered by synagogues or Jewish community centres throughout Canada. Young persons hopefully can look to their Jewish background as an inspiration and a guide to everyday life. The importance of these initiatives is underscored by the number of Jews in each generation who reject their faith and traditions and turn elsewhere, or nowhere, for a source of guidance that our community can provide.

There is also the issue of acceptance and inclusion. All branches of Judaism must accept, with respect, all other branches of our faith. It is not simply a matter of tolerance but rather an issue of inclusion of all who embrace the essentials of our tradition.

We must also be accepting and welcoming of those who convert to Judaism. Those who choose Judaism have engaged in much thought, introspection and education before making this major life decision. These persons are not strangers among us but are integral members of our faith and communities.

Another important issue is that of intermarriage. Many of us would prefer if our children would choose spouses or partners who are also Jewish. While this is not always possible, we can encourage them to raise their families in homes that will provide continuity to our faith and traditions.

The Statistics Canada projections for 2017 should encourage us to foster a robust, healthy community that will endure throughout the future. This is the challenge that confronts all of us who share the view that our continuity and growth are essential to the vitality of the Jewish community and Canada as a whole.

The Kirshner File

Palestinian rift widens after fighting in Gaza

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Commentators in Israel, harking back to the Altalena incident during the War of Independence, have long maintained that the Palestinian national movement needs to submit itself to a painful period of violent internal strife before it can unite and make peace with Israel. It is an interesting theory, but is it valid?

The Altalena affair occurred about a month after the proclamation of Israeli statehood on May 14, 1948. Although it left a residue of bitterness and resentment, it ultimately facilitated a spirit of unity in the new Jewish state at a time when its very existence was threatened by a coalition of Palestinian paramilitaries and Arab armies attempting to roll back the November 29, 1947 United Nations Palestine partition plan.

Prior to 1948, the Jewish community in Palestine, the Yishuv, was protected by an agglomeration of distinct militias – ranging from the middle-of-the-road Haganah and the Palmach to the right-wing Irgun and Etzel – torn by ideological fissures. With statehood, they agreed to amalgamate themselves into the newly formed Israel Defence Force. As a result of serious communications lapses, Etzel broke the agreement and dispatched the Altalena, a ship brimming with fighters and weapons, to Israel. Catching wind of the plot, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, ordered the vessel to be intercepted and its cache of arms seized. During the ensuing fighting off the coasts of Kfar Vitkin and Tel Aviv, 16 Irgun combatants and three Israel Defence Forces soldiers were killed. By then, Ben-Gurion had made his point. There was only one central government and challenges to its authority, however flagrant or mild, would not be tolerated.

Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas

Recalling the Altalena incident as a pivotal moment in Israeli nation building, pundits in Israel observed that the fractured Palestinians needed to pass through an identical blood-letting process before they could achieve a semblance of unity and effectiveness of purpose.

Although they are one people, share the same culture and language, are bound together by a historical memory of having been dispossessed of their homes and lands in what is now Israel, and uniformly detest Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Palestinians have always been splintered in terms of religion, class and political affiliation. These differences surfaced with a vengeance after the formation of Hamas – the Islamic Resistance Movement – in the first weeks of the Palestinian uprising in 1987 and during the first phase of the Oslo process, when, in deference to Israel, Fatah temporarily hammered Hamas in a wave of arrests.

But with Hamas' surprising victory over Fatah in the January 2006 parliamentary election in the Palestinian Authority, these pent-up tensions boiled over. Hamas, which pointedly questions Israel's right to exist and has carried out a succession of suicide bombings in Israel, invited Fatah to join the new government. Fatah declined, refusing to share power. Hamas established a government headed by Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh. Since he refused to recognize Israel and renounce terrorism, the new Palestinian regime was boycotted and subjected to economic sanctions by Israel and the international community. Last winter, following a round of serious fighting pitting Hamas against Fatah, Haniyeh and the Fatah-aligned president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, met in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, to resolve their bitter differences and head off the prospect of a civil war.

Both sides hoped that a unity government, in which Hamas would hold the largest number of cabinet seats, could persuade foreign powers such as the United States, France, Canada and Russia to end their debilitating boycott of the Palestinian government. The Palestinians, ruled by a dysfunctional two-headed regime which clashed over vital issues, failed to break the global boycott. The reason was abundantly clear. Hamas stubbornly adhered to its hardline positions on Israel and terrorism, and a power struggle ensued. Internecine fighting erupted in Gaza, a depressed area of 1.5 million inhabitants whose population is reliant on food aid and which Israel unilaterally jettisoned in 2005. The battles degenerated into outright civil war last month. Having routed Fatah after five days of skirmishes, during which several fighters were thrown off highrise buildings, Hamas took control of Gaza and thus ended Fatah's domination of Palestinian politics.

Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah
[RNS/Reuters photos]

Shocked by the outcome, Abbas disbanded the unity government, dismissed Haniyeh and replaced him with Salam Fayyad, a moderate and respected economist and former World Bank official who served as finance minister under Haniyeh. Fayyad formed an emergency government in the West Bank, a Fatah stronghold. Hamas has condemned Fayyad's government as illegitimate, but Israel, Egypt and Jordan have backed Fatah to the hilt. For their part, the United States and the European Union have funnelled financial assistance to the Fatah faction while keeping Hamas isolated. Buoyed by this outpouring of support, Abbas outlawed Hamas' armed wing, banned all contacts with top Hamas officials and issued a stinging denunciation of Hamas as "murderous terrorists."

Due to these developments, the Palestinians have finally experienced their "Altalena." But unlike the Israelis almost 60 years ago, the Palestinians have neither stepped back from the brink nor closed ranks in the face of crisis, and are now more divided than ever. With Gaza and the West Bank having separated and become warring entities, the whole future of a two-state solution as a means by which to defuse the Arab-Israeli conflict is now in doubt.

Cut off economically and diplomatically, with Israel and Egypt having sealed their respective border crossings into Gaza and only permitting vital supplies through, Hamas has been scrambling to minimize the damage by appealing for Palestinian unity. Hamas has called for a national dialogue and the formation of a new Palestinian Authority made up of independent technocrats. In an op-ed piece in the *New York Times* on June 20, Ahmed Yousef, Haniyeh's political adviser, wrote, "We reject attempts to divide Palestine in two parts..." Fatah, having accused Hamas of carrying out a "coup" in Gaza, has rebuffed Hamas' overtures, threatened to seek new elections without its participation and continued to attack Hamas institutions and harass and arrest its functionaries in the West Bank.

Meanwhile, in reaction to the firing of Qassam rockets at Israeli settlements, Israel has exerted military pressure on Hamas through shallow pinprick raids into Gaza.

In response to these developments, one of Hamas' most influential and radical figures, Mahmoud Zahar, has accused Fatah of collaborating with the United States and Israel and declared that Hamas may yet try to seize the West Bank. This is not a farfetched scenario, given the fact that Hamas – which is supported by Iran and Hezbollah across the board – is better organized and more disciplined than Fatah. Indeed, Fatah's former strongman in Gaza, Mohammed Dahlan, has said that Fatah would be defeated in a pitched battle in the West Bank unless it undertakes "serious reforms." Fatah has been bolstered by infusions of U.S. arms through Egypt, but these shipments obviously had no effect on the recent fighting in Gaza.

Hoping to capitalize on the current situation, Abbas has called for a resumption of peace talks with Israel, saying that the advent of Palestinian statehood under Fatah's auspices could be effective in undermining Hamas' appeal. "We need to deliver the end of the occupation, a Palestinian state," Abbas' aide, Saeb Erekat, said recently. At last week's summit in Sharm el Sheikh hosted by Egypt and attended by Israel, Jordan and Fatah representatives, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert blithely ignored these admonitions and rejected the idea of entering into final status negotiations.

Instead, he offered a package of "goodwill gestures," promising to release 250 of 10,000 Palestinian prisoners, hand over a portion of the $700 million worth of Palestinian tax revenues that have been frozen since 2006, and confer with Abbas on a regular basis.

But these "gestures" will fall short of propping up Abbas.

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Lucy Cohen retires from USDS

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

After 11 years as an administrator at United Synagogue Day Schools, Lucy Cohen has retired as head of school.

Growing up in Montreal, where she immigrated at age 5, she envisioned a career as a foreign correspondent, but a stint in Israel that began at age 18 changed her mind.

"I was inspired by what I observed of the education program in the kibbutz," she said in an interview at her office at USDS's Bayview branch shortly before the school year ended last month. She explained that, on the kibbutz, everything that was taught was integrated around a core theme and the focus was on facilitating children's development in a way that made learning enjoyable. "It resonated enough that I felt it was something I wanted to do, not just espouse."

In her childhood home, "education was paramount," recalled the daughter of Holocaust survivors who was born in Siberia toward the end of World War II. Cohen's 95-year-old mother, who trained as a couturière in Warsaw, and her late father worked in the garment business, but dinner conversations revolved around literature and ideas, said Cohen.

An alumna of the Jewish People's Schools (now the Jewish People's Schools & Peretz Schools, or JPPS), of Baron Byng High School and McGill University, Cohen entered McGill at age 16 to study philosophy and literature, but left for Israel two years later on Habonim Dror's kibbutz hachshara program.

A projected one-year stay turned into 3½ years, during which she married kibbutznik Moshe Cohen and had a daughter.

After the family returned to Montreal, Cohen completed her bachelor's degree and attended Jewish teaching seminary. Her husband – a businessman who died suddenly of a bacterial infection on a trip to Toronto in 1993 – attended university at night and worked during the day following their move to Canada.

Cohen, who has a master's degree in the philosophy of education from McGill, was the first Canadian to complete a Jerusalem Fellowship – a three-year leadership development program of the Mandel Institute in Israel.

Before moving into administration at JPPS in Montreal, Cohen taught autistic children, then worked as a high school guidance counsellor. As a graduate student, she taught part time at JPPS and took teacher training at McGill. Once she had her master's degree, she taught both Jewish and general studies at the day school.

Cohen segued into administration after her fellowship sabbatical in the 1980s, working her way up to director of education, the position she left when she came to Toronto in 1996.

She has been a presenter at various conferences, and for the past six summers has been a mentor at the Jewish Theological Seminary's William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education's day school leadership training institute, where she will also spend this summer.

Lucy Cohen

As well, she plans to do some consulting work during her retirement.

Cohen's move to Toronto to become USDS' director of education (the title was later changed) was prompted by both personal and professional reasons. Her daughter – now a mother of five in New York – was living here at the time, and, on a professional level, Cohen has always enjoyed new challenges, she said.

She said her focus was on "bringing things from theory into practice."

Among the challenges she faced at USDS, Cohen includes demographic changes in the Toronto Jewish community (a significant Jewish population growth in Vaughan, just north of the city) that resulted in plans for the school to become part of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's new Lebovic campus. The plans have been delayed and will likely be scaled down for financial reasons.

Finances were also behind the decision to sell the Richmond Hill branch and move its students to the Bayview branch at the end of last year, presumably on a temporary basis until the new northern branch was completed. The move was not popular among branch parents.

Although Cohen regrets having had to close the northern branch, she said her focus was on making the move as smooth as possible for the 134 students who moved to the Bayview branch. There has been "a smooth integration of the two student populations," she said.

In March of last year, Cohen also faced a considerable challenge dealing with angry parents who learned that there was mould in some classrooms at the Richmond Hill branch and they had not been informed. "As in any enterprise, if you're the head, no matter what happens, you always have to take responsibility," Cohen told *The CJN*.

On a more positive note, she has instituted several changes at the school including a preschool educational system that focused on the individual child, including the notion of multiple intelligences at a time when that was not prevalent, she said.

More recently, this past year, she introduced a middle school program for students with no previous formal Jewish education, and a program for grade 1 and 2 students who require individual attention to strengthen their math and literary skills so that they can gradually be integrated with their classmates.

"I'm a big-picture person," said Cohen. "I pay a lot of attention to detail... but always in the context of the big picture."

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Beth Torah
COMPLETING THE DREAM

New treatment 'turns back the memory clock'

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

As an undergraduate student, Norman Doidge, a local psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, became intrigued with the idea that the brain can change and grow.

Norman Doidge

Author of *The Brain that Changes Itself: Stories of Personal Triumph from the Frontiers of Brain Science*, Doidge said that the prevailing idea that the brain is similar to a complex machine does not do it justice.

"Machines are inanimate; and the brain is alive. As we learn, the brain can change structure and improve function."

If it sounds too good to be true, "it is because of old notions. The liver, skin and blood all replenish themselves. Why did we miss the fact that the brain is plastic?"

People with brain damage were often given a poor prognosis, he said, because scientists thought of the brain as a machine that could not grow new parts. Many important thinkers observed the rigidity of human behaviour and assumed mistakenly that the brain was rigid.

Researchers have discovered the neuroplasticity of the brain, however, and have learned that "not only is it not rigid, it is malleable and can be changed right into a person's old age. Plasticity exists from cradle to grave."

Doidge, who is also an essayist and poet, is on the faculties of University of Toronto's department of psychiatry and the Columbia University Centre for Psychoanalytic Training and Research in New York. He worked on the 425-page book for about three years, he said, until the ideas became "crystal clear. I wanted it to be for anyone who has a curious mind. You don't have to be a brain surgeon to read it. I wrote to a person who has no background. I had a good editor, and he had me write things over and over again to make sure the ideas were simplified."

What neuroplasticity means is that our memories do not have to decline as we age, said Doidge. "The reason they do decline is because it is a 'use it or lose it' brain."

In one example he talks about Stanley, a doctor who practised medicine until he was in his mid-80s. "He began to notice that he was having trouble remembering some words so he did some [mental] exercises that are described in the book and after six weeks his memory improved, his speech flowed, and even his driving improved. It is pretty amazing.

"This program not only preserves memory, but it turns back the memory clock, so people can actually improve."

In another example, a surgeon in his 50s who suffered an incapacitating stroke took part in a clinic that used the principles of neuroplasticity. He was set to work cleaning tables with his bad arm, while his good arm was immobilized. At first, he found it impossible, but gradually the arm "remembered" its skills, and he learned to write and play tennis again.

Doidge said he has countless examples of people with learning disabilities who have learned to compensate by working around their weakness with supports such as tape recorders and computers.

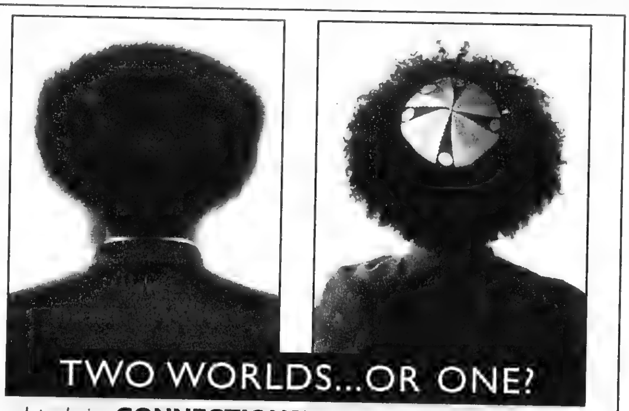
"When you work around weak areas, you neglect them and they waste away. We now have a whole new class of treatment that works on strengthening weak brain areas.

"This treatment is so new that it is not yet used in most school systems, but I suspect that [eventually] there will be a revolution in education. Instead of giving kids computers with great memories, educators will train kids to use their own memories."

Neuroplasticity is one of the most important changes in the study of brain science in 400 years, said Doidge, "and this is one of the first books to show the comprehensive sweep of its implications."

Not only can it be applied to clinical conditions, it can also be applied to understanding emotions and human nature, he said. "It deals with [such things as] creativity, love relationships, addictions, obsessions, anger and grief.

"The brain can think itself into ruts, but we can create roadblocks that steer it back in the right direction."



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Jewish Life

Make a stand for peace

By RABBI AVRAM ROTHMAN

Rabbinic Reflections

In this week's parshah of Pinchas, we find that HaShem rewards Pinchas for his actions, saying "Behold I have given to him [Pinchas] My covenant of peace." If one knows the story of Pinchas, who was a son of Aaron the kohen, one would have to wonder about this gift of peace given to Pinchas. After Pinchas has committed a violent act, killing two people, one would be hard-pressed to believe that he should receive the "covenant of peace."

Rather, I would think that this award should go to Aaron, the "lover of peace and seeker of peace," and instead Pinchas should receive an award for zealotry. Yet the Midrash states that "it is only correct and proper that Pinchas should receive this award for peace!" How can we reconcile such a strange thing?

It is said in the name of the sainted Rabbi Chaim Soleveitchik that people have a misconception about the meaning of "peace." They believe peace means that no matter what happens, there should be tranquillity and there should not be any fights.

However, Rabbi Soleveitchik explains, that this is not the meaning of "shalom" (peace). The word shalom is derived from the word "shalem" (perfection). Shalom really means perfection – the ultimate right. The ultimate right is perfection not only between all Jews, but also between the Almighty and the Jewish People.

When a husband and wife are acting properly there is shalom between them and there is shalom between them and HaShem. That represents perfection. If there are no arguments among the Jewish People, but there is friction and tension and division between the Jewish People and the Almighty, that is not shalom.

Without unity and harmony between the Jews and the Master of the World, there is no shalom. Therefore, things can be patched over and everyone can "make nice and feel good," but if there is a division and gap between the nation and their God, this is not shalom.

At the end of last week's parshah, a tremendous gap developed between Israel and God. The Almighty was not happy. There was no shalom.

A man named Zimri had performed an immoral act before the entire assembly of the Children of Israel. If Pinchas had approached Zimri and said, "Zimri, you know you really shouldn't be doing that, maybe you should think it over…" nothing would have been accomplished. Zimri would not have listened and the error would have been compounded. That would not have restored the nation's harmony with the Almighty. In order to restore such harmony in this case, it was necessary to go ahead and make a stand! In this case, words were not enough – an action was required!

This is very radical. It teaches us that sometimes divisiveness is the only way to make peace. No one wants divisiveness between Jews. We all seek unity, mutual respect and care.

However, on occasion, on very, very rare occasion, one must make a stand for what is correct. One must be open-minded, one must be compromising, one must be understanding; yet, sometimes, sadly, one must make a stand and say, "No, this is too far, this is not right." Such zeal can only be used gingerly, with kid gloves, by people whose sole desire is to have unity, to be at one with all Jews and with the Almighty.

Can we continue to give in when faced with giving back Jerusalem? Can we give in when faced with redefining who is a Jew? Can we give in when the actual framework of Judaism and Jewish life is attacked? If we do, we will have nothing left. So, sadly, with tears in our eyes, with prayers for a better day, with hopes for true unity, we are forced to make a stand. A stand that says no, we cannot do it, we cannot act that way, we cannot agree. Then we can expect a true "covenant of peace" between all Jews; each other and God.

Rabbi Avram Rothman is spiritual leader of the Thornhill Community Shul in Thornhill, Ont.

Keep your lawn kosher

IDEAS ON IDENTITY

By Rabbi Elyse Goldstein

I grew up in a family where a front-page scandal would send my mother immediately scanning for Jewish names.

"A shande!" she would cry. "One bad apple spoils the whole bunch."

But what I remember most about my mother's reaction was her fear for Judaism itself. "People will think that Judaism says it's all right to cheat," she'd say. She didn't care much about the person's bad name. It was the Torah's good name that was brought low, and that was the biggest shame.

Years later, I heard Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach z"l speak about this. He had a surprising angle on the Pirkei Avot verse, "Do not make the Torah a spade to dig with."

He looked out at the crowd and said, "I speak now to all the religious men. Yes, you who 'look the part.' When you fly for 11 hours to Israel and don't once take the baby, don't once play with the toddler, don't once give your wife a rest, but make sure to go and daven every minute you are needed for a minyan, you are making the Torah a spade to dig with. How? Because every non-religious Jew on the plane looks at you and says, 'Oh, that's how the Torah must say you should treat your wife. That's how all observant Jews must be – insensitive. That's what Judaism must allow.' By your actions, you have given all those onlookers a spade made of Torah to dig Judaism into the ground even further."

I'm thinking of this idea of using the Torah and Judaism's good name as a spade to dig with very literally this summer, as I tend my flowers with the help of a non-Jewish gardener. He works mostly with Jewish families. One of those families moved from one home to another without paying him his wages for over six months. Moved away with no forwarding address. Never left instructions to anyone else for paying this decent, hard-working man, a man trying to feed his own family and earn a fair day's wages.

What shall I tell this gardener when he asks me, "Is this how Jews are allowed to treat non-Jews? Perhaps it is because I am not one of you. Is this allowed in your religion?"

What shall I tell him when he cries to me that he needs this money very badly, that he did the work he was asked to do, cheerfully and skillfully, and that he waited and waited for the pay that was promised but never came?

Shall I teach him that the Torah in Vayikra forbids his wages to be held? That about him Devarim says, "Let him not cry out to God against you – it would be a sin upon you." Or that the Talmud in Bava Metsia 112 sees withholding a worker's wages as equivalent to taking his life? Shall I tell him that the mitzvah of paying a worker on time is no less important than building a Sukkah, that ethical conduct is no less demanded of us than counting the Omer?

Instead, I pay him on time myself and hope that will heal his pain and help him know that to be a Jew is to be a mensch. It is now summer, and Jewish families in suburbia will enjoy their lovely lawns and landscaped gardens, many of them taken care of by gardeners such as this man. In my opinion, the very grass their kids play on is "treif" unless the person who cuts it is paid properly, on time, and with fair wages.

Jewish Life

Extra work for no pay

Money Matters

By Rabbi Jay Kelman CA

The obligation to pay a worker on time is so central to Jewish ethics that failure to do is a violation of five biblical commandments (eating pork, in contrast, violates just one). While in today's environment, with paper trails and backups, disputes over whether a worker was actually paid are almost unheard of, such was not the case during talmudic times.

In recognition of the fact that employers are less inclined to remember the details of each and every employee, whereas the worker surely will know if he was paid, in a dispute over unpaid wages it is the employee who is given the opportunity to take an oath of non-payment enabling him to then receive his wages. This is a reversal of normal judicial jurisprudence that states that it is the defendant, that is, the employer, who would normally take an oath in order to absolve himself of any monies owing.

However, an employee claiming back wages is quite limited in his time for a claim. If he tarries, he forfeits the right to swear an oath that he was not paid. In general, when it comes to monetary law, Judaism has a very short statute of limitations. To do otherwise would be to create economic uncertainty – the enemy of a smoothly running marketplace – with parties never sure their transactions are fully binding. Thus if one is overcharged for an object, the Talmud expects that one would enter a claim that very same day. And if none is entered, one forever loses the legal right to compensation despite the moral wrong perpetrated against them.

Interestingly, when it comes to criminal activity or even ritual law, Judaism recognizes no statute of limitations – the need for atonement never lapses. Thus if one has stolen money from another, that debt is never forgiven or forgotten until repaid. In fact, Jewish law even discusses under which situations an heir is obligated to repay monies owed by parents.

CIBC is currently facing a lawsuit, potentially totalling 600 million dollars, alleging the bank does not pay its tellers and some other front-line workers for overtime. Such a suit would seem to have little merit in a Jewish court. In bringing forth the claims for back wages, a CIBC teller claims she has for the last nine years been forced to work overtime of between two and five hours a week, work for which she was not paid above her regular wages.

Even if we were to assume that her claim was to be accepted at face value and the extra work demanded of her was improper, the time has long past to make such a claim. By continuing her overtime for close to 10 years, she forfeits her rights to lodge a complaint. The time to speak up is immediately when a wrong is perpetrated.

Furthermore, it is far from certain her claim – even accepting her version of events – has much validity even if filed on time. Unpaid overtime is part and parcel of today's working environment. While from a secular legal perspective this is only true for professionals and management and not for nonmanagement employees such as a bank teller, Jewish law accepts the binding nature of local custom. Actual practice overrides "official" titles. If it is common place and part of the workplace culture for employees to have to work extra, such work becomes part of the regular job.

While an employer may not mislead a potential employee regarding any work conditions, the employee, too, bears some responsibility to investigate the "unwritten" rules of the workplace. Of course, as citizens of Canada, it is Canadian law and not Jewish law that is to be followed in monetary law.

Comments: rabbijay@torahinmotion.org.

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Resources for the blind, Pt. 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Although the Internet is primarily a visual medium, it still is an incredible resource for people who are blind or have limited vision. This week and next, Jewish resources for the blind.

The Jewish Highway

There are more Jewish sites devoted to deaf than to blind people. Perhaps that is related to the fact that sites for the blind need to conform to certain standards **[http://tinyurl.com/qs4lf]** if special "assistive software" (such as screen readers) is going to be used. Regardless, it should not be forgotten that there are numerous sites that provide Jewish music and audio classes that can be of great benefit to people who are blind or have limited sight. (More on that later.)

Jewish tradition holds that people who are blind are not required to do certain mitzvot and are not permitted to perform some others. Rabbi Moshe Tendler and Fred Rosner provide some examples.

- A blind person must light Sabbath candles on Friday night, as long as there is no danger to the person or to anyone else.
- A blind person may be accompanied by his guide dog into the synagogue. Since the dog is enabling its master to fulfil the commandment of public praying, it is not a desecration of the synagogue.
- A blind person may not perform the search for chametz prior to Passover; another member of the family should do so. **[http://tinyurl.com/2v2sh2]**

Rabbi Daniel Nevins serves as a member of the committee of the Conservative movement's committee of Jewish law and standards. Several years ago, they looked at to what extent blind people could be involved in Torah reading. They concluded that "Jews who are blind should participate in synagogue rituals together with sighted Jews, all of whom are obligated to keep the Torah." But because the Torah must be read for the congregation directly from a Torah scroll, and not from a printed text or from memory, Jews who are blind may participate in Torah reading in one of three ways:

- By receiving an aliyah and chanting softly after the reader;
- By serving as *meturgamon*, the verse-by-verse translator of a section of the parshah; or
- By reading from braille a standard Maftir, since it has already been chanted in the established fashion from the sefer Torah. **[http://tinyurl.com/2hor4x]**

The largest lender of Jewish books in braille and large print is JBI International. The New York-based organization was established in 1931 as the Jewish Braille Institute. According to its website, JBI lends its materials (including talking books) to more than 35,000 people around the world. Registered users can search the online database for material. JBI's braille library contains more than 8,500 titles in English and Hebrew. **[www.jewishbraille.org/]**

Braille is a system of writing in which a combination of six dots are raised in order to represent letters of the alphabet and are identified by touch. You can get a good visual representation on the Wikipedia page to compare how the English **[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Braille]** and Hebrew **[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_Braille]** alphabets are formed. It is interesting to note that the bet is the same as the "b" in English and the gimel is written like a "g," while a chet is written like an "x." I was surprised to learn that the letters in Hebrew braille are written from left to right.

Although they may not have been created specifically for people who are blind or visually impaired, there are many sites that provide audio entertainment, information and educational opportunities. For Jewish learning, check out the audio links at Jacob Richman's Hot Sites. **[http://tinyurl.com/37hj4o]** You can have any portion of the Torah chanted to you at the magnificent Navigating the Bible site. **[http://tinyurl.com/2s5pdy]**

For news and entertainment, go to the radio, podcast and music sections of Larry Grossman's excellent Jewish Webcasting Guide. **[www.jewishwebcasting.com]** And for music, don't miss Arutz Sheva's Music Jukebox. **[http://tinyurl.com/2pohfn]**

Please note that these sites were not necessarily created for people using specialized software for the blind. Those users may need assistance from sighted individuals to navigate the sites.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Israeli environmental group fights to clean up water resources

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Yariv Abramovich calls it the "new Zionism."

Abramovich, the executive director of one of Israel's leading environmental organizations, exults that Israelis are finally primed to preserve their natural patrimony.

In an interview in Toronto last week to promote the Association for Environmental Protection, or Zalul, he said, "The older generation gave us a country. Now it's time for the new generation to preserve it. We want a good, healthy country to live in. This is the new Zionism."

Founded eight years ago by a group of citizens concerned about the deterioration of Israel's water resources, Zalul carries out its mission through conservation, activism, research, awareness-raising and education.

Abramovich, a lawyer by training, said that Israelis are far more conscious of the environment than only a decade ago.

"They now understand that it is a problem you can't avoid. You won't drink the water? You won't breathe in the air? You won't sit on a beach?"

Adopting a combative tone, he charged that the Israeli government has neither passed strict legislation to protect the nation's waters nor aggressively enforced existing legislation.

In its annual report, Zalul states, "It has emerged, alarmingly, that most sea and river pollution in Israel in recent years has occurred with the knowledge and authorization of the Ministry of Environmental Protection..."

Data gathered by Zalul indicates that the ministry and an inter-ministerial permit committee issue more than 100 permits each year for discharging waste water into the Mediterranean Sea, sometimes disturbingly close to bathing beaches.

Zalul also found that there is no effective mechanism for overseeing the committee's activities so as to bring about a reduction in the number of permits granted for discharges into the sea, and that this deficiency enables polluters to continue their practices under the protection of the law.

Citing the report, Abramovich said that thousands of tons of hazardous substances and heavy metals and tens of millions of cubic metres of partially treated sewage and petroleum products are dumped into the sea, even though advanced technologies are available to treat waste water.

Yariv Abramovich

The biggest polluters, the chemical factories in and around Haifa, have poisoned the Kishon River and tarnished the quality of the Mediterranean Sea from Ashkelon in the south to Nahariya in the north.

Abramovich said that hundreds of Israeli naval commandos who trained in the Kishon have developed cancer. "There is definitely a connection between the environment and a person's state of health," he said. "It's not a fairy tale but a proven fact."

Abramovich said that Israel's 16 rivers, from the Jordan to the Yarkon, have all but degenerated into "sewage canals" since Israeli statehood.

"For the past 60 years, we have rushed into development. We ran like crazy to build a modern country, and we had to. But in doing so, we strangled our rivers and neglected the environment."

Turning to the Sea of Galilee, he pronounced it in good shape due to its importance as Israel's main source of drinking water.

But he wrung his hands over the possible fate of the Dead Sea, the world's lowest-lying body of water. Last month, in an unprecedented decision, the government granted the fertilizer industry permission to dump waste into the Dead Sea. "Nobody knows what the impact will be. The government is playing in a casino of pollution."

Zalul, made up of professionals from environmental science, law, academia and public relations, has launched a series of campaigns to raise public awareness and roll back government decisions deemed harmful to the environment.

One of its major initiatives is to preserve the endangered coral reef in the Gulf of Eilat.

"The reefs in Eilat are among the most spectacular anywhere. Scientists noticed that nearly 70 per cent of the reef had already died, the result of human pollution. Fish farms were killing the coral. We launched a campaign for the removal of fish cages from the Red Sea by 2008, and the government accepted our recommendations. We believe that the coral reef will regenerate itself in a few good years."

In further initiatives, Zalul is working to rehabilitate the Kishon, Lachish and Naaman rivers.

Zalul also convinced management at Tel Aviv's water treatment plant to stop releasing five million cubic metres of sludge into the sea and persuaded the adjacent municipality of Herzliya to build a new and better sewage treatment facility.

It is still trying to talk the government into allocating more funds for the Ministry of Environmental Protection. "What it gets is a drop in the ocean, compared to its needs."

Abramovich said that Zalul is financed by a combination of funds donated by individuals and foundations. "But we're also looking for international support," he said.

He described himself as a "professional environmentalist" rather than a "tree hugger."

"Our forte is our expertise," he said in a reference to Zalul. "We're mainstream, not hippies. We can't be dismissed. We're Israel."

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Lawsuit 'the right thing to do'

Continued from page 3

Khalid Khokar, a representative of the MFC who is also the principal of the Islamic School of Cambridge, Ont., said he's seen the effects of the government's funding disparity first hand.

"My own school has had to deny admission to some of these disabled children… because we did not have the funds to accommodate their special needs," he said.

Allan Kaufman, a lawyer for the MFC, was confounded by the government's explanation for the funding exclusions.

"But it's the same government," he argued.

Kaufman said the MFC also recently discovered that the government has only spent $4.5 million of the $14.4 million allotment in each of the last two fiscal years.

Spencer confirmed those figures.

"The running average of the last two years [of funds spent] was about $4.5 to $5 million – that's what typically gets drawn upon every year," he said.

"This is a program that is application-based… it just so happens that the number of applications [has equalled] about $4.5 million in expenditures every year."

Spencer said the unspent money is "re-allocated to other programs that require it."

Kaufman said the spurious split in funding criteria for children with disabilities between the ministries of Health and Education means the unspent money could be allocated to private religious school students with disabilities.

He added that many parents have been forced to take their disabled children out of faith-based schools and enrol them in the public system in order to qualify for Ministry of Education funds.

Shell, representing the eight families, said the full $14.4 million would be "more than enough" to support all children with disabilities in private schools.

The case is scheduled to be heard in court Dec. 6.

Correction

In *The CJN* on June 28, the wrong column was published for Life Coach Corner by Judy Siblin-Librach on the Health and Lifestyles page. We inadvertently reprinted the article that had already appeared on May 31. *The CJN* regrets the error.

MEZUZAH MANIA

Caryn Ladovsky, left, stands next to the Mezuzah Recognition Sculpture she designed to recognize donors to Bialik Hebrew Day School's new Mezuzah Program, which has raised more than $90,000 and has allowed donors to affix hand-made mezuzot, painted by Bialik students, on many of the school's new classrooms. Ron and Cynthia Rosenthal, right, donated the stainless steel sculpture, which hangs in the school's main atrium.

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86-year-old radio pro launches new show

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Geri Migicovsky, creator of the new seniors show, A Trip Down Radio Lane.

[Abigail Bimman photo]

Geri Migicovsky played the title role on Canada's first national radio soap opera in 1939, *The Lives and Loves of Dr. Susan*, when she was 18 years old.

Her radio and television career in Toronto and Ottawa lasted more than half a century and included everything from work with Wayne and Shuster and The Happy Gang to broadcasting with Peter Jennings to private lessons with Lorne Greene.

Now, Migicovsky is launching a new career to share her early days in Canadian radio with other seniors.

After moving to Thornhill, Ont., from Ottawa in October to be closer to her two children, Migicovsky found herself with time on her hands. She teamed up with Margot Glatt, who runs and performs in the interactive live show for seniors, Fit As A Fiddle Canada (416-823-8577).

Glatt and Migicovsky designed a new show, A Trip Down Radio Lane, to revisit radio's exciting times.

"We go to senior homes, and that's where our great audience is, because they are people that remember these things," Migicovsky said. "You should see their faces. It's just heartwarming."

The show is 55 minutes long and features Migicovsky sharing memories and stories from her radio career, interspersed with original clips, songs and commercials recorded on cassette tapes. Mounted pictures of the original radio greats serve as a backdrop to Migicovsky's narrative and musical journey.

> ***The program is compiled from Migicovsky's own memorabilia***

Migicovsky gave *The CJN* a sample reading from the beginning of her script: "In the '20s and '30s life was simple, except in our imagination. Then the wonderful new medium called radio came along and opened up a great big window in our lives.

"Radio was the great equalizer. We were now connected to the outside world in a whole new way."

The 86-year-old's voice comes through clear and strong, drawing in the listener. Exactly what you would expect from a veteran of imageless, speech-based art.

"And you know –" Migicovsky broke away from the script. "As I read these, they become very real in my mind. I remember so distinctly."

The show is compiled from Migicovsky's own memorabilia, a trunk full of scripts, letters, notes, photos and tapes that she saved through the years.

"It brings all their memories [back to the seniors]," Migicovsky said. "Many of them don't sit and think about these things, but as soon as they hear the songs about The Happy Gang [it all comes back]."

Migicovsky broadcast on CJOH-TV for 17 years. She and Peter Jennings were the station's first co-anchors in 1961. Beyond the arts, her contributions to the Ottawa community, Jewish and non-Jewish, were immense over the 50 years she lived in the city with her late husband, director general of research for Agriculture Canada, PhD biochemist Bert Migicovsky.

Geri served as co-chair of Action 911 with Mark Maloney, and they were responsible for bringing 911 service to Ottawa in 1988.

"Ottawa was now a big city," Migicovsky said of the implementation of 911.

She also served on the board of many organizations, including the Ottawa Hospital, and was active in the Agudath Israel Congregation, where she served as president of the sisterhood. She was vice-president of the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation, which has since named a scholarship after her under the Pinchas Zuckerman Music Education Fund.

"The city has grown up in the last 50 years; Geraldine Migicovsky was never far from the noisy parade of progress," wrote the Ottawa *Citizen*'s Kelly Egan in a tribute to her when she moved. "She made us better; as a city, she leaves us indebted."

"I'm making the most of it," Migicovsky said of her new life in Thornhill, close to her children but far from her friends and old routine. "I'm making a career for myself."

For more information about A Trip Down Radio Lane, or to book a performance, call Janet at 416-665-6448 or e-mail atripdownradiolane@gmail.com.

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Mother's food recreated at book launch

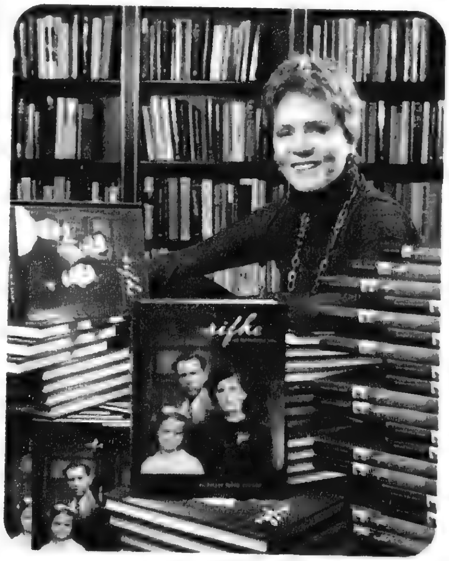
"Rifke" cooks all things Jewish

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Rosalie Wise Sharp wrote her memoir, *Rifke, An Improbable Life*, as a salute to the vanished shtetls of Poland.

As the last in line of her generation, Sharp, 71, wife of Isadore Sharp, founder and CEO of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, says she wanted to leave a story for her grandchildren and her future great-grandchildren.

The daughter of Ydessa and Joseph Wise who emigrated from Poland in 1930, Sharp grew up in a "shtetl" in North Toronto – her parents ran Wise's dry goods store on Yonge Street – surrounded by non-Jewish families.



Rosalie Sharp

"Our language was Yiddish. We ate the same food as my parents ate in Poland – including unmentionable parts of birds and animals such as cow's spleen, tongue, lung and liver – and our life was defined by the Holocaust. We never for a minute forgot we were Jewish."

Travel and sports were *narishkeit* (nonsense), she said, and "I didn't even mention an exchange program I was anxious to go on because I knew there was no hope."

The summer that two of her closest friends travelled to Europe, she went to work at her cousin's embroidery factory on Adelaide Street. As a third cousin, he was the family's closest living relative.

Despite her love of reading and learning, she was not encouraged to go to university, Wise says. It was her husband, whom she met at age 16, however, who eventually encouraged her to follow her dream of becoming an interior designer.

In her candid memoir, she talks about getting pregnant with Issy's baby before they married and her subsequent abortion, the birth of four sons – only one was planned, the others "materialized despite precautions" – and about the death of one of their four sons at age 17 of misdiagnosed melanoma.

She also talks about her tapeworm that she later learned came because her mother chopped raw fish to make gefilte fish, and then used the same board for other food.

Sharp recalls their weekly trip to Kensington Market to stock up "on all things Jewish," such as kosher meat and poultry, rye bread, cottage cheese, smoked meat and herring.

At the recent book launch of *Rifke*, held at the Four Seasons, Robert Bartley, executive chef of the hotel, recreated a number of recipes from Sharp's mother.

"[Rosalie] gave me the recipes, and we tweaked them and modified them until they were ready to serve. The stuffed miltz (recipe below) was unique to me. I turned to the Internet for guidance, where I learned to stuff it with farina."

Stuffed miltz

STUFFED MILTZ

Miltz is spleen. It is usually cooked and served pot roast style, stuffed.

1 miltz (cleaned)
2 cups farina (a cereal grain)
1 large onion (rough chopped)
3 large potatoes (peeled, washed, large-diced)
¼ cup schmaltz (rendered chicken fat)
water
salt
pepper

Very carefully slit skin covering miltz meat. Insert knife as far as possible to make a pocket. Fill pocket with plain, uncooked farina. In a saute pan over medium-high heat, saute the onions in the schmaltz until golden brown. Season miltz with salt and pepper, then add to pan and sear on all sides. Add potatoes and enough water to cover and simmer for about 1½ to 2 hours, or until soft.

Cut into slices and serve with gravy. Makes approximately 4 servings.

POTATONIK

1 tbsp. vegetable oil
6 medium baking potatoes
3 eggs
1 medium onion grated
2 tbsp. potato starch
1 tsp. kosher salt
white pepper to taste
¼ cup schmaltz (rendered chicken fat)

Pre-heat oven to 425. Grease an oven-proof dish with the vegetable oil. Peel and quarter the potatoes – store in cold water. Whisk eggs in a large mixing bowl and grate potatoes coarsely into the eggs. Add the potato starch and grated onion and season with salt and white pepper.

Heat schmaltz to boiling and quickly pour over mixture and mix well. Arrange in oven-proof dish and smooth the top slightly. Bake in the oven for approximately 1 hour or until mixture is brown and crispy.

Cut into squares about 2-inch thick and serve warm.

VEAL PATTIES

5 lb. lean ground veal
2 cups fresh challah (crumbled and moistened with a little water)
1 cup minced shallots
4 tbsp. fresh minced garlic
2 tbsp. fresh thyme, finely chopped
1 tbsp. fresh sage, finely chopped
6 oranges, finely zested
2 cups of port, (reduced down to a syrup)
salt and fresh white pepper to taste

Sweat the shallots and garlic in a little olive oil until the onions are translucent. Remove from heat and cool before mixing with meat. In a mixing bowl combine the ground veal, challah, softened shallots and garlic, thyme, orange zest, sage and port syrup; season with salt and pepper.

Thoroughly mix this mixture, form into 1-oz. balls and flatten them. Brown both sides on a griddle and cook to desired doneness.

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IN ISRAEL

Daniel Goldgut, an AEPi brother and a birthright israel participant, shakes hands with a Magen David Adom representative after presenting him with a cheque for $1,500 on behalf of the fraternity.

Birthright participants raise $1,500 for Magen David Adom

By **SHERI SHEFA**
Staff Reporter

Over the years, thousands of Canadians have toured Israel from coast to coast on Canada-Israel Experience (CIE) birthright trips, but few are given the opportunity to experience the joy of giving back to the Israeli community.

Members of the University of Western Ontario chapter of AEPi, a Jewish campus fraternity, had that experience. Fraternity members raised $1,500 for Magen David Adom and presented the cheque to MDA on their recent birthright trip.

Last month, CIE teamed up with AEPi to include a component in the fraternity's itinerary that would allow participants to visit the MDA centre in Tel Aviv to present a donation to MDA, and to visit the Canada Centre in Metullah, to donate nine pairs of ice skates.

"It was their [AEPi's] initiative. They wanted to do it. This is not usual for birthright," said Debbie Osiel, one of the trip leaders.

"They do a lot of tikkun olam projects back home. It's not like they just party and drink."

She said the money was raised from AEPi members in London, Ont., in advance of the trip and fraternity members collected money from trip participants as well.

"We took a tour of the Magen David Adom Center, met some staff, were addressed by the head of the educational department, got to learn about the way their dispatching system works and even got to take a peek at the ambulances," Osiel said.

At the Canada Centre, the 40-person group, which consisted mostly of AEPi members and alumni from UWO, went for a skate on the centre's hockey rink and took part in a ceremony during which nine pairs of hockey skates were presented to the centre and an Israeli hockey team.

"At the hockey centre, we made a presentation for them. We had the entire hockey team and the coach come… They were Israeli kids that were playing hockey in Israel, and I think some of the skates go to them and some were used as rentals for people who come to the Canada Centre," said Eric Silverberg, an AEPi member and a UWO business student.

He said that he and his fraternity brother, Daniel Goldgut, helped plan the charitable aspects of the tour.

Silverberg noted that there was a similar AEPi trip that went to the Canada Centre and the Magen David Adom Center three years ago, and this began a tradition for AEPi.

"We thought it would be something cool that we could do, and it is pretty unique to be able to go to Canada Centre and skate there when you're in Israel," he said.

Silverberg said that AEPi at Western has been involved with MDA in the past and he and his brothers wanted to continue to help in any way they could.

"We've done a lot of Magen David Adom work, and we felt it was fitting to do something for them, too," he said.

"Going on the trip was important, first of all, but being able to give back is something we thought was really important."

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Mazal tov Annette & Ben Reisman on your 65th wedding anniversary! With love Barb, Lorne, Rebecca, David, Sorel, Gail, Jesse, Roxanne, Shane and Tracy.

Mazel tov to Syd and Sylvia Kahn on your 50th wedding anniversary on April 7. Your kids and grandkids wish you continued health and happiness.

Happy wedding anniversary to our beloved parents Jack & Mary Krawczyk. Mazel tov on 60 years. Love always, your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Esther Parnes recently celebrated her 92nd birthday. With love and pride from your family and friends.

Happy birthday Renee and Sara. Congratulations to their proud parents Teresa & Stephen Starke. Love, Bubbie Leanna Starke and Great-Bubbie Trudy Kugelmass.

Mazel tov to Jenn Migdal & Mark Oppenheim on their engagement in Calgary. Mazel tov to Jenn who graduated with a BSc in environmental science, biology.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return.
Mail to: **The CJN, Family Moments,**
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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, July 9, is the deadline for the July 19 issue. There is no issue July 26, the July 19 issue will include events from July 19 through Aug. 1. Monday, July 23, is the deadline for the Aug. 2 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, July 5

YIDDISH VINKL

Yiddish Vinkl will screen *Yiddish Iz Mayn Loshn: A Letter to Chava Rosenfarb*, a video presentation created by **Peter Kastner**. 12:15 p.m. at Free Times Café, 320 College St.

Saturday, July 7

ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL

The Orillia County Shul resumes summer Shabbat morning services today and continues through August, Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The leaders are: July 7, **Lionel Sharp**, July 14, **Cantor Tom Schwartz**, July 21, **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**, July 28, **Elliott Melamed**, Aug. 4, **Rabbi Tina Grimberg**, Aug. 11, **Rabbi Daniel Gottlieb**, Aug. 18, **Rabbi Cory Weiss**, Aug. 25, **Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld**. 151 Creighton Street S., follow signs to Casino Rama, pass the bridge on Hwy. 12, go south one mile. 705-327-7069

Sunday, July 8

SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Join Walk and Talk Etc., a walking club for Jewish singles 50+, for an easy walk through Pomona Mills Park in Thornhill. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the park entrance on the west side of Henderson Ave., north of John St. For information contact walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

SINGLES MIX AND MINGLE

Jewish singles over 50 are invited to mix and mingle at 5:30 p.m. $5. For information call **David**, 416-781-7947.

Tuesday, July 10

SUMMER CONCERT

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents the North York Concert Band at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park. 7:30 p.m. Free. For information call 416-395-7873.

Wednesday, July 11

FUN WITH YIDDISH

Preschoolers accompanied by a parent, grandparent or other caregiver are invited to Kind Un Keyt: Summer Fun With Yiddish. Play, dance and sing in Yiddish, Wednesdays through July 25 at the Jewish Public Library, 4600 Bathurst St. 4th floor. Library members $8/session, non-members $10/session. For information or registration contact **Lil Nobel**, 416-635-2883, ext. 111 or latnercentre@ujafed.org.

KIDS' FUN IN THE PARK

The Jewish Centre for Learning and Living hosts "Kids' Entertainment in the Park," a free show every Wednesday through the summer, 7-8 p.m. at Thornhill Woods Public school. Different performers each week, including magicians, clowns, singers, storytellers and dancers. Performances take place in the field behind the school. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. 905-762-0566

Other News

FAMILY FUN

Come out to Earl Bales Park on Thursday, July 12, for free activities for the whole family including crafts, jumping castle, sports skills and more 5:30-7 p.m. followed by a free concert by Cadence, 4 men with 4 mics and no instruments, 7-8 p.m. Call 416-395-7873.

LEARN ARCHERY

Join Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club of Ontario at an archery club just north of the city and with the help of certified coaches, learn to shoot a bow and arrow. Sunday, July 15, 9:45 a.m. Registration required, visit www.mosaictoronto.org

Continued on page 21

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(e) excessive restlessness or irritability,
(f) poor appetite, sleep or energy
If you are, you may be eligible for a study at Baycrest aimed at reducing caregivers' sadness and anxiety. Caregivers must be at least 60 years of age, have any of the symptoms noted above, and caring for a spouse with dementia in the community. Participants will receive 13 weeks of group therapy, and a thorough mood assessment.
If you are interested, contact Julia Cheng at:
(416) 785-2500 x 3633
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Enlightening Minds

Continued from page 20

NISHMAT YARCHEI KALLAH

Nishmat's annual Yarchei Kallah will take place July 17-19 with **Gilla Rosen** on the topic Structure and Spontaneity: The Varied Paths of Prayer. Paired learning followed by a shiur are offered for women Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings and Wednesday evening there will be a program for men and women. Topics to be studied are: Tuesday morning, A Still Silent Voice: Prayers as Channelled Emotion, Wednesday morning, "Daily Prayer: Inspiration, Obligation or Challenge?" Thursday morning, "Turning Toward Jerusalem: Why Do We Face East?" and Wednesday evening, "Prophecy and Prayer." For information and registration e-mail cfnishmat@gmail.com.

MELTON MINI SCHOOL

The Florence Melton Adult Mini School is taking registration for the fall term that begins Sept. 19. Students have a choice of classes on Wednesday evenings at CHAT, or Wednesday mornings at Beth Emeth Synagogue. For information and registration call **Loretta** at 416-789-7400.

FALL RIDE FOR ISRAEL

Join One Family Fund for the 3rd Annual Ride for Israel, a fall 20- km or 50-km ride through the beautiful countryside around historic Unionville to raise funds for victims of terror and their families in Israel, Sunday, Sept. 30. For information and registration visit www.onefamilyfund.org.

JEWISH 411

Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto has information on community events, holidays, shuls, camps, kosher restaurants, etc. Call JIS and let them help you with your Jewish needs. 416-635-5600 or look on the net at www.jewishtoronto.com and click on Doing Jewish In Toronto.

NURTURING INDEPENDENCE

DANI, Developing And Nurturing Independence, seeks to create opportunities for Jewish young adults with physical and/or cognitive challenges to participate fully as valued members of the community while enjoying a meaningful and dignified quality of Jewish life. DANI is searching for a solution, where the needs of parents and children are met. To find out more or to support DANI contact dani.toronto@yahoo.com or 905-731-6606 or visit www.dani-toronto.com.

EATING DISORDERS SUPPORT

Eating Disorders of York Region provides services, education, support groups for families and friends of individuals who are affected by eating disorders. Join them Thursday evenings 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Thornhill Square Mall, 300 John St., suite 271. For information contact 416-576-0457 or visit www.edoyr.com.

IT'S IN YOU TO GIVE

Call Canadian Blood Services and arrange to donate blood. 1-888-236-6283, 416-974-9900 or www.bloodservices.ca.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park. Sunday Dance, July 8, 7-10 p.m., non-members welcome.; Cruise and Casino Rama, Thursday, July 26 and Aug. 8; Activities include mahjong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; scrabble, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; duplicate bridge, Wednesdays, 12-3 p.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m. For information, call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"How to Buy on E-Bay," a 5-week mini-course beginning Wednesday, July 11, 2-4 p.m. For information call **Michael** at ext. 128.

Youthful Aging with **Yossi Strauch**, Thursday, July 12, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free.

Join an information session on the Betel Centre's new photography club. Learn how to take better pictures and digitally enhance them in our computer lab. Friday, July 13, 9-11 a.m. Free. Call **Michael** at ext. 128 to register.

Israeli Festival, Wednesday, July 25, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Free.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Annual barbecue takes place Wed. July 25, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. or information call ext. 2267.

Register for the summer computer sessions available at three levels from beginners to advance. Registration is ongoing at the Wagman Service Desk. For assistance contact **Mara** at ext. 2275.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

MNJCC Full Day Adventure Camp, for 4-5 year olds, 10 weekly sessions through the summer, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Fees, week of Aug. 7, members $160/ week, non-members: $224/week, other weeks, members $200/week, non-members $280/week. Extended care fee $8/day. For registration contact **Risa Antoine** ext. 128 or risaa@mnjcc.org

Fringe @ the J: 3 Toronto Fringe festival shows are at the MNJCC: Pea Green Theatre Group presentation of *Conservatives in Love*, July 4-15, 9-10 p.m. in room 318. *Napoleon's Secret Diary* presented by Monster Theatre, July 5-14. and Scratch, July 5-14. Tickets and info, www.fringetoronto.com or 416-966-1062.

Jewish Meditation, Sundays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Connecting the practice of meditation to our tradition with instructor **Michelle Katz**. Drop In $15, series 10 for $125.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Make Your Lev Go Boom, a new program at the BJCC for children newborn through 3 years old. Come to this special two part workshop and take an interactive rhythmical journey learning and exploring Hebrew words and songs. Tuesdays, July 17 and 31, 11:15 a.m.-noon. $28, includes a kosher snack. Preregistration required. Parents, grandparents, and caregivers welcome. For information call ext. 390.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registrations for all fall classes in piano, violin, cello, guitar, Suzuki violin, Babies and Preschool Music, children's choir, kids band, adult band, rock band for teens and adults, African drumming, Brazilian samba and digital music. For information and registration call ext. 228.

The BJCC has a block of tickets for the first night of *Jewtopia*, the story of a two 32-year old single men looking to meet the perfect Jewish girl. Sunday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m. at the Diesel Playhouse on Blue Jays Way. Proceeds from this event will help send children to Centre Camp at the Bathurst JCC. Tickets $118 or $150. E-mail bjcc@bjcc.ca or call ext. 271.

Registration is continuing for September 2007 for BJCC Morning School for Tic Tac Two, nursery and junior kindergarten. The program includes music, Hebrew, fun centre time, gym time, and swimming. Call ext. 248 for information and to book a tour of the school.

About People

CDN JEWISH BOOK AWARDS

The Koffler Centre of the Arts recently announced the the Helen and Stan Vine Annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards honouring authors who have demonstrated excellence in Canadian writing that reflects Jewish concerns and themes. Winners are **Margie Wolfe**, recipient of the Publisher Recognition Award; **Susan Glickman**, award in fiction for *The Violin Lover*; **Bernice Eisenstein**, award in Holocaust memoir and literature for *I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors*; **Shirley Kumove**, award in literature and translation from Yiddish for *Drunk from the Bitter Truth: The Poems of Anna Margolin*; **Seymour Mayne**, award in poetry for *September Rain*; **Rosemary Sullivan**, winner of the Holocaust history/scholarship award for *Villa-Air Bel*; **Rafi Aaron**, award in poetry for *Surviving the Censor: The Unspoken Words of Osip Mandelstam*. Absent, **Eric Koch**, award in biography/memoir for *I Remember the Location–Exactly;* **Carol Matas**, award in children's and youth literature for *Turned Away: The World War II Diary of Devora Bernstein*; and **Michael Wex**, award in scholarship on a Jewish subject for *Born to Kvetch: Yiddish Language and Culture in All of its Moods*.

2007 CANADIAN JEWISH BOOK AWARD WINNERS: Some of the recent winners of the Helen and Stan Vine Annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards are, front row from left, Margie Wolfe, Susan Glickman, Bernice Eisenstein and Shirley Kumove. Back row from left, Seymour Mayne, Rosemary Sullivan, and Rafi Aaron. ***See item in About People.***

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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OBITUARIES
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BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Florence Baily	Jun 15/07	7420 Bathurst Street
Jack Jacobson	Jun 17/07	35 Almore Avenue
Doug Heron	Jun 17/07	71 Beaumont Place
Lillian Allen	Jun 19/07	216 Goddard Street
Morrie Goldberg	Jun 20/07	3303 Don Mills Road
Henry Risman	Jun 20/07	90 Fisherville Road
Elizabeth Frenkel	Jun 23/07	80 Antibes Dr.
Betty Rose	Jun 21/07	156 Caribou Road
Ida Rubinoff	Jun 22/07	7 Berkindale Dr,.
Sonia Nightingale	Jun 23/07	51 Goddard St.
Elaine Birman	Jun 23/07	668 Roselawn Avenue
David Solomon	Jun 22/07	27 Crimson Millway
Michael Greene	Jun 21/07	5743 Kenmoor

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Sayles (Salsman), Harold Samuel	June 21, 2007	Private
Kroll, Mania	June 21, 2007	Private
Gold, Lorraine	June 21, 2007	73 Bowman Way
Biderman, Benjamin	June 21, 2007	7 Townsgate Dr.
Shpilberg, Ezra	June 22, 2007	28 Bentoak Cres.
Moiseff, Basia Savelevna	June 22, 2007	4300 Bathurst St.
Lorber, Laura	June 22, 2007	40 Reiner Rd.
Kandinov, Aharon	June 22, 2007	541 Finch Ave. W.
Vikhman, Leya	June 24, 2007	541 Finch Ave. W.
Argintaru, Ernestina	June 24, 2007	Private
Kind, Bessie	June 26, 2007	718 Sheppard Ave.W
Campus, Stacy Howard	June 26, 2007	22 Almore Ave.

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Drusilla Manny	Jun 20/07	45 Dunfield Ave
Mary Salzberg	Jun 21/07	8 Esterbrook Ave

The Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers of

Jews for Judaism

wish to extend sincere condolences to the **Good**, **Woolf** and **Woznica Families** on the loss of their beloved wife, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother

Regina Good ז"ל

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

The family of the late

DAVID HERMAN ז"ל

Wishes to express our thanks to our friends and colleagues for your generous donations and condolence messages in memory of our dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Michael and Betty Herman
Sonia and Van Shron and family

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

LILY ROSEN ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, July 8th at 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Stashiver Section #7

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

JACOB SAMUEL KOTLER ז"ל

Beloved son of Robert and Richelle Kotler of Calgary, peacefully passed away, on Monday, June 25, 2007 at the age of 8 years. Jacob loved to sing, dance and play and he was known as the "entertainer". He had a genuine loving heart that he shared openly with everyone. Jacob will be forever remembered by his parents Robert and Richelle; grandparents; aunts and uncles and by many cousins. Funeral Services at the Jewish Memorial Chapel, Calgary, on Wednesday, June 27, 2007, followed by a graveside service at the 37th Street Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made directly to the Jacob Samuel Kotler Memorial Fund, c/o The Benjamin Foundation, 3429 Bathurst St., Toronto, M6A 2C3 416-780-0324.

The friends of our dear **Mania Kroll** regret her passing on June 22, 2007. We remember Mania's generosity, loyalty and love. We send our condolences to her sons Gidi and Ofer, and to her grandchildren Jade Michal and Julian.

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SEX WILL GET BETTER WHEN WE BECOME ROMANTICS AGAIN: RABBI SHMULEY

By KYLE GORDON
Special to The CJN

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, prominent author and TV host, addressed a small gathering of young adults about heterosexual relationships and modern culture's corruption of romance late last month.

"Sex is the intense motion that brings forth the intense emotion. It is the only activity reserved for humanity that has in its power the capacity to sew together man and woman as bone of one bone and flesh of one flesh," said the bestselling author of ***Kosher Sex***.

Modern pop culture does not view sex in this capacity as Rabbi Boteach went on to illustrate, by examining the evolution of romantic relationships and their popular descriptions.

During the Victorian era, men and women would court each other. A man would refine his character to become a gentleman and worthy of a woman, Rabbi Boteach said on June 20 at The House, a second-storey venue in Toronto that offers programming and a place to hang out for young Jews from all backgrounds.

"There was a beauty in the word 'court.' It had a spatial connotation related to creating a home," said Rabbi Boteach, who hosts The Learning Channel's ***Shalom in the Home***, during which he helps dysfunctional families overcome their problems.

The spatial nuance slowly developed into a temporal one with words such as "she's my date" or "we're going out." By 2007, the term courting had been replaced with "hooking up" – a phrase adopted on university campuses across North America.

"It connotes the relationship between a [moving truck] and a station wagon," Rabbi Boteach said.

"It is a symbol of how much we have degraded ourselves, our bodies and our capacity for intimacy."

But the degradation of the human body, especially the female form, is not unique to North America. While in Dakar, Senegal, Rabbi Boteach was shocked by the self-hatred prominent in one of the world's poorest countries.

"There were massive billboards advertising skin bleaching for women. You don't even hate your poverty, you hate the colour of your skin," he said.

So, where does this kind of self-hatred come from? Perhaps it is due to the abundance of pornography, bikini-clad women and premarital sex that has enabled men to become experts in a woman's body, Rabbi Boteach said.

"Every man that comes to a woman is a supreme court justice highly experienced," he said.

Women are prepared to undergo breast augmentation surgery and botox injections because they feel that they are somehow inadequate, he added.

"The essence of being a woman today is that everything about you isn't good enough. Your hair isn't blond enough, your eyes never blue enough and your weight never thin enough," said Rabbi Boteach.

This feeling of inadequacy has also made its way into the bedroom. According to Rabbi Boteach, 80 per cent of women admit to faking an orgasm.

Sex should be one of life's most pleasurable moments. It should be a time to embrace and accept who you are and release all your inhibitions, he said.

"Yet there, in the most intimate activity, you are faking it. That completely destroys sex. That means that we have not left a single bastion of innocence where we can just be. Isn't that why we are so insecure today, why we are so inadequate?" he said.

During the discussion period a woman challenged Rabbi Boteach's premise that the "hook-up generation," or men's expertise in women's bodies, are the cause of female inadequacy.

"There is a whole corporate marketing culture that is teaching men how to be men and women how to be women for the sole purpose of selling. The hook-up culture is a byproduct of commercialism, so that we see ourselves as disposable," said the female audience member.

"I agree. It all comes from a very masculine aggressive posture of the culture," Rabbi Boteach said.

"It has got to get better, and it will get better when we become romantics again," he added.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach speaks to students at The House in Toronto about the way modern culture has trivialized sex. *[Kyle Gordon photo]*
(photo above courtesy of TLC)

שלום בבית

Shalom in 'The House'

New UIAFC head hopes to extend organization's reach

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Taking on the presidency of United Israel Appeal Federations Canada (UIAFC) would be a formidable task for anyone, but for Barbara Farber it's business as usual.

The Ottawa native has been involved in – and probably chaired – just about every organization in the local Jewish community over the past three decades.

President of the family business, Leikin Group Inc., Farber began her career immediately after graduating from York University in 1972.

"I had the privilege of working with my grandfather for 26 years, where I saw business conducted in a tough yet fair and always ethical way. And I am now fortunate to be working alongside my two brothers three generations later," she said.

She also learned from her grandfather, a founding member of Agudath Israel Synagogue, the importance of volunteering and participating fully in the community. Her father, Stan Katz, was also president of the synagogue and eventually Farber followed, becoming the first female president of the Conservative congregation.

She has served as president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa (now the Jewish Federation of Ottawa); chair of the building committee of Hillel Lodge; vice-chair of the National Board of Canada-Israel Committee; and held several positions with UIAFC prior to becoming president.

Farber does not confine her volunteerism to the Jewish community, however. "I like to be involved in the general community as well."

She is currently a member of the Ottawa International Airport Authority Board and immediate past chair (and first chair) of the Algonquin College Foundation Board.

In the past year, she was a committee member of the major gifts division of United Way Ottawa, a member of the Telus Ottawa Community Board and a federally appointed panel member of the NCC (National Capital Commission) Mandate Review.

She finds the time to be involved in volunteer activities while running a business, she said, because, she has very little downtime. "I start very early in the morning with a workout. I start replying to e-mails at 6:30 a.m., just after breakfast…I eat lunch sitting at my desk."

Barbara Farber

In addition to her time management skills, Farber credits the people around her for their support. "I have outstanding staff, both in Canada and in Israel. A volunteer is only as good as the staff behind her," she said.

"That goes for my business life as well. I have good staff, and my brothers and I are all very supportive of one another.

"I probably have the best husband in the world. [Len] has supported me in all of my activities since we have been married. My parents, Stan and Libby Katz, have always been supportive as well. Every Friday night, my mother made the Shabbat dinner…my children had a great upbringing, with my parents and grandparents being with us."

Being the first president of UIAFC from outside of Montreal or Toronto, Farber is anxious to extend the reach and influence of the organization from coast to coast. "There are many mid-sized federations, small-sized federations and some unfederated communities as well," she said, and she will try to get them all involved.

"I think it is very important for everyone to feel a part of it."

Another goal for Farber's two-year term is to involve youth and encourage future community leadership.

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Klein's thesis on Israel is 'total rubbish'

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

Journalists and writers who contribute to the commentary pages of newspapers and magazines are, by definition, involved in advancing opinion, even strongly held views. Few do that more prominently than Naomi Klein. But when they push their polemics so far that they violate – even butcher – basic facts, they also violate a core tenet of journalistic responsibility: maintaining intellectual integrity.

In her June 21 commentary, "Israel thrives, Gaza suffers," for the B.C.-based alternative weekly, the *Georgia Straight*, Klein failed or refused to get even basic facts about Israel's economy straight. She asked how is it that while Israel is facing so many regional problems (Lebanon, Gaza, Syria/Golan Heights), and has a political leadership wracked by corruption charges, its economy is booming.

Her answer: "[L]arge parts of Israel's tech economy ha[ve] been repurposed… Israel [has gone] from inventing the networking tools of [*New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman's] 'flat world' to selling fences to an apartheid planet."

Citing a bold statistic, that in 2006 "Israel exported $3.4 billion in defence products," Klein implied that Israel's "huge and expanding export business" is identified only with military exports, and, moreover, that "much of this [export] growth has been in the so-called homeland security sector."

In a telephone interview, Israel-based journalist and author Jim Lederman (who writes on Israeli and Palestinian political economy for the British consultancy Oxford Analytica), said that Klein's thesis, along with her extremely selective use of statistics, "is total rubbish. She takes accurate figures on Israel's arms sales and then weaves a tale of total fantasy. The idea that arms sales are the basis for the recent growth of the Israeli economy is simply false."

With a 2006 GDP of $195 billion (US), according to the International Monetary Fund, the $3.4 billion in military exports amounts to less than two per cent of Israel's economy – not insignificant, but very far from a full and fair explanation for Israel's economic growth, which has averaged five per cent per year over the past three years.

Lederman continued: "Israel's economy is booming, but certainly not mainly for the reasons Klein gives. A recent study by the Bank of Israel found that, over a period of two decades, two-thirds of Israeli growth has been due to immigrant absorption and Israel's participation in a growing world civilian economy. The smart money that is going into start-ups today is divided among companies specializing in telecommunications (30 per cent), life sciences (16 per cent), and the Internet (16 per cent).

"Another factor that cannot be underestimated is foreign investor confidence – the result of economic reforms, government fiscal discipline and economic growth outside of high tech, such as banking and real estate."

In fact, Lederman explained, according to a study on Israel's economy released in March by Tel Aviv University professor Manuel Trajtenberg, all of Israel's high-tech industries taken together – including the defence and security-related industries, in addition to major companies such Intel, Comverse, Amdocs, Teva, etc. – provide employment for only seven per cent of the Israeli workforce."

It seems that Klein is so ideologically driven to paint Israel as an aggressive military power and as a wanton oppressor of the Palestinians (she devotes a good part of her commentary to this), that she's only too willing to twist isolated statistics to service this aim.

Readers beware.

And editors should do minimal fact-checking – something in frightening decline almost everywhere these days – before publishing such erroneous diatribes.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

El Al seeks new manager as Morais makes aliyah

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

As general manager of El Al's Canadian operations, Stanley Morais has seen many families make aliyah.

Once or twice a year, Nefesh b'Nefesh, an organization that helps olim get established in Israel, would book a block of seats and shepherd prospective immigrants on the first leg of their great Israeli adventure.

Always a little bit envious of the olim, Morais will be envious no more. On Aug. 12, Morais, his wife Janet and their three daughters will join a group of immigrants heading for Israel.

Morais, who has served as El Al's general manager for four years, will vacate his position at the end of next month. The airline has started looking for a replacement, and although he won't divulge any secrets, Morais said the shortlist includes at least one Canadian.

He was the first Canadian to head up the Israeli airline's domestic operations when he took over the top job in 2003. He joined El Al in 1993 as sales and marketing manager after stints with the Israel Government Tourist Office (IGTO) and a private marketing agency.

When he became general manager, the airline was experiencing a difficult patch, but he believes he leaves it on a sounder financial footing than when he started in the position.

Back in 2003, the airline, and Israel in general, had not yet fully recovered from the Palestinian intifadah. The constant violence dissuaded many travellers from booking trips to Israel, and those with reservations would often cancel when a high-profile bombing took place – even if their trip was six months down the road, he said.

In the last couple of years, things have really turned around.

"We have seen a tremendous growth for the the Canadian market," he said. Before, "we were taking money from the company instead of giving it."

Even though the IGTO has reported a 25 per cent drop in the number of Canadians visiting Israel, El Al's figures show slightly less than 30 per cent increase in traffic in the January to March 2007 period over the year before.

Stanley Morais

That anomalous situation could be due to a couple of factors, Morais said. The IGTO records the number of Canadians travelling to Israel, while El Al takes into account all passenger traffic, which includes people travelling on Israeli passports. In addition, Morais speculated, perhaps other carriers are experiencing reduced passenger loads.

Nevertheless, the Toronto route is no longer the financial drain on El Al that it was only a few years ago.

At the time, it had suffered a drop in passenger traffic and it was hampered by systemic costs that are not so easily reversed. El Al, he pointed out, has high security costs, high fuel costs, is affected by the exchange difference between the Canadian and U.S. dollars, and like other carriers, pays the world's highest landing fees to operate out of Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

While all that hasn't changed, other aspects of the airline's operations have. The Los Angeles leg of the route was dropped after the southern California city started filling planes on its own, negating the need to stop in Toronto en route to Israel.

And as of April 19, the airline no longer brings Chicago passengers to Toronto en route to Israel. For the spring and summer months, El Al will fly four non-stop flights to Israel each week, dropping that number to three in the fall and winter, he said.

Morais' handling of the difficult Toronto route must have impressed people at head office. Their co-operation in offering him a job in Israel was an important factor in the decision to make the move. When he arrives, he'll have a job waiting for him in the airline's commercial department, which handles sales and marketing.

The family will move to Ra'anana, a city of 80,000 northeast of Tel Aviv, near Herzliyah.

A graduate of Associated Hebrew Schools and the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Morais has always been attracted to Israel. He recalls fondly a trip his family took to the Jewish state when he was 16, as well as a year he spent studying at Hebrew University.

It was during that year that he and his future wife, Janet Rusonik, also of Toronto, "found our bashert."

Since their marriage in 1992, they have often talked about living in Israel. A few years ago, during the intifadah, they spent a month in Kadimah, having swapped houses with an Israeli family that wanted to live in Toronto. Two summer vacations in Israel followed, and eventually they made the decision to make the move.

Morais, who travels to Israel often, said whenever he arrived there, "I sighed and felt this is where I belong. I felt comfortable."

He and Janet also believe that living in Israel will be the best way to give their children a Jewish education.

"The kids are hesitatingly excited," he said. "They are hesitant about leaving their friends and family and going to school [where everything will be] in Hebrew. That will be a challenge to them, but they are coming from a good base."

Security concerns are not paramount

"We don't want to live our lives in fear," Morais said. "I'm more of a fatalist. Whatever happens will happen. I want to live my dream."

Echenbergs fund international genocide conference

Actress Mia Farrow, Nobel Prize-winning Nigerian author Wole Soyinka and retired Canadian general Romeo Dallaire are among the scheduled speakers at the inaugural Echenberg family conference on human rights, to be held at McGill University Oct. 11 to 13.

The Global Conference on the Prevention of Genocide will bring together survivors and witnesses of mass killings of Jews and Roma during World War II, as well as more recently in Cambodia, the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and eminent scholars, politicians, journalists and activists from around the world.

Farrow is a UNICEF goodwill ambassador and activist against the current human tragedy in Darfur.

Among the other participants announced are Hedi Fried, Holocaust survivor and author of *The Road to Auschwitz: Fragments of a Life*, United Nations special adviser on genocide prevention Juan Mendez, and MP Irwin Cotler, a human-rights lawyer and former justice minister.

McGill law professor Payam Akhavan, a former UN war crimes prosecutor at The Hague, will chair the conference.

The aim is to "open a dialogue between decision-makers and genocide survivors, between the leaders of this generation and those of the next, with the goal of exploring means of preventing genocidal violence, rather than focussing on intervention after the fact," organizers said in a statement.

A pre-conference of 35 young human-rights activists will be held starting Oct. 7.

A number of public exhibitions of photographs, films, art, artifacts and multimedia providing personal accounts of crimes against humanity will be held in conjunction with the conference.

The Echenberg family human rights conference series was established in January through a donation from McGill graduate Gordon Echenberg and his wife Penny. While studying at the faculty of law, Echenberg (BA '61, BCL '64) served as president of the McGill Students Society. He is a founding director of Interamicus, a McGill-based international rights advocacy centre.

Klein, Wolofsky named 'national historic figures'

Poet and journalist A.M. Klein and Hirsch Wolofsky, founder of the *Kanader Adler*, Montreal's Yiddish-language newspaper, have been designated as national historic figures by the Canadian government.

Klein (1909-1972) will be remembered with the installation of a plaque at his former home on Hutchison Street in Outremont. Wolofsky's (1876-1949) contribution as a media pioneer will be acknowledged with a plaque on the former St. Laurent Boulevard offices of the Yiddish newspaper he published from 1907.

Klein and Wolofsky have been officially recognized largely through the efforts of Jeffrey Boro, immediate past president of Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region, and the CJC Archives. The recognition is extended under Parks Canada's Ethnocultural Communities History Initiative.

"We are very pleased that the unique contributions made by these two Jewish individuals to Canadian society have been officially recognized by the government of Canada," said CJC Quebec-region president Victor Goldbloom. "The plaques to be erected in their honour help ensure that future generations of Canadians will learn about their accomplishments and the role that notable members of our community have played in Quebec and Canadian history."

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Research aims to treat disease affecting soldiers serving in Mideast

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Two Israeli-trained infectious disease specialists working in Winnipeg have received funding through the Jewish National Fund of Canada (JNF) to study an infectious disease affecting Canadian soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

Leishmaniasis is a condition commonly found in certain parts of the Middle East, in particular Afghanistan and the Jordan Valley.

Ethan Rubinstein, head of infectious diseases at the University of Manitoba, said the protozoan is transmitted by the bite of a female sandfly.

The sandfly infects the host with the parasite, which then begins to eat away flesh. Untreated, leishmaniasis can leave visible scarring and, in extreme cases, permanent disfigurement.

Rubinstein, former head of internal medicine at Tel Aviv University's medical school, notes that the infection is not contagious and the lesions eventually heal on their own after a lengthy period. Treatments involve either topical compounds, applying heat to the infected area, or antimony-based solutions and anti-fungal agents administered systemically.

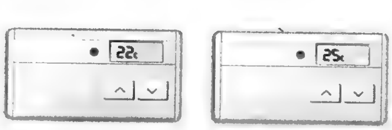
Israeli farmers and soldiers serving in the Israel Defence Forces are affected by the disease, Rubinstein said, and since 2001, more than 700 American military personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have been diagnosed with a form of leishmaniasis. It has also been observed in Canadian soldiers.

"We are treating six cases from Camp Shilo [an army base in western Manitoba]," Rubinstein said, "but they are not responding to traditional treatments. We want to find out what kind of leishmaniasis we are dealing with. The tropical variety should be responding well to our treatment. Perhaps this is a Mediterranean strain, or something new."

The research project is a collaborative effort involving scientists from the University of Manitoba departments of medical microbiology, internal medicine and immunology, and McGill University, as well as Dr. Moshe Ephros from the Technion, Israeli Institute of Technology. The lead researchers are Rubinstein, and Dr. Yoav Keynan, formerly of the infectious disease unit at Carmel Hospital in Haifa, who has been working at the University of Manitoba for about 18 months.

The initial funding for the research has been provided by Winnipeg businessman Len Podheiser, a past president of the JNF for Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and former Winnipegger Nathan Jacobson, a philanthropist with business interests and residences in Israel, Ukraine and Canada.

Rubinstein said the researchers are looking to the government of Manitoba and the federal government to provide additional funding for the project, which he anticipates will take between six and nine months to complete.



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יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון : אַלעק סילווער

וועגן קאָנצערט פון טאָראָנטער יידישן פאָלקס־כאָר

פון אַלעק סילווער

עס איז אַן אָנגענומענער כּלל אין יידישן פאָלקלאָר, אַז אויב אַ יחיד אָדער אינסטיטוציע טוט עפּעס עפנטלעך פאַר דער יידישער געזעלשאַפט 3־4 יאָר כּסדר קען עס ווערן אַריינגענומען אין דער קאַטעגאָריע פון אַ „טראַדיציע”. איז אַזוי ווי איך האָב שוין אַ צאָל יאָרן נאָכאַנאַנד געשריבן וועגן די קאָנצערטן פון יידישן פאָלקס־כאָר וועל איך אויך דאָס באַצייכענען ווי מיין טראַדיציע. און עס איז אַ טראַדיציע וואָס גיט מיר גרויס פאַרגעניגן און איך האָף צו קענען אָנהאַלטן די דאָזיקע טראַדיציע פאַר אַ סך יאָרן. איז לאָמיר צוגיין צום ענין.

מיין פרוי און איך, צוזאַמען מיט נאָך הונדערטער מענטשן, זיינען געווען אָנוועזנד ביים לעצטן קאָנצערט פון טאָראָנטער יידישן פאָלקס־כאָר דעם דריטן יוני, 2007 אין ליאָ פאָסלונס טעאַטער. וויל איך באַלד פון אָנהייב זאָגן, אַז מיר זיינען נישט געווען אַנטוישט און געהאַט גרויס הנאה פון דער פאָרשטעלונג. דאָס טוט מיר פאַרזיכערן, אַז איך וועל נאָך קענען אָנהאַלטן מיין טראַדיציע פאַר אַ לאַנגער צייט.

ווען מען רעדט שוין וועגן טראַדיציעס, מוז מען אַריינגעמען דעם פרילינג קאָנצערט פון כאָר אין דער דאָזיקער קאַטעגאָריע. דאָס איז באַקאַנט נישט בלויז אין טאָראָנטאָ, נאָר אויך צווישן דער יידישער באַפעלקערונג אין קאַנאַדע און אַפילו אויסער אונדזער לאַנד. דער פאַקט, אַז די דאָזיקע כאָר־אינסטיטוציע האָט שוין אַריבערגעטרעטן דעם אַכטן יאָרצענדליק פון איר עקזיסטענץ גיט צו אמת צו אונדזער באַהויפּטונג.

וואָס קען מען זאָגן וועגן קאָנצערט גופא, וואָס איז נאָך נישט געזאָגט געוואָרן פריִער? מען קען בלויז ווידער איבערחזרן, אַז דער אַנסאַמבל, מיטן דיריגענט אַלעקסאַנדער וועפּרינסקי בראש, איז געווען אויסגעצייכנט; דער פּראָגראַם — אַ שיינער, וועלכער האָט געברענגט פאַרגעניגן צום עולם. ספּעציעל האָבן אויסגענומען מערילין לערנער (ביי דער פּיאַנאָ) און דוד וואָל (אַ טענאָר) ווען זיי זיינען אויפגעטראָטן צוזאַמען אין אַ צאָל לידער פון זייערע אייגענע קאָמפּאָזיציעס באַזירט אויף פּאָעמעס פון זישא לאַנדאַו און אַנדערע דיכטערס.

דער הויכפּונקט פון פּראָגראַם איז געווען די מוזיקאַלישע געטאָ־קאַנטאַטע, באַזירט אויף דער יידישער פּאָעמע „**לערערין מירע**” פון **אברהם סוצקעווער**, וועלכער לעבט איצט אין מדינת ישראל. ער איז איינער פון די אָנגעזעענסטע און באַקאַנטסטע יידישע דיכטערס פון 20סטן יאָרהונדערט. ער איז 94 יאָר אַלט (ביז 120) און ער האָט די פּאָעמע געשאַפן אין דער ווילנער געטאָ, באַזירט אויף אמתע פאַקטן.

די מוזיק צו דער קאַנטאַטע האָט געשאַפן דער רוסיש־יידישער קאָמפּאָזיטאָר וולאַדימיר חפץ, געבוירן אין 1893 אין רוסלאַנד, געשטאָרבן אין 1970 אין אַמעריקע. חפץ האָט געשאַפן אַ סך מוזיק צו רוסישע, ענגלישע, יידישע און העברעיִשע לידער און פּאָעמעס. צו די יידיש־רעדנדיקע מענטשן פון מיין דור איז ער באַקאַנט דורך שאַפן די מוזיק פאַר צוויי פון די בעסטע יידישע פילמען: „גרינע פעלדער” (1937) און „מירעלע אפרת” (1939).

איך וועל נישט איבערטרייבן ווען איך וועל פעסטשטעלן, אַז די דאָזיקע קאַנטאַטע איז געווען אומפאַרגעסלעך און האָט שטאַרק באַווירקט די צושויער. די פּאָעמע איז געזונגען געוואָרן אין דער אָריגינעלער יידישער שפּראַך. די פּאַסיקע אילוסטראַציעס, וואָס זיינען געוויזן געוואָרן אויפן עקראַן, האָבן נאָך מער באַוויזן די גרויליקע לאַגע אין געטאָ. די דערגרייכונג פון דער מוזיק איז באַשטאַנען אין דעם, וואָס זי האָט פאַרשטאַרקט דעם טעקסט, וואָס האָט אויסגעשריגן דעם ווייטיק און צער פון דעם פּאָעט.

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Katsav pleads to lesser charge, avoids rape conviction

By DAN BARON
JTA

JERUSALEM — His reputation in shambles from a sex scandal that broke a year ago and swelled in subsequent months, Israel's outgoing president put an end to the sordid chapter by agreeing to a plea bargain after months of insisting he was innocent.

Under the deal announced last Thursday, President Moshe Katsav pleaded guilty to sexually harassing and molesting female staff in exchange for prosecutors' agreement not to pursue rape charges against him. He also resigned early – his resignation was to take effect Sunday – received a suspended prison sentence, and agreed to pay compensation to the complainants.

This marks the first time an Israeli head of state has been convicted of sexual misconduct, a legacy many hope soon will be forgotten after former prime minister Shimon Peres takes over the presidency July 15.

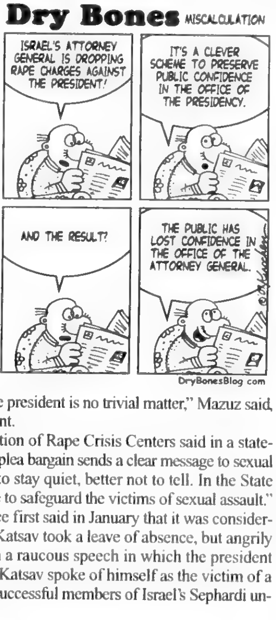
For much of this year, Katsav was on a leave of absence and Knesset Speaker Dalia Itzik served as acting president.

"Israel's 'No. 1 citizen' has become a convicted sexual offender," Attorney General Menachem Mazuz told reporters. "The shame will accompany him forever."

The deal was deplored by women's rights groups and others who saw the plea bargain as an easy pass for a member of Israel's political elite, the latest in a long string of lenient convictions and sentences for a corrupt Israeli leadership.

The attorney for the employee of the president's residence who had accused Katsav of rape, known as Complainant A, petitioned Israel's High Court of Justice last week in an effort to block the plea deal, but her request was denied.

"The attorney general gave in to pressure, and the prosecutor forfeited the doing of justice because we're talking about the president," attorney Kinneret Barashi told reporters. "This is a black day. At issue is a complainant who told her truth, in which she believes. Along with her, I will fight by all means in order to change this decision and bring justice to light. I have a great deal to say, and the last word has yet to be said."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AND THE RESULT?
THE PUBLIC HAS LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.
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Mazuz said the State Attorney's Office entered the plea bargain because it saw difficulties in proving the toughest allegations, some of them dating back years.

"A confession by the president is no trivial matter," Mazuz said, defending the agreement.

But Israel's Association of Rape Crisis Centers said in a statement in response, "The plea bargain sends a clear message to sexual assault victims: better to stay quiet, better not to tell. In the State of Israel, there is no one to safeguard the victims of sexual assault."

When Mazuz's office first said in January that it was considering a rape indictment, Katsav took a leave of absence, but angrily denied wrongdoing. In a raucous speech in which the president clearly lost his temper, Katsav spoke of himself as the victim of a "witch hunt" targeting successful members of Israel's Sephardi underclass.

Livni, Canadian envoy slam UNHRC

By LISA ZILBERPRIVER
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

RAMAT GAN — Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni criticized the United Nations Human Rights Council last week for its decision to single out Israel for repeated criticism.

"There is no connection between the United Nations Human Rights Council and human rights," Livni said in a June 27 address to dignitaries and officials at Canada Day celebrations in Ramat Gan.

Tzipi Livni

The foreign minister thanked Canada for being the only one of the council's 47 members to vote against its decision last month to place Israel on its permanent agenda.

"It's easy to be a friend of Canada, and difficult to be a friend of Israel," she said, adding Israel needs allies who are willing to stand up for it.

"These are not diplomatic words, and I hope the diplomats here will take it as an example," Livni added.

Canada's ambassador to Israel, Jon Allen, told *Ha'aretz* that Canada had protested the council's announcement of a unanimous decision to keep Israel on the permanent agenda.

"Canada took a strong stance and voted no, and notwithstanding, the chairman went ahead and declared a consensus," Allen said.

"Israel should not be singled out when countries like Belarus and Sudan are ignored," the ambassador said, adding that Canada supports a two-state solution but believes in Israel's right to defend itself in a "tough neighbourhood."

Jon Allen

Public Security Minister Avi Dichter described Canada as a "real friend" of Israel.

He recalled his March meeting in Ottawa with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper in which Harper vowed to maintain a tough stance on terrorism.

"I hope Canada will never face what we face in Israel," Dichter told guests at the celebrations, which were held at the Diamond Exchange.

"A network of evil can only be defeated by a network of democratic countries like Canada and Israel," he said.

The Human Rights Council, based in Geneva, was formed approximately a year ago as part of a reform initiated by then-UN secretary general Kofi Annan.

The UN voted to replace the Human Rights Commission with the council in an attempt to address both criticisms of the commission's composition, which frequently included some of the world's worst human rights abusers, and what Annan called its excessive focus on Israel.

SHLEP ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Members of the Modi'in Miracle congratulate each other during the inaugural game of the six-team Israel Baseball League (IBL) at the Sportek baseball field in Petah Tikva last week. The Miracles beat the Petah Tikva Pioneers 9-1. [RNS/Reuters photo]

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Russian mogul wins European Jewish Congress election

By **DINAH SPRITZER**
JTA

BRUSSELS — The election this week of the first eastern European to the helm of the European Jewish Congress is fuelling speculation that the 20-year-old organization will expand its focus beyond issues relating to anti-Semitism, Israel and other Middle East flashpoints.

Moshe Kantor

Moshe Kantor, the president of the Russian Jewish Congress, scored a large victory in last week's vote that capped what had evolved into a bitter contest with the incumbent, Tunisian-born Frenchman Pierre Besnainou.

Kantor, 53, will lead the only pan-European Jewish organization devoted primarily to lobbying politicians and the European Union on behalf of Europe's 3.5 million Jews, often on Middle East-related issues and the need to combat anti-Semitism.

While Kantor does not plan for the European Jewish Congress (EJC) to abandon these issues, he has displayed a preference for engaging politicians behind the scenes and has dedicated more resources to promoting Jewish cultural and educational causes.

Kantor's activities and style stand in vivid contrast to those of Besnainou, who devoted his energies to attacking anti-Semitism and pushing EU leaders to be harsher on Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Kantor, a billionaire philanthropist who has resided in Geneva for 14 years, has promised to expand the 41-country organization's activities into the field of education and culture, improve fundraising and lessen its financial dependence on the World Jewish Congress.

In the end, it seemed that although EJC members rarely miss a chance to express their solidarity with Israel, they wanted equal focus on their specific European problems.

"It is the job of Israeli ambassadors to speak on behalf of Israel to the European Union," said Kobi Benatoff of Italy, a past EJC president. "We need to support Israel, but we speak on behalf of European Jewry."

Kantor's election was slammed by Leonid Nevzlin, a Russian tycoon who moved to Israel to avoid what he describes as politically motivated criminal charges aimed at punishing him for opposing Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"It is regretful that Mr. Kantor was elected as the president of the EJC since there are substantial doubts as to his true intentions in this position," Nevzlin said in a statement.

The statement went on to say that an EJC president "with strong ties and a bias to the Kremlin, which increasingly has regressed to authoritarianism and shows a lack of respect to European democratic values, is unlikely to contribute to the development of European Jewry and its ties with Israel."

Throughout much of the campaign for the EJC presidency, opponents painted Kantor as a Putin loyalist. Besnainou claimed that Kantor's election would hurt Israel and European Jewry because he would be unwilling to harm his good relationship with the Kremlin. Kantor is among the wealthiest people in Russia with an estimated net worth of $1.7 billion.

One French delegate noted that Kantor was silent when Putin met with Hamas representatives in Moscow after the Islamist party's election victory last year and condemned Israel for using disproportionate force in last summer's Lebanon war.

But Kantor told JTA last week that "cooperation and not confrontation" are the best tools for influencing Kremlin policy.

"Putin came to Krakow for the World Holocaust Forum and apologized for the existence of anti-Semitism in Russia," he said, referring to an event that was part of Auschwitz liberation ceremonies. "We invited him to be there, and this is the concrete result of our efforts."

Kantor did not respond publicly to any of the attacks on him in the Israeli press by Besnainou or his supporters. Instead he promoted his funding of massive heritage projects, such as the $6 million Auschwitz commemoration in 2005 attended by 70 heads of state.

In last week's election, with the voting weighted per country, Kantor received 55 votes to 30 for Besnainou. There were two abstentions.

Some voters praised the image of integration between eastern and western Europe.

"We are way ahead of the European Union," said the president of the Swiss Federation for Jewish Communities, Alfred Donath, who has known Kantor for more than a decade. "Russia might actually join the EU in a decade, but now we Europeans have a Russian leader. And why not?"

Adam Dawson, who serves on the executive of the British Board of Jewish Deputies, Britain's Jewish umbrella organization, said, "I think Mr. Kantor's win is a good for European Jewry because he has a fresh vision."

An engineer and scientist who made his fortune with a fertilizer company he bought for little money from the Russian state in the early 1990s, Kantor is short on political lobbying experience. One of his campaign promises was to appoint a vice-president who will be responsible for EU relations.

In the end, several EJC delegates told JTA they supported Kantor because they liked his financial support for Jewish causes. Last year, he put up $10 million for the European Jewish Fund, which helps communities develop Jewish cultural and educational programs.

Kantor has promised to find new sources of revenue for the organization so it can also focus on education.

For Kantor, the threat of assimilation is just as serious as the threat of anti-Semitism.

'I am sure a change will come about'

Continued from page 1

changing anything in the car," says Bronicki, who co-founded the company with Lucien in 1965.

Biodiesel can be plant or animal based, but it is usually made from soy or canola oil. It is a renewable energy source, which burns cleaner than regular diesel, is less toxic than table salt and will help curb dependence on foreign oil.

Its use will help to cut down greenhouse gases, the major contributor to global warming.

While use of biodiesel is increasing in the United States, the fuel currently in use has its limitations. Cars that run on diesel, especially older ones, often need to be retrofitted with a special device for the fuel to be processed properly. And in most cases, only a small proportion (between two and five per cent) of the biodiesel can be used in a traditional diesel mix.

'We are talking about having independence from Middle East oil'

And although Ormat expects its biodiesel to be more expensive than traditional diesel in the beginning, Bronicki believes there will be government and state incentives in the United States for promoting its use.

Bronicki and her husband started Ormat in 1965. "We were never hippies, though," she says. "We were always square people with a clear vision that we wanted to do something in which Israel could excel."

Today, Ormat has realized its vision. It is one of the most important alternative and renewable energy companies in the world, especially in the areas of geothermal energy and energy recovery.

Ormat has a stake in a multi-billion dollar project with OPTICanada to refine heavy oil spread throughout the Alberta tar sands in Canada. Ormat owns the technology that the Canadian company will be using.

"People need fuel security and fuel diversity," Bronicki says. "We are talking about having independence from Middle East oil in countries like Canada and the U.S. What we are doing is an important step in making that happen."

Ormat, which has about 700 employees, derives most of its income from working in the area of geothermal energy (taking heat energy from the earth and converting it into usable energy). The company has commercialized a technology called the organic rankine cycle (ORC).

ORC enables production of electricity not only from steam but also from hot water. Ormat has 11 such energy plants around the world, with several in Nevada and California. Ormat has also built similar units in a Kenyan wildlife reserve.

"Geothermal power usually follows consumption needs, and because of that we generally build our plants in populated areas," says Bronicki, whose plants produce about 360 megawatts of power – enough energy for about 500,000 people.

Energy recovery is the company's second most important area of business. Ormat has built a turbine technology that fits heat-generating factories.

"These turbines collect heat that would otherwise be wasted," says Bronicki, who notes that the heat from cement kilns and other industrial processes salvaged by the Ormat units equates to about 50,000 pounds worth of fossil fuel saved each day.

She adds, "Most of our applications are along natural gas pipelines, which use waste heat collected from gas turbines that drive the compressors." Ormat's energy clients include Basin Electric in North Dakota, Southern California Edison and Sierra Pacific Power in Nevada.

The energy collected either goes back to serve the customer's needs or is sold to utility companies for general use.

Bronicki recognizes her company's importance, but she believes it will take more than one company's good intentions and deeds to reverse environmental pollution and global warming.

"Ormat is only one drop in the bucket," she says. "And that bucket should be a co-operative effort of policy makers, and people who influence public opinions in the U.S. and around the world."

Bronicki, however, is positive about the future.

"Public opinion is evolving all the time," she says. "I am sure a change will come about using biodiesel, ethanol, geothermal, recovered and other alternative and renewable energy sources. Awareness is more important in the U.S. than any lobby group."

Karin Kloosterman is a freelance writer for ISRAEL21c, a media organization focusing on 21st century Israel.

Canada applies to join Holocaust task force

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In a departure from longstanding Canadian policy, the Harper government has applied to join a respected international organization that promotes Holocaust education.

Jason Kenney, secretary of state for multiculturalism and Canadian identity, was in Prague recently to request observer membership in the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research.

The task force is a 24-member organization of European nations, plus the United States, that was formed in 1998 by then-Swedish prime minister Goran Persson. Its purpose is to promote Holocaust education, remembrance and research and to support the Stockholm Declaration, which affirmed "the unprecedented character of the Holocaust" and the need of the international community to oppose genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

In his address to the conference, Kenney said Canada was committed to moving from observer status toward full membership in the task force.

"As a member of the task force, Canada would seek to develop further means to educate the public about the Holocaust, to commemorate that horrific event and to do all it can to ensure that that dark period in history is never repeated."

Noting the worldwide increase in anti-Semitic incidents – 31 per cent more in 2006 than the year before – Kenney said Canada has also experienced increased "vandalism and attacks motivated by race and religion… with the vast majority being anti-Semitic in nature.

"Membership in the task force allows Canadians to remember anti-Semitism of the past as well as to guard against the new anti-Semitism."

Quoting Prime Minister Stephen Harper's warning that hatred of Jews is still preached from religious pulpits and political podiums, he said "there are still people who would perpetrate another Holocaust if they could. That's why we must resist the error of viewing the Holocaust as a strictly historical event. It's not good enough for politicians to stand before you and say they remember and mourn what happened over six decades ago. They must stand up to those who advocate the destruction of Israel and its people today."

Bernie Farber, chief executive officer of Canadian Jewish Congress, was in Prague as part of the Canadian delegation to the task force meetings. He applauded Canada's efforts to join the task force, adding that Canada's absence in an organization that includes most western democracies "was noted."

"The fact we weren't there was something no one could really understand. It should have been a slam dunk."

The previous Liberal government had been asked to join, but it "had a different view of how the Holocaust should be presented – holistically as a terrible genocide, but not in any way that makes it different than other genocides," Farber said.

The task force, on the other hand, sees the Holocaust as a unique event in world history in which the intention was to wipe out an entire people. "That had never been done before," Farber said.

He added Canada's participation "should be viewed by our community as highly, highly significant. [It demonstrates] how issues of anti-Semitism are viewed by this government."

Bar mitzvah money builds playground in Kiryat Shmonah

By MINDY G. ALTER
Special to The CJN

Avid sports fan Norman Yallen knew he wanted to use his bar mitzvah money to fund a sports-related project in Israel, but at first he couldn't imagine what it might be.

Gust Voice

A few months before Norman was set to travel to Israel with family and friends to celebrate his bar mitzvah, Angela D'Aversa, assistant director of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, told Norman and his parents, Francy Kussner and Arthur Yallen, about a project that was an excellent match for a boy who plays hockey and baseball and has an extraordinarily good memory for obscure Major League Baseball statistics: a playground in Kiryat Shmonah.

The playground was being built in a disadvantaged area of the city in Israel's north. The city in general, and the area in particular, had been hard-hit by Hezbollah missiles during last summer's war. The playground was meant to be used by kindergarten children during the week, but it would also be a new focal point – and bright spot – for the entire neighbourhood.

On April 10, after celebrating his bar mitzvah at the Beit Yisrael Synagogue in Jerusalem's Yemin Moshe neighnourhood, Norman, his family and friends, and their Israeli tour guide – 27 people in all – went to Kiryat Shmonah to see the playground that Norman's bar mitzvah money had built.

Eran David, who co-ordinates Canada's Israel Emergency Committee projects in northern Israel, met the group's bus beforehand and told them what to expect. "There will be a short ceremony," he explained. "The mayor will say a few words. Nothing fancy."

But when they arrived at the playground, there was a definite feeling of celebration in the air.

A table laden with cookies, pastries and soft drinks greeted the visitors, and a semicircle of chairs had been set up for the guests and local residents, several of whom, including the teacher from the kindergarten, turned out for the event.

In the foreground stood the playground, which was already up and running, complete with a see-saw and other climbing equipment, on which a few neighbourhood children were playing.

A local woman approached Norman's grandmother, Connie Kussner, and told her that there used to be no place for her grandchildren to play, but now all eight of them use the playground, and, like her, they are thrilled it's there.

The group was welcomed with great warmth by representatives from the Jewish Agency, United Israel Appeal Federations Canada and local dignitaries, including Kiryat Shmonah's mayor, Haim Barvivai.

They all wanted to meet and shake hands with "Nachum," the bar mitzvah boy whom Barvivai called a *gibor* – "hero" – for his generosity.

Norman Yallen and Kiryat Shmonah's mayor, Haim Barvivai

The mayor noted that despite being in the crosshairs of Iran and Hezbollah, the people of Kiryat Shmonah are determined to remain in their beautiful town, the capital of the Galilee. He said that although some people left during the war – an option not open to residents of this neighbourhood, who couldn't afford to leave – every single family returned once the war ended.

The mayor also described how four generations of his family have lived in the town, adding that they are determined to stay, not only for themselves, but for Israel and the Jewish people as a whole.

"Our resolve comes from, among other things, what Nachum did for our city… The distance between Kiryat Shmonah and Toronto is miles and miles, but we feel very close," the mayor said.

At one point during a moving speech that left some in the audience in tears, Barvivai directed everyone's attention to some trees on a hillside in the distance.

During the war, he said, Israel's enemies tried to destroy the trees. "But for every tree that gets burned, we will plant 10 in its place."

The mayor thanked Norman for funding the playground and presented him with some tokens of the city's appreciation, including a box for his tallit and tfillin, and a framed thank-you commemorating the occasion.

The mayor then unveiled a pillar of Jerusalem stone at the side of the playground, and David read out the message on the plaque: "This playground was donated to the children of Kiryat Shmonah by Norman Israel Yallen of Toronto, Canada, on the occasion of his bar mitzvah, Passover 2007."

Norman's mother thanked the mayor on behalf of Norman and his family, and, choking back tears, she said she hoped that some day Norman's children and grandchildren would be able to come to Kiryat Shmonah and see the playground that his bar mitzvah money had built.

Throughout, Norman remained his unflappable, low-key self. But he, too, found the event extremely moving.

"Seeing those happy kids in the playground made it all worthwhile," he said.

Mindy G. Alter is a Toronto writer and Norman Yallen's aunt.

Israel Briefs

Help for Gaza evacuees

The Jewish Agency for Israel has launched a rehabilitation program for former Gaza Strip residents. Under the $1.5 million (US) program, some 8,000 Israelis evacuated from Gaza and four West Bank communities in 2005 will be offered career guidance and emotional support. Two years after the evacuations, many of the former residents have not adjusted to their new lives and complain of government inattention. "The evacuees are people who underwent serious trauma and all of the various bodies – the government, donors and voluntary organizations – must work together to help them return to normal," Jewish Agency chairman Zeev Bielski said.

Israel hits Gaza, West Bank

Israeli special forces killed at least 12 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank last week. Commandos raided the central Gaza town of Khan Younis as well as Gaza City last Wednesday, killing 11 Palestinians, most of them gunmen from Hamas or Islamic Jihad. Palestinians said a boy was among the dead. Two Israeli soldiers were lightly hurt in the clashes. Outside the West Bank city of Jenin, a Palestinian was killed during a shootout between Israeli paramilitary police and an Islamic Jihad fugitive. The dead man was said to have been the terrorist's brother, but it was not immediately clear if he had also been armed. Palestinians in Gaza retaliated with a rocket salvo against Sderot. No one was hurt.

Arms flow into Lebanon

A UN report about arms flow into Lebanon confirmed Israel's intelligence assessment that Hezbollah is rearming via Syria. The report issued in the UN Security Council found that officials along the Syria-Lebanon border are not stemming the flow of weapons into Lebanon. During a three-week period ending June 15, the UN assessment team did not observe a single instance of border officials seizing arms anywhere along the 200 miles of border the team was monitoring. The Security Council resolution that ended last summer's war between Hezbollah and Israel mandated that the Lebanese army prevent arms flow across the border and into the hands of Hezbollah. The Lebanese and a UN force in the country were supposed to enforce that mandate, but have apparently failed. For months, Israeli intelligence officials have warned that Hezbollah has continued to stockpile weapons via Syria and that the terror group has replenished the arms supplies Israel destroyed during last summer's war.

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Crippling back injury leads mother to her dream job

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Felyce Zomparelli could never have known that a freak in-line skating accident that left her bedridden for months would lead her to the most fulfilling career path she could ever imagine.

Zomparelli, a 36-year-old mother of three who has been running her own personal training business since 2003, rose to the challenge of overcoming her immobilizing injury when many others would have given up.

She was just in the beginning stages of her career as a dental assistant when she got into an accident that turned her world upside down.

"I was learning how to Rollerblade and I was blading over to my husband's house – he was my boyfriend at the time – and a car didn't really stop at the stop sign. And I had a choice: hit the car or hit the ground. I hit the ground, thinking it would be a better choice, and it wasn't. I lost feeling in my toe instantly," Zomparelli said.

She had a slipped disc, but she was misdiagnosed by a doctor who treated her ankle instead of her back for two years.

"One day I dropped to the floor. My leg gave out on me," she said, adding that it got so bad that she had to lie on the floor because she couldn't even get into bed.

"I was on a lot of drugs for a long time and I was planning a wedding in the midst of all this. I got engaged about six months after I fell."

Zomparelli wasn't able to walk for three months, until she went through her first back surgery in 1998.

"I got my surgery three weeks before I was to walk down the aisle, and I walked down and I danced at my wedding, and that was amazing," she said.

About a year later, Zomparelli became pregnant with her son, gave birth to him and was eager to lose the baby weight.

She decided that she was going to be a stay-at-home mom and decided to join a gym.

"The personal trainer put me on an exercise that I was never supposed to do. It only took my doing it twice to put me out for three months, and then I went back and designed my own program."

The exercising she was doing was putting a strain on her injured back, and by 2001, she found herself back on an operating table for her second surgery on the same disc.

She was incapacitated once more for a three-month period and was close to falling into a depression.

"When my back started to go bad, I was living with my in-laws, because I couldn't take care of my 18-month old son. We had nothing. Me and my husband had nothing."

Personal trainer Felyce Zomparelli and her children Elizabeth (being held), Connie and Alex.

It was then, she said, that she turned to God for strength.

"I remember over and over again grabbing onto my sink and asking God for not only guidance but strength to see me through this and direct me," she said.

"I was always asking. I'm not a religious person. I'm not shomer Shabbat, I don't keep a kosher house, I don't go to synagogue, but there was just something about asking, and the powers that be give you what you ask for. You just don't always value what is given."

After her physiotherapy, she began to work with a sports rehabilitation therapist for five weeks. He taught her the importance of strengthening "the core" – meaning, back and stomach muscles.

But more importantly, he was the one who suggested she become a trainer and helped her find the courses and internships she needed to pursue this line of work.

"I couldn't go back to my original profession – a dental assistant sitting on my butt all day – so I had to figure out what I was going to do with the rest of my life, because I'm not the sit-down-do-nothing kind of person," she said, adding that she was an overweight teen and has made fitness a part of her life for 20 years.

Her therapist felt she could be a great personal trainer for others like her who have limitations, but are struggling to get back to health.

"Because I know, I can empathize and direct them. I learned this first hand."

Since then, Zomparelli has been certified by the Canadian Personal Trainers Network and has completed internships at the Body and Health Rehabilitation Centre, where she worked with a kinesiologist, as well as at Extreme Fitness, where she was trained by a personal trainer. She has also read numerous books on the subject of training non-athletes with injuries, and she said she is in the best shape of her life.

In fact, less than two years ago, Zomparelli gave birth to twin girls – naturally.

"If you would have told me on January 1, 2002, that I would give birth to two girls naturally without anesthetic, I would have told you you were nuts. Forget about carrying them for 8 months. But I did it without complications, nothing. And I went back to work three months after they were born," she said, proudly.

Today, Zomparelli has a thriving business and is doing what she loves.

She eagerly jumps out of bed each morning at the crack of dawn to meet one of her 22 clients, and she means business.

"I'm doing a lifestyle change, I'm not doing a quick fix. I'm not interested in taking on clients who are looking to lose 30 pounds in a week."

She expects her clients to follow her direction, exercise regularly and eat well.

"I'm not just a personal trainer. I'm like a life coach."

Despite the challenges that Zomparelli was forced to overcome years ago, now that she is her own boss, working in a field that has always been such an important part of her life, she is thankful for the journey that lead her to where she is today.

"I really do believe that when you are on the right path, God blesses you and and I've been blessed.

"I'm not the richest person on the block, I don't live in the biggest house, but when I started this, I had nothing. Now I have my house, we drive two cars, I have a thriving business and a salary that I never made in my other profession. It blows my mind everyday."

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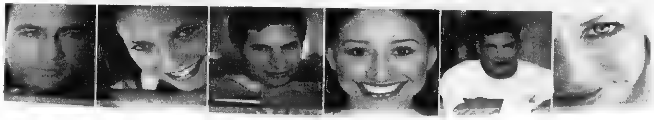

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The Winner

I ran to the park, clutching my glove and bat. Summer vacation was finally here, and I wasn't going to waste a minute. Michael and Joey were warming up, throwing high fly balls to each other. Jake and Alexander were sitting on the bench, slurping slurpies. Zev and Ari were setting up the field.

"All right, let's get started," demanded Ari, and everyone gathered together to make teams.

"You go first," said Zev.

"Fine. Michael."

Michael walked over to join Ari.

"Sam," announced Zev.

Ari looked us over, his gaze resting on me. "Gavi."

I'm always one of the first to get picked. I'm a great hitter, and a pretty good fielder.

The selections went on.

"Max."

"Alexander."

"David."

Soon the teams were set. Ari quickly decided the batting order. I was fourth. I usually hit cleanup.

Ben was up first. He hit a high fly to right field. Easy out, but he had nothing to lose. He ran to first.

The right fielder, a boy I didn't know who was wearing a Mets cap, ran for the ball. It went over his head, and bounced twice before he scooped it up. The fielder tried throwing to Zev, who was covering second, but he couldn't throw far enough. Before Zev could get the ball, Ben was safe at third.

Joshua was up next. "C'mon, Josh, get me home!" called Ben from third.

"No problem," answered Joshua cheerily. But three strikes later, he wasn't so cheery.

Joey was next, hitting a grounder to third. Ben wisely stayed put, but Joey beat the throw and reached first safely.

Now I was up. The pitcher threw a curveball. I pulled back.

"Ball one!" called Ari. "Good eye!"

The second pitch was a little low, but I went for it. The force of the metallic crack of bat against ball surged through my arms, and I ran for first. The ball flew deep into right field, and the boy in the Mets cap wasn't doing any better than last time. I went for second. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Ben and Joey making it home. "Keep going!" yelled Ari, and I headed for third. "Home! Run home!" hollered my teammates. Zev had the ball by now, and he was throwing it home. Desperately, I slid into the plate, the dust billowing up around me, and even Zev had to admit I was safe.

A triumphant roar erupted from my teammates. "Way to go, Gavi!" burst out Ari, slapping me on the back. Right and left, guys were hugging me, slapping me five. "Three-run homer! Yeah! Three zip!"

I took a swig of Coke, feeling like a king.

"C'mon already!" yelled Zev, and the game continued.

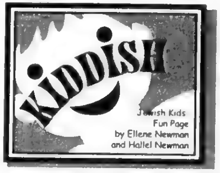
By the end of the third inning, the score was five to four, our lead. I was on deck, practising my swing, when two more guys showed up.

"Hey Ezra! Hey Ilan!" called Ari.

"Hey you guys! Can we join you?"

"Sure, we're each short a player."

Ari and Zev exchanged glances. "I'll take Ezra, you get Ilan," decided Ari.



"No!" burst out Zev. You already have all the good hitters!"

"So I should take Ilan?"

Ilan shrunk. Everyone knew he wasn't such a great player, but they didn't usually make such a big deal about it.

"Listen," declared Ari. "Take Ilan, and I'll give you Gavi."

"For who?"

"For Max."

"Make it David."

"Deal."

The teams reorganized. Nobody dared argue with Zev and Ari.

I put down the bat, scooped up my glove, and headed for the field. That's when it hit me. My homer! The three runs I had scored weren't mine anymore! In fact, we were losing now because of them!

"Gavi!" It was Zev. "Take centre."

A wind was kicking up and the sky was getting dark, just like I felt. I stood there in centre field, completely depressed, utterly betrayed.

I was so lost in my angry thoughts that I almost missed a fly ball. I lunged for it, and caught it. I looked to see who I had just gotten out. It was Ari. Serves him right, I thought, throwing the ball back to the pitcher.

"Three outs!" called Zev, and we switched sides.

I sulked on the bench.

"Gavi." It was Ilan. "Why the long face?"

"Before you got here, I hit a three run homer. And now the runs aren't mine anymore."

"What does that mean? You knocked them in!"

"Now they're being used against me. I don't even know if I want to get any more hits. I'm playing against myself. Either way, I lose."

"You mean, either way, you win."

"Huh?"

"Of course! Your runs are going to win this game, no matter what. The worst you'll do is tie with yourself!"

I looked up. He had a point there.

"Gavi, you're up!"

I stepped up to plate. Whatever happened, I would be the winner. It was a comforting thought.

The wind blew harder. I raised the bat.

"It feels like rain," said Zev.

I looked up.

To the west, there was a flash.

"Lightning!" called Alexander. "Let's get out of here!"

The players scattered as the skies opened up and puddles formed everywhere.

For the second time that day, I was left holding the bat without getting to hit.

Ilan came over to me. "So, who won? You or you?"

"Well..actually nobody. We never even finished the fourth inning. it's a rainout. The whole game never happened."

"Oh."

I was about to add that this was the second time I had missed my chance at bat, when I realized that Ilan had never gotten even a single chance. He was always the last batter in the lineup. Ari and Zev had practically been fighting over who wouldn't have to take him. And here I had been complaining that my three-run homer wasn't being credited to me!

I put my arm around him. His T-shirt was already soaked from the downpour. "Ilan," I said, "I just want to thank you for what you said to me before. It really made my game."

Ilan smiled shyly. "Thanks."

You know, for the second time that day, I felt like a winner. ▼

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Wiseman completes play about a furrier and a native trapper

By SHLOMO SCHWARTZBERG

Special to The CJN

You likely haven't heard of Howard Wiseman before but chances are this won't be an unfamiliar name for much longer.

Wiseman was one of the three writers (along with Gerald Wexler and Joe Wiesenfeld) on *St. Urbain's Horseman*. They worked on the much-anticipated four-hour TV adaptation of Mordecai Richler's acclaimed St. Urbain's Horseman, which airs on CBC this fall.

Wiseman's superb play *The Year of the Flood*, which draws on his Winnipeg roots to tell the powerful story of the long friendship between a Jewish fur store owner and native trapper, and their fractious relationship with their sons, recently had a final reading at Toronto's Miles Nadal JCC.

And he's hard at work on a feature film, tentatively titled *The Long Haul*, a Winnipeg-set crime story, for which he has received development money. As if that's not enough, Wiseman also teaches screenwriting full time at York University.

Those are quite a range of credits for one person. Wiseman was also a cellist for a short time in legendary Canadian rock band Lighthouse and has written and directed for several TV crimes series, including *EXHIBIT A* and *72 Hours: True Crime* – but it's *The Year of the Flood*, set during 1949-50, which currently occupies most of his thoughts and efforts.

"It's based on my grandfather who was a furrier in Winnipeg. One of the native men he used to work with lived… north of Winnipeg, and I would go with my grandfather out fishing and meet the guy. He became fictionalized in the play, where it's not a specific individual," Wiseman says.

Howard Wiseman

"That man and his son were people in my life, and when my grandfather passed away way back in the '70s, I went out to the son of that man that I based the lead character on and I talked to him. That speech pattern is still in my ear and still appears in the play.

"The play's about loss, how to deal with loss, loss of power, loss of hopes and dreams and ambition, and then the idea of the flood sweeping things away. It brings all the emotion to the fore so in terms of these two old men, these two leaders, they have to deal with their power passing along to the next generation, which they are fighting against in a King Lear-like fashion. The other things that's important to me [are] the sons' point of view, [their] struggling to get out from under these larger-than-life characters," he says.

Wiseman, who is in his early 50s, is gung-ho about the final draft of his long-gestating pet project. "I'm at the stage where I'm going to incorporate some of the changes from our final reading into the completed play. It's still really, really good what came up between the actors and me from one draft to the next – [it] was excellent." (He's also written it as a film script, adding the character of a game warden, who functions as an antagonist to propel the story along.)

Working on *St. Urbain's Horseman* was not the same satisfying experience, he says, namely because his was not the sole voice adapting Richler's novel for TV. Thus, only some of Wiseman's original teleplay will be evident in the final version of the miniseries.

"That happens frequently in film and television. You can [keep] possession for the time you're doing the project, [which is] when you got to protect it fiercely at that time. Then there are all these other individuals [involved]. You have to start working with the director and there's the network and there's financing, and everybody has a kick at the can so to speak," he says.

Much more rewarding for Wiseman was a radio adaptation of Richler's final novel, *Barney's Version*, which won him a Writer's Guild (of America) award after it aired on CBC radio in 2003. Since the stakes are financially lower in radio, Wiseman, who also won third place at the New York guild's awards for his 1998 radio adaptation of Richler's *Solomon Gursky Was Here*, feels he has more freedom as a writer in that medium than in a big, expensive TV production. (He was not, however, invited to participate in the forthcoming film adaptation of *Barney's Version*.)

Wiseman is the eldest in a family of four artistically inclined brothers. Gord is an immigration lawyer and also a playwright (he wrote the play *Einstein*), who writes under the name Gabriel Emmanuel. Ron Wiseman has immigrated to Israel, where he specializes in a form of music dubbed Hebrew reggae. Bobby Wiseman, probably the best known of the four brothers, made his name as a piano player in the Canadian group Blue Rodeo and now performs, both with his musician wife, Maguli Meagher (of The Phomemes) and as a solo act.

"My mother is a painter, also a piano player. We grew up having family jams; we'd basically be banging on pots and pans," Wiseman says. "My father was the encourager of it all. He passed away five years ago, [but] one of his greatest thrills was that I was doing *Barney's Version*. He really enjoyed that."

Despite his long and varied career, Wiseman still displays a modest, "Canadian" view of his accomplishments. "It's taken me a long time to get to a place where I feel that I can, perhaps, tell some stories well."

Audiences who catch his work in the future will likely agree.

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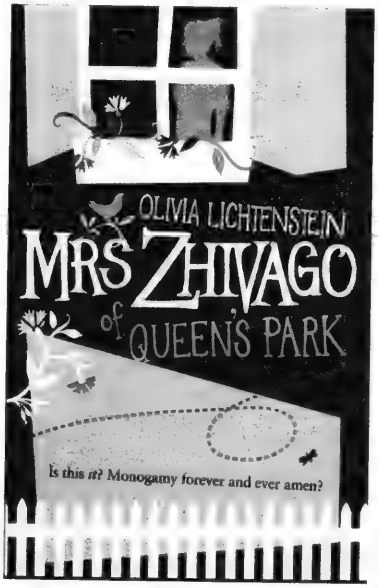
Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

CONVERSATION WITH BRITISH NOVELIST OLIVIA LICHTENSTEIN

"People often decide that it's time for them to get married and then marry whomever they happen to be with at that moment… so you don't necessarily marry the right person, you just marry the person who's there."



That isn't British novelist **Olivia Lichtenstein** talking, just the lead character from her first novel, *Mrs. Zhivago of Queen's Park*, which was published by Orion Books of the United Kingdom earlier this year and has already been sold to 10 countries.

Lichtenstein, a documentary filmmaker with the BBC for many years, was in town recently and spoke with Eye On Arts about her book, which tiptoes into the rather indelicate area of adultery. The book is a lighthearted and entertaining romp into the heart of a moral question that has been a major theme of literature ever since *Madame Bovary*, *Anna Karenina* – and yes, *Dr. Zhivago* – hit the bookstalls.

"I think what I was trying to do is to address a topic of conversation between myself and my girlfriends," Lichtenstein said. "There's a kind of restlessness that overtakes married people. I think that rather than having an affair, it would be a good idea to write about one instead."

The book's protagonist is Chloe Zhivago, a 40-ish mother who has been married to Greg for what feels like an eternity. When she meets a handsome Russian named Ivan, she is tempted to risk a passionate romance "before gravity wins the battle with her face and figure."

Like the writer herself, Lichtenstein's heroine is Jewish. "That's important to her, even though she's not religious," she said. "It's important because of the values it instilled in her, the most important of which is family and the need to preserve the family at all costs."

It won't be giving away too much to reveal that the story ultimately serves as an endorsement of the institution of marriage: one reviewer called the book "a surprisingly moral fable," and another said it "could turn husbands back into lovers."

"I suppose if there's an ultimate message, it's that you shouldn't give up on marriage too easily," said Lichtenstein, whose book will seem a perfect summer read for women at the beach or cottage. Not only does it touch a popular domestic chord, each of its chapters offers a different recipe. Interestingly, the book is being marketed under a different title – *Chloe Zhivago's Recipe for Marriage and Mischief* – in the United States. "They tested it and found that the English title made Americans think of a little old lady living in Queens," the author said. "They didn't think it accurately reflected what the book was about."

Mrs. Zhivago of Queen's Park is available in bookstores.

* * *

Recently in Print: Well-known crime writer **Max Haines** has written a memoir, *The Spitting Champion of the World: Memories of Antigonish*, recounting his Nova Scotia boyhood in a series of stories. The book is published by Viking Canada.

* * *

Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition: More than 500 artists show their wares at Nathan Phillips Square, outside Toronto City Hall, July 6, 7 and 8. Admission is free, rain or shine. Watch for Israeli artist **Sara Shahak** and her handmade jewelry.

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Halifax singer Sheva debuts album

25-year-old charms audience with pop sensibility

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

It's got loads of piano, pop sensibility, passion, vocal purity, power, panache and slick production values.

Put it all together and you get a debut album called *The Closest Thing*, an imminently radio-friendly CD that signals the coming-out party of Halifax, N.S. singer/songwriter, Sheva Solomon.

Released in May by California's UE3 Records label, and full of songs that can stand toe-to-toe with any of the best adult contemporary/soft-rock tunes out there, *The Closest Thing* should soon provide radio stations with instant hits and pay immediate dividends for the 25-year-old artist.

Sheva and her band recently hit Toronto for three intimate performances after touring the U.S.

The CJN caught her first one on June 20, as she promoted the album at the Eaton Centre Indigo bookstore.

As soon as she began her set, shoppers stopped dead in their tracks to listen to the sweet music emanating from the store's upper level.

Sheva's years of classical voice training comes through loud and clear in her live performance and on her album in the form of deep, rich and sensual vocals.

Though she said she was naturally shy and reflective, her onstage persona was captivating as she engaged in friendly banter with her audience, charming them from behind her keyboard.

sheva
the closest thing

"I just finished five shows with an Elton John tribute band," she kibitzed to onlookers. "I have him stuck in my brain. One of these days I'm gonna learn *Benny and the Jets*. But for now, I'm going to play you one of my songs."

She then launched into a series of emotive ballads from her album, including her first single release, the title track, and *Song For Myself*, a haunting and catchy tune she wrote as a metaphor for her own struggle to become a successful artist.

Born into a mixed religious family in Bridgetown N.S., her father is Jewish and mother Baptist, Sheva grew up benefiting from both heritages.

"We had both Chanukah and Christmas. Two months of presents," she joked. "There was only one other Jewish family [in Bridgetown]. So my mom helped teach us about [Judaism], because she knew it was important to know my background is important, and it always will be."

She credits her parents' love of classical music and their insistence she listen only to the classics, for her love and abilities for musical composition.

"I'm less a storyteller and more about the music," she said, adding that her method is to compose a song before adding the lyrics. "I think that comes from classical music training."

Produced by Dale Penner, an in-demand studio whiz who's worked with other Canadian pop acts like Holly McNarland, Nickelback and the Matthew Good Band, *The Closest Thing* makes Sheva sound like she's been at this for years.

"I have a team who are building my story. We're focusing on grassroots [promotion] in the best way we can, so I can handle it slowly until we eventually build up for the L.A. thing," she said.

It's fitting that Sheva counts Sarah McLachlan among her Myspace friends, as much of her music can be compared in style and tone to the Canadian soft-rock icon.

And she knows she could do worse than to have comparisons with seasoned music veterans.

"I had no thought about being like anyone else," Sheva said. "I know I get [the Sarah Mclachlan comparison] because of my piano. People also say I sound like Amy Lee of Evanescence. I don't mind when people compare me, I know that my music is similar... but not."

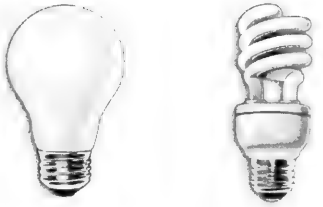
CD compared to Canadian Sarah McLachlan

The Canadian leg of Sheva's tour was scheduled to wrap up June 27 with two dates in Montreal. She'll be playing one more show this year, back home in Halifax on Oct. 5 at the Rebeccca Cohn Auditorium.

"In the end it's all about music and giving it your all," Sheva said. "I just want to move people. Whether I'm playing at a bar or at a bookstore with 40 people watching, it's all about moving that one person with my music."

If *The Closest Thing* is any indication of what's to come from this talented woman, chances are she'll be moving way more people than that for quite some time.

For more information, visit www.shevaonline.com



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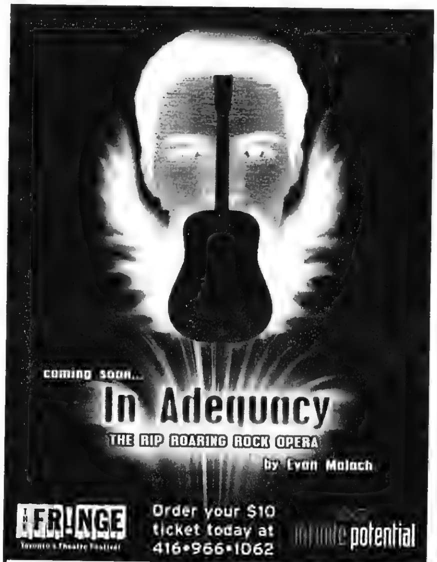
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YouTube 'wig out' boosts actor's career

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Torontonian Ingrid Haas is one of the four actors who has been vaulted into the public eye by an often viewed and much debated video uploaded to YouTube last January.

Bride Has Massive Hair Wig Out appears to be an amateur video of three bridesmaids attempting to calm down a bride on her wedding. The bride hates her salon hairdo so much that she completely "wigs out" and hacks off her hair.

Debate over the video's authenticity has proliferated, both in the blogosphere and the general media. Canadian filmmaker Norman Jewison was even asked to weigh in, as the film was rumoured to have been shot in Toronto. (In fact, the video was shot at the Four Points Sheraton Lakeshore hotel in Toronto.)

Two weeks after the video was uploaded, the company Unilever revealed that the video was a marketing tool for one of its subsidiaries, Sunsilk, and was being used to promote a new hair-care line.

"Nobody thought it was going to be so big. We just thought we would be getting the term [wig out] out into the mainstream, so they [Sunsilk] could use it in something else, like a commercial," Haas said.

Jodi Behan, 22, played "Bridezilla," as the character is now nicknamed, and did indeed chop her locks. Haas, 24, played a bridesmaid filming the catastrophe and is never seen on camera. The other two bridesmaids are played by Behan's real-life sister, Jessie, and Esther Orosz.

The piece was filmed and directed by John Griffith, who approached Haas to write the script after seeing her in a play and at the Yorkville restaurant, Hemingways, where she worked.

"It sounded like a lot of fun," said Haas, a recent Ryerson University theatre graduate. "You learn that you should just jump at any opportunity."

She wrote a script, but said the video, which was shot in one take, was mostly improvised.

Haas was hired to write 10 similar scripts for Sunsilk, but after the first one got so much attention, they didn't need any more, she said.

"We uploaded and about a week later it blew up, and off to L.A. we went."

Toronto actress Ingrid Haas

When Unilever announced that Sunsilk was behind the popular clip, the four actresses flew to L.A. to be swept up in a media furor that included two spots on *Good Morning America*.

The four girls then signed with Gersh Agency, a well-known American talent agency, and are now pursuing career options, both separately and together.

Haas is working on a movie pitch for Paramount Pictures. She also has a television series in the works, for the four actors to star in together, and is working on a one-woman show that she hopes to get off the ground in the fall.

Haas called her experience over the last few months lucky, bizarre and exciting.

"This path to my acting career has been paved by YouTube. I could have had all the training in the world, and the doors that have been opened would not have been opened had this not have happened," she said.

"If everything works out the way I plan it to, I'll be back in L.A. in the fall. I want to have a long career in both Canada and the United States."

Haas is aware of the 15 minutes of fame phenomenon, and does not want to fall victim to it.

"All I want is for this not to be just a media frenzy," she said. "Hopefully, in the long term, it's just one little speck."

Up next for Haas is a starring role in the Blyth Festival's *Queen Milli of Galt*, a play about a small-town girl who falls in love with the Prince of Wales, from July 4 to Aug. 11. Blythe, Ont., is a three-hour drive from Toronto.

"It's been such a wonderful path," Haas said of her accomplishments to date. "I feel so successful at such an early time, and it's only the beginning."

Tongue-in-cheek comedy skewers Hollywood

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

For Your Consideration is a tongue-in-cheek comedy that skewers Hollywood and the subculture that drives it. Director Christopher Guest, who previously tackled the folk music scene with *A Mighty Wind*, looked at the world of dog shows in *Best in Show* and satirized small-town theatre in *Waiting For Guffman*, now turns his attention to the overblown egos and self-indulgent world of the movies.

For Your Consideration is a hilarious look at what happens when Hollywood actors begin to believe their own publicity and when a rumour about possible Academy Award nominations is initiated.

The cast and crew for a small independent production called *Home For Purim* are working diligently to complete a modest melodrama and imbue it with some heart and meaning.

Things, however, begin to turn sour when veteran actress Marilyn Hack, played by Catherine O'Hara, hears that her current role as the matriarch of a southern Jewish family may be up for consideration for an Oscar. The rumours begin to fly, and at one point, all the main cast members begin to believe that they, too, might be considered as Academy Award material.

The film shows the jealousies and conflicts that can come to the surface when some cast members appear to be receiving more attention than others.

The film also satirizes such Hollywood conventions as agents, television entertainment shows that feed the rumour mill, and people who take themselves much too seriously.

Eugene Levy is terrific as the scheming agent who is out to maximize his career, Parker Posy plays the truculent standup comedian who plays the daughter in the film within the film, and Harry Shearer is the unrecognized dramatic actor who is trying to make a film that will raise his profile.

The film is funny and often hits the mark with its acerbic humour, especially when the suits from the executive suite come on set and begin to make changes that will make the film more accessible to the mainstream audience.

Although there is much to like in this film, and one of the highlights for me was watching the *Purim Song* cast of the film within a film perform, it does seem to falter toward the end and never really brings the film to a satisfactory conclusion. But there are some great moments and lots of laughs.

The DVD of *For Your Consideration* contains an audio commentary by Guest and Levy, more than 30 minutes of bonus material and a *Home For Purim* poster gallery.

Another new DVD release is a film called *Checking Out*.

Peter Falk stars as a retired Jewish actor who played on the Broadway stage for years. As his 90th birthday approaches, he invites his three children to celebrate the event and then he informs them that, at the conclusion of the festivities, he will commit suicide.

The children come in from different parts of the country in an attempt to convince their father that life is still worth living. In addition to Falk, the film features Laura San Giacomo, David Paymer, Judge Reinhold, Dan Byrd and Mary Winstead.

If you're a Peter Falk fan, this DVD might be worth checking out.

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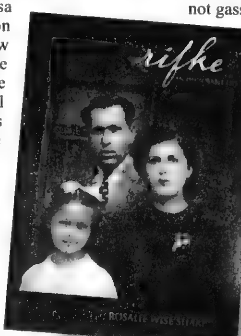
Memoir and novel recall Toronto in earlier days

***Rifke: An Improbable Life* by Rosalie Wise Sharp, ECW Press.**

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Rosalie Wise Sharp, a daughter of Polish immigrants, always felt that heaven had mismatched her with her parents, Joseph and Ydessa Wise, who ran a dry goods store on north Yonge Street at a time when few Jews lived in north Toronto. Later, fate matched her up with husband Isadore Sharp, founder of the international Four Seasons chain of luxurious hotels and resorts, adding a fairy-tale lustre to her life.



In this charmingly honest, open and well-written memoir, Rosalie (Rifke, by her Jewish name) describes her life as "improbable." Some may find it even more improbable that a spouse of an extraordinary Canadian should also have rare talents of her own. Yet she does, and not only as an interior decorator and art designer who helped the Four Seasons attain its trademark style combining opulence, fine taste and comfort.

Rosalie was born in Toronto in 1936 to parents who had come from Ozarow via Montreal; for years the family lived above a store on Yonge Street north of Lawrence Avenue, then in a house nearby. "It was a shtetl household," Rosalie writes, recounting that, because her parents retained their old-world values, her life and world were very different from those of her Gentile friends. Many of her mother's colourful Yiddish aphorisms decorate the prose and provide a rich sense of the shtetl mentality that permeated Rosalie's childhood (for example, *A farshporer iz beser vi a fardiner – A saver is better than an earner*).

The feeling of separateness was enhanced by Rosalie's knowledge of the tragic fate that befell most of her parents' relatives who stayed in Europe and perished in the Holocaust. "All this while my friends were taking tap-dancing lessons and playing the flute and swimming in sunny country lakes. There was an unreality about going to school with kids who belonged in the neighbourhood – whose grandmothers were not gassed but took them to see the *Nutcracker* ballet at Christmas. Where was the real world? I led a double life."

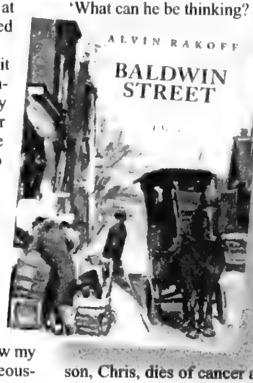
The book also offers a revealing portrait of Issy, whose legendary skill as a bargainer and negotiator were tested early on by Rosalie's father, who had forbidden her from seeing him and locked her out of the house when she disobeyed. Issy, who "always faces a problem head on," went immediately to his future father-in-law for a decisive discussion. Rosalie walked meekly behind.

"We found my dad reading the [Toronto] *Telegram*, sitting woodenly on the couch, where he could always be found. Issy began making his case politely and quietly in his positive, winning way, and my father was obviously impressed. As Issy spoke, I saw my father's expression transform from haughty self-righteousness to the subdued demeanour of a humbled child. From that time, my father fell in my eyes. At that Freudian moment when Issy took charge, I transferred my allegiance from my father to my lover."

A humble and seemingly ordinary Jarvis Street motel was the genesis for Sharp's vast billion-dollar hotel empire: the next step was a planned edifice in suburban Don Mills that no one could have predicted would succeed.

"I would like to claim I had a hand in my husband's great success, but if I did, it was only because I kept quiet and didn't tell the truth about my fears for some of his schemes," Rosalie writes. "Like the summer's day in 1961 when we drove up to the corner of Eglinton Avenue and Leslie Street in Toronto, to a hilly meadow of tall grass. 'Here,' said Issy, 'is the site for the second hotel, the Inn on the Park. What do you think?'

"There was not another building in sight, trucks were turning into a municipal garbage dump across the road, and just then a CPR freight train roared by the property. I thought, 'What can he be thinking? Real hotels are always downtown, usually handy to the railroad station, and have regal names like Royal York, King Edward, and Prince George.'"



Wisely, however, she kept her doubts to herself, and did so again when he told her his aim was to make the name Four Seasons synonymous with luxury, like Rolls-Royce. "My most valuable contribution to his success," she writes, "has been my silence."

Like a princess without airs, she also lets us into her family life: we get to meet the couple's four sons, and share in the devastating tragedy when the third son, Chris, dies of cancer at age 18 in 1978. Pages are also devoted to Rosalie's love of ceramics, the family's various homes, descriptions of a few of the many luxurious trips that she and Issy have taken; and her mother's Birnbaum relatives in Ozarow, who wrote letters to Toronto until a black curtain of silence fell in 1939. "The Birnbaums for me are forever shrouded in mystery because they are frozen in time – vanished in the smoke of the Holocaust."

For many, *Rifke: An Improbable Life* will evoke memories of the city from a former time and the generation of wartime immigrant Jews whose numbers are thinning. Enhanced with many photos and several drawings and genealogical charts, it is an engaging memoir with a logical theme that rings true.

* * *

***Baldwin Street. A Novel*, by Alvin Rakoff, published by Bunim & Bannigan.**

Alvin Rakoff, author of this novel *& Gillian*, is proof of the old maxim that you can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy. An accomplished film producer and director based in London, England, he now offers us a series of linked stories that take place in the richly remembered domain of his boyhood.

Rakoff's setting is Kensington Market and the Baldwin Street of his youth, as seen through the eyes of his young protagonist, Leonard Abelson. Leonard has a knack for being in the right place at the right time and thus becoming privy to secrets and liaisons that would have eluded most others. He is a casual observer in some stories and an active participant in others; most are told in the third person but a few utilize Leonard's own first-person narration. The technique adds depth and realism to the fictional world that Rakoff creates.

With a sure hand and trademark short sentences that sometimes seem too clipped, Rakoff presents a parade of colourful portraits and vignettes, veering from the unusual to the grotesque. In one well developed and richly painted story, Effie, a Yiddish-speaking black woman, becomes a trusted accountant for a Jewish businessman. In another, Murray Millstein, who lives on Augusta Avenue, is deeply affected by the loss of his wife and starts going to market dressed in her clothing. *The Verys* focuses on Melvyn and Goldie Rabinowitz, a mismatched husband and wife (respectively very small and very big) who come to Leonard, by this time of college age, for advice.

Redolent of the atmosphere of the old market of the prewar era, this package of linked narratives is well made and charming. Although collectively these stories lack sufficient unity to be considered a novel, they make for rewarding reading just the same.

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Author/journalist Andrew Cohen charts the state of Canada

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Andrew Cohen takes the pulse of the nation. An author, journalist and professor, he recently published his fourth book on Canada, *The Unfinished Canadian: The People We Are* (McClelland & Stewart), a mix of reportage and reflection.

Although he regards himself as "a passionate Canadian," his latest work is more critical than congratulatory.

"It's not a valentine to Canada," he said in an interview in the sunny courtyard of a midtown European-style cafe. "It's edgy and politically incorrect. It hits hot buttons and delivers home truths."

He wrote *The Unfinished Canadian* – which follows in the wake of *While Canada Slept: How We Lost Our Place in the World*, a bestseller and a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award – out of concern that Canadians are generally too satisfied with platitudes.

"We're not given to hard assessments of who we are," he explained, hastening to add that he does not consider himself "a smasher of icons."

In *The Unfinished Canadian*, Cohen – a former *Globe and Mail* columnist, editorial writer and foreign correspondent who now teaches journalism and international affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa– focuses primarily on the nature of Canadian identity.

But in examining this existential issue, he provides a cogent analysis of Canada's past, present and possible future and poses tough questions turning on, among other contemporary topics, Canadian history and multiculturalism.

A two-time winner of the National Newspaper Award and a finalist last year, he believes that Canadians have failed to forge a clear sense of themselves, notwithstanding Canada's recent fulsome homage to Canadian soldiers who fought heroically at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in World War I.

"I'm all for building a stronger sense of who we are," said Cohen, who defines Canadians as "the product of memory, geography, complexity and uncertainty."

One problem is that Canadians neglect, even ignore, their rich and varied history, he observed, quoting distinguished historian J.L. Granatstein.

"We should be celebrating it because we have a lot to be proud of," said Cohen. "We settled a continent, built great cities and absorbed waves of immigrants. We do have an interesting history."

Yet only half of Canadians can identify Sir John A. Macdonald as Canada's first prime minister and barely two-thirds know that Canada is composed of 10 provinces and three territories.

Lamentably, only three provinces require high school students to study Canadian history, but there are other problems as well, Cohen pointed out.

The homes of many former Canadian prime ministers have not been designated as historic sites, while Canadian historical figures, ranging from scientists to artists, have rarely been celebrated.

It's time to get serious about Canadian history. "We can do this in a progressive way, introducing Canada's past to students in primary school and carrying it through secondary school," he writes.

Andrew Cohen

In Cohen's opinion, Canada should foster what he calls "a new patriotism" by requiring citizens to serve in the military or the Canada Corps, which was established three years ago.

There is also a need to foster pride in the national capital, Ottawa, he noted.

Yet Cohen acknowledges that Canada, for all its manifold accomplishments, has sometimes hung by a thread. In an allusion to "the precariousness of our nation," he referred to the conscription crises of 1917 and 1944, the 1970 October crisis and the 1995 Quebec referendum, which separatists almost won.

"We're trying to keep Canada together. That's our huge challenge."

Yet Cohen does not regard the spectre of separatism as Canada's greatest threat. More likely, the threats to Canada will derive from immigration and decentralization.

The degradation of the environment and deepening poverty will force millions of Africans and Asians to leave their respective countries in the next 50 years and thereby force Canada to increase immigration levels.

Cohen predicted that Canada will then face the arduous task of successfully integrating these newcomers by trying to convince them to adopt common Canadian values.

No one, least of all Cohen, has any idea what the outcome of this conundrum will be. He posed a rhetorical question, "Can civic nationalism trump ethnicity?"

Asked to comment on the prevalence of Islamic extremism among a minority of Muslim immigrants, Cohen said, "We ask of all Canadians to embrace the rule of law and tolerance. If they're a source of radicalism and hatred, then they would be a threat. Anyone who comes here clinging to old hatreds and prejudices concerns me."

Cohen has doubts about Canada's policy of fostering multiculturalism. "I'm not sure it's a cohesive force. We're becoming an archipelago of ethnic enclaves."

The second major threat to Canada's continued existence, quiet devolution, emanates from provinces demanding still more powers.

As he puts it, "If unchecked, devolution will balkanize Canada. The failure of the centre to hold, and the division of Canada into fiefdoms, will be exacerbated by the elements of our character: the failure of memory, the weakness of citizenship, the tolerance of ethnic nationalism, the willingness to compromise one too many times."

A McGill University graduate born and raised in Montreal, and now a syndicated columnist for the *Ottawa Citizen*, Cohen is amazed at how Canada has changed since his childhood.

"We're more of a diverse and interesting country," said Cohen, 52, the scion of an old Russian Jewish family that played a central role in the founding of the Canadian Jewish Congress in 1919. "We've set up a social welfare system. We have our own flag. We've had to fight separatism and Western alienation."

Despite Canada's current problems, and the uncertainties it may well confront one day, he is confident that the sun will shine on Canada.

"Canada is a colon rather than a question mark," he said. "The best years are yet to come. Canada is blessed, but our challenge is to be worthy of it."

He dedicates *The Unfinished Canadian* to his late father, Edgar Horace, a businessman, amateur historian and valued friend who died last summer as he was completing the manuscript.

"He was my best editor," said Cohen, whose previous books were *A Deal Undone: The Making and Breaking of the Meech Lake Accord* and *Trudeau's Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Pierre Elliottt Trudeau* (with J.L. Granatstein). "He found mistakes editors had missed."

Next month, Cohen and his family – wife and fellow journalist Mary Gooderham and two children Alexander Elliot and Rachel Hannah -- will relocate to Berlin for his sabbatical.

"It's a fascinating place," said Cohen, who intends to gather research for a forthcoming book about Germany, the Holocaust and public memory.

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CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

5 HOUSES FOR SALE
10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE
15 HOUSES FOR RENT
20 HOUSES FOR SALE/RENT
24 HOUSES WANTED TO BUY
25 HOUSES WANTED TO RENT
30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE
35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT
40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/RENT
45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED
50 ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED
60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
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245 EMPLOYMENT WANTED
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248 DAY CARE WANTED
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255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED
257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE
258 HEALTHCARE WANTED
259 SENIORS
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265 PEOPLE SEARCH
270 PERSONALS
273 INTRODUCTION SERVICES
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279 PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY
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295 PETS
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SERVICE DIRECTORY

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355 AUDIO-VISUAL SALES/REPAIRS
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370 CATERING
372 CHUPPAHS
375 CLEANING/CLEANING SUPPLIES
379 CLOCKS/WATCHES
380 CLOTHING
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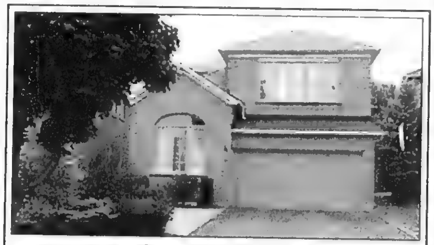
460 PLUMBING
465 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
470 RENOVATIONS
472 RETIREMENT HOMES
475 ROOFING
476 SATELITE & EQUIPMENT
480 SECURITY SYSTEMS
481 SEWING
485 SNOW REMOVAL
490 TABLE COVERING
493 TAILORING/ALTERATIONS
495 TILING
496 TRAINING
498 TRAVEL & TOURISM
500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
512 WAITERING SERVICES
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW SERVICES
550 WORKSHOPS

REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE



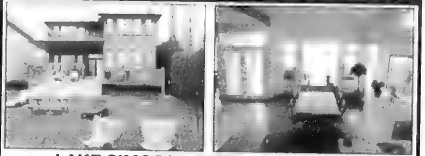
Bathurst Centre $749,900
3400 sq.ft. luxury, immac. 4 bd. on prem. pie lot, strip oak hdwd, 2-storey entry; 9' ceils., custom molds/trim; gourmet kit., prof. fin bsmt w/extra bd.+ bath, interlock walk+patio, 2-sided firepl., grand study w/cath. ceils, 2 ensuites.

Huge Bathurst-Steeles Condo
$214,900. 1450 sq. ft., steps to shopping, prks, transit. New hdwd. & ceramic flrs., flex floorplan, 2 full bths., open concept, balc. overlooks grdns., 24 hr. security. Best value in bldg.

Jay Kowal, Sales Rep., Century/21 Heritage Grp.
905-764-7111

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

WATERFRONT LIVING



LAKE SIMCOE WATERFRONT $949K
4+1 Bedroom winterized cottage, 4 baths, stone fireplace, forced air gas Furnace with central air on 50'x190' lot, close to Shul + Camp.

BELLE AIR BEACH LAKEFRONT
Winterized 5 bedroom totally re-done cottage on 50'x210' lot, great Sandy waterfront. Close to shuls + Camp Arrowhead all new Appliances. $749,000.

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HK
HARVEY KALLES **416.568.5300**

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Sales Representaive

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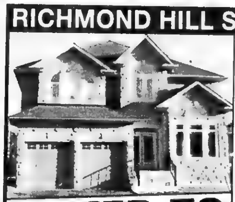

PRICED TO SELL NOW!

BATHURST / ELGIN MILLS
MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM HOME. 4,000 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., 3 years new, 4 + 1 bdrms., main fr. fam. room + library, upgrades throughout. Granite, limestone, crown mouldings, wainscotting, 2 car garage +++. **ONLY $899,000 — ACT NOW!** Take a virtual tour at **eichornrealty.com** and call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING
SIZZLING SUMMER DEAL! 47.5 x 118 ft. lot on East side of Bathurst. **ONLY $499,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

AVENUE / BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW PRICE
CUSTOM EXECUTIVE HOME in prime central location, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, Brazilian cherry hardwood floors on 2 levels, gas fireplace, double garage. $1,099,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

Virtual tour of above property at eichornrealty.com

BALMORAL ESTATES – ARCHITECTURAL GEM
Very spacious 6 + 2 bedroom family home on premium lot close to park, tennis courts. 4,800 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., main floor family room + library, $1,190,000. Take a virtual tour at **eichornrealty.com** and call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

Virtual tour of above property at eichornrealty.com

PRESTIGIOUS CORTLEIGH — BRAND NEW CUSTOM HOME
5 + 2 bdrm. home by upscale builder on 50 x 134 ft. lot. 4,500 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., 5 baths, quarter-sawn oak floors, dream French maple country kit. Extensive use of marble, granite & limestone. Pella windows, cobblestone driveway, radiant heat in master ensuite & bsmt.. $2,995,000. Call David Eichorn* or Moshe Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

Virtual tour of above property at eichornrealty.com

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SOLD IN 1 WEEK FOR 100% OF ASKING PRICE

BATHURST / LAWRENCE
Build your dream home nestled among multi million $$ homes. In a very private Dalemount cul de sac! Large 47' x 100' pie shaped lot that widens to 80' at rear. Only 649,000! Act Now!

AVENUE / BATHURST / LAWRENCE
CUSTOM EXECUTIVE HOME in demand location. 4 + 1 bedrooms, 5 baths, main floor library + family room. Upgrades throughout. Gleaming hardwood floors on 2 levels.Ideal for entertaining! $1,299,000.Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

Virtual tour of above property at eichornrealty.com

EGLINTON / MARLEE
RARE OPPORTUNITY! 4,000 sq. ft. (approx.) building with mixed-use potential. 47 ft. frontage, 1,000 sq. in front, 3,000 sq. ft. warehouse space at rear. **LOWEST PRICE IN AREA AT ONLY $379,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

HOMES FOR RENT

- **MEADOWBROOK.** Spacious apartment, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, steps to subway, $1,300 / mo.
- **STEPS TO VIEWMOUN** **RENTED** d bdrms., 2 baths, finished basement, close to TTC,
- **COLDSTREAM AVE.** Renovated 3 + 1 bdrm. bung., $2,250 / mo.
- **STORMONT AVE.** 3 bdr **RENTED** fam. room, $2,500 / mo.
- **GLENGARRY AVE.** Spacious 3 + 2 bdrm., 3 baths, desirable location close to TTC, parks, schools, shops, $2,600 / mo. Aug. 1.
- **NEW LISTING, Caribou Pk.** Spacious ranch bung., $3,500 / mo.

* * *

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW PRICE
BRIGHT & SPACIOUS 5 + 2 BEDROOM, 4 BATHS, high ceilings, ideal for large family. Close to shuls, schools, shops. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT $849,000.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALAN NEWTON
REAL ESTATE LTD., BROKERAGE

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

1ST AD CONSERVATORY PENTHOUSE
Stunning Penthouse Unit, 2 bdrm, 2 Baths, Hardwood Floors, Updated Window in Kitchen, Must See!!! *Carey Rosenzweig

* * *

BATHURST/CENTRE "BRAND NEW"
App 1535 sq.ft – Large 2 Brdm + large family room – Huge Eat-in Kit with granite counters, 5 new Appl. & Balcony. *Ted Waxman

* * *

YONGE/SHEPPARD "31ST FLOOR"
Approx 2 yrs old, Luxious 1 Bdrm Condo w/balcony, 6 Appl & Lrge Locker, Walk to all amenities, Asking$215,000. *Ted Waxman

* * *

BATHURST/STEELES "PRIMROSE"
Spacious 2 Bdrm Condo, Newer Eat-in Kit, Appliances – 2 Prkng Spaces, Balc, Exceptional Value! Asking $239,900. *Ted Waxman

* * *

HOUSES FOR SALE

BATHURST/CLARK "SPRINGFARM"
Large 3 Bdrm, Finished Basement, Double Car garage, Large Eat-in Kitchen, Built-ins, Huge family room, Close to all amenities, A Must See!! Extra's Galore!!! *Ted Waxman

* * *

*** Sales Representative** ****Broker**

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HOMES

Bathurst/Eglinton – Exclusive! New Custom Home in the Upper Village! Approx. 4,000 s.f., 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, main floor study, 10' ceilings, Cameo Kitchen, stunning design and finishings, walk out basement, prime corner lot, double garage, appliances included, August occupancy, asking $2,450,000

Bathurst/Lawrence – New Custom Home on Glengrove Avenue! 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, approx. 3,400 s.f. finished basement with income potential, beautiful finishings, double garage, Ready for occupancy, asking $1,160,000

Bathurst/Eglinton – 1st Ad! Cha SOLD g Forest Hill 2 storey tudor, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, front, large kitchen, paneled study,asking $1,350,000

CONDOS

Bathurst/Lawrence – Luxury unit at 1 Glen Park Avenue, approx. 1,720 s.f., 2 bedrooms, 3 baths, den, balcony, west exposure, close to everything. Asking $599,900

Bathurst/Lawrence – Great Value at "The Shermount"! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, balcony, low maintenance fees and taxes, steps to shopping and subway, asking $189,900

RENTALS

Bathurst/Lawrence – 3000 Bathurst, 2nd floor unit, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, large solarium A-1 condition, asking $1700 per month

Bathurst/Glencairn – Bright Bungalow! 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, big backyard, available immediately, asking $1600 per month + utilities

Re/max Realtron Realty, Brokerage 416-782-8882

SEIDMAN
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416-633-7373

BATHURST-STEELES CONDO
Unique about 2780 sq. ft., 4 bdrm, 4 baths, L-shaped living & dining, w/o to balcony & terrace, rosewood flrs, 4 car parking. A-1 location. Don't miss this great buy!

WILMINGTON-SHEPPARD
3 bdrms, 2 baths, good sized living & dining, finished basement, double drive garage, steps to all.

416-633-7373

ESSIE SHER

Bayview/York Mills
$988,000
4 bdr. updated charming home in demand area. Huge lr/dr combo. Walk/out above grade basement. Newer hardwood. Large Kitchen, S/S appliances. Best street. Call **Essie** at 416-464-5261.

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PRIME THORNHILL WOODS: 3,250+sf; pure luxury! 4+1 bdrm; dream kit., 3 lavish baths on 2nd flr. Oversized 2 car gar.; Best materials! $729,000 EXCLUSIVE.

* * *

STEPS TO BAYT: Great value! Elegant 4 bdrm + lrg 3 bdrm bsmt apt/sep entr. $$$ reno+upgrades throughout! $519,000 EXCLUSIVE.

* * *

PRESTIGIOUS CENTRE/ATKINSON: Large 4 bdrm; potential for 5th. Cathedral ceiling. Updated kitchen O/L 2-tier deck/private garden; Main flr office w/custom built-ins! Spectacular bsmt! $698,888.

* * *

CLARK/ATKINSON. TOTAL RENOV. 07. Exquisite finishes & superior craftsmanship. 5 beds, 5 lavish baths, main flr. lib., stunning gourmet kit., fin. bsmt. w/2 bdrms.,Passover kit. EXCLUSIVE.

LIZ GORDON, Sales Representative, 416-739-7200

2 AMAZING PROPERTIES AT BATHURST & STEELES!!!
Both walking distance to the BAYT, Kehilla Centre, B'nai Torah, Lubavitch, TTC, shops, & schools

GORGEOUS, SPACIOUS & elegant 2 storey with custom kit, 4 bdrms, 4 baths, fin. bsmt, huge 140' lot, hrdwd floors, move-in cond, only $439K! Superb Value! Act now!

* * *

3 STOREY LUXURY TOWNHOME, approx 1875' w 3 bdrms, 3 baths, skylite, parquet flrs, stunning mstr bdrm. Priced for immediate sale at ONLY $292,500. Hurry!

Murray or Sol Goldkind, Broker / Owners, 416-739-7200

BATHURST / STEELES IN THE HEART OF BATHURST VILLAGE — MOST DEMAND LOCATION. 4 bedroom custom bungalow, inground pool, sep. entry to fin. basement, $529,900.

* * *

BATHURST/CENTRE,KATERINA. App. 2500 sf, 2 storey, 4 bdrms., 4 baths, nanny's quarters, dbl. gar. Shows to perfection. $559,000.

* * *

THORNHILL, FLAMINGO AREA — WINDEMERE CUSTOM HOME. Prestigious locati SOLD sq. ft., 5 bdrms. + fin. bsmt. for nanny's quarters. Gr n mouldings, 9 ft. ceilings, **skylight**, custom cedar playground. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT $899,000 — ACT NOW!**

* * *

THORNHILL BRAND NEW TOWNHOMES FROM $380,000 (1,700 sq. ft.). 2,055 sq. ft. $393,000. 2 storey, 3 bdrms., **3 baths,** granite kitchen counters, **ceramic tile** in bathrooms, hardwood floors, 9 ft. ceilings, 5 appliances, will close Dec. 2007. **ONLY 5 LEFT — ACT NOW!**

* * *

BATHURST MANOR — NEW LISTING Build your dream home on 55 x 157 ft. lot. **ACT NOW!**

* * *

THORNHILL WOODS, REDUCED $40,000. 2 storey, dbl. garage, oversized window for extra light, berber carpet, hrdwd., Dutch clean, **SHOWS LIKE A MODEL.** $699,000.

LES AARON
Sales Representative

NEW LISTING - ALLENBY RENOVATION
$759,000. Fab. 3 bdrm, 2 bath reno on 25x110 lot. New kit. w/Breakfast area, all new Frigidaire appls. & pot lights. New windows & doors. New forced air furnace & CAC. Frpl. French doors in lr. 4 pce bath w/whirpool tub, granite counter. Sep. entrance to bsmt. Private treed backyard.

NEW LISTING – RICHMOND HILL TOWNHOME
$299,000. 3 bdrm., 3 bath end unit on quiet cul-de-sac. Hardwood in hall, liv/din rms. Bright kit. w/eat-in area & w/o to deck. Fin. rec rm in bsmt. Master bdrm. w/4 pce, walk-in closet. Plenty of storage. Close to park, schools, shops & community centre.

HARBORD & BRUNSWICK – FOR LEASE
$3,600/mo. Lovely 2 storey, 3 bdrm LEASED ndem home on 30x134' lot. Absolute character & charm g, hardwood floors on 1st & 2nd, and reno'd. kit. Self co ned fin. bsmt. Private drive for 4 cars. Enormous backyard. Available July 1st.

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REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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Real Estate Inc. Brokerage

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Forest Hill Village	Central	Bayview

CENTRAL PROPERTIES

$4,795,000 BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS/HIGHLAND 100X145' POOL!!
Stone 6300' Majestic home-New! Resort style grounds-pool & waterfall. Entertaining home! 3 Gar! A dream! Janie Jesin* 416-226-1987

$3,595,000 LOWER VILLAGE! NEW HOME - STUNNING DESIGN
New sophisticated & elegantly designed stone 4600', heated flrs, high ceilings, wine cellar, theatre rm. Janie Jesin* 416-226-1987

$2,495,000 BATHURST/EARL BALES PARK RAVINE! 75X178' CUSTOM DESIGNED
Stone/Stucco. Stunning 5 bdrm, marble, elevator-3 flrs, media rm, 3 years new, 2 kitchens, 3 car garage. J. Jesin* 416-226-1987

FOREST HILL LOWER VILLAGE EXCLUSIVE OFFERING!
$2,395,000. Near completion, mostly new home 45 x 100 ft, over 4200 sq ft, 5 bdrms, 6 baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

PRIME CEDARVALE TOTALLY RENO'D 4+1 BDRM GEORGIAN
Spacious Fam rm, Den, Lrge Gourmet Kit, Huge Mstr w/6pc Ens Hme Theatre, Fin Lwr Lvl & Dble Gar. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

PRIME AVENUE/LAWRENCE 45 X 130 FT JUST $1,299,000
Approx 3400 sq ft, 4 bdrms, 4 baths, mn flr lib+fam rms, many built-ins, hrdwd flrs, Granite, skylights+++. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

ARMOUR HEIG SOLD AUTY $979,000
Magnificent Reno + Addition, orgeous Lot 156 x 71, 4+2 Bdrm, 4 Baths, Double Garage. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

YONGE/LAWRENCE "JOH SOLD LESS SCHOOL" $729,000
Stunning 3 Bdrm, Main Floo mily Rm, Lr w/FP, Gorgeous DR, Powder Rm, Finished Rec Rm. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

$1,698,000-STUNNING CUSTOM BUILT ESTATE IN DESIRABLE RICHMOND HILL
Spectacular stone & brick residence. Luxurious finishes: Marble, hrdwd, Granite, paneling, molding. A. Bekerman* & L. Shapedko* 416-226-1987

$577,900! DESIGNER DÉCOR! STUNNING 4 BEDROOM!
Centre/Bathurst! Fabulous finished basement, hardwood and ceramic flrs, deck, good schools. Elena Kholodov* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

LUXURIOUS 2 BDRM PENTHOUSE REDUCED PRICE TO SELL!
Shows better than a model! Totally upgraded, 9' ceilings, open concept in great Neighbourhood. Adam Feldman* 416-488-2875

$395,000-MODEL TOWNHOUSE/RAVINE! 2100'-BATHURST/ HWY 7
3 bdrm, 3 baths, Fam rm, 2 Gas f/places, 9' Ceiling, 3 prkng spaces. Just N. of the Richmond Country Club. J. Jesin* 416-226-1987

BATHURST/GLENCAIRN 1 BDRM CONDO
No need to use the elevator! Walk to your shul + shops, parking, concierge + spa facilities. Bonnie Singer** 416-488-2875

1ST AD! 3000 BATHURST STREET! EXCLUSIVE LISTING!
$200,000! Spacious 1+1br, 1bth, Eat-in kit w/window! Hi Floor w/ panoramic views! Immediate! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

RENTAL PROPERTIES

FOR LEASE – PRIME LOWER VILLAGE
Charming Tudor Home, 5 Bdrms, 4 Baths, Recently Reno'd Kitchen, 1 Yr Minimum. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

HK

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BATHURST MANOR RANCH BUNGALOW
Unique design, one of a kind. 3+1 Bdrm. Finished Basement. 2 Brick Fireplace's. Flr to ceiling windows. Quiet street. Walk to synagogue & TTC. $498,500. Barry Allen Klupt* Ext 646

FOREST HILL CONDO-1300 SQ.FT.
Beautifully renovated 2 bdrms, 2 baths, parking, locker, indoor pool, Gym, A Must See! $575,000. Esther Osher* Ext 624

ST. CLAIR & AVENUE RD
2 Luxury detached custom built homes, 4 bdrms, 6 baths, elevator, Double car garage. Finished w/o basement to be completed spring 2008. From $1,890,000. Esther Osher* 624

BATHURST/CLARK LUXURY CONDO
$259,900. Spacious, Neutrally decorated 2 Bedroom + Solarium in Promenade Towers. Parking+Locker. Enjoy Gatehouse security, tennis, Outdoor pool++. Lynn Kay* Ext 650

*Sales Representative **Broker

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BATHURST & CENTRE
Large 4 bdrm, 2 storey, huge family rm, very quiet crescent, 171' lot, basement apt w/sep entrance, fantastic location.
CENTURY 21 HERITAGE GROUP

10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

4+2 bdrms., 4 bath, kosher kitchen, newly reno'd., lrg. lot. Near BAYT. Call 905-881-8380.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Clark/Hilda, 3 bdrm. house, close to shops, synagogue, schools, $1850/mo. No agents. Avail. August 1st. 905-886-8841.

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

3000 BATHURST ST.

Best Value!
$279,000 Updated 2 Bdrm + Solarium, Refin. Floors & Paint.
Just Move In!
Heather J. Lake
ROYAL LEPAGE R.E.S.
JOHNSTON & DANIEL DIV.
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BATHURST-CLARK
Promenade Mall. Lovely 2 bd., 2 bath, 7420 Bathurst, #705. Locker, parking incl.
OPEN HOUSES:
Mon.-Fri. 5:30-7:30 p.m.;
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C/B TERREQUITY R.E.

The Conservatory –
333 Clark Avenue West – New
$309,000. Wonderful split bedroom unit. Balc. + solarium. Large kitchen with window. Immaculate, bright and QUIET. Tandem pkg. Move-in. Approx. 1434 sf. Value for this gem.
Myrna Budd, Sales Rep. **416-449-2020**
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Suite 412
Open House
July 7 & 8 2-4 p.m.

Rarely available 1,500 sq. ft. south-facing suite at Avenue Road and Wilson, 2 bedrooms, den, 2 baths, balcony, parking and locker. $409,900. For more information call:
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30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

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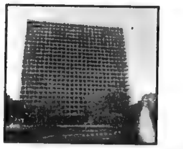

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Israel & the Jewish World

Robert Fulford delivered keynote

Continued from page 1

Drunk from the Bitter Truth: The Poems of Anna Margolin. The poems were originally published in 1929 and given new life in Kumove's translation.

"When I first read Anna Margolin's poems, they had a powerful visceral effect on me, and I began to translate a few of them as a way of understanding what she was saying," Kumove said. "That was 18 years ago… By bestowing this award on me, you have acknowledged one of the great Yiddish poets."

Two living Canadian poets were also honoured: Rafi Aaron for *Surviving the Censor: The Unspoken Words of Osip Mandelstam* (Seraphim Editions); and Seymour Mayne for *September Rain* (Mosaic Press).

For the first time, the awards committee handed out a Special Publisher Recognition Award. It went to Margie Wolfe, founder of Second Story Press, a highly successful feminist publishing house that since 1988 has published about 180 books, including some 14 books of Jewish content. Thematically Jewish titles have included *Found Treasures, A Partisan's Memoirs, Hana's Suitcase, Clara's War, The Night Spies, Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything* and *Hiding Edith*.

"I'm almost speechless – but not quite," said Wolfe, who went on to exuberantly outline the vast reach of Second Story Press publications, particular those in its Holocaust Remembrance Books for Young Readers series, around the globe.

"It's wonderful that people in Poland, Germany and other parts of eastern Europe are reading parts of their own history – history that they may not have read except for the books that we are getting over there," she said. "And we couldn't have done it without our writers," she added, commending Karen Levine, Kathy Kacer, Anne Dublin and other scribes.

For many, the highlight of the evening was Robert Fulford's learned and entertaining discussion on Jewish writers that have influenced him. At the top of his list was an unlikely name – A.J. Liebling (1904-1963), the American writer whom Fulford described as the best press critic in America of his day.

"Liebling was never interested in asserting his Jewishness and in certain ways he wanted to avoid it. As I came to realize later on, that was one of his Jewish qualities," said the celebrated cultural critic and *National Post* columnist.

Philip Roth, Irving Howe and Saul Bellow are among the New York intellectuals who Fulford cited as specific influences on him. He especially lauded their direct style of disputation, which allowed them to sharpen their ideas, a practice he learned to emulate.

Of talmudic origin, the Jewish habit of disputation has helped the Jewish people to survive and prosper in the modern era, Fulford said, noting that theologian James Parkes described the Talmud as a "portable homeland" and intellectual shelter that united the Jews throughout their long exile.

Most prize winners received an award in the neighbourhood of $500 to $1,000 from a multitude of donors.

The CJN wins Rockowers

Continued from page 1

Prof. Norm Ravvin, *The CJN*'s regular book reviewer, received second-place honours for excellence in arts and critical analysis for his column, "A writer's long and dangerous war," about Vasily Grossman's book on his experiences as a war correspondent with the Red Army during World War II.

Jenny Hazan, *The CJN*'s correspondent in Israel, won a third-place award in the special Nefesh B'Nefesh category for writing about Israel for her story "Ex-Montrealer is Israel's newest homeboy."

It was the 12th time in 13 years that *The CJN* has won Rockower awards.

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Concordia back from Israel with two tournament wins

By **BEN RABY**
Special to The CJN

MONTREAL — The Concordia Stingers men's basketball team recently returned to Montreal after a 16-day stay in Israel. They brought with them two tournament titles and an experience they won't soon forget.

For a team that knew little about the country they were visiting, and even less about the competition they would face, the Stingers managed to do just fine, winning 12 of 13 games.

"They were great ambassadors," coach John Dore said of his team. "They took in all the sights, they met and communicated with people of different cultural backgrounds, and they also played some pretty good basketball – the best I've seen some of them ever play."

Not bad for a trip that was funded almost entirely by private donations and sponsors.

The Stingers' second championship in Israel came at the second annual Friendship Games, a Tel Aviv-based international event with teams from 17 countries. Concordia, known in Israel as Team Canada, beat defending champion Serbia 45-40 in the final.

"You can't ask for a better trip," said graduating Stinger and tournament MVP Patrick Perrotte. "The rookies stepped up, and that's what [an off-season] trip like this is about. It's about getting the experience."

Nine Stingers travelled to Israel, and that meant significant playing time for all, even those who rarely got off the bench during the regular season.

"It was very rewarding to be able to celebrate the win, knowing the sacrifices we made for this trip," said first-year Stinger Desmond Murphy. "We showed why we're one of the best teams in Canada."

Israelis are known for elaborate post-game ceremonies, something the Stingers had discovered a week earlier after beating Estonia in a warm-up tournament final in Be'er Sheva.

At the Friendship Games, however, it took 40 minutes for the post-game festivities to even begin. The man designated to hand the Stingers their championship trophies was running late. Apparently newly installed President Shimon Peres had other things to do that afternoon.

But for a school that had to wait nearly five years since its last meet-and-greet with an Israeli VIP, a September 2002 visit by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu marred by anti-Israel riots in Montreal, Peres' 40-minute delay could barely be considered an inconvenience.

Concordia Stingers celebrate a tournament win. Seen here, top row from left, Sebastien Martin, Jamal Gallier, Dwayne Buckley, Pierre Thompson, Levi Vann and Desmond Murphy. Bottom row from left, Damian Buckley and Andre Johnny.

While the visit from Israel's president lasted only a few minutes, just long enough for a photo-op, the moment was special on many levels.

Some members of Concordia's travelling contingency spoke Hebrew to the Israeli leader while the players took pictures and waved the Canadian flag around centre court.

"[He] could be the next prime minister," said third-year Stinger Andre Johnny. "I'm not sure how many of us knew of him before, but it's not everyday that you meet someone of that status on the world stage."

The meeting with Peres, the championship game and even Concordia's trip to Israel itself would not have been possible if not for the Friendship Games, a basketball tournament that aims to promote peace through sport. It was conceived by the NBA's Atlanta Hawks owner Ed Peskowitz.

"I was in Israel a few years ago, and I saw the country's love for basketball," said Peskowitz. "I knew it was big in all the Middle Eastern countries, so I said, 'Let's do this. Let's bring together Arabs, Jews, Christians, Muslims and people of all different faiths to an environment in which they can all share the same basketball court.'"

"It's a tournament that aims to build bridges and it's a real eye-opener for our guys to get to see this," Dore said.

Concordia's first game in Tel Aviv was a blowout win against Nazareth, an Israel-based team made up entirely of Arabs. They represent the only Arab team in an otherwise Jewish basketball league.

"We prefer to just focus on our basketball," said team member Yousef Hassin, "but every time we play, people ask about our situation. We recognize it's different, but it doesn't bother us and it doesn't bother the other teams."

Hassin said he and his teammates often have drinks after a game with members of the Jewish teams in their league. It's a rare scene in Israel, but one that Peskowitz hopes can be recreated every year at his tournament.

"We're not being naive about it," Peskowitz said. "This can't change the world, but it is a small step. To see people who are diametrically opposed coming together for basketball, sharing laughs and having a common experience, it's great stuff. It's not the Paris Peace Accord, but it is a step in the right direction."

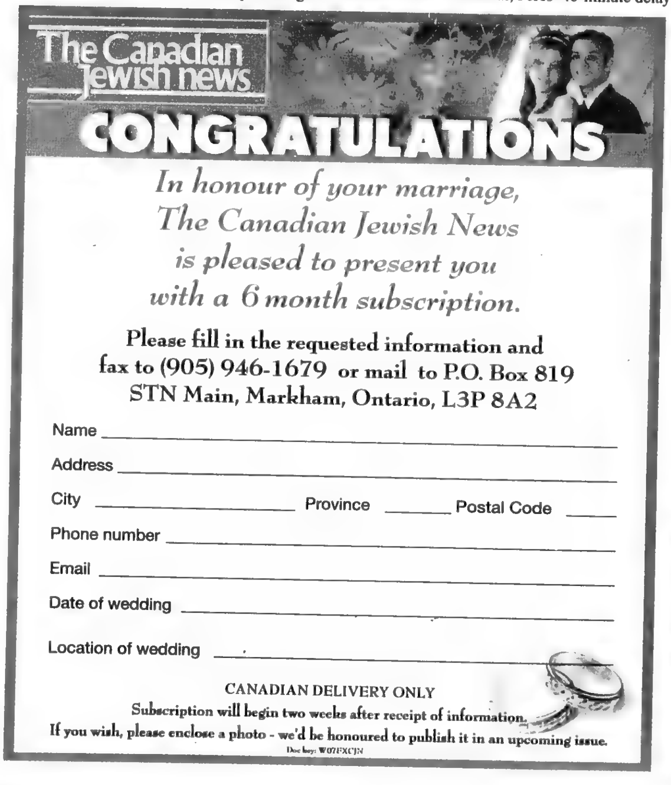
Peskowitz seems committed to seeing this tournament grow. He has agreed to donate $1 million US in each of the next eight years to keep it running.

A return visit from the Stingers is possible, but Dore said it's no guarantee.

"They've already started to put pressure on us to go back and defend our title," Dore said. "But it took lots of work, and fundraising just to make it possible for this year.

"It's something we'd like to do again, but it all depends on the finances."

When not playing basketball, the Stingers' itinerary included sightseeing to Masada, the Old City in Jerusalem and the Dead Sea.



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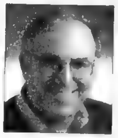
'Talk to me': the challenge of communication

By MICHAEL GORDON



The Senior Side of Life

The following occurs frequently in my geriatric medicine assessment clinic, and likely in medical offices around the world: we see an older person who is accompanied by a younger family member. The doctor proceeds to talk primarily, if not exclusively, to the family member, almost ignoring the patient. This is especially so if it is known that the patient suffers from cognitive impairment or has sensory problems such as hearing loss.

In modern medical offices, this tendency may be exacerbated by the use of the popular shift to the electronic health record. Many physicians are typing and reading as they speak, a situation that increases the likelihood that they will be distracted from direct verbal patient interaction.

Because of this tendency, I have, over the years, arranged my office in such a way that the patient and the primary family member or members are sitting in a position that enables me to make eye contact with all of them. I try to focus my attention first on the patient, greet him or her and have some verbal interaction about how they are or have been since our previous visit.

I then ask them if I should speak primarily to their accompanying family member. The response is almost always positive, and I can then direct further questions to the family member, all the time trying to keep looking from one to the other.

Another technique I have tried to maintain is that from time to time after speaking to the family member, I ask the patient for his or her comments on what has been said.

Depending on the nature of the medical condition, the degree of interaction and dialogue with the patient as compared to that with the family member may vary. There are many times when I am trying to assess the ability of the patient to provide reliable information and I have to remind the family members, sometimes more than once, to avoid interjecting their comments, even when their loved one turns to them for input, which is very common with individuals suffering from cognitive impairment or dementia.

When I observe the dynamic, content, and responsiveness to such questioning, it is usually possible to assess the cognitive capabilities of the person to some extent and understand the degree of dependency the patient may have on the direction and cognitive input of the family member.

Such an interactive arrangement appears to take more time than simply speaking to the cognitively intact family member, but it is less rich in terms of understanding what is actually going on. Thus, it is important for physicians to remind themselves of the importance of such efforts to engage with their patients, irrespective of the degree of cognitive impairment.

A well-known neuro-psychologist, Steven Sabat, has written extensively on the language difficulties and patterns of speech and communication in individuals with Alzheimer's. In his outstanding book, *The Experience of Alzheimer's Disease – Life through a Tangled Veil* (Blackwell 2001), he promotes the concept of careful listening and finding the meaning behind what might otherwise seems to be garbled and disconnected language.

A parallel situation often occurs when members of the service industry, such as shop clerks and salespeople, tend to speak to younger family members who are accompanying an older relative, without first attempting to address the older person – even if the elder of the two is clearly the primary customer. It sometimes seems as if the person is invisible.

When this happens, as gently as possible, we should redirect the sales staff back to the customer, to acknowledge the older person's visibility, vibrancy and individuality and ensure that he or she is directly addressed and listened to.

SALMON STEAK W/ ORANGE-BALSAMIC GLAZE

Marinade:
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1/2 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

4 salmon steaks Vegetable cooking spray

Place marinade ingredients in large sealable plastic bag. Shake well. Add salmon and refrigerate up to 1 hr. Remove steaks from marinade; pat dry with paper towel. Coat grill with cooking spray; heat on high. Grill steaks, turning once halfway through, until no longer translucent in the center, about 4 minutes per side.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

In my last article (June 7), I attempted to explore the meaning of Jewish literacy by analyzing the process of acquiring literacy rather than talking about the content of a literate mind, a subject which can only divide us. I cited Jerome Bruner's theory of structure and promised to deal, in this follow-up article, with his notion of discovery.

Bruner writes about discovery in his book *On Knowing*, and prefaces his work on the act of discovery with a quote from Maimonides' *Guide for the Perplexed*. Maimonides decides that of the four forms of perfection – the acquisition of worldly goods, physical fitness, moral behaviour and intellectual discovery – the last is the highest form.

Bruner quotes Maimonides: "Examine the first three kinds of perfection; you will find that if you possess them, they are not your property, but the property of others… But the last kind of perfection is exclusively yours; no one else owns any part of it."

From this, Bruner projects that "if man's intellectual excellence is the most his own among his perfections, it is also the case that the most personal of all that he knows is that which he has discovered for himself."

Clearly, certain modes of teaching are more likely to result in self-discovery for the student. Any activity which is more interactive and which discourages student passivity will enable students to find answers on their own, rather than by being spoon-fed. Bruner tells us that there are major benefits that accrue from learning by discovery:

- an increase in intellectual potency;
- a shift from external motivation (grades, outside approval, etc.) to internal drives;
- a learning of how one reaches a discovery; and
- an improvement in memory conservation.

It is obvious, then, that the "how" of literacy is as important as the "what." In dealing with Jewish literacy, our schools must individually teach the content that is meaningful to their various ideologies, but all of them can benefit from Bruner's notions of structure and discovery to enhance the learning process.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The courageous and the brave

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

I once lived on Sultana Avenue. My roommate was Yossi Saperman, now the renowned and highly creative rabbi at Beth Torah Congregation. We never really got to know the older couple who lived near us – mostly because they didn't seem to want to know us. The two seemed to be somewhat angry. This was not peculiar, however, as they had grown up in eastern Europe in a time we are all angry about.

Time passed and as God wills, our older neighbour, the husband, passed away. Yossi and I felt it was proper we pay our respects and so we dropped into the shivah. What followed is something I will always remember, something that taught me an important lesson in life.

The two of us sat with the bereaved wife and she told us the story of her husband, the man we had thought was simply a curmudgeon. Tearing up, the mournful woman talked about how her spouse had smuggled guns into Israel from Czechoslovakia in 1948, to help our homeland build its arsenal for its war against its enemy. She said her lifelong partner had also worked with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish world's oldest and most revered humanitarian organization, assisting in the rescue of eastern European Jewry.

This man, the one who would look askance when I would mow the lawn or Yossi was fixing a bike (bike repair and sales was his career prior to joining the rabbinate), was in fact a Jewish hero who had been willing to sacrifice his life, if need be, for the Jewish people.

The lesson I learned from our *shtilla* (quiet) neighbourhood hero was that bravery is all around us. As the founding director of Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee, I am forever thankful I had the chance to meet bravery on Sultana, and that it so frequently walks through the front door of our offices, sometimes in the guise of a homeless person pushing hard to survive, other times within the body and soul of little people who aggressively insist of their parents that their family travel the streets to feed and clothe the weakest among us.

Bravery. Courage. The words are synonymous with fearless, intrepid, bold, audacious, valorous, mettlesome, plucky, dauntless and undaunted. Herman Melville, the great American novelist, wrote, "Familiarity with danger makes a brave man braver."

On Thursday, Nov. 20, Ve'ahavta will pay homage to the brave at our fifth annual Starry Knights gala. We are very excited because the evening will allow us to highlight the valiant and intrepid activities of five men and women and encourage others to act in a similar fashion to enhance our world. The man who will honour this select group of people is Eli Wiesel, a courageous Jew, a Nobel Prize winner and a voice of the Holocaust.

I wonder if you could lend us a hand by nominating a brave person you are familiar with. Consider someone who:

- Saved a life from persecution or a dangerous environment;
- Stood up against authority to ensure justice for another person or community;
- Rebuilt his/her life after the Holocaust, a war, etc.;
- Established a program/ organization/ entity against all odds, to assist people in need (for example, saved orphans);
- Challenged his/her environment to strengthen his/her culture or religion (for example, a local rabbi who launched an alternative synagogue).

E-mail me at avrum@veahavta.org with your nomination, stating the individual's name and why you feel this person should be honoured. If we decide to honour the person you nominate, you will be our guest at Starry Knights.

Bravery and courage is everywhere. Knock on your neighbour's door and you might discover one such person lives next to you simply plucking weeds from his/her garden.

(Sudan?)

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This Week

National

Education funding in the public eye with Ontario election looming. ***Page 3***

Proposal would re-orient sanctuary at Holy Blossom Temple. ***Page 5***

Heebonics

Aurora, Ont. hopeful cut from *Canadian Idol*.***Page 18***

Arts & Travel

Sculptor's history is as unique as his art. ***Page 33***

Just For Laughs cancels *Bar Mitzvah Show*. ***Page 36***

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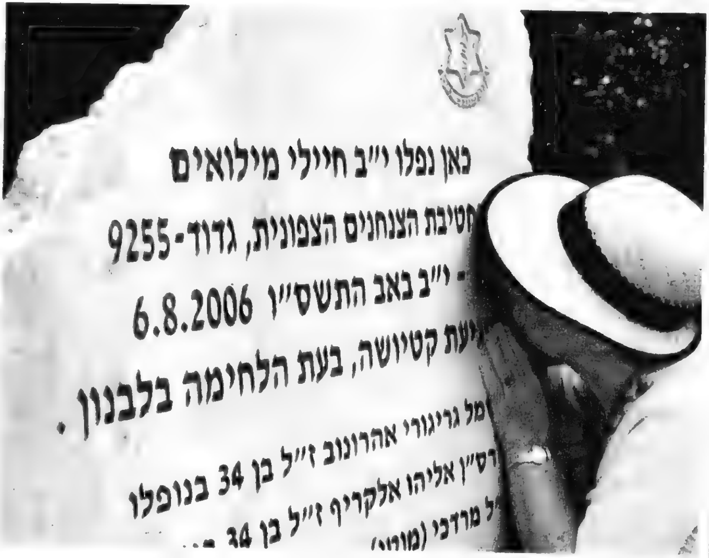
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RECALLING WITH REVERENCE

A woman kisses a newly erected monument in Kfar Giladi for 12 reserve soldiers who were killed there on Aug. 6 last year when a rocket fired by Hezbollah struck their base. Israelis last week commemorated the anniversary of the Second Lebanon War. *Please see related story on page 9.*

[Israel Sun photo]

Arab League to make historic visit to Israel

JTA

CAIRO — For the first time in its history, the Arab League will send a delegation to Israel.

This week's delegation, to be led by Egyptian and Jordanian officials, will discuss the threat posed by Hamas and Islamic extremism as well as the 22-nation league's peace proposal, which offers full Arab recognition of Israel in exchange for Israel's full withdrawal from lands captured in the 1967 Six-Day War, repatriation of Palestinian refugees and the creation of a Palestinian state.

"This is the first time the Arab League is coming to Israel," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mark Regev said, according to the Associated Press. "From its inception, the Arab League has been hostile to Israel. It will be the first time we'll be flying the Arab League flag."

The growing power of Islamic extremists in the Middle East, underscored by Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza last month, has drawn the fortunes of Israel and the league's members closer together.

Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa said Sunday that "the upcoming visit of Egypt's and Jordan's foreign ministers to Israel upon the request of the Arab committee of peace initiative is to conduct necessary contacts with Israel," AP reported.

Mattot-Masei
Candlelighting: 8:40
Havdalah: 9:50

Greater Toronto Area

Ottawa unveils security assistance

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The federal government is making $3 million in security funding available for communities that have been "historic victims" of hate crimes in Canada, Stockwell Day, minister for public safety, announced at a July 5 press conference at RCMP headquarters in Montreal.

Stockwell Day

The Security Infrastructure Pilot program will be available to non-profit and other provincially recognized community organizations that want to augment their existing security infrastructure.

Recalling the recent history of firebombings of Montreal Jewish and Muslim day schools, and the vandalization of native schools, Day pledged the money to allow faith communities "the freedom to live and congregate without fear" across Canada.

"Sometimes these crimes are reported as 'victimless' because nobody was hurt… but there is harm," Day said. "Look into the eyes of [the schoolchildren] who say 'Why us? What did we do to deserve this?' The funds being made available will help dissuade perpetrators… from [committing] these crimes."

According to Day's ministry, the program's funds will help cover the costs of minor security enhancements such as alarm systems, closed-circuit televisions, intercoms and inspection equipment that can be outfitted to "places of worship clearly linked to a community with a demonstrated history of being victimized by hate-motivated crime."

Continued on page 27

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Italian PM in Israel, urges Hamas to release Shalit — see page 29

CANADA

Ross' Killer Jailed

TORONTO — The man convicted of second-degree murder after admitting to killing Alicia Ross in August 2005 was sentenced to 16 years in jail without parole last week. The Crown had asked that Daniel Sylvester, 33, get 15 to 18 years, while his lawyer sought 10 to 12. Second-degree murder carries a minimum 10 years in jail without parole. Sylvester, who lived next door to Ross, pleaded guilty to manslaughter, but the Crown rejected his plea.

CJC Rejects Group

MONTREAL — A Jewish group opposed to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza criticized Canadian Jewish Congress last week for reaffirming an earlier decision to bar it from becoming a member of the national organization. In a letter to the Alliance of Concerned Jewish Canadians, the CJC said it decided last month not to reverse its August 2006 decision because the group's aims conflict with those of Congress, the Montreal *Gazette* reported. One example cited was the alliance's support for a call by an Ontario union to boycott Israel. A spokesperson for the alliance, which says it has 115 members, said the CJC move is a "futile attempt to marginalize growing Jewish opposition to Israel's behaviour and to the exclusive character of the Israeli state."

Order Adds Jews

OTTAWA — Five Jews were named to or promoted within the Order of Canada late last month. Barney Danson of Toronto, a Liberal MP and defence minister under prime minister Pierre Trudeau, was promoted to companion within the order, its highest rank, while Ottawa engineer Leon Katz was promoted to the rank of officer. Named as members of the order were Montreal author Muriel Gold, Toronto educator Lola Rasminsky and Toronto writer Leon Rooke.

WORLD

Jewish Soldier Buried

FORT LAUDERDALE — More than 1,000 mourners attended the June 26 funeral of a Jewish soldier from South Florida who was killed in Iraq. U.S. Army Specialist Daniel Agami, 25, affectionately known as "G.I. Jew," was killed in Baghdad on June 21 when an explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was buried with full military honours and awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal. Agami graduated from the Hebrew Academy Community School in Margate, Fla. Its dean said at the funeral that Agami kept kosher while in the army and slept with a U.S. and Israeli flag over his bunk. The school set up a scholarship fund in his name.

Opera Diva Was Born to Immigrant Parents

NEW YORK — Beverly Sills, the premier American opera diva, died July 2 at her Manhattan home of inoperable lung cancer. She was 78.

Beverly Sills

Sills was born Belle Silverman in the Crown Heights area of Brooklyn. Her father was an insurance broker from Romania, and her mother was born in Russia. Sills was pushed into show business at age four, her mother believing her to be a "Jewish Shirley Temple," the *New York Times* reported.

In her career with the New York City Opera, she won critical praise for portraying Cleopatra in Handel's *Giulio Cesare* and Lucia in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

Sills retired from the stage at 50 and assumed the general director's post of the City Opera. With the company $3 million (US) in debt, Sills put her fundraising skills to work, and by the time she stepped down in 1989, the opera had slashed ticket prices by 20 per cent and had a $3 million surplus.

Sills later moved to the Lincoln Center of the Performing Arts, where in 1994 she was elected chairwoman of the board. In 2002, she became chairwoman of the Metropolitan Opera.

Renewal Retreat

ALBUQUERQUE — The Jewish Renewal movement held a "sacred community" gathering last week in Albuquerque, N.M. About 700 Jewish Renewal practitioners came to pray, study and create "sacred community" in the 13th biannual Aleph Kallah, an international gathering hosted by Aleph: The Alliance for Jewish Renewal. Only 43 of the nearly 700 participants were non-American, hailing from a handful of other countries. There are 140 members of the Renewal rabbinic association, Ohalah, and 115 candidates in Aleph's training program for rabbis, cantors and rabbinic pastors.

Israeli Chairs At UN

NEW YORK — The United Nations wrapped up its first conference chaired by an Israeli. The Committee on Program and Co-ordination, which monitors the agenda and achievements of every UN agency, concluded its annual meeting July 3. Ron Adam, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's director for UN political affairs and a former official at Israel's UN mission, chaired the committee, a first for an Israeli. "It's a small step for the UN, but it's a big step for Israel in the UN," Adam told JTA. He said several Muslim states took part without incident, including Indonesia and Algeria. Iran's representative attended, but did not take part. It was the latest diplomatic achievement for Israel at the UN owing to its admission in May 2000 into the Western European and Other States regional grouping. In 2005, Ambassador Dan Gillerman served as a vice-president of the General Assembly, the first time an Israeli had done so since Abba Eban in 1952.

Capital Gets Mikvah

MELBOURNE — The small Jewish community in Australia's capital is building a mikvah after a Chabad Lubavitch rabbi from Melbourne pledged to fund Canberra's first Jewish ritual bath. Some 600 Jews live in Canberra, whose lay-led community has no rabbi or kosher butcher. Orthodox and liberal Jews share prayer facilities at a Jewish centre.

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Organizations urge action on education funding

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

With the Ontario provincial election set for Oct. 10 and the issue of public funding for faith-based schools in the public eye, the Jewish community is at a crossroads, according to Josh Cooper, executive director of Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC).

Cooper, speaking last week at a Jewish community meeting on inclusive public education, told some 350 audience members that, "for real changes to occur, our concerns, our ideas, and our passion must be felt by our elected officials at Queen's Park and those who seek elected office."

The July 4 meeting, held at the Leah Posluns Theatre, was co-sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) Ontario region, the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools and CJPAC.

Cooper urged audience members to "let [Tory leader] John Tory and PC candidates know that you appreciate his leadership on this issue and are willing to help."

Last month, the Conservative party unveiled an election promise to bring faith-based schools into the public school system and to inject $800 million in new funding into the system.

Cooper also urged Liberal and NDP supporters to inform their candidates that their parties "need to consider moving to support of or, at least, away from outright opposition to inclusive public education."

He said that candidates need to hear that "not only you, but your family, and your community, consider [school funding] a critical issue determining how you will vote this October."

Josh Cooper

CJPAC can offer "tools to ensure your voice is heard," Cooper said. He urged the audience to volunteer for candidates, call talk radio shows, write letters to newspapers, involve friends and family, and – most importantly – to vote.

Inclusive public education, among other things, would increase contact between students and teachers at faith-based and non-faith-based schools, ensure greater accountability by faith-based schools for what they teach, and "allow Ontario's public education system to reflect the diversity of the 21st century," said David Koschitzky, speaking on behalf of the sponsoring organizations.

It would also bring Ontario into line with other provinces that provide funding to faith-based schools, he noted.

Brenda Dzaldov, a public school teacher and mother of three Jewish day school students, said she is "completely dedicated" to public education, but added that day school "allows my kids to absorb Jewish heritage and values as a natural element of the normal school day."

The opportunity to do so enriches their lives and will help them contribute to society in the future, she said.

Dzaldov said there are many public education programs, including professional development, that would benefit Jewish day schools if they were to come under the public education umbrella.

Concerns raised in a question-and-answer session included whether funding faith-based schools would create breeding grounds for extremism, and whether the change would mean that non-Jewish children would have to be admitted to Jewish schools.

Koschitzky said that *not* funding faith-based schools could foster extremism, because there is a need to ensure that schools teach ideals such as tolerance and democracy.

Steven Shulman, regional director and general counsel of CJC's Ontario region, said that if Jewish schools take public money, there will very likely be "open enrolment, period, or an element of open enrolment."

He suggested that non-Jewish students who study in Jewish schools might serve as "ambassadors for the Jewish people… We shouldn't be frightened by this."

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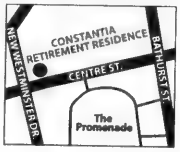

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Greater Toronto Area

Israel must go slow

From the editor's desk

The pressure mounts on Israel from all sides of the diplomatic ocean to offer "gestures" of support that will prop up the regime of Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, among Palestinians in the West Bank and in Gaza.

Since Abbas' Fatah party and its supporters were routed in fierce, brutal fighting and expelled from Gaza by the armed forces of Hamas last month, western governments and western-oriented governments in the Arab world have been pre-occupied with devising strategies that ensure the survival of the PA president.

Last Wednesday, for example, it was the turn of the government of France to give Israel indispensible advice.

"It's at this moment that we feel – that all the observers feel – there is a need to make a gesture," French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner told reporters after meeting in Paris with his Israeli counterpart, Tzipi Livni.

"It's often Israel that makes the gestures – I know that; we know that," he said. "It's once again Israel's turn to start this momentum that will become unstoppable because the two populations want peace."

According to *Ha'aretz*, French President Nicolas Sarkozy also pressed that very same message in a telephone call the day before to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, telling him that Israel must absolutely aid Abbas to take initiatives.

As Kouchner astutely pointed out, all of the prop-up-Abbas strategies are predicated upon Israeli concessions.

In truth, and it seems, as always, Israel is in a precarious situation. Islamic radical forces, actively supported by Iran, Syria and perhaps even Al Qaeda, rule Gaza. They must not be allowed to gain a foothold, let alone control, in the West Bank as well. Moreover, they represent as much of a threat to Jordan and Egypt as they do to Israel.

Thus, in the immediate aftermath of Hamas' takeover of Gaza, a four-way leaders' summit – with significant behind-the scenes western watching, and probably planning – was quickly cobbled together at Sharm el Sheikh.

Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, Jordan's King Abdullah, Olmert and Abbas met to discuss the newly troubled and troubling situation.

What emerged, essentially, was a common reiteration of the urgency of the hour and the desirability of a plan – by Israel – to implement a series of goodwill gestures toward the Palestinians, who, presumably, in their unschooled, untrained, naive gratitude, will attribute the myriad benefits that flow from these gestures to the clear-eyed, hard-nosed, steel-backed, resolute will and wisdom of their president.

As reported by *JTA*, Olmert did indeed come forward with those golden gestures. He promised to release 250 Fatah members from Israeli jails who 'do not have blood on their hands' and to transfer some $700 million (US) of Palestinian Authority tax revenues collected by Israel but withheld since Hamas won PA legislative elections in January 2006. He also said he would continue to allow humanitarian aid to reach Gaza.

Since then, half of the withheld taxes has been scheduled for release by Israel on condition that the money does not reach Hamas. Indeed as a result of the release of those funds and additional funding from the West, last Wednesday, for the first time in 15 months, Palestinian Authority workers, excluding some 19,000 who report to Hamas, received their first full set of wages.

On Sunday, the Israeli cabinet agreed to release approximately 250 Palestinian prisoners and detainees, in keeping with the criteria that have been determined in previous cabinet decisions, with the proviso that prisoners who have served less than two-thirds of their sentences will not be released.

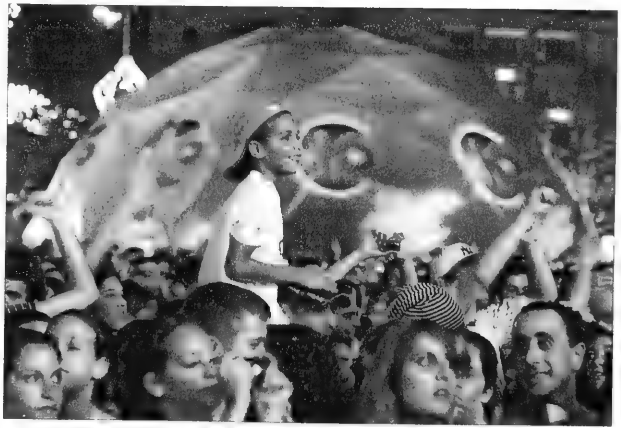
Nor has there been any miserliness on Israel's part in distributing humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. As of last Wednesday, approximately 423 tons of animal feed, 505 tons of straw, 321 tons of sugar, 354 tons of flour, 74 tons of salt, 28 tons of spices, 28 tons of pasta, 14 tons of canned food, 29 tons of tomato sauce, 26 tons of fine flour, 24 tons of tuna, 27 tons of peanuts, 14 tons of jam, 13 tons of cooking oil, seven tons of hyssop, 22 tons of canned full, seven tons of raspberry juice powder were delivered to Gazans through the Sufa Crossing. A further 22 tons of medicine and powdered milk, 40 tons of frozen meat, 66 tons of dairy products, 59 tons of meat, 5 tons of fertilized eggs, 115 tons of fruit, 42 tons of bananas, two truckloads of disposable diapers and three truckloads of medicine and medical equipment had been delivered through the Kerem Shalom crossing.

The fulfilment of the Sharm el Sheikh pledges notwithstanding, many observers are urging Israel not to fall into lockstep with the western campaign to prop up Abbas.

In a tightly argued, insightful article in the *Wall Street Journal* June 20, Israeli political analyst Michael Oren wrote: "Clearly no progress toward Palestinian statehood can be made before Fatah has reformed itself financially, ideologically and structurally. Even under the most propitious circumstances this process is certain to take many years - longer if economic aid and political support are provided to the PA unconditionally." To understate the matter profoundly, the Palestinian situation is murky. In these unclear circumstances, Israel must go slow.

—***MBD***

SeeJN



JOINING LIVE EARTH

Some 15,000 Israelis gathered in Rabin Square in Tel Aviv Saturday night to take part in the worldwide, 24-hour Live Earth concert intended to raise public awareness of the perils of global warming and other ecological disasters. Israeli performers who took part in the event were Korin Alal, Mosh Ben-Ari, Efrat Gosh, and the bands Teapacks and Shotei Hanevuah.

[Israel Sun photo]

Decision soon on Holy Blossom renovation plan

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Members of Holy Blossom Temple will finish casting their votes next Monday on a controversial renovation plan that would reverse the direction of the 1,100-seat sanctuary.

A group that opposes the proposed change – the Holy Blossom Temple Sanctuary Legacy Group (saveoursanctuary.com) – has been contacting other temple members to gain support.

Spokesperson Michael Marrus, a University of Toronto history professor, says the group has the support of hundreds of members.

Re-orienting the sanctuary in the 69-year-old Bathurst Street building would mean that worshippers would face eastward toward Jerusalem, as in more traditional synagogues. It would also mean that worshippers would turn their backs on the temple's majestic domed apse, which now houses the ark. The current back end of the sanctuary, which would become the front, features a stained-glass rose window, also an impressive feature.

In fact, the orientation of the sanctuary wasn't even considered when renovation plans were first explored, according to both Rabbi John Moscowitz, senior rabbi of the 2,200-member, 150-year-old congregation, and Cary Solomon, head of the temple's building transformation committee.

Initially, a more pressing concern was to create a better space for the congregation to come together outside of worship services – for a kiddush, for example. "We were much more concerned with how you bring together a community physically, and therefore emotionally," the rabbi said.

The synagogue has not undergone a major renovation since the 1960s, when the Leo Baeck Day School was added.

The renovation, which is expected to cost $35 million and which would begin in fall 2008 at the earliest, would include a three-storey central atrium that would serve as a gathering space and entry to other parts of the building; a new social hall with offices above it, and an underground parking lot that would increase available parking spaces by about 15 to 20 per cent, said Solomon. The lot would have an elevator to the atrium.

A renovation of the Leo Baeck Day School facilities housed in the synagogue is also part of the plan. The school would contribute $15 million toward renovation costs, and more than $13 million has been raised by the congregation, said Solomon.

Continued on page 6

Body of missing boater recovered

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Police in North Bay have recovered the body of Eli Horowitz, the 30-year-old Toronto man who went missing last August while boating on Lake Nipissing.

The body was discovered on the lake July 3 when three fisherman from the Dunnville, Ont., area spotted a floating body, Ontario Provincial Police Sgt. Joe Strba said.

"The body was floating at the time but to our knowledge, the body had only been up floating for only a short period of time, because a lot of damage is done once it's afloat… and none of that was found," Strba said.

An autopsy was performed in Toronto the following day and Horowitz's identity was confirmed using dental records.

Horowitz and his father-in-law, Heine Mondrowitz, 56, were vacationing near North Bay with family and decided to rent a 19-foot boat to go fishing. When the empty vessel drifted ashore on Aug. 21, an extensive land, air and water search began.

Mondrowitz's body was recovered a few days after the incident, but Horowitz remained missing until last week.

Due to persistent effort by Hatzoloh Toronto, a volunteer emergency medical service for the Orthodox community that Horowitz helped establish in Toronto, the search extended into September.

"We did our own thing and they did their own thing under guidance from us," Strba said. "They certainly were helpful in getting volunteers to be able to extend the search into bigger areas in a shorter period of time. Once that was over, we just kind of did our normal thing. We'd received tips last winter [about body sightings]. We followed all those up and they were negative."

Mendel Friedman, executive director of Hatzoloh Toronto, said he made sure to keep police focused on recovering Horowitz, who was a Hatzoloh volunteer and one of the paramedics who responded to the murder of David Rosensweig at Bathurst Street and Lawrence Avenue about five years ago.

"It was Hatzoloh's mandate to be in touch with [police] at least once a week. We didn't go up there since the beginning of last winter, but we always were calling Strba to make sure that they get choppers circling the shores when they have one available. We were always pushing them for help, and thank God that it worked out," Friedman said.

Interestingly, Friedman said, July 3 was a fast day to mourn the breaching of Jerusalem's walls, and 10 rabbis from Toronto headed up to North Bay to pray over the water where Horowitz went missing.

"They left at like 10:30 a.m. An hour, or two hours into their travelling, we got the call that the body was found," he said.

"It was just fortuitous that it all happened on this day, because they were able to be right here when we brought the body back," Strba added.

Friedman said that once a rabbi confirmed it was Horowitz's body, he made sure the family was taken care of with proper medical attention, and then he made the announcement.

Horowitz was buried at Pardes Shalom Cemetery on July 4.

"It is a bittersweet situation here, because it is unfortunate that a person died, but it is sweet to hear that after so much effort, money, time and energy and manpower that went into this search, against all the odds, that he [was found]," Friedman said.

Added Strba: "It is a very good feeling for us to be able to get this done and finished. We can imagine, having been told about the Jewish law… regarding remarrying Shevi [Horowitz's widow], how important it was to them."

Friedman said he had yet to contact the fishermen who discovered Horowitz's body, but is making arrangements to follow through with giving them a $10,000 reward.

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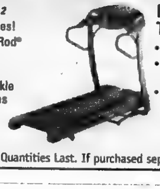
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Proposal would re-orient sanctuary of historic shul

Continued from page 5

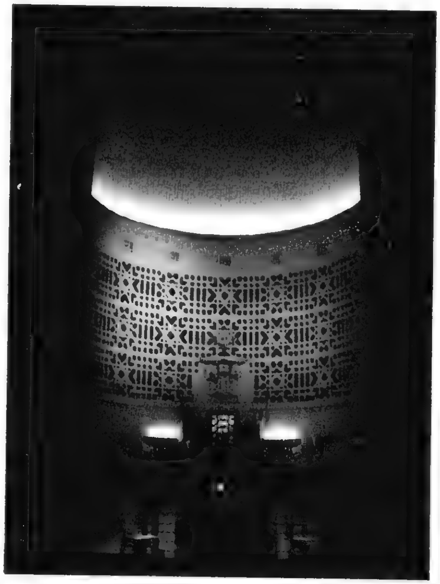
It was daunting to come up with a plan that would transform the building into "something that hopefully will be valid 70 years from today," said Solomon, a real estate developer. "It's a very important building, architecturally and iconically."

After considering 48 proposals, the committee settled on a plan by architect Jack Diamond, which it recommended to the temple's board of directors. The plan was presented to congregants in a series of town hall meetings that began in February.

Explaining the rationale for reorienting the sanctuary, Rabbi Moscowitz said that "great spaces should be entered from the back." To leave the sanctuary as it is, congregants would enter through doors at the front of the sanctuary, on either side of the bimah.

Ironically, that is how the sanctuary is entered now, for the most part. Other than the High Holy Days and a few other occasions, the double wooden doors outside the back of the sanctuary, which exit onto Bathurst Street, are locked for security reasons.

The rabbi doesn't believe that the temple would lose historical value by reorienting the sanctuary. "The sanctuary will remain essentially the same. It will have the same walls, the same windows, the same apse, the Bathurst Street doors, the same seats, and probably better lighting and a better mix of heating and air conditioning. In fact, one of the other charges to the architect was to help us think about the future while at the same time we don't forget the past."



Since it was built in 1938, worshippers in the sanctuary at Holy Blossom Temple have faced a domed apse.

[Frances Kraft photo]

He added that several firms suggested making the sanctuary into the social hall, an idea that was rejected.

Plans for the Bathurst Street doors and the apse – significant issues for the opposing group – were modified at the beginning of June, said Solomon. The original plan called for the doors to be used as exits only, and for a balcony to be added half-way up the apse.

Legacy group members support most other aspects of the renovation but believe the sanctuary is "a magnificent example of synagogue architecture" that should not be reoriented, said Marrus. The group claims there are also structural reasons to keep the sanctuary as it is, and it has undertaken its own "preliminary engineering and cost evaluation" of the new design.

Marrus said the congregation was not told that the floor of the sanctuary slopes about 18 inches down from the Bathurst St. end toward the current bimah and apse. "It's a gentle slope going downward to enable people to see better. If you turn the sanctuary around, guess what? You've got to slope it the other way. This means you have to raise the floor not only the 18 inches, but another 18 inches. That means everything is thrown out of kilter – the windows, the pillars, everything has to be changed. This will cost millions of dollars."

Solomon told *The CJN*, however, that Diamond's plan calls for the floor to be "flattened out," not sloped in the other direction, and that the extra expense Marrus is referring to is unnecessary.

"I think it's important to stress there's been a lot of hard feeling around [the issue of reorienting the sanctuary] and even some stigmatizing of both sides, and I deplore this, no matter which side it's on," Marrus said. "People ought to be able to respect each other and disagree amongst themselves without personalizing the issue and without unnecessarily dividing people. Our experience has been that our opposition has taken [our point of view] as disloyalty to the congregation and to Israel." (Some supporters of the renovation plan have argued that it will show support for Israel at a time when the state's existence is being challenged.)

Solomon said the pro-renovation side has "tried to do the best we can to address their major issues." He believes that not reorienting the sanctuary would result in a "suboptimal design from a functional standpoint.

"Hopefully we've extended the feeling that we're listening and that we've done something."

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Cynical, ghoulish theatre

The irony of the scene – as surreal as it was celebratory – was not lost on anyone who has even the mildest respect, let alone reverence, for the value of human life. Last Wednesday, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reporter Alan Johnston was freed, after 114 days, from the clutches of his kidnappers, the shadowy, malevolent group of Palestinian thugs who call themselves the Army of Islam. Hamas engineered his release from the Gaza City hideout in which he was imprisoned.

In the euphoric release of his freedom, Johnston told a press conference in Jerusalem: "I'm pretty sure that if Hamas hadn't come in and turned the heat on, I'd still be in that room. Hamas has a huge law and order agenda."

In those few, carefully chosen words, the newly freed journalist painted his rescue in cheery colours of determined, civic responsibility on the part of the Hamas rulers of Gaza, who – it was important he tell the rest of the world – are misunderstood proponents of the rule of law.

Johnston's reportraiture of Hamas was immediately accepted by significant groups in his home, the United Kingdom. The day after his release, 20 British members of Parliament from across the political spectrum called for talks with Hamas. Even the foreign secretary, David Miliband, "fully acknowledged the crucial role" played by Hamas in freeing Johnston.

But most seasoned observers of Palestinian society, and certainly most Palestinians themselves, know better.

Johnston's release was cynically and ghoulishly choreographed theatre. The Hamas leaders knew at all times where Johnston was being held. They chose the hour of his release because they were complicit in his captivity.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a senior aide to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, aptly called Johnston's release nothing more than propaganda-scoring theatre by two actors, Hamas and the Army of Islam, who know each other and act together quite well.

"We're watching a movie, where the thieves in Gaza fall out and one of them claims to be honest and brave, and the other is the bad guy. This Hamas game fools no one," Rabbo said.

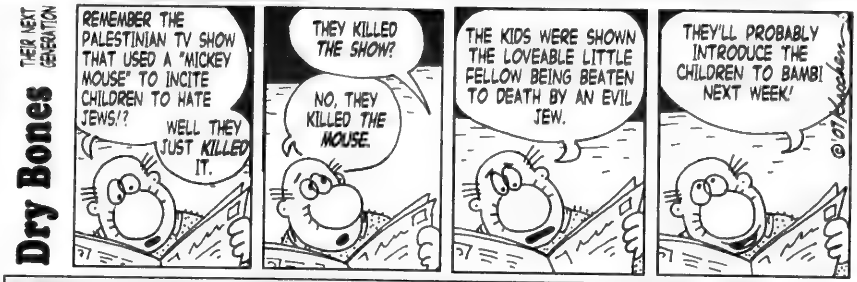
In the celebration of Johnston's release, it should be remembered that Israel Defence Forces soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit was kidnapped more than 380 days ago by Hamas and the very same Army of Islam that kidnapped Alan Johnston. Indeed, only two weeks ago, on the anniversary of his kidnapping, Hamas played a voice recording of the young Shalit.

While the fanfare trumpets in the United Kingdom and other places ceremoniously sounded Hamas' virtue, members of Shalit's family and the families of Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser were in Europe pleading with Red Cross officials and political leaders to help secure the release of their loved ones from Hamas and, it must be added, Hezbollah captivity.

"Law and order" is a breathtakingly perverse phrase to describe the closely watched, totalitarian control that the Hamas rulers impose on the people in Gaza. The place is bereft of all freedoms except those that fit within the Islamic rulers' extremist religious program. And now, the much vaunted law and order label that Ismail Haniyeh wears on the lapel of his two-piece suit like a shiny, polished sheriff's badge distracts Westerners from remembering his movement's single ideological purpose: the elimination of the Jewish state.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

In a lecture in Toronto, *Jerusalem Post* and *CJN* correspondent Wolf Blitzer charged that the U.S. media use a double standard in Middle East coverage. Events in the West Bank, he said, are front page news, while negative stories from Arab countries are glossed over.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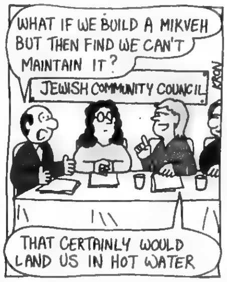
Terrorists in the medical profession

In a crude attempt to take the blame away from Islamic terrorists, we have been told that they are illiterate, ignorant, disenfranchised and frustrated youths and that they become suicide bombers because of their lack of education and frustration of living in poverty. Now comes the revelation that the latest terrorist suspects allegedly responsible for the recent events in London and Scotland are highly educated doctors and interns. Their motivation is clearly not to convert non-Muslims to Islam, but rather to murder and destroy innocent civilians as an example of jihad bent on destroying western civilization. If such lunatics have entered the medical profession, what's next – the police force, the army or even government? All lawful steps must be taken to eliminate this evil cancer that is festering in western civilization.

Bert Raphael
Toronto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* * *

Some religions more equal than others

We tell new immigrants that all religions are treated equally in Canada. It seems, however, that in Ontario, some religions are more equal than others ("Families sue for disabled funding in faith schools," *CJN*, July 5). As a result, the Liberal government funds children with disabilities in Catholic schools, but not all disabled children in the Hebrew day schools. Attorney General Michael Bryant could have resolved the issue with the parents of the disabled children. Instead, it is unfortunate that he has chosen to spend the government's money on deploying his battery of government lawyers against the parents, rather than spending it on the children who need the assistance.

Allan Kaufman
Legal Counsel
Multi-Faith Coalition for Equal Funding of Faith-Based Schools

* * *

Gov't violating disabled children's rights

When our provincial government chooses to fund support for some disabilities to children in private faith-based schools and not others, while providing those services to public and Catholic school children, it is clearly violating children's constitutional rights ("Families sue for disabled funding in faith schools," *CJN*, July 5).

It is in the best interest of society to ensure that all disabled children receive those services that they so need to reach their full potential. Obtaining these services can mean the difference between flunking out of high school or obtaining a graduate degree in university. How could the provincial government treat our children with such inequity, something any other province would be ashamed to do?

It is time for the province to declare that it is in favour of funding without discrimination and to ensure that these children have what they need and what they are entitled to in order to reach their potential.

Missy Hecker
Toronto

* * *

Services for developmentally challenged

I was very glad to see the coverage of Reena in *The CJN* (UJA Federation Jewish Toronto stories, June 28). Reena is a wonderful organization providing excellent services to many individuals with developmental disabilities.

My daughter is a Reena Outreach client. She has had a particularly difficult year, which has created severe stress for her and us, her parents. Social work, outreach and respite staff have provided us with caring and practical support that has got us through this difficult time.

As our daughter approaches the end of her education, worries about the availability of services keep us up at night. The services for adults are grossly insufficient for the thousands of developmentally challenged individuals needing them.

Linda M. Gruson
Toronto, Ont.

* * *

Israel supported apartheid regime

In the column "South Africa damns Israel" (*CJN*, June 28), Lawrence Hart describes the animus of the current South African regime, dominated by the African National Congress, against Israel. This negative attitude toward Israel seems almost inexplicable, according to Hart. It's presented as an unprovoked attack. Hart's column would have been more balanced, and his readers better served, had he devoted a sentence or two to Israel's long-standing support, military and otherwise, of the previous apartheid regime, which brutally suppressed the ANC and many South Africans. Not all opposition to Israel is motivated solely by pure anti-Semitism. South Africans in particular are sensitive to apartheid and those who support it.

C. Peter Herman
Toronto

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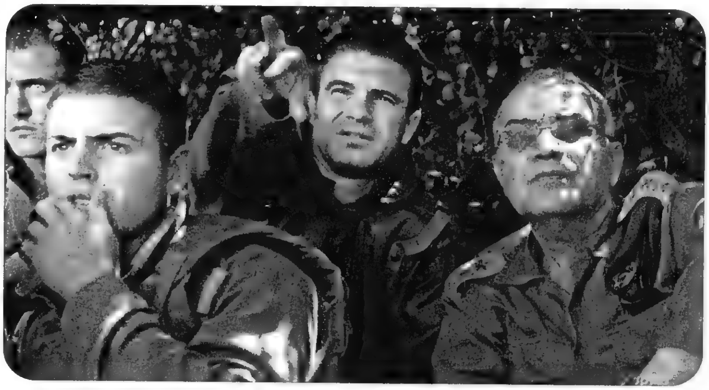
Lebanon war one year later: Was it Israel's wake-up call?

By LESLIE SUSSER
JTA

One year after the Second Lebanon War, Israel's northern front is quiet, UN forces are patrolling the border area and Hezbollah fighters have been pushed back deep inside Lebanese territory.

That's the good news.

On the other side of the equation, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is still under pressure to resign for his poor conduct of the war, home-front defences are suffering from neglect, Hezbollah is re-arming with bigger and better rockets, and there has been no sign of life from the two abducted Israeli soldiers whose abduction on July 12, 2006, sparked the 34-day conflict.



Former chief of staff Dan Halutz, right, observes a military operation from the field.
[Israel Sun photos]

One year later, these questions remain: How has Israel's performance in the war affected its standing in a hostile environment? Is UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which brought the fighting to an end, proving effective? What are the chances of a prisoner exchange? What has been done to bring the Israel Defence Forces up to speed and to bolster home defences? And on the political front, can Olmert survive as prime minister?

In the fighting, 119 soldiers and 44 civilians were killed. Israeli forces proved unable to stop daily Hezbollah rocket barrages on civilian population centres, national leadership was indecisive, ground troops did not perform well and the captured soldiers, Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser, were not freed.

Most experts maintain that on balance, the war hurt Israel's deterrent capacity. The problem is particularly acute on the Syrian front, where President Bashar Assad has been building up his arsenal of ground-to-ground, anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles.

The Israeli concern is that Assad, given his perception of the Israeli performance in Lebanon, may miscalculate his military strength relative to Israel's and start hostilities. In recent months, the Israeli government has sent Assad two clear messages: Israel has no intention of attacking Syria, and if war does break out, Syria would be far more vulnerable to Israeli firepower than Hezbollah because of its state apparatus and infrastructure.

Israeli intelligence believes the messages were received, but no one on the Israeli side is discounting the possibility of another war in the north this summer.

In the immediate aftermath of last year's war, Olmert presented UN Resolution 1701 as a major strategic gain. It placed a "robust" UN force of more than 13,000 troops in the border area previously occupied by Hezbollah, creating an effective buffer between Israel and the Shiite militiamen.

Indeed, in the year since the war, Hezbollah has not fired a single shot across the border. An isolated rocket attack on Kiryat Shmonah in mid-June was attributed to a radical Palestinian faction. Hezbollah fortifications near the border have been destroyed, and arms and ammunition found there have been confiscated.

Olmert says the days are gone when Hezbollah forces near the border, with more than 10,000 Katyusha rockets trained on civilian, military and strategic targets, could hold Israel captive.

A late June report released by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, however, paints a more sombre picture. According to Ban, Hezbollah continues to receive vast quantities of arms from Syria and Iran, in blatant violation of 1701.

Haifa Mayor Yona Yahav surveys damage to his city.

Most of the weaponry comes overland across the Syria-Lebanon border and includes rockets with a range of more than 150 miles. Hezbollah, according to the report, is apparently building new positions outside the UN zone from which it would be able to launch rocket attacks against Israel. Israel has complained several times about the porous nature of the Syria-Lebanon border, but no one seems to be doing anything about it.

Israel also is concerned about the possible military co-ordination among Iran, Syria and Hezbollah. For example, if Assad were to launch hostilities later in the summer, Israeli intelligence believes Hezbollah would join in, and Iran would provide more weapons and logistical support.

Ban's report on the fate of the two Israeli captives is equally downbeat. He is sharply critical of Hezbollah for not providing any sign of life from the two soldiers and says concerns about their fate are growing.

Israeli officials believe that during the abduction, one of the men may have been badly wounded. Contacts between Israel and Hezbollah through a German intermediary are continuing, but nothing has been revealed about the soldiers' conditions. Bargaining over a prisoner exchange apparently has yet to get off the ground.

The most dramatic change since the war has occurred among Israel's military forces. Following the criticism of its performance, the army set up more than 40 internal panels to analyze shortcomings and recommend improvements.

As public protest swelled, chief of staff Dan Halutz, an air force man, resigned and was replaced by Gabi Ashkenazi, a seasoned infantry general. Ashkenazi introduced key changes in doctrine and training. The notion that modern wars could be won by firepower alone was replaced with the classic IDF doctrine of firepower and ground force manoeuvres combined.

Training of ground forces and reserves was increased significantly in light of the modified doctrine. In late May, the IDF carried out joint exercises on a scale not seen in years.

There also has been new thinking on home-front defences. Dan Meridor, a former minister for strategic affairs, recently produced a detailed report, *The Home Front as Battlefield*, in which he argues that in modern rocket warfare, civilians are as likely to find themselves on the front line as soldiers, and that it is incumbent on the government to prepare them psychologically and provide the funding for their protection.

Gaps in levels of security for rich and poor could harm national resilience, Meridor said. But there has been little government action on building new shelters, making old ones more habitable or providing funds for the construction of reinforced rooms in private homes and apartments.

The big political question in the wake of the war is whether Olmert can maintain his hold on power much longer. The Winograd Commission, the main panel investigating the overall conduct of the war, issued a scathing interim report in April that was particularly critical of the prime minister's performance.

By moving quickly to close ranks in his Kadima party, Olmert managed to survive. Pundits say, however, that if the committee is as scathing, or even more so, in its final report expected in August, the prime minister may have to go.

The Labour party under the new defence minister, Ehud Barak, is threatening to bring down the coalition government – of which Labour is a key element – if Olmert stays.

For Israel, the Second Lebanon War undoubtedly was a traumatic experience. But paradoxically, it may have served as a timely wake-up call for both the military and the politicians. As a result, regional perceptions notwithstanding, the country may have emerged stronger.

Leslie Susser is a political analyst based

Trusting God

I think it was Elie Wiesel who said that a Jew can be with God, against God, but not without God. The same seems to be true of non-Jews. In an age when religious "with God" fundamentalism is spreading rapidly, anti-religious "against God" tracts are hitting bestseller lists.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

But few seem to be without God. Those who insist that they are against God often concede, at times grudgingly, that they have not given up on God. For as hard as they try to argue that all there is to life is the brief episode between birth and death, they cannot free themselves from intimations of transcendence. They may attack religion as an illusion – as Freud taught them – but only rarely can they ignore God altogether.

As the attacks are often mounted by public intellectuals – books by Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens are current bestsellers – some Jews with aspirations to sophistication tend to be duped. If they want Judaism, they say they want it served up without reference to God. Tales of anti-Semitism, analyses of Middle East politics and stories about prominent Jews are favorite substitutes.

When I came to Canada and spoke more about God than about what I read in newspapers, ostensibly well-meaning advisers from far and near urged me to change my approach, because, they said, it put people off Judaism. My own experience has been different. I know many women and men who respect and listen to those who testify to the presence of God in their lives, in Jewish history and in the world. They may not want philosophical arguments or polemical refutations, but they recognize the authenticity of religious testimony rooted in experience and founded on commitment to the welfare of human beings, God's creatures.

Those who refuse to listen and are taken in by fashionable anti-religious jibes say that they affirm humanity and practise secular ethics. Looking at regimes that made anti-religion their creed – such as Nazi Germany and the Bolshevik Soviet Union, both now mercifully dead, though not yet buried – it is impossible to see any humanism in either.

Having grown up in the shadow of both, I came to the conclusion long ago that as laborious as it is to affirm God, it is impossible to believe in humanity. Though much evil has been done in the name of religion by those who use it as a tool for their own ambitions, no less evil is being done by those who replace traditional faith with lofty refutations.

To me this is yet another indication that trusting God – I prefer "trust" (*bitachon*) to "belief," which sounds too dogmatic – is more realistic and true than faith in humans and their science.

Travelling: just do it

After six weeks of adventuring in jungles, deserts, savannahs and everything in between, I am finally home from my West African journey.

Now that I am resting comfortably at home enjoying the iPods, computers and high-definition televisions that we all take for granted, I am have a greater appreciation not for the luxurious, but for the basic: hot water, flush toilets and food choices that include more than just goat or beef stew (always a better choice than flavourless boiled yams).

Jonah Brotman in Ottawa

Backpackers are often told to be wary of culture shock when travelling to exotic locales. Deciphering strange languages (Ghana has more than 50 local dialects), consuming bland diets (such as balls of dough with heavy sauce) and understanding cultural norms (eat with your right hand, wipe with your left) can all cause confusion and a feelings of isolation.

Having travelled to Ghana for the past two summers, I was completely confident and experienced no feelings of culture shock at all this time around. As well, adjusting to the hot, dry conditions was not a problem.

Surprisingly, however, coming back to air-conditioned Canada was indeed a shock. Even the plane ride home caused sniffles and an illness that I have yet to recover from.

While the streets in Toronto may be cleaner, smoother and better lit, Ghana has a feeling of warmth and community even in its most hectic markets. In Canada, people just plug in and tune out. From headphones to cellphones, Canadians connect over great distances, but rarely with those immediately around them.

In Ghana, people live in the here and now. Meetings are arranged for three different times: now, soon and later. Hours on a clock mean less than a promise to arrive. And a promise is only a promise if the rains stay away and the bus is running. Living in Ghana forces you to be more dynamic and open-ended. For example, although they run on a schedule, buses will wait for hours until they fill up with people.

Over time, you learn to understand that nothing works, but everything always works out, because there is order in Ghana's chaos.

What may seem like a destructive blaze to a westerner simply turns out to be a community garbage disposal fire. Police checkpoints look intimidating, yet a simple bribe of 10,000 Cedis (equal to $1.25 Cdn) always smooths things over.

Even daily transactions such as purchasing eggs or bread, occur around street stalls. Women stand with young children at their side at these wooden stalls, which often do double duty as both family business and shelter.

I remember when a small boy once came asking for bread. Reaching his little hand up over the table, he felt around and eventually touched the hand of a girl and made the exchange. Bending their heads under the table, the two of them giggled and the six-year-old boy walked off with a smile. The girl then smiled gleefully, to her mother's scorn. While economic transactions between children are not the norm in Canada, children learn to survive from an early age in Ghana.

These realities of Ghana highlight the misconceptions of an impoverished and destitute Africa. The constant barrage of malnourished bodies and gloomy faces on our screens captures only "Africa the bad."

What we often fail to see is "Africa the good": the strength of community and family, the ingenuity in spite of poverty and an overall zest for life that's shown by all.

International travel, no matter what the destination, should not just be about sightseeing and sun-tanning.

Travel provides the rare opportunity for true cross-cultural exchange. Learning about other cultures and sharing your own way of life fosters deep understanding and brings meaning to the experience.

Unfortunately, or perhaps not, such experiences are rarely found in guidebooks or bought at souvenir stands. They can be found in unexpected, genuine moments when you find yourself crowded in a dingy shed with a hundred boisterous African kids watching the Champion's League final on a tiny television powered by the only generator in town.

These moments are why I travel: for the adventure and the unknown, for the experiences and the memories.

Next time you travel, heed the clichés: dig deeper, stray from the path, step outside your comfort zone.

Most importantly, don't talk about travelling, just do it. You'll thank me later.

The divine gift of laughter

Lately I have been thinking about what it means to laugh, and it's obvious that laughter comes in many different forms.

The most common form is the laughter that comes in response to a funny joke or occurrence. There is laughter that is a spontaneous eruption or explosion, often unexplained. There is also mocking laughter – laughing at someone or something – and there is laughing in jest, often referred to as "laughing with" someone. Finally, there is nervous laughter, which is a kind of defence mechanism, covering up feelings that lie beneath the laughter.

Mordechai Walfish in Halifax

In thinking about laughter, I have found Freud's book *Jokes and Their Relation to the Unconscious* to be quite illuminating. Freud tells us that like dreams, jokes express things that are not immediately obvious in their manifest content. There is a gap between the surface and the deep unconscious that lies beneath this surface.

Throughout the book, Freud is also at pains to maintain the difference between the joke and something comical. A person might happen upon something that he or she finds comical, such as someone tripping over a banana peel. The person may enjoy a good chuckle over this, but it's essentially a private happening.

A joke on the other hand, takes place from one person to another. It must be told to someone else, and Freud tells us that we have an undeniable urge to tell jokes to others and can't keep them locked up inside. In fact, Freud suggests that a joke doesn't actually originate within a given person, but takes place between people. It's the laughter of the one who hears the joke that makes it possible, and Freud is clear that any joke that doesn't elicit this explosive laughter can't actually be considered a joke.

For Freud, the pleasure of a joke comes with the laughter of the one who hears the joke. It's impossible for someone to laugh at his or her own joke. Why, then, would anyone bother to tell a joke if the pleasure only belongs to the other person? While Freud doesn't go so far as to say that the joke is a benevolent act by a person whose only concern is the pleasure of others, there does seem to be a gift-like quality to a joke. Laughter is given from one person to another, connecting people in an intimate manner.

It's interesting to think about Freud's insights on laughter in relation to the place of laughter in the story surrounding Isaac's birth in Breishit. The Torah tells us that both Abraham and Sarah laugh at the prospect of giving birth to a child at the age of 100 and 90 respectively. We read that Sarah is rebuked for laughing, while Abraham is not. What is the difference between their laughter?

According to Rashi, Abraham engages in joyful laughter, affirming God's gift, while Sarah laughs mockingly, degrading the gift. If we recall what Freud said – that the joke really expresses something other than its manifest content, we see then that according to Rashi, the same act (laughter) can be used to express different, not immediately obvious feelings.

According to Nachmanides, it's the private nature of Sarah's laughter that displays its mocking quality. We are told that Sarah laughs within herself, *bekirbah*. Laughing out loud is a shared act, while inner laughter can't help but be mocking. Here we see an interesting parallel with Freud's difference between a comic event and a joke. While a joke creates community with its laughter, a comic event is private, separating us from each other and creating the distance necessary for "laughing at."

But according to the text of the Torah, there is a shift in Sarah's laughter. Initially her laugh is *bekirbah*. But after she gives birth, her laughter is transformed into an infectious and inviting outpouring. As the Torah states, "And Sarah said: God has made laughter for me, so that all that hear will laugh with me."

It's obvious that Sarah is grateful for both the laughter and the gift of the child that comes along with it. This laughter allows her to commune with others and receive the gift of Isaac openly.

The Kirshner File

The passing parade...

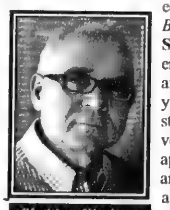
1 They died recently, leaving footprints in time…

Mark Harrison (Itzhoc Goldstein), was one of Canada's most distinguished journalists. Born in Warsaw and raised in Toronto, he was editor-in-chief of the Montreal daily, the *Gazette*, in the 1970s and '80s, and before that, he was a foreign correspondent and editorial page editor at the *Toronto Star*. **Ze'ev Schiff**, a reporter for the daily *Ha'aretz*, was Israel's most respected military affairs analyst and the author of several books, including *Intifada, A History of the Israeli Army* and *October Earthquake and the Yom Kippur War*. **Uri Dan**, an Israeli reporter and commentator, wrote for *Ma'ariv* and the *Jerusalem Post* and was the author of a book about his friend, Ariel Sharon, the former prime minister. **David Halberstam**, a Pulitzer Prize *New York Times* correspondent in Vietnam in the 1960s, churned out such bestsellers as *The Best and the Brightest*, *The Powers That Be* and *The Fifties*. **Art Buchwald**, a syndicated newspaper humorist and a Pulitzer Prize winner, wrote for the *International Herald Tribune*. **Herman Klurfeld** was a ghostwriter for legendary gossip columnist Walter Winchell from 1936 to 1965. **Edward Behr** was a *Newsweek* foreign correspondent and editor and author of *Kiss the Hand You Cannot Bite: The Rise and Fall of the Ceausescus*. **Earl Ubell**, one of the first science reporters, worked for the *New York Herald Tribune* and WCBS TV.

Ze'ev Schiff

Art Buchwald

Sidney Sheldon wrote steamy novels, with sales of more than 300 million in 51 languages, as well as screenplays. His books included *The Other Side of Midnight* and *A Stranger in the Mirror*, and his movie credits ran the gamut from *Easter Parade* to *Annie Get Your Gun*. **Mark Harris** wrote the novel and film-to-be *Bang the Drum Slowly*. **Tillie Olsen** (Lerner) was a short-story writer (*Tell Me a Riddle*), feminist and social activist. **Daniel Stern**, a short-story writer and novelist, produced *Twice Told Tales: Stories*, *Twice Upon a Time* and *The Suicide Academy*. **Elliott Baker** (Cohen) wrote *A Fine Madness*, which was made into a film starring Sean Connery. **Ralph de Toledano**, a Moroccan-born conservative syndicated columnist, was a regular contributor to the *National Review*. **Martin Nodell** created the comic book superhero, the Green Lantern. **Kitty Carlisle Hart** (Conn) was a Broadway entertainer, film actress, regular on television game shows and champion of the arts.



Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Mordkhe Schaechter was a lecturer in Yiddish studies at Columbia University, an editor of *The Great Dictionary of the Yiddish Language* and *Yiddishe Shprakh*, the author of *Authentic Yiddish* and the founder of Yugnruf, an organization dedicated to teaching Yiddish to new generations. **Isaac (Itche) Goldberg**, a promoter of Yiddish, edited the journal *Yidishe Kultur*, taught Yiddish at Queens College and authored *Yiddish Stories for Young People*.

Ray Evans, a pop lyricist, co-wrote standards such as *Silver Bells*, *Buttons and Bows*, *Mona Lisa*, *Que Sera, Sera (Whatever Will Be, Will Be)*, *To Each His Own*, *The Streets of Laredo* and the theme song for the TV series *Bonanza*. **Stuart Rosenberg** directed the films *Cool Hand Luke*, starring Paul Newman, and *The Amityville Horror*. **Harry Rasky** made documentaries about celebrities ranging from Marc Chagall and Amedeo Modigliani to Leonard Cohen and Henry Moore. **Steve Krantz**, a producer and writer, produced *Fritz the Cat*, the first X-rated full-length animated movie. **Jack Winter** wrote episodes for TV classics such as *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Happy Days*, *Laverne and Shirley* and *The Tonight Show*. **Stan Daniels** wrote for the TV shows *Taxi* and *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. **Bernard Gordon** was a Hollywood screenwriter whose credits included *Hellcats of the Navy*, *Battle of the Bulge* and *55 Days at Peking*. **Percy Saltzman** was Canada's TV weatherman, starting his career at the CBC and ending it at Global some 30 years later. **Sid Raymond** (Silverstein), a character actor who was the voice of cartoon duck Baby Huey, appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and in movies such as *The Hustler* and *The Pajama Game*. **Hy Weiss** co-founded Old Town Records, whose hits included *The Wedding* by the Solitaires and *We Belong Together* by Robert and Johnny.

Harry Rasky

Alvin Roth won 26 U.S. bridge championships and wrote *Bridge for Beginners*. **Mendy Samstein** championed Afro-American civil rights and was an organizer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. **Will Maslow**, the former director of the American Jewish Congress, fought for equal rights for African-Americans.

Syd Shulemson

Syd Shulemson, Canada's most highly decorated Jewish soldiers during World War II, won the Distinguished Service Order as a pilot and helped arm the embryonic Israeli armed forces. **Robert Rosenthal**, a highly decorated American pilot, helped usher in the era of strategic bombing of targets in Nazi Germany.

Larry Sherry, a major league baseball pitcher with a lifetime 53-44 record who powered the Los Angeles Dodgers to the 1959 World Series over the Chicago White Sox, also played for the Detroit Tigers, the Houston Astros and the California Angels. **Charles Einstein** was the editor of the anthology *The Fireside Book of Baseball*. **Bernie (Schoolboy) Friedkin** compiled a 48-11 record as a featherweight and lightweight professional boxer in the late 1930s and early '40s. **Abe Coleman** (Abba Kelmer), known as the Hebrew Hercules, was a Polish-born professional wrestler who fought some 2,000 matches.

Oskar Morawetz, a Czech-born Canadian composer, wrote, among other works, *Carnival Overture* and *From the Diary of Anne Frank*. **Herman Stein** contributed musical scores to almost 200 Hollywood films, notably *Creature from the Black Lagoon* and *The Incredible Shrinking Man*. **Ernie Fladell**, an impresario, launched the Vancouver Children's Festival and the Vancouver Folk Festival. **Michael Brecker** won 11 Grammy Awards as a saxophonist. **Ruth Bernhard** was a photographer who specialized in black-and-white female nudes, while **Harry Weber** was chief photographer of the Austrian magazine *Stern* and the author of the coffee-table album *Jerusalem*.

Sol LeWitt, a painter, was instrumental in the formation of the conceptualism and minimalism movements in the United States. **Heinz Berggruen**, based in Paris, was a major collector of Picasso. **Raymond Nasher** of Dallas, Texas, amassed one of the world's finest collections of contemporary sculpture. **Robert Rosenblum**, an art historian, was a specialist in 18th- and 19th-century French paintings.

Rose Mattus turned a family-owned ice cream business into the Häagen-Dazs empire. **Howard Kerzner** was a top-flight casino and resort operator. **Esther Synder** co-founded the California-based restaurant chain In-N-Out Burger. **Gerald Gidwitz** was a founder of the Helene Curtis cosmetics company. **Beth Levine** was a shoe designer whose boots were worn by Nancy Sinatra as she belted out *These Boots Are Made for Walkin.'* **Bertram Loeb** headed the international grocery chain IGA and opened Israel's first supermarket chain, Supersol. **Rubin Caslow** was president of Ace Smoked Fish Corp., the largest producer/ distributor of smoked fish in the United States.

Seymour Martin Lipset, a sociologist and political scientist, wrote *Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics*. **Irving Brecher**, a McGill University economist, was a director of the Economic Council of Canada. **Baruch Kimmerling** was a Hebrew University sociologist who wrote about the Arab-Israeli conflict. **Marvin Catzman** served on the Ontario Court of Appeal. **Baron Guy de Rothschild** was the patriarch of the French branch of the international banking dynasty. **Elliot Welles** (Kurt Sauerquell) was a Nazi hunter. **Maurice Papon** was a functionary who was convicted of complicity in Nazi war crimes in France.

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European cemetery restoration a complex project

Best of intentions can lead to disastrous results

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Gail Sussman is well aware that people have the best of intentions when they try to fix up old, neglected cemeteries.

The *CJN* this past spring reported on a Montreal soldier serving with a Canadian peacekeeping mission in Bosnia who has been helping to restore a cemetery in Jezero-Privilica, near the city of Bihac.

However, people like this "begin without understanding the complexity of such a project," Sussman lamented, "and how fragile, for instance, the markers are. The simplest thing can lead to disastrous results."

Sussman, a conservator by training, has worked with Israel Antiquities Authority, and then as senior education/technical adviser for the Ontario Ministry of Culture. She now operates Rimmonim Preservation Consultants, a Toronto-based firm that offers technical assistance for the preservation of heritage buildings, archeological sites and artifacts.

She specializes in designing and delivering training programs for the conservation of cemeteries, particularly those planning conservation projects in cemeteries in their ancestral villages in Europe.

"A lot of people are going to eastern Europe to research their ancestors or to reconnect with their past," she said. They get very emotional when they see a cemetery, which may be the burial site for family members, in disarray.

Krakow Cemetery [Barry Avrich photo]

Sussman understands that but notes that they simply don't know about problems with either conservation techniques or Halachah.

She encountered one problem when she was asked to review a project in the Ukraine. Someone had started to energetically clean up – with a weed whacker. That doesn't hurt the lawn, but if it bangs into a gravestone, which may be 500 years old, the stone could crack and break.

Weed killers, she said, are high in soluble salts. They migrate into the stone and cause it to explode.

Similarly, when people try to stabilize a marker with cement, that, too, is high in soluble salts and has the same effect as weed killers.

It may seem sensible to remove trees, either to clear the cemetery or to make room for a path. However, Sussman said, if these trees have tremendous roots, which many do, you can unwittingly change the water table. This causes shifts in the soil and in the area around the stone.

It is important, she said, to avoid using high-pressure sprays to clean graffiti off tombstones, as the spray pushes the dirt or paint, whatever is there, right into the stone.

"You use a clay product that is mixed with paint remover, applied to the stone,.and then covered with a plastic film. This process pulls the paint into the poultice

, leaving the stone clean without harming it."

Some erstwhile amateur restorers have decided to pour icy water over a very hot stone in an effort to make the lettering more visible, Sussman said. Instead, the process cracks the stone.

People don't realize there are halachic issues, too. For instance, if stones have been scattered throughout a nearby town, they can't simply be set up anywhere in the cemetery, as a marker can only be erected over the grave it refers to, she said.

What does one do if a secular building has been built over part of a cemetery? Can one move the contents of a grave to a safer spot? How do you avoid harming a grave when putting in a foundation?

These problems do not only exist in Europe, she pointed out. There are many older cemeteries in northern Ontario, for instance, some established by Jews involved in the fur trade. With the diminishing and aging Jewish populations in the area, those cemeteries, too, are in danger of neglect.

What has been happening, Sussman said, is that there are no controls over what North Americans in Europe do when they arrive and start fixing things up. Some enlist the help of local people, who themselves have no expertise in these matters, let alone necessarily having the warmest feelings toward Jews or Jewish memorials, then go home, leaving the locals to do the work unsupervised.

What is most important, she said, is to combine the expertise of conservators and halachic scholars and to go about preserving the Jewish heritage in an effective and empathetic way.

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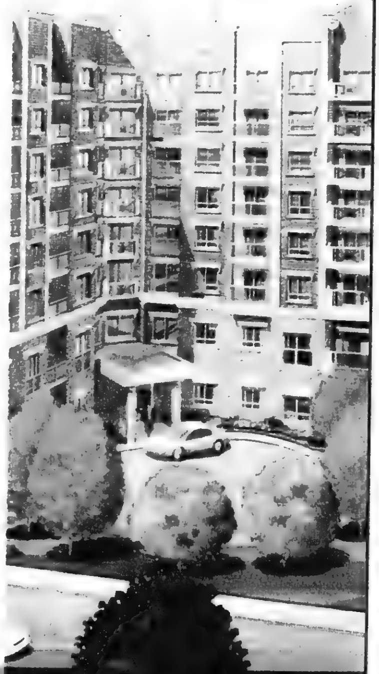

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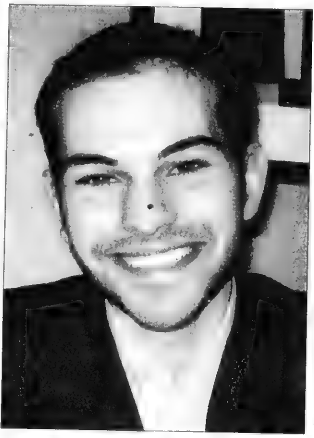
YU hits the road with kollel on wheels

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The national director of Canadian operations of Yeshiva University is trying to put a different spin on kollels with a travelling six-week Torah learning program.

"The traditional form of a kollel is a room full of men who are sitting, learning and anyone is welcome to join, but mostly it is for their own purpose and they're enhancing their own learning," said Mo Lidsky, 24.

"I'm not particularly crazy about that kind of model, so I wanted to break down the walls a little bit and take it on wheels."



Mo Lidsky

The program, called Yeshiva University Summer Kollel (YUSK), is sponsored by YU's Center for the Jewish Future and YU's affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS). It will take place every day until Aug. 15 at different shuls and camps in the Toronto area.

It will be led by Rabbi Shmuel Marcus, son of Rabbi Raphael Marcus of Toronto's Congregation Bnai Torah. The younger Rabbi Marcus is the rabbi at Kehilas Ishei Yisrael in New York and a professor in YU's Stone Beis Midrash Program.

Each weeknight, one of five Toronto-area synagogues will host the kollel, and Rabbi Shmuel Marcus will give a lecture while nine YU and RIETS students between the ages of 21 and 24 will lead study sessions.

Lidsky said the program will also be a learning experience for the rabbinical students, who are leading the sessions because they will have direct access to members of the community and will be able to hear from them what they expect from Jewish leaders and rabbis.

Examples of some of the lecture topics are "Confronting Modernity; Upholding Tradition," "The Parameters of Yichus: Paternity and Maternity in Reproductive Medicine," and "Jerusalem Through the Ages."

Lidsky said that although there are a many learning options in Toronto throughout the year, communal and formal education in the summer is lacking because programmers assume everyone goes away during that time.

"I don't know how true that is. I asked a whole bunch of people if they're going to be here… It's really just a week or two weeks at any given time that they're away, and for the rest of the summer, they're in town," he said.

As the young director of the organization, Lidsky decided to take matters into his own hands and create a summer program that he hopes will appeal to his generation.

"You have these rabbinical students, and they are very talented, knowledgeable, charismatic individuals who are looking to enhance themselves, but other people don't get the benefit of that. I thought, why don't we take it on the road?"

He said he made sure that the rabbinical students, who are receiving a stipend for their six weeks of service, would have time in the morning for their own personal learning, but in the afternoon, they're required to travel to camps, shuls and work with organizations to run formal education programs.

The evenings are reserved for seminars and what Lidsky calls a "Torah buffet," which is meant to tackle an assortment of topics on any given night.

"Let's say you're interested in mysticism and I'm interested in getting a crash course in Hebrew and someone else is interested in biblical interpretations and someone else is interested in Talmud. All of us have different interests, and rarely will we find lectures that speak to all of them."

The "Torah buffet" approach allows each of the nine rabbinical students to focus on one area of expertise every night and head a workshop in the hope that the variety of topics will cast a wide net in the young Jewish community.

The weekends are reserved for Shabbatons, in which participants will go to a dinner-and-dancing event and take part in various seminars.

Lidsky said the kollel is such an open concept that he doesn't even have a target market for it. He wants to make the service available to anyone who wants it.

"The kollel concept is well known in Orthodox circles, and they hear about it in Orthodox circles, and we certainly hope that people who are Conservative and Reform will join up as well."

For more information, call Lidsky at 416-783-6960.

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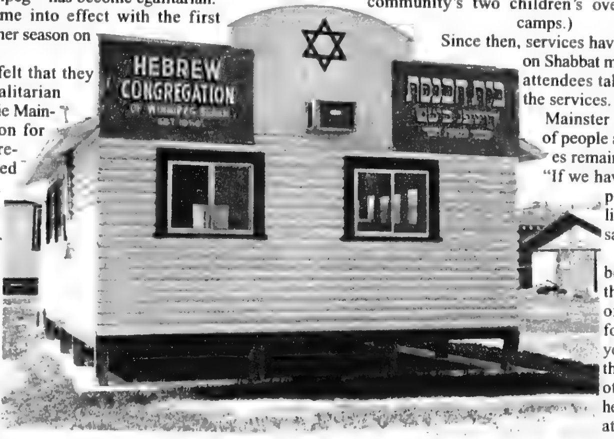
Cottage country shul goes egalitarian

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Hebrew Congregation of Winnipeg Beach, a small cottage country synagogue on the shore of Lake Winnipeg – and the only active synagogue in Manitoba outside of Winnipeg – has become egalitarian.

The change came into effect with the first service of the summer season on June 30.

"Some people felt that they wanted to have egalitarian services," says Laurie Mainster, a spokesperson for the informal congregation. "So we voted on it at our last service last September and the majority voted in favour of the proposal."



Mainster said other than switching to egalitarian services, the service at the synagogue remains traditional/conservative.

For more than 100 years, Winnipeg Beach, which is located on the southwest shore of Lake Winnipeg, has been the summer vacation home of choice for large numbers of Winnipeg's Jewish community. The resort is a 45-minute drive northwest of Winnipeg. (Also popular with members of Winnipeg's Jewish community is Gimli, which is 25 kilometres north of Winnipeg Beach.)

The Hebrew Congregation of Winnipeg Beach opened in July 1950. About 200 people were on hand for the small log cabin synagogue's grand opening.

The synagogue operates in the summer months until Labour Day.

In its early years, the congregation had twice daily minyans.

Later, the frequency was reduced to twice a week. In 1998, because of expensive new plumbing requirements, the building was relocated a few blocks north to the Camp Massad campsite. (Camp Massad is one of the Winnipeg Jewish community's two children's overnight summer camps.)

Since then, services have been held only on Shabbat mornings. Regular attendees take turns leading the services.

Mainster said the number of people attending services remains small.

"If we have more than 30 people, it gets a little crowded," he said.

He himself has been involved in the management of the synagogue for the past 30 years, along with three or four others. Although he sold his cottage at the beach 10 years ago, he still comes out every Saturday morning throughout the summer for services.

While women have occasionally attended services at the synagogue in the past, Mainster believes the change to egalitarianism will attract more women to the services and help with the minyans. He said several women turned up for the first egalitarian service to open the season.

"We alternated aliyahs between men and women with a woman receiving the first – rishon – rather than a kohen," he said. "We have one lady who is coming from San Jose who wants to do a Maftir."

The merits of stem cell research

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

Through A Sephardi Window

U.S. President George Bush and the American Congress have locked horns in battle. Under the U.S. constitution, the president has the power to veto a Congressional bill. This right to veto is, naturally, not one that's exercised lightly. In fact, in more than six years in office, Bush has used it only three times. It escapes no one that two of the three have been against stem cell research funding.

Throughout history, medical breakthroughs have forever changed the human experience for the better. From the microscope to the understanding of anatomy and physiology, to X-ray technology, anesthetics, antibiotics and more, each has heralded a new era in health, pain relief and longevity.

Nothing, however, compares to, nor holds as much promise as, the potential use of human stem cells.

These early stage embryonic cells have the capability to divide into some 200 distinct organs – one becoming skin tissue, another liver tissue, and yet another heart muscle, etc. The possibilities are as endless as they are mind-numbing. If cells are properly harvested, it is possible to grow a new lung to replace a diseased one, to repair a damaged spinal cord and restore movement to the paralyzed, and so on. Grown in a laboratory, these cells could cure diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and diabetes.

Naturally, to accomplish all of this, much research is needed. To do this research requires money, but Bush has impeded government funding for this effort.

In explaining his actions, he has said, "If this legislation became law, it would compel the American taxpayer for the first time in our history to support the deliberate destruction of human embryos. I will not allow our nation to cross this moral line."

In saying this, Bush is rightfully saying that it is wrong to kill a life in order to save a life. When it comes to this ideal, Torah law fully concurs. In the words of the Talmud, "Is one blood redder than the other?" You simply don't kill one life to save another.

Where Judaism differs from Bush's moral stance (which is based on fundamental Christian belief) is on the definition of life. According to Bush, an embryo is a human life. According to the Torah, an embryo is not.

Hence, what to one (Bush's Christian right constituency) is a well-meaning, moral high road meant to preserve life is to the other (Judaism) a needless and cruel move that dashes the hopes of millions of families worldwide.

Even as this debate has divided America, Jews across the spectrum have been united in expressing their dissatisfaction with the veto. Every organization, including both the Orthodox Union and Agudath Israel, has voiced its disappointment.

It's no coincidence that due to Judaism's position on this matter, the most aggressive and cutting-edge research in this area is taking place today in Israel.

In the ping-pong politics of the United States, Congress can pass a bill, the president can veto it, and, in turn, Congress, with a two-thirds majority, has the power to override the veto – in essence, vetoing the veto.

Politics aside, one is left to hope and pray that the Ultimate Healer will bring healing and that we will soon merit a major medical breakthrough in the field of stem cell research.

Richly textured portrait of Peres

***Shimon Peres: The Biography* by Michael Bar-Zohar, Random House.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Finally, in his 83rd year, Shimon Peres has won his first election. The Knesset has chosen him as Israel's ninth president.

Over the years, his achievements on behalf of the State of Israel have been prodigious, his participation in the country's political and cultural life unequalled. He was crucially responsible both for the Israeli nuclear weapons program and the 1993 Oslo accords, for which he shared a Nobel Peace Prize with former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and former Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat.

Twice Israel's prime minister, he also served as a deputy defence minister and the minister of Transportation, Communications, Immigrant Absorption, Foreign Affairs and the Treasury.

His associates and political opponents have come and gone. They entered the arena, left it, retired or died. But Peres remained, preparing for the next battle, watching for the next opportunity on the horizon.

Yet, a suspicious and wary Israeli electorate has always rejected him. His many positions have come by way of appointment or elaborate political manoeuvring.

The author of *Shimon Peres: The Biography*, Michael Bar-Zohar, writes: "To many, Shimon Peres was an enigma and remains one still. A son of Israel whose roots were in a faraway land; a master of the Hebrew language, yet with a foreign accent; the ultimate defence expert of Israel, who never wore a uniform; a mediocre politician, yet a statesman of splendid vision; a kibbutznik without formal education, yet abounding in culture; reserved and self-controlled, yet burning with an inner fire. A complex man of many faces and many contradictions."

His opponents claim that often he failed to tell the truth. When the renowned Abba Eban was asked why Peres didn't fulfil his promise to make him a minister, he quipped cynically, "He didn't want to set a precedent."

The Israeli writer Amos Oz told the author, "I know two kinds of adults. One carries inside himself the dead child that he once was. The other is a very rare kind of adult who carries inside himself a living child – curious, thirsty for love, thirsty for knowledge… That is Shimon. "

More than any other person, Peres encouraged the daring Entebbe Operation, the rescue mission that freed hostages held at Entebbe Airport in Uganda. The world reacted to the successful event with an outburst of admiration. Former Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin proudly said, "'It will heal the nation of the trauma of the Yom Kippur War."

In 1951, Peres discovered that the Canadian army was selling surplus World War II cannons. The asking price was $2 million for 30 cannons. Peres visited Sam Bronfman in Montreal and solicited his help. The whisky baron managed to reduce the price by half. He then asked Peres, "I got you $1 million off the price – who will give you the other million?" Peres answered quietly, "You."

That evening Bronfman invited 50 of his friends to dinner, and the additional money was quickly and enthusiastically raised.

This biography is oddly unbalanced. Too much space is given to Peres' early years in prewar Poland, his time spent as a kibbutz member and his role in building Israel's defence and aerospace industries. It concludes rather abruptly in 1996 with only a four-page chapter to cover the momentous events of the next decade.

Readers will find especially compelling, the vignettes that bring to life Peres' relationship with such personalities as former Israeli prime ministers David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Ariel Sharon and Rabin, former defence minister Moshe Dayan – and others.

All in all, this is a richly textured portrait of a many-sided figure whose life and career span the entire history of Israel.

Resources for the blind, Pt. 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish Highway

Today I continue my survey of resources for Jews who are blind or have limited vision.

The HebrewVisions helps you create braille documents using Hebrew text. First you need to either copy a block of Hebrew text from a webpage or create some text using a Hebrew word processor. (I use a Mac-based program called Mellel. **[redlers.com]**) When I typed the word "Devarim" and then pasted the Hebrew characters into the Translator webpage, it automatically created a text file with the corresponding English characters "DVRJM." The text file can be sent for embossing in order to render it into a braille document. **[hebrewvisions.org]**

Beyond the translator program, the HebrewVisions site also has ready-to-download braille text files of the entire Tanach, as well as Rashi on the Torah, the daily siddur and a kids' collection featuring the magazine Babaganewz. These files can be sent to an embosser for the creation of braille documents.

Jerusalem's Jewish Institute for the Blind was founded in 1902 and "provides a wide range of activities for education, rehabilitation, health and social welfare for the blind and visually impaired in Jerusalem and throughout the country." You can skim through 12 years of the institute's English-language InSight Newsletter. **[jewishblind.org]**

The Brooklyn-based Jewish Heritage for the Blind has published large-print versions of the books of Esther, Ruth and Lamentations, Psalms, Grace after Meals and Halachic Rulings Relating to the Blind. There are braille editions of the daily and Shabbos Siddurim and the High Holiday Machzorim. **[tinyurl.com/23rohy]**

Other organizations serving the blind include the Jewish Guild for the Blind **[jgb.org]**, Britain's Jewish Blind & Disabled **[jbd.org]** and the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind. **[israelguidedog.org]** Also worth noting is the Center for Deaf-Blind Persons, which serves approximately "1,000 persons who have the dual disability of deaf-blindness in Israel." **[cdb.org.il/english.html]**

With its rocky terrain and the cobblestone roads in its old cities, Israel can be a daunting destination for visitors with disabilities. Several organizations – private and public – are working to make the country more accessible. Israel for All is a travel agency specializing in providing tours of Israel for people with physical limitations. Guided tours for blind or visually impaired visitors emphasize the use of the senses of smell, taste and hearing. Tourists are provided with braille maps and diagrams. **[israelaccessibletravel.com]**

An article I came across praised Israel's National Parks Authority for its sensitivity toward visitors with special needs. The authority has created 3D models of the Masada and Bet She'an national parks, which enable blind and visually impaired visitors "to literally feel their way around the site." **[tinyurl.com/2kwffm]** Access Israel – and its Israeli Accessible Tourism Resource Center – is a non-profit organization dedicated to making Israel accessible to both residents and visitors with disabilities. **[tinyurl.com/3x4ge5]**

Speaking of obstacles, there's a fascinating mitzvah mentioned in the Torah that is relevant to this topic. We are told in Leviticus 19:14, "You shall not… place a stumbling block before the blind…" **[tinyurl.com/yunosw]** Brooklyn College's Hershey Friedman finds the verse perplexing. "Why single out blind people for this law? Was placing stumbling blocks before blind people a prevalent practice in ancient times?" He concludes that this seemingly simple verse has wider implications. It is "an admonition not to take advantage of the weak and the helpless or to place temptation in the path of those who may be morally weak. It is also a call to action demanding that society and people do everything possible to help the weak, the vulnerable and the helpless." **[tinyurl.com/2md373]**

* * *

Israel recently marked the 40th anniversary of the Six Day War. In my column about the unification of Jerusalem, I mentioned the famous photograph of the three Israeli paratroopers gazing at the Kotel. Zion Karasanti, Yitzhak Yifat and Haim Oshri were reunited at the exact spot where fate brought them together four decades earlier. You can view the remarkable before and after pictures at the following link. **[tinyurl.com/36bx6o]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Ignoring the giant mouse in the middle of the room

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

The Hamas children's television show featuring Farfur, a Mickey Mouse clone, made news again when the mascot, who spouts extreme anti-Israel and anti-Jewish rhetoric, met his untimely death.

In the show's finale, Farfur was beaten to death by a fictionalized Israeli Shin Bet agent while attempting to reclaim family property in modern Tel Aviv from "the criminal, plundering Jews."

The very idea that the show used a young girl as Farfur's sidekick to incite violence reveals the extent of Hamas' depravity. It was reported in the Israeli media that a number of Palestinians in Gaza became fed up with this abuse of their own children and protested against the program.

Describing the broader context of this episode in the *National Post* ("Hamas's mascot of death," July 3), Jonathan Kay wrote: "The mouse's martyrdom represents the surreal culmination of a propaganda campaign that began in the early 1990s, when Yasser Arafat took over the Palestinian education system under the terms of Oslo [that called for the need to educate for peace] and immediately began filling the curriculum with Jew hatred. Thus did the schoolchildren who threw rocks at Israeli soldiers in the first intifadah grow up to become suicide bombers in the second.

"This death cult is something that critics of the international community's 'boycott' of Gaza's Hamas-led government conveniently gloss over."

Some critics do more than gloss over this brainwashing campaign – they ignore it altogether. A prime example is Linda McQuaig.

In "Clark offers precedent for Harper," (*Toronto Star*, June 26), McQuaig completely ignores Hamas' extremist agenda and argues that the international community should negotiate with Hamas. Why? Because Hamas was "democratically elected," and its refusal to "recognize Israel" is met by Israel's refusal to "recognize Palestine."

McQuaig is dead wrong on the latter point, and misled on the former. Israel is officially committed to a two-state solution and is prepared for territorial compromise to achieve a Palestinian state. Hamas is officially committed to Israel's obliteration.

It is true that Hamas was "democratically elected," but only in the formal sense that it accepted the mechanics of the electoral process. As a radical Islamist organization, Hamas is fundamentally opposed to any semblance of real democracy, including civil and human rights such as women's rights, gay rights, freedom of the press, and other forms of tolerance and pluralism that McQuaig likely demands of other regimes.

An irony, which McQuaig ignores, is that that the only place in the Middle East where Palestinians can enjoy such freedoms is Israel. In fact, the Palestinian democratic movement that does exist outside of Hamas was inspired by its exposure to Israeli democracy.

* * *

Meanwhile, Hamas has been portraying itself as a moderate force by securing the release of Alan Johnston, the BBC correspondent who was held hostage in Gaza for 114 days by the Army of Islam, part of the Doghmush clan.

In what must be one of the great photo-ops of our times, former Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh is pictured smiling broadly as he joins hands in overhead triumph with the just-released Johnston.

Lost in all the theatrics is the fact that journalists are not free to report in an unfettered, critical way from Gaza, where they are usually accompanied by "minders" in various guises. Under Hamas – or even Fatah in the West Bank – journalists who don't adhere to the party line face intimidation, harassment and loss of access.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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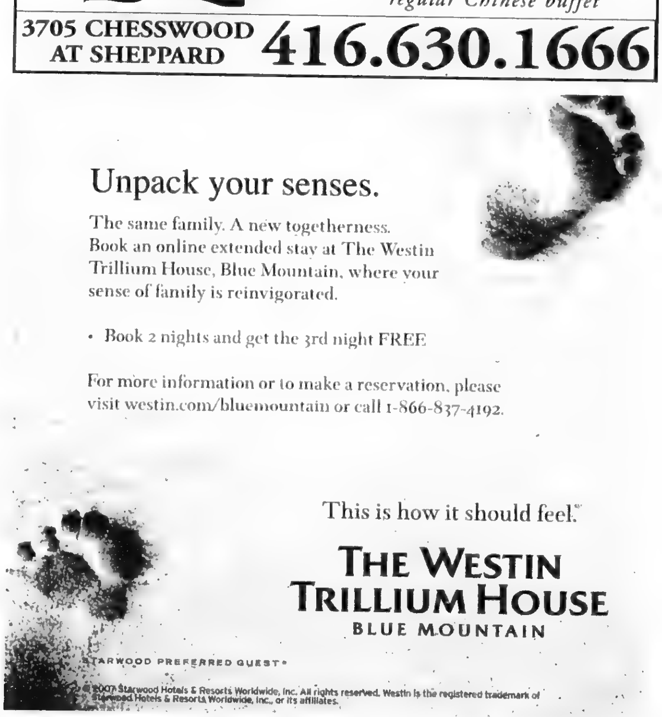

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Anthology aims to give girls role models

By **CAROLYN BLACKMAN**
Staff Reporter

Liz Pearl, a therapist, writer and educator, believes girls need positive role models.

The mother of two daughters and a son, Pearl, 42, edited the anthology *Living Legacies for our Daughters – a Collection of Contemporary Canadian Women* around the time of her eldest daughter's bat mitzvah.

As co-founder, along with Mara Koven, of Kope Associates, a partnership dedicated to the creation of a variety of healing journey literary projects, Pearl has edited two other anthologies: *Mourning Has Broken*, a collection of writing about grief that she co-edited with Koven, and *Brain Attack*, a collection of writing about stroke recovery.

She embarked on her latest project, she said, because girls need more role models than they meet in school and synagogue.

"They need models to offset the powerful influences around them from pop culture – something much deeper and broader," Pearl said.

"The message from pop culture is that women are homogeneous in terms of looks and values. I want girls to learn about women's wisdom and hindsight."

Many girls read the *Chicken Soup* series of books, she said, and "I wanted to give them something else to read, something that can capture their attention and reach them."

The book also served as Pearl's own bat mitzvah project, as she never had one. "Few girls had bat mitzvahs when I was growing up, and I felt that I wanted to do something. This is it," she said.

Together with Koven, who Pearl calls her role model, she created a wish list of 70 women whom they would want in the book.

"We contacted them and heard back from a number of them, each of whom wrote about 1,000 words," Pearl said.

The list of about 50 women includes Prof. Nora Gold, singer Amy Sky, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, children's singer Sharon Hampson (of Sharon, Lois and Bram), family therapist Sarah Chana Radcliffe and writer Judy Librach.

"Some on the list are well known, others are not known. I looked for women with certain qualities, whether they are stay-at-home mothers, volunteers or entertainers. I didn't turn anyone away."

She aimed the book at girls, she said, "because their search for identity is more confusing than for boys. My purpose is to give them a large range of role models."

The book is not intended to be read like a novel.

"We can't impart all the values in one day, so I envision a girl picking it up, reading a few pages, and then picking it up another day again. The lessons will be ongoing. It is a book of wisdom, and it should be taken bit by bit," Pearl said.

"It's possible that mothers and grandmothers will read the book first, and the girls will pick it up when they're ready."

For information, contact Pearl at liz_pearl@sympatico.ca.

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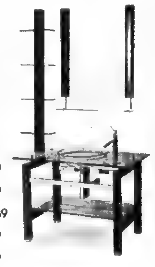

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Canadian Idol

Idol worship: contestant brought relevant, edgier sound

By Abigail Bimman
CJN Intern

Derek Hoffman, who was one of the top 22 finalists on *Canadian Idol*, kick-started his music career at his bar mitzvah.

His first real gig, at his bar mitzvah luncheon, was with the band Mail Order Bride, a group the 17-year-old still plays in.

Hoffman was eliminated on the June 27 episode of *Canadian Idol*, during which four contestants were cut, leaving 18 in the running.

"It was really tough because there were so many good singers and so many good performances," he said.

"But if I stayed I definitely would have brought it [the] next week."

Hoffman, who is from Aurora, Ont., became the music director of Or Hadash Synagogue, in Newmarket, Ont., at 15. He also sang and accompanied the shul's spiritual leader, Cantor Martin Steinhouse.

"My favourite part of going to synagogue was the singing and the music and hearing all these awesome tunes," Hoffman said.

Canadian Idol was a learning experience as well as hard work, he recalled. "You learn new things every single day. It's hard work and it's non-stop. The performances in it are absolutely a blast."

The thought of elimination didn't faze Hoffman, though, who felt blessed to have made it as far as he did.

This year is a big one for Hoffman. He graduated from Aurora High School in late June and plans to attend Seneca@York's independent music production program this [illegible]

"I've made two top 20s this year," he said proudly, referring to his *Canadian Idol* standing and his admission into the competitive music program that accepts just 20 candidates. "It was really a big achievement for me."

Along with being the lead vocalist and guitarist for Mail Order Bride, he and another band member run a small studio, ForeverEver, out of Hoffman's home. ForeverEver records, engineers and produces other bands' music.

"I've just been working with a lot of younger local bands that have been listening to Mail Order Bride and kind of look up to us," he said.

"I just want bands to know that they just need to have the right start, and as long as they get their head in the game physically, they'll be OK, and people will come out to see them. I think it's all about putting confidence in the younger bands."

For Hoffman, the jump from Aurora gigs to national television was a big one.

"It seems surreal to me because up until now I've just been doing this on my own at home, playing for the kids that I know," he said.

"Being on the biggest show in Canada – it just seems like an enormous leap and almost unreal."

He described Mail Order Bride's music as indie pop rock and said he liked to reflect this genre in his performance choices on *Canadian Idol*.

"I'm gonna keep going on and I'm going to keep working hard, and I think that all the people that were watching me at home are aware of my musical career and aware of my band and are going to keep watching."

During Hoffman's last appearance on *Canadian Idol*, on June 25, he sang a rendition of the All American Rejects' hit *Move Along*.

While Hoffman said the performance went well, he did receive some negative feedback from the judges on air.

"You sang that really bad," quipped the often-harsh Zack Werner.

The other judges said they saw rock-star potential in Hoffman, and hoped he stuck it out long enough to show it. While the judges predicted the elimination of the three contestants who were cut along with Hoffman, none had predicted that he would leave, too.

Hoffman said he brought a new sound to *Idol*. "In the past, a lot of idols have come out and had a generic musical career, nothing special, nothing memorable... a lot of stuff that's coming out could have come out in the last 10 years and you wouldn't know which year."

Hoffman said his music is more in line with current trends, and judge Farley Flex echoed that thought after the singer's last performance.

"One of the objectives of this show is to be relevant to what's going on in the marketplace," Flex said.

"I look at you and I see your approach to things, and I get a sense of relevance."

Hoffman compared his sound and originality to bands like Fall Out Boy and the All American Rejects.

"They may not have necessarily the super-fantastic, Tina Turner/Whitney Houston vocalists, but they have presence and emotion, and just that *sound* to them."

Hoffman said his sound brought in a new demographic to the show, people who want an edgier sound that's different from pop.

And Judaism tied into Hoffman's life even on *Canadian Idol*.

"It helps having two other Jewish members on the judging panel," Hoffman said of Werner and Jake Gold.

Hoffman discussed Judaism with them, as well as with the show's lawyer, David Steinberg.

"It's very interesting to see. To casually talk about these kind of things and see these connections, it's kind of neat," Hoffman said.

His experience on the show has been very positive, he said.

"Ultimately it's just pushed me along in my music career.

"It's really taught me that I have talent and if I had any doubt before, four professional judges told me I'm one of the top 22 singers in Canada."

Derek Hoffman, Mail Order Bride frontman, was among the top 22 finalists in *Canadian Idol*.

FOR MORE STORIES VISIT CJNEWS.COM
CHECK OUT OUR BLOG @ HEEBONICS.CA

Peter Seligman honours past platelet donor Richard Lewis by making his 150th donation with Lewis' wife Jan Silverman, second from left, his daughter Mara and friend Roxanne Osmond, a registered nurse, at Canadian Blood Services' downtown Toronto clinic.

Blood donor honours his late friend

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When Richard Lewis donated his blood, smiles and warm greetings would routinely be the way nurses welcomed him.

"He was hugely popular at the clinic," said John Bromley, regional communications manager for Canadian Blood Services (CBS).

"The staff looked forward to him coming because they perceived him as someone who genuinely wanted to give back."

A regular donor since he was in his 20s, Lewis was a kind soul who regularly took three hours out of his day to donate platelets – the components of blood that are often used to treat cancer patients.

On one such visit last summer to CBS, Lewis' donation caused some concern.

"They said your blood looks a little off, go see your doctor," Lewis' wife Jan Silverman recalled.

At the time, Lewis felt fine. In fact, he and Silverman went on their annual canoeing trip to the pristine waters of Killarney.

But shortly after the trip, on Yom Kippur, Lewis received devastating, shocking news – he had acute myelogenous leukemia (AML).

Had Lewis not donated blood, he very likely would have had no idea he was ill, since he had no symptoms.

For the next several months, Lewis – a pharmacist who made house calls, an active participant in his synagogue, a devoted husband and father of two – waged a valiant battle against leukemia.

He had donated platelets to the benefit of so many others, and he now became the recipient of someone else's kindness.

"Each time I saw him receiving blood, I would always think that somebody had taken this time to do this and how it was helping my husband," Silverman said, adding that receiving platelets likely prolonged Lewis' life.

Unfortunately, Lewis passed away recently at age 59.

To pay tribute to him and to highlight how critically blood is needed, Peter Seligman, a close family friend, recently donated for his 150th time in Lewis' honour.

"Richard was a soft-spoken, gentle man – the definition of a mensch," Seligman said.

"I think of giving blood [in his honour] as the purest form of tzedakah. It's a unique gift that is helping someone and that was Richard's motivation for doing it. It's mine, too."

Seligman gave a platelet donation, and CBS notes that there is a particularly large need for this type of contribution.

"The need for platelets increases every year, particularly because of new cancer treatments," Bromley said.

"We have this whole philosophy of sharing your vitality and both Richard and Peter have shown how to do that."

Silverman, who accompanied Seligman to his milestone donation, said she hopes Lewis' story will spur people to give blood.

"For me, if this can lead to one more person getting out to donate, that would be extraordinary," she said.

"Don't just think about it – do it."

For more information about giving blood, call 1-888-2-DONATE, or visit www.bloodservices.ca.

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish News

Happy second birthday Adam Gilad.
With all our love, mommy,
daddy and the entire
Golberg-Sandberg mishpachah.

Happy 60th birthday, Dad!
Wishing you many more years
of health and happiness.
Love, Gilda, Hartley and Lindsay.

Mazel tov Fara & Efrem on the
birth of daughter, Abby Ella
Mandelcorn. Grandparents are
Beverly & Reuben Redlick,
Berenice & Mark Mandelcorn.

Happy third birthday, Ashley.
You bring so much happiness to our lives!
You are our little princess!
Love, Mommy, Daddy and Joshi.

Gabriel Shaun Faigan was born April 27.
Parents are Alysa-Beth (Engel) &
Mitch Faigan. Grandparents,
Lynda & Jeff Engel, Rosalie & Harvey
Faigan (Montreal), Sheila Cohen.

Barbara & Emanuel Bar-Dayan
announce the engagement of their
daughter Alisa to Gary Cohen,
son of Lea & David Cohen.
A long and happy life together!

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, July 23, is the deadline for the Aug. 2 issue and Monday, July 30, is the deadline for the Aug. 9 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Friday, July 13

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Join Am Shalom, Barrie's Reform Jewish congregation, for a day on the links at Innisbrook Golf Club. For information, visit www.amshalom.ca or call 705-792-3949.

Sunday, July 15

A HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Healing Project offers a healing service with **Rabbi Tobias Gabriel**, of Beth Tzedec Congregation, and **Yehudit Shier Weisberg**. 3-4 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building 4600 Bathurst St. in the boardroom. Wheelchair access. 416-944-3359

SINGLES GAME NIGHT

Join singles for an evening of board games and bingo. Early-bird bingo 7:30-8 p.m. at Beth Torah Synagogue. $8. Refreshments served. Call **Mollie** for information at 416-733-3634.

Tuesday, July 17

SUMMER CONCERT

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents the Russian Folk Choir at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park. 7:30 p.m. Free. For information, call 416-395-7873.

MAKIN' MUSIC

Join Beth Tzedec for Families Makin' Music summer session Tuesdays through Aug. 7. Mixed ages, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; children under seven months, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. $98 first child, $84 additional siblings plus $28 materials. Call **Helen Bauer**, 416-225-5655, to register.

Other News

YU SUMMER KOLLEL

Yeshiva University offers learning this summer in Toronto and Hamilton at a number of locations, Sunday, July 15 to Thursday, July 19. A half-hour lecture by **Rabbi Shmuel Marcus** on "Minhag and the Masses: The Power of What People Do," followed by an hour and 15 minutes of simultaneous classes and workshops on Jewish philosophy, Tanach, The Relevance of the Siddur, The Legacy of Jerusalem, Talmud, Understanding Jewish Law and more. The program ends with the option of one-on-one *chavrutah* learning. Sunday, July 15 at Or Chaim Yeshiva, 8:15 a.m. Shacharit followed by program. Monday, July 16, at Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue, 7:45 p.m.; Tuesday, July 17, at Adas Israel of Hamilton, 7:45 p.m.; Wednesday, July 18, at Bnai Torah Congregation, 7:45 p.m.; and Thursday, July 19, at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, 7:45 p.m. For information or to reserve a *chavrutah*, contact 416-783-6960, or e-mail canada@yu.edu.

YARCHEI KALLAH

Nishmat's annual Yarchei Kallah takes place July 17-19 with **Gilla Rosen** on the topic "Structure and Spontaneity: The Varied Paths of Prayer." Paired learning followed by a shiur is offered for women Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. Wednesday evening there will be a program for men and women. For information and registration, e-mail cfnishmat@gmail.com.

BA'AL SHEM TOV CENTRE

The Ba'al Shem Tov Centre offers Torah & Psychology classes on **Carl Gustav Jung**'s psychology, with the inner dimension of Torah, with **Rabbi Moshe Genuth**. Every Wednesday night at 8 p.m. through Aug. 1. Each class is a self-contained unit. 29 Stormont Ave. Rabbi Genuth delivers two talks at the Barbara Frum Library: "Gender According to Kabbalah," Tuesday, July 17, at 8 p.m. and "Kabbalistic Insight into Light and Colour," Tuesday, July 31, at 8 p.m. For information, contact 416-789-4088 or www.bstcenter.org.

BIKE RIDE

Join the Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club of Ontario for a 30- to 40-km bike ride through the flat farming

Continued on page 21

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MEHADRIN KOSHER SUPERVISION

Toronto has embraced a new kashrut supervision through the introduction of Mehadrin Kosher Supervision, led by the esteemed Rabbi Moshe Levy, Rosh Kollel, Nahal Yisrael.

Mehadrin Kosher aims to be one of the best kashrut supervisions in Ontario, with the one goal of absolute strict adherence to all kashrut laws, through knowledgeable, dedicated and experienced kashrut professionals. Mehadrin Kosher is already functioning in six Jewish food establishments in Toronto including a number of restaurants and banquet facilities.

Similar to other major North American cities, including New York, Miami, Los Angeles and Montreal, Toronto's acceptance of choice, and therefore competition amongst kashrut organizations, will no doubt enhance the high standards of kashrut supervision in Ontario.

CONTACT INFORMATION
MEHADRIN KOSHER SUPERVISION C/O RABBI MOSHE LEVY
3683 BATHURST STREET TORONTO, ONTARIO M6A 2E6
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Continued from page 20

region of Holland Marsh along the Holland Marsh Canal northwest of the city. Beginner, intermediate and advanced cyclists welcome. Sunday July 22, 10:45 a.m. For details, visit www.mosaictoronto.org.

MELTON MINI SCHOOL

The Florence Melton Adult Mini School is taking registration for the fall term. Classes meet once a week for two hours, for 30 weeks, and offer learning, suitable for all backgrounds. Choose from either morning or evening classes. Call 416-789-7400 for details and to obtain a registration form.

EARLY-BIRD TICKETS

Celebrate the High Holy Days with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** and Kolel at the BJCC. The early ticket discount deadline is July 31. For information and tickets, call 416-636-1880, ext. 255, or visit www.kolel.org.

SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

Are you a survivor of abuse who is willing and able to speak about your experiences? Jewish Women International of Canada (JWIC) has initiated a speaker's bureau on the issue of abuse against women. The goal is to educate men and women about the issue of abuse and its effects. JWIC are looking for women who would like to speak publicly to interested groups in the Jewish community. Training will be provided. Call 416-630-9313.

L'CHAIM SUPPORT GROUP

L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish women provides confidential, caring support via telephone or personal visits to women facing cancer diagnosis and treatment. L'Chaim members are all cancer survivors. For information, call 416-633-0409.

JEWISH 411 AND MORE

Do you want to rent your basement apartment? Are you looking for a singles party? What about day-care services? Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto, UJA Federation, has answers or can help you find answers to all your Jewish 411 questions. Call 416-635-5600.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer, or for information, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Café: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual, friendly environment with JIAS volunteers Thursday evenings at the Bathurst JCC or Thursday afternoon location in Thornhill. Children are welcome.

Volunteers are needed for JIAS Telephone Language Companion program. Call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

JUMPStart: If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer, connect to our JUMPStart program by calling **Elisa** at ext. 24.

Family to Family welcomes newcomer families and provides informal advice and orientation to our community. To participate, call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park. Cruise and Casino Rama, Thursday, July 26, and Aug. 8. Activities include mah-jong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Scrabble, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; duplicate bridge, Wednesdays, 12-3 p.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m. For information, call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Anti-Semitism and Incidents" with Frank Diamond, Tuesday, July 17, 10 a.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Managing back pain with Chris Sung, Thursday, July 19, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free.

Israeli festival, Wednesday, July 25, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Annual barbecue takes place Wednesday, July 25, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Members $8, guests $12. For tickets and information, call ext. 2267.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies, July 20, 1-3 p.m., in the party room.

Lunch and Learn: **Anna Bloom** speaks about "Dolls for Democracy." Learn about great women in the world. Tuesday, July 31, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. A kosher dairy lunch is served. Members $5, guest $7. Reservations must be made in advance and in person at the Wagman service desk. For information, call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

The next fitness session begins on Monday, Aug. 20. Advance registration takes place from Monday, July 23, to Friday, Aug. 3. In-person, registration takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 7, in the Wagman Centre Lobby, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. You may pay by cash or cheque.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

MNjcc Full Day Adventure Camp, for 4- and 5-year-olds, 10 weekly sessions through the summer, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fees, week of Aug. 7: members $160/ week; non-members: $224/week. Other weeks: members $200/week, non-members $280/week. Extended care fee $8/day. For registration, contact **Risa Antoine**, ext. 128, or risaa@mnjcc.org

Intensive Hebrew grammar course: Learn the Hebrew verb system including structures (*binyan*), types (*shoresh*), how to conjugate verbs in all tenses (present, past, future, imperative and more) and pronouns, in just four short intensive days. Improve your vocabulary and fluency dramatically with **Tammy Keren**. Monday through Thursday, Aug. 13-16, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For information and registration, call ext. 154.

Jewish meditation, Sundays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Connecting the practice of meditation to our tradition with instructor **Michelle Katz**. Drop in $15, series 10 for $125.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Make Your Lev Go Boom, a new program at the BJCC for children newborn through three years old. Come to this special two-part workshop and take an interactive rhythmical journey learning and exploring Hebrew words and songs. Tuesdays, July 17 and 31, 11:15 a.m.-noon. $28, includes a kosher snack. Pre-registration required. Parents, grandparents and caregivers welcome. For information, call ext. 390.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registrations for all fall classes in piano, violin, cello, guitar, Suzuki violin, babies and preschool music, children's choir, kids' band, adult band, rock band for teens and adults, African drumming, Brazilian samba and digital music. For information and registration, call ext. 228.

Share in the Bathurst JCC's block of tickets to Cirque du Soleil on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 8 p.m. at Port Lands, on Cherry St. Tickets can be purchased by calling ext. 271. A receipt, for tax purposes, will be issued for the maximum allowable amount.

Registration is continuing for September 2007 for BJCC Morning School for Tic Tac Two, nursery and junior kindergarten. The program includes music, Hebrew, fun centre time, gym time and swimming. Call ext. 248 for information and to book a tour of the school.

TEN HEROES VISIT CANADA: Ten disabled Israeli war veterans, some wounded in Israel's war with Hezbollah last summer, were recently brought to Canada for a two-week visit by Aid to Disabled War Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada. Standing, from left, are Nadav Fridman; Toby Feldberg, president ADVI Canada; Yitzhak Yotvat, group leader; Yair Fogelman; Assaf Ashkenazy; Joseph Haddad; Idan Borovsky; Bernie Weinstein, founder of ADVI Canada; Emil Najar; Haran Yaffe; Lisa Levy, executive director ADVI Canada; Gil Rotman. Sitting, from left are Henry Silberman, vice-president ADVI Canada; Gur Nedzvetsky; Mutz Matalon, national chairman Beit Halochem Israel; Shmulik Bar David, Matlon's assistant.

[*Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* photo]

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SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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prior to the date of
the unveiling

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

To place any other family
related notice, please call
at least 10 DAYS
prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

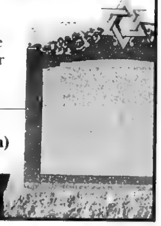
Elaine Birman	Jun 23/07	668 Roselawn Avenue
David Solomon	Jun 22/07	27 Crimson Millway
Michael Greene	Jun 21/07	5743 Kenmoor
Carl Freedman	Jun 24/07	167 Fenn Avenue
Deenie Reiken	Jun 24/07	10 Torresdale Avenue
Shura Chiro	Jun 24/07	17 Vernham Avenue
Mary Hoffman	Jun 25/07	429 Walmer Road
Anne Hoffman	Jun 26/07	C/O 20 Linton Crt.
Ethel Kenyeres	Jun 25/07	3560 Bathurst Street
Ken Danson	Jun 26/07	8 Windsor Avenue
Paul Sachis	Jun 26/07	1249 Bathurst St
Ruth Crocker	Jun 27/07	18 Lower Village Gate

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Esther Chapman	Jun 27/07	2 Neptune Dr.
Bernice Dyment	Jun 29/07	C/O 91 Montressor Dr.
Eleanor Besen	Jun 28/07	1 Concord Place
Wanda Stendon	Jun 30/07	225 Dunvegan Rd.
Gertrude Bloom	Jun 29/07	3560 Bathurst Street
Alan Drizen	Jun 27/07	100 Canyon Avenue
Ron Matthews	Jun 30/07	18 Beverley St.
Lily Brauer	Jun 29/07	541 Finch Avenue W.
Ruth Marks	Jun 30/07	7601 Bathurst Street

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

Mary Salzberg	Jun 21/07	8 Esterbrook Avenue



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The Lee Sossin Pape Memorial Fund

Established in loving memory of
Lee Sossin Pape ז"ל
to celebrate and honour her lifetime of giving and sharing after her passing on July 10, 2006 in her 96th year. Please go to **www.rotary7070.org/eglinton** to see the first project, TOILS, with which she will be associated this year, as part of The Foundation of the Rotary Club of Toronto Eglinton. Rotary International has a system of matching grants which can be utilized for local, regional, national and international projects. "Mum", herself no stranger to hearing loss as she wore hearing aids from her early thirties, was thrilled to know, she would be helping to make a difference, especially for children.
"Forever in our hearts", your 'adopted' daughter,
"Esther" Kathryn E Langley Hope.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BELLA PLACEY ז"ל
will take place
Tuesday, July 17th at 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie
Comunity Section EEEE
Relatives and friends are invited to attend
Followed by light refreshments at 165 Searle Ave.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACQUES BENAIM ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, July 15th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Iraqui Jewish Association Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

Watch this space each week for obituaries and related notices

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Universities express support for Israeli academics

Canadian schools criticize proposal by British teachers' union

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Canadian universities continue to line up in support of Israeli academics after a May 30 decision by Britain's largest teachers' union advising its members to consider a boycott of Israeli academic institutions.

Many Canadian universities, including York, McGill, Concordia, the University of British Columbia and the Université de Montréal, were quick to denounce the call by the British University and College Union (UCU).

Over the last two weeks, more Canadian universities have spoken out against the UCU motion, including the University of Western Ontario, Dalhousie, the University of Ottawa, Université de Québec à Montréal and the universities of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Calgary and Alberta.

Les Viner, chair of the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy's University Outreach Committee (UOC), is heartened at the nationwide academic response.

"It is important that so many Canadian university presidents have stressed their pride in their collaboration with Israeli institutions and have encouraged it to continue," he told *The CJN* last week.

"Israeli academics are leaders in fields such as medical sciences, technology and engineering. Canada has a lot to gain from further collaboration."

On June 26, the University of Toronto, Canada's largest university, weighed in on the matter.

President David Naylor sent a strongly worded letter to Sally Hunt, general secretary of the UCU, lambasting her organization on its boycott proposal.

U of T, Naylor wrote, objects "to the scapegoating of any country's academics by those whose quarrel is with the policies of that country's government."

Naylor continued: "I am certainly not blind to the criticisms that can be made of many governments and social institutions, including our own. However, professors and university teachers worldwide are reading about your proposed boycott and asking themselves: After our Israeli colleagues, who is next?"

The letter, which is published on U of T's website, also affirms the university's support of its Israeli counterparts.

"In the years ahead, the University of Toronto will be deepening, not diminishing, its institutional ties to Israeli universities," Naylor wrote.

Karen Burke, executive director of the UOC, said that 14 Canadian universities have so far decried the UCU position.

On his school's website, Gilles Patry, president of the University of Ottawa also condemned the UCU stance.

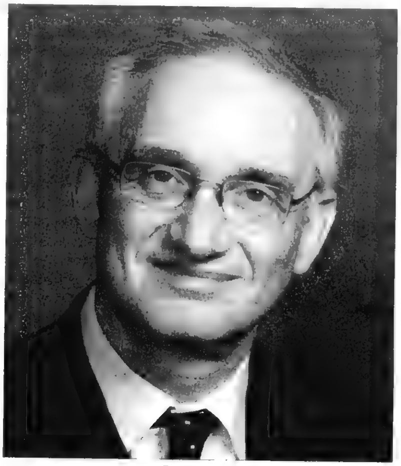
"This boycott goes against the fundamental university values of freedom of expression and free circulation of ideas," Patry said. "To attempt to limit the ability of Israeli universities to freely engage in scholarship and teaching… is attacking all universities at their core mission."

Though individual universities have publicly denounced the UCU position, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), an umbrella organization representing nearly 55,000 Canadian post-secondary teachers and other academic staff, has taken a different position on the issue.

CAUT executive director James Turk, told *The CJN* that his organization believes there has been a "great deal of misinformation" about the UCU proposal.

"Contrary to how the motion was widely characterized in the press here in Canada and overseas," Turk wrote, "it is important to note that passage of the resolution does not mean that an academic boycott is in place. It only means that individual UCU branches and their members will now debate the pros and cons of a boycott."

Turk said the CAUT normally doesn't comment on "policies or decisions taken through the internal democratic structures of our sister organizations," and "in this case, we have not condemned UCU for encouraging a discussion of a contentious issue, since unfettered discussion, evaluation and critique are the essence of academic freedom."



Les Viner

Quebec universities oppose boycott

MONTREAL — The Université de Montréal (U de M) and the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) have joined several other Canadian universities in denouncing the main union of British college professors' decision in May to boycott Israeli academic institutions.

U de M rector Luc Vinet stated: "Such a boycott, which proposes the rupture of dialogue between intellectuals, represents essentially the negation of the most fundamental university values, which are freedom of expression and the promotion of the exchange of ideas.

"Whatever anyone's opinions on the Middle East conflict, the resolution of the confrontation can only come through dialogue and not through gestures of closure like the one that is suggested by the University and College Union," he added.

UQAM interim rector Danielle Laberge had a similar message. "While the university is being subjected to more and more pressures in the context of growing globalization, and while the democratic debate claimed by the University and College Union has its place, the choice to boycott all of the universities of one country runs clearly contrary to the very idea of a university," she said, adding that a fundamental characteristic of academe is open debate.

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Beth Torah
COMPLETING THE DREAM

From the Big Apple to the great Prairies

New York Chabadniks tour Saskatchewan

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Two rabbinical students from New York's Chabad Lubavitch movement are in Saskatchewan to meet Jews across the province.

"The main purpose is to electrify Judaism a little, bring in a fresh burst," Shmuli Raitman, 22, who is originally from Melbourne, Australia, said in a phone interview.

"The Jewish population of Regina is like [the population of] one building on the Upper West Side [of Manhattan]," said his travel mate, Rabbi Yisrael Kugel, 23, who is from New York.

The chassidic Chabad Lubavitch movement sends about 300 pairs of students across the globe each summer to complement their schooling. Rabbi Kugel recently received his rabbinical ordination and Raitman hopes to get his this fall.

While the pair's combined travel resumé read like a United Nations program and includes Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Nigeria, Japan, Thailand and France, they admit that the prairie province was off their radar.

Rabbi Kugel joked that he needed to figure out how to spell "Saskatchewan" so he could look it up on Google and have an idea of where he was headed.

The two landed in Regina on June 25 and have already visited many places across the province, from larger cities such as Moose Jaw and Saskatoon to smaller places such as Estevan, where they met a woman who calls herself the "last Jew" in town.

"It's been an unbelievable experience," Raitman said.

"The Jewish people here are very warm and very receptive."

As welcoming as the locals are, Rabbi Kugel said the pair's traditional black suits, hats and beards are a novel sight on Saskatchewan's streets.

"Everybody that sees us turns their heads when we walk down the street. It's such an interesting sight for them to see us… but everybody is very nice and friendly and accommodating," he said.

They were quoted in the *Regina Leader-Post* as being comparable to "missionaries," but Rabbi Kugel called this a misinterpretation, noting that they're not aiming to convert anyone.

"According to chassidic thought, every single Jewish person has a *neshamah*, a Jewish soul, that makes them equally Jewish… and which is powerfully connected with God," he said.

"Some people make a misunderstanding that what makes a Jew is how he acts. We look at it that a Jew is a Jew no matter what.

"The message we are trying to bring out is that we are not trying to impose anything new on anyone else, we are just trying to bring out what he has within."

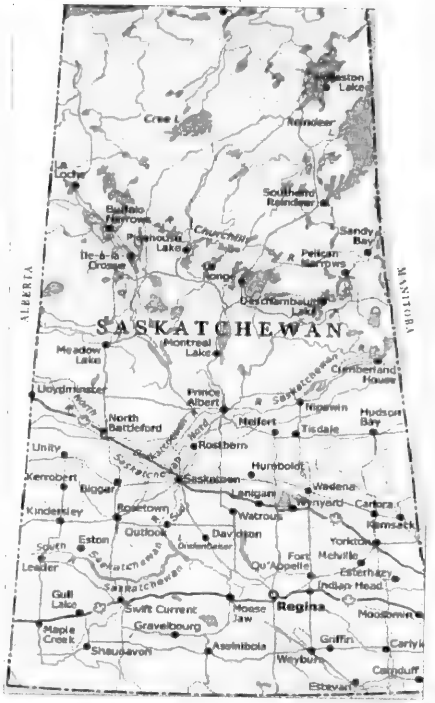
Rabbi Kugel admits that there is a fine line between encouraging religious action from that soul and imposing values.

"It is a difficult thing to explain. We want everyone to grow according to their own level," he said.

They have already had many interesting experiences with the small Jewish population in Saskatchewan.

Raitman shared an anecdote about being caught in Estevan visiting an old Jewish cemetery later than expected on a Friday afternoon. The duo had planned to spend Shabbat in Winnipeg, six hours away, but they couldn't reach the Manitoba capital in time, so they pulled off the road in the town of Weyburn to spend Shabbat there.

They looked through some old notes and found a 1993 phone number for a Holocaust survivor in the town.



Unsure of whether the man would still be alive, the pair reached him, and he was delighted to speak with them.

Rabbi Kugel also enjoyed a chance encounter with a Vancouver Jew in their Regina hotel. He was visiting old family grave sites and needed someone to translate the Hebrew on the tombstone.

"Meeting a Jew randomly in Regina is like finding a cow on the moon… I almost fainted on the spot," Rabbi Kugel said, only partly in jest.

He translated the tombstone from pictures on the man's digital camera. While speaking, he and Raitman learned that he had never put on tfillin.

The next morning at 6 a.m., they met the man in the hotel lobby, put on tfillin together, prayed and sang mazal tov.

"It was an absolutely amazing experience," Rabbi Kugel recalled.

The duo said they gained an appreciation for Saskatchewan Jews.

"One thing that we noticed is that in New York you can put yourself on cruise [control] and be Jewish… but in terms of commitment, you could learn a lot from these smaller Jewish places. Whatever level that they are committed is very inspiring," Rabbi Kugel said.

The pair heads back to New York on July 17.

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MWS B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony Highlights Students' Theatrical and Musical Talents

What makes the MWS B'nai Mitzvah/graduation ceremony so unique?

This alternative, secular life-cycle event provides a rare opportunity for graduating students, parents and educators to collectively shape their B'nai Mitzvah ceremony, custom-tailoring it to highlight the specific interests and talents of the graduates. Students select a Jewish topic of their choice, research it, and present their papers as part of a community ceremony. This year's topics included: the evolution of Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, tolerance towards mixed-religious families, the Kindertransport and the Pale of Settlement.

The research projects were woven together with music, folk dancing and a short play, inspired by one graduate's project about the history of *"Fidder on the Roof"*. To showcase the fact that each graduate played an instrument, the students formed an ensemble, and thematically appropriate Yiddish, Hebrew and English songs were sung and played throughout the ceremony.

To add an extra level of depth, students participated in The Holocaust Centre of Toronto's 'Bar/Bat Mitzvah of Remembrance Twinning Project'. Students researched a lost child of the Holocaust, and shared information about their 'twin', complemented by a special candle lighting dedication.

> *"Having found the [Morris] Winchevsky [School], we are more focused on Jewish culture and we have reinstated lost habits...We appreciate the lessons taught in respecting all people, and their ways of life and spirit. We know that we are giving Aaron a solid foundation. Thanks for a job well done."*
>
> Martha Shulman-Hale and Don Hale, parents of graduate Aaron Hale

2007 B'nai Mitzvah students present an excerpt from the short play *"Voices for Change"*.

Baycrest VP retires — *well, sort of*

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

There's retirement, and then there's retirement as prominent geriatrician Dr. Michael Gordon defines it.

Gordon, 66, recently stepped down as vice-president of medical administration and head of geriatrics and internal medicine at Baycrest. His hope, he said, is that he will be able to carry out his other duties and interests with less pressure.

He will stay on as a staff geriatrician, seeing patients at Baycrest's ambulatory geriatric assessment clinic, and he will also teach and serve as medical director of Baycrest's palliative care and clinical ethics programs.

Dr. Michael Gordon

Twice a week, he will continue to give seminars on medical ethics and geriatric medicine to medical students.

He also remains a professor of medicine and a member of the joint centre for bioethics at the University of Toronto.

As well, Gordon is a member of the council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, a contribution he makes to the medical profession that he considers to be "a great responsibility and a great honour. It is fascinating, stimulating and illuminating."

What he will have now, he said, is more flexibility.

He wants to do more public speaking, for instance. And Gordon, who writes a monthly column for *The CJN*, said he has "a real passion for writing. Before, I could only write in between doing other things."

The medical-legal field and government committees are other areas he said he would like to get more involved with.

Gordon said he became interested in geriatric medicine during his training in Scotland, and at the old Shaarei Tzedek Hospital in Jerusalem, which had "the first geriatric unit in a general hospital."

He didn't hesitate when asked if he would make the same speciality choice again. "Absolutely!" he said. "It's been a wonderful career, a phenomenal experience."

During his tenure, he said, "Baycrest has grown and developed into one of the pre-eminent geriatric centres in the world."

Among the favourite aspects of his job has been the interaction with Baycrest residents and clients, which he calls "a delight," and with medical trainees. "I get naches from all of them."

Gordon said he regrets that more people don't go into geriatric medicine. "It doesn't have the attraction that some other specialties do. It is often seen as paternalistic."

Also, he said, it's not a particularly highly technological field.

Rather, Gordon said, geriatrics focuses on high-quality clinical care. "You keep your eye on all aspects of care of the elderly: medical, psycho-social, mental health, and end of life questions."

Elder care, he believes, "has to be core to what we do in medicine."

There's one more thing he hopes to have more time to do: cycling. Even while favouring an ankle that he hurt during one of his runs, he said that he loves taking long bicycle rides around the city.

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Chana Szpilman Wallace celebrates her 100th birthday, surrounded by family and friends.

Centenarian subscribes to lemonade principle

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Whenever Chana Szpilman Wallace, who just turned 100, has had trouble in her life, she's tried to make the best of things. If life served her lemons, she made lemonade.

Wallace has survived Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, the loss of two beloved husbands and both sons, cancer, a heart attack and other hardships that life threw in her way. Yet she has taken every painful tragedy and turned it into love for others, frequently offering a helping hand to those in need without asking for anything in return.

More than 150 family members and friends gathered at the Venetian in Vaughan recently to tell the centenarian of the affection and respect they have for her.

Along with her Canadian family and friends, guests from Israel, Brazil, New York, California, Miami, Fla., and Cleveland, Ohio, attended. The party was organized by Wallace's "daughter-by-love" (actually her niece), Helen Shifman.

As Wallace doesn't have any living children or grandchildren, Shifman told her many years ago, "If I have any children, they will be your grandchildren."

Wallace, who lives alone, does her own shopping and manages to attend to many of her affairs, recalled past events with clarity and spoke of the philosophy she developed to cope with the dark side of her life.

Born in 1907 in Ostrowiec, Poland, to Reuven and Chaya Szpilman, Wallace was the second youngest of eight children. Her father was a renowned violinist and music teacher.

"My father taught the violin to his brother, the father of Wladyslaw Szpilman, whose story became the award-winning book and movie, *The Pianist*," she said.

At 18, she was married – the match was arranged – to Jankiel Lustig. When Wallace was 20, their first son, Liebela, was born and when she was 22, she gave birth to their son Uris. Uris died 2½ weeks after birth, of pneumonia.

The nightmares of the 1940s that Wallace experienced – the ghetto, labour camps, starvation, death camps and the loss of most of her family – were recorded in 1997 for Steven Spielberg's *Survivors of the Shoah* documentary.

After liberation by Canadian soldiers on April 15, 1945, five days after her 38th birthday, Wallace began searching for her family. She was reunited with her husband who had survived the concentration camps.

Soon after, they learned that their son Liebela, then 17, had been murdered by the Poles after the war ended. Her husband was overtaken by grief and died of a heart attack.

Wallace lived in Munich for several years and then, sponsored by her brother-in-law, she came to Canada in 1948, where she joined other family members.

She recalls that she went to look for a job at a factory on Spadina Avenue. "When the boss asked me what I could do, I said nothing. He gave me a job because he said no one else was ever so honest. He taught me and gave me special jobs."

In 1950, she married David Wallace (actually Wloschowske). When her husband came to Canada, the judge at the port declared after hearing his name, "That's too hard to pronounce, so your name will be Wallace."

The couple opened a ladieswear store, Lilibet, at Yonge and Lawrence. David died in 1966 and Wallace sold the business.

Looking back, she credits her family and her deep faith in God for her longevity. "My six beautiful grandchildren gave me a new life and a reason to keep living," she said.

She added that it's important to have a positive attitude and to be kind.

"I tell people, 'don't say you are having a bad day.' You have to think positive and be grateful for everything you have. And don't live in the past, Remember the past but live for today and tomorrow. And be kind to others and you will be happy."

When asked what she looks forward to, Wallace smiled and said, "I want to dance at my grandchildren's weddings. And I wish my whole body would be like my memory."

Her "grandson," Brian Shifman (actually her great-nephew), said that Wallace "is a true mentor to everyone and an inspiration."

Turing to her, he said, "Bubbie, you're one-of-a-kind, a diamond in the rough. You've been through so much yet you continue to stay positive and to be good to people. You deserve all the good wishes because you've earned it."

St. Adolphe mayor apologizes to new resort owners

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The mayor of St. Adolphe d'Howard has apologized for remarks made by the Laurentian village's general manager about the purchase of a local resort by a group of chassidic investors.

In a statement, Pierre Roy extended the olive branch to the group, members of the Satmar sect, that now owns the 53-hectare Miramont sur le Lac, saying the opinions expressed to Radio-Canada television by Michel Binette are not shared by the council of the picturesque municipality 45 minutes north of Montreal.

Binette said there is concern among St. Adolphe's 2,900 permanent residents that the chassidim will not integrate and will turn the resort into a ghetto. He is also worried that there will be legal troubles with the community like those in a nearby village.

Binette was referring to a long-running court case involving Val Morin and another chassidic community, the Belz, over two houses used as a synagogue and a religious school within the enclave where about 60 Belz families have summer homes. In 2005 Quebec Superior Court ruled that the community is violating zoning bylaws. The community's appeal of that decision is scheduled to be heard in October.

Roy said he regretted Binette's choice of words. "We will have upon his return from vacation abroad an exchange with a view to clarifying the situation with him," he said.

Roy said the council would like to establish harmonious relations between the new owners and the town's other residents, whose numbers swell to 12,000 during the summer.

"Whatever their religious allegiance, the council wishes to welcome the new citizens with a spirit of openness," Roy said. He said the council wants to meet the new owners to better understand what their plans are for the property.

He admitted that some people living near the Miramont have expressed concern about the new chassidic ownership, but he said much of that has been fuelled by rumours.

"The citizens are aware of the litigation going on [in Val Morin]… They obviously want to be reassured that the tranquility that is the charm of living here will be preserved."

The Miramont property is zoned for recreational/touristic use and for single-family homes. The new owners have erected a two-metre high fence around the complex, which consists of a motel, chalets, a restaurant, conference hall and indoor pool. They reportedly paid $3.5 million for the lakefront property.

The Satmar's summer base has long been about 25 kilometres northeast of St. Adolphe, in Val David, where two homes were destroyed by arson in June.

That enclave, however, is becoming crowded as the community grows, and more space is needed. There's also demand from families who cannot afford to buy a house.

The sale was finalized before the Val David fires took place.

Abraham Kaufman, one of the investors, said the intention is to rent out the facilities to chassidim in the summer, but otherwise leave the property as it is. Kaufman has not returned calls from *The CJN* since releasing a statement June 26.

He said at that time that the group was "appalled" by Binette's remarks and emphasized that any changes that may be made will conform to the law.

MONTESSORI MOMENT: **Students at the Montessori Jewish Day School held a Peace Concert last month to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Montessori education. The concert involved theatre, dance, singing and musical instruments. Pictured in the front row, from left, are Tamir Arnesty and Jaden Zon. In the middle row, from left, are Joseph Camhi, Sam Zimmerman and Simon Ozak. Guy Bukovsky is in the back.**

Security funding announced

Continued from page 1

Under the program, government-approved security projects are eligible for 50 per cent coverage of total project costs to a maximum of $100,000.

The program will also subsidize costs incurred for contractors, labour, installation, training on new equipment and up to 25 per cent of the cost for preliminary security assessments.

It was Day's second announcement on crime prevention in as many days, after pledging $6.8 million for 27 initiatives in communities across the province of Quebec on July 4.

Details about how organizations could apply for funding were not immediately available, but Day said his ministry would soon be "reaching out to communicate this information" to communities nationwide.

The fund will be available until March 21, 2009, when the program will be reviewed.

Both Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and B'nai Brith praised the plan but lamented its lack of scope.

Bernie Farber, the CJC's chief executive officer, told *The CJN* that the program should contain funds in the $15 to $20 million range in order to be effective.

"We welcome this proposal… but if you're going to do something like this, proper resources need to be put in the mix," Farber said. "We hope the government will retain an openness to understand that $3 million may not be enough to address the [security] needs of these communities."

B'nai Brith spokesperson Frank Dimant voiced similar concerns.

"This pilot initiative must quickly be expanded and made permanent so that it is fully in step with the growing security needs of at-risk communities," Dimant said in a statement.

According to B'nai Brith statistics, there were 935 anti-Semitic incidents in Canada last year.

The federal Liberals were quick to pounce on the Conservative program, calling it an "act of political desperation" and a "watered-down version" of a proposed Liberal security plan put forward by Liberal leader Stéphane Dion last March.

Dion's plan, they said, would have committed retroactive funding to organizations that had already paid for increased security measures to protect their communities.

"It's just not enough money... it misses the mark," Thornhill Liberal MP Susan Kadis told *The CJN*. "We believe it shouldn't be a pilot project, it should just be in place."

Asked how much money her party would commit to such a fund, Kadis said it's still determining the amount.

Kadis, who chairs an ongoing Liberal caucus task force on security funding, said she is still consulting with affected communities and will issue a report in late August.

Think carefully before new spouse moves in

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash

B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Partner, Beard Winter LLP

Question. I am intending to marry this year. I have a house which is currently rented and I am living in a rental apartment. After marriage I will continue living in the apartment and my house will also continue to be rented. In case of a divorce, do I have to split my rental house with my spouse even though it will not be our matrimonial house and is solely in my name?

Answer. The value of the rental property as of the date of marriage is not considered a "matrimonial home" unless both of you reside in it on the date of separation. So unless you both move into it and reside in it on the day you separate, then its value as of the date of marriage is excluded from any calculation of your "net worth" when calculating property division.

However, its increase in value from the date of marriage to the date of separation — if you still own that rental property — will be included in calculating your net worth. This is called "net family property." It is subject to calculation on how much you may have to pay your wife in any property settlement, when comparing the increase of your net worth from the date of marriage to the date of separation. That increase in net worth (net family property) is compared to your wife's increase in net worth and the person with the higher increase pays the "poorer" spouse an "equalization payment" to "equalize" any difference between the two spouses over the course of the marriage.

The exception is the matrimonial home, meaning the home in which the parties resided together on the date of separation (not to be confused with any property either party may have owned on the date of the marriage and later sold.) The entire value — even the premarital value of the matrimonial home — is included in the net worth (net family property) of the registered owner.

I strongly recommend that anyone who owns a valuable home, with their new spouse about to move in, sign a marriage contract to exclude its premarital value in the event of separation, unless that new spouse is about to invest significantly with their own money. A person with substantial equity should think carefully when getting married before allowing their new spouse to simply "move in."

*John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of **Beard Winter LLP**. Neither Beard Winter LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at 416-306-1733, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@beardwinter.com. You can also visit www.beardwinter.com and www.spousalsupport.com.*

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Attali says goodbye to Atlantic Canada

By **JOEL JACOBSON**
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — It was a bittersweet moment for Marc Attali.

Israel's consul general to Montreal and Atlantic Canada was making his final trip to Halifax before ending his five-year stay in Canada. He returns to his homeland later this summer. This was a chance to say goodbye to many good friends he's made, and an opportunity to reflect on what those friendships have meant.

Marc Attali

On this bright, sunny Sunday morning, he greeted more than 100 community members who had walked five kilometres in solidarity with Israel.

"I saw this march as a valuable act of support for Israel," he told the crowd, which included several members of the non-Jewish community, supporters of Israel through Bridges For Peace and the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem.

"I see this event as an important reminder to those who question the legitimacy of the Jewish state. It lets people know that Israel is a sister democracy to Canada, sharing common values," he said.

In a later interview, Attali stressed his appreciation of the work of the Atlantic Jewish communities – "the volunteers and leadership and their support through joy and sadness. In my almost five years as consul, I've met so many wonderful people who have had a key role in Canadian leadership for Israel."

While he was in Atlantic Canada, Attali planned to attend several major functions.

In particular, he said, "I will be making my first trip to Camp Kadimah [in Barss Corner, N.S., 100 kilometres from Halifax], which I had planned to do last year, but the war broke out and I was stuck in Montreal. The previous summer I was in Israel, so this makes good timing, my last trip to the region. It will be an opportunity to see the vibrancy of the youth."

He added that he would talk to the staff (campers arrived later in the week) about the importance of strengthening Jewish identity and Jewish education.

"We're talking of the future of the Jewish people here," he said.

His return to Israel will not mean cutting his ties to the Atlantic region, he said.

"There is a big mission to Israel [more than 60 people] in October. I hope to have a reunion with the community there," he noted.

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Ottawa volunteers honoured

By **DIANE KOVEN**
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — It was all in the family earlier last month when Robert Greenberg presented his brother Roger Greenberg with the 2007 Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award.

The award, the highest tribute that the Ottawa Jewish community bestows upon an individual for exceptional service over the course of many years, is named after the late past president of what later became Ottawa's Jewish federation, Gilbert Greenberg, who was the father of Robert and Roger.

"It has now been 21 consecutive years that I have been presenting my father's award," Robert said as he introduced his brother.

When their father died in 1980, his dream of a community campus had not been realized, but in 1994, Roger became chair of the Community Capital Campaign, which resulted in the construction of the Jewish Community Campus.

Today, the campus houses the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC,) the Hillel Lodge home for the aged, Hillel Academy day school, and a number of Jewish communal agencies and organizations.

In addition to his ongoing leadership in many areas of the local Jewish community, Roger Greenberg, chairman and CEO of Minto Developments Inc., is also involved in numerous other causes, including Autism Ontario's Ottawa chapter; the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre; the Ottawa Hospital Foundation Board; and the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

The Greenberg award was one of three community volunteer awards presented June 6 at the 73rd annual general meeting of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

The Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award was presented by the *Ottawa Citizen* to Sam Ages, an octogenarian who is well known throughout the community for his many years of volunteerism.

Mitchell Miller received this year's Freiman Family Young Leadership Award, which goes to someone under age 40 who shows excellent leadership. Receiving the award from A.J. Freiman, Miller gave credit to the strong influence of his parents, Laya and Ken Miller, "people who do a great deal, but quietly. My sister and I had a great foundation, knowing that every day they were going out doing things to make the community better."

Restore aid to PA: Dion

By **JANICE ARNOLD**
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Liberal leader Stéphane Dion said he is in favour of Canada's restoring aid and normal relations with the Palestinian Authority in light of the dissolution of its Hamas-led government.

"What is Canada waiting for? If we say we want to help the president [Mahmoud Abbas], then we need to put our money where our mouth is. The prime minister of Israel has recognized [the new Palestinian government]. Where is the problem?"

Dion made the comment in response to a question at a meeting with representatives of ethnic media in Montreal last week.

Also on the Middle East, Dion said he would raise the issue of water management with Jordan's King Abdullah II at his scheduled meeting with him during the monarch's official visit to Canada this month.The shortage of water is likely to become a worsening problem in the Middle East, he said, and he believes Canada has the expertise in this field to be of assistance.

On the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Dion said pressure must be put on China, which is Sudan's main trading partner. He said Canada's influence on China has been weakened because Prime Minister Stephen Harper has "antagonized" the Chinese without achieving any improvement in that country's human rights record.

On Afghanistan, Dion said he would honour Canada's commitment to keep combat troops in Kandahar until February 2009 if he forms a government before that mandate expires. If still in opposition, he said the Liberals would oppose any further extension.

"We did not favour extending the mission beyond 2007, but we did it, and Canada has to respect its international commitments."

He said Canada should be planning with NATO and the Afghan government for what will happen when Canada leaves 19 months from now. Dion thinks Canada can play an important non-military role in the country's development.

On general foreign policy, Dion said Canada should be "a good citizen of the world, helping the cause of peace, justice and security," and he emphasized his belief in protection of the environment and sustainable development.

"If we want to do something about Darfur, we need a strong relationship with China," he said.

On Quebec's reasonable accommodation debate, Dion said Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms must be the guiding principle. "The charter says the multicultural reality of Canada must be taken into account… This is a never-ending debate in a secular state, but Canada is well-equipped to find solutions, especially under a Liberal government."

Dion said the state must be secular, noting that he was the one who conceived the idea of transforming Quebec's public school boards from religiously-based to language-based almost 10 years ago. Maintaining Catholic and Protestant school boards was not his vision of "Canada in the 21st century."

Dion stressed that the Liberals are committed to the concept of multiculturalism and would review some of the cuts to spending in this area that have been made by the Harper government.

"This does not mean that all festivals will get all the funding they like, but we believe it is necessary to celebrate the different cultures and help them as much as possible," he said.

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Italian PM Prodi demands Hamas free Shalit

By JACK KHOURIE
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JERUSALEM — Italy's visiting prime minister urged Gaza's Hamas rulers on Monday to release abducted Israel Defence Forces soldier Gilad Shalit, while reaffirming his country's support for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Romano Prodi is on a three-day trip to Israel and the West Bank to discuss ways to promote Mideast peacemaking.

At a news conference with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Prodi demanded immediate freedom for Israeli Cpl. Gilad Shalit, who was seized more than a year ago near Gaza by three groups linked to Hamas.

An audio tape that Hamas issued on the June 25 anniversary of his capture has been the only sign of life from him since.

"I call on Hamas to release Gilad Shalit without further delay," Prodi said in remarks translated from Italian. "He has been in captivity for too long."

Asked about Israeli media reports that Italy is helping to mediate the release of two Israeli soldiers abducted by Lebanese guerrillas last year, Prodi said Rome "had made several requests for information on their whereabouts, condition and possible terms for freeing them but, we never received specific information that could secure their release." He did not elaborate.

Hezbollah gunmen abducted Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser in a cross-border raid that touched off the Second Lebanon War last July. There has been no sign of life from them since.

Meanwhile, the families of all three abducted soldiers met in Paris with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who said Monday he would use all the power at his disposal to return them home safely.

Sarkozy spoke in depth about Shalit, who holds joint Israeli and French citizenship, saying he considers the IDF corporal to be a fully fledged French national.

"He promised us that he's doing all the efforts he can in this matter," Shalit's father, Noam Shalit, said in English after the meeting.

Addressing the issue of Regev and Goldwasser, Sarkozy said he considers Hezbollah to be a terrorist organization.

The French president said his estimation of Hezbollah has not changed despite his government's issuing of permission to members of the group to visit France for talks with rival Lebanese factions on the future of the Middle Eastern country.

He pledged to the families to raise the issue of the abducted soldiers with Lebanese representatives when they next met.

At the Jerusalem news conference, Prodi reaffirmed Italy's support for Abbas and the emergency government he set up in the West Bank following Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza a month ago. At the same time, he said, a humanitarian crisis in Gaza must be avoided at all costs.

Crossings into Gaza from Israel and Egypt were shut after Hamas seized control of the coastal strip. Crossings with Israel have opened for humanitarian aid.

Olmert said that despite the events in Gaza, Israel and Italy continue to see the territory and the West Bank as parts of a single Palestinian entity.

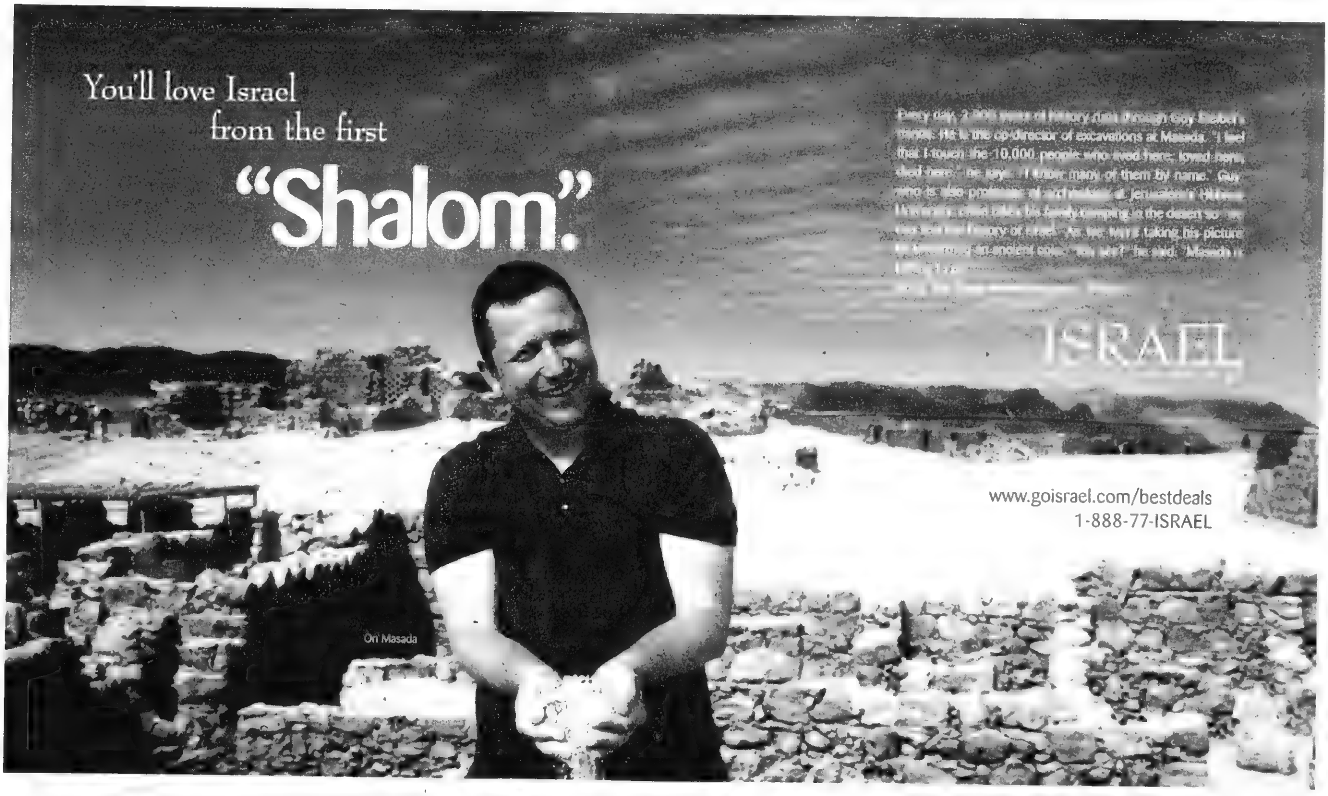
"We both think that Gaza is an integral part of the Palestinian Authority, but it is clear that we cannot accept the violent aggression of the Hamas terror organization which is controlling Gaza and we hope that this situation will change," he said. "We discussed the efforts that need to be made to strengthen the moderate forces within the Palestinian Authority."

Prodi and Olmert both spoke of the need to block Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

"We can never accept a country sworn to Israel's destruction becoming a nuclear power," Olmert said.

"We agree without reservation… Iran must not develop a military nuclear capability," Prodi said.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has repeatedly called for Israel's destruction. Tehran says its nuclear program is intended to produce energy, not weapons, but Israel and the West don't believe it.



Government to set up tent city for Sudanese refugees near Negev prison

By AMIRAM BARKAT and
MIJAL GRINBERG

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JERUSALEM — The Prison Service and Public Security Ministry agreed Monday to establish a tent encampment in the Negev to house refugees from Africa, most of them Sudanese fleeing the fighting in the region.

According to the agreement reached by Public Security Minister Avi Dichter and Prisons Service representative Benny Caniak, the tent city will be set up close to Ketziot Prison in the Negev.

There are approximately 230 refugees from Africa in Israel, 180 of them currently in Be'er Sheva. The Jewish Agency said Sunday that it would fund accommodation for another 54 refugees from Sudan who travelled from Be'er Sheva to Jerusalem to protest outside the Knesset. The group was then returned to the southern city after the Prime Minister's Office stated it would not pay for the asylum seekers' welfare.

The PMO stressed that it would not lodge African refugees in hotels, dormitories or temporary camps, in order to send a message that Israel does not wish to take them in.

Meanwhile, Sudan's interior minister, Al-Zubair Bashir Taha, was quoted Monday as saying Israel is encouraging his country's citizens to immigrate to Israel to tarnish Khartoum's image.

Israel Radio reported that Bashir Taha dubbed the refugee crisis a "melodrama" manufactured by Israel, and threatened legal action against expatriated citizens who attempted to enter Israel.

"It's not clear where they're trying to reach, whether they want to continue from Israel to Europe or America. They know nothing about Israel," Bashir Taha said.

He said some 3,000 Sudanese nationals try to reach Israel annually – 30 per cent from the Darfur region, 40 per cent from the predominantly Christian south and the rest from the mountainous Nubian areas in the north.

The PMO said Sunday that deportation to Egypt is the state's only solution for the African refugees and foreign workers who infiltrated from Egypt, even though some of them are refugees who fled persecution in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region.

According to the PMO, the deportation to Egypt has been delayed so far only because a full list of the refugees has not been compiled.

The Israel Defence Forces has deposited in various southern towns growing numbers of mostly Sudanese and Eritrean refugees it caught illegally infiltrating Israel's border from Egypt, but without assuming responsibility for their welfare.

The erection of a tent city of Sudanese refugees in the Wohl Rose Garden facing the Knesset was averted Sunday, at least temporarily, following an announcement by the PMO that a housing solution has been found.

On Sunday, the Be'er Sheva municipality bused 54 refugees to Jerusalem, among them 15 children and a pregnant woman, and announced that it is demanding that the government assume responsibility for their care. Eighteen refugees arrived in Israel through Sinai a week and a half ago, but 36 others were brought by the army to the Be'er Sheva municipality since then.

The municipality, which relies on the support of philanthropic organizations and whose budget is limited, has threatened to deliver another 180 refugees to Jerusalem.

"So far, the [Be'er Sheva municipality's] cost for hosting [the refugees] has been half a million shekels," the city's spokesperson Amnon Yosef said Sunday. "The Prime Minister's Bureau has promised to give us the funds, but so far they have not done so."

The PMO and the Social Affairs Ministry announced on Sunday that the refugees would be hosted at the Beit Yatziv hostel in Be'er Sheva. According Darfur Refugee Council chair Eitan Schwartz, the government has promised to pay for the cost of their stay there for one night.

The PMO, however, denied claims it had pledged to arrange and finance accommodations for Sudanese refugees who were bused to Jerusalem from Be'er Sheva to protest the lack of government funding for the welfare of African asylum seekers.

No arrangements had been co-ordinated for the refugees at the Beit Yatziv guest house or at any other hotel in the city. But a temporary solution was found for the refugees.

The Jewish Agency agreed to house the refugees at a dormitory near the western Negev city of Sderot. They will be provided for for 10 days, at the behest of the PMO.

Jewish Agency chair Ze'ev Bielsky said that "this is a humanitarian act of helping people in need."

When they arrived in Jerusalem, local residents brought food for the refugees, as did members of Mair Panim, a philanthropic organization.

Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski instructed medical teams and social workers to help the refugees.

The Be'er Sheva municipality announced it will no longer deal with the refugees, and any support they receive should come from the government.

In Eilat, a community of 400 Sudanese refugees and their children are participating in activities being organized by the youth movement Noar Haoved Vehalomed. Many of the parents work in the hotels in the city, and the programs include Hebrew classes for the adults and games and other activities for the children.

Israel Briefs

Israel hits Hamas in Gaza

Israeli forces killed 11 Palestinian gunmen in Gaza, including at least nine Hamas members. Commandos backed by tanks raided the village of Maghazi in the central Gaza Strip early last Thursday, exchanging fire with local Hamas militiamen. Two Israeli soldiers were reported wounded.

Israelis want Jewish PM

Most Israelis would support legislation requiring that the prime minister be Jewish, a poll found. According to a survey by the Israel office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation policy institute published last week, 64 per cent of Israelis would welcome such a law, 12 per cent would reluctantly accept it as necessary, and 22 per cent would oppose it. The idea found surprisingly strong minority support – 31 per cent among Israeli Arabs. The poll also found that 97 per cent of citizens believe interracial tolerance is important and 77 per cent want equal rights for all ethnic groups. The survey had 609 respondents and a 4.1 per cent margin of error.

Livni meets Moroccan FM

Israel and Morocco held bilateral talks. Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni met her Moroccan counterpart, Mohamed Benaissa, in Paris on July 4, the first high-level contacts between the countries in four years. Morocco established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1993 but, along with other moderate Arab states, scaled back the ties in response to the eruption of Palestinian violence in 2000. After the meeting, Livni told reporters that Jerusalem and Rabat had "common interests" in seeing progress in Israeli-Arab peacemaking.

Naches pays off

Doting grandparents will be cared for by their grown-up grandchildren, an Israeli study has found. Researchers at Haifa University's school of social work, having monitored 216 pairs of grandchildren and their grandparents, reported that there was a definite "quid pro quo" element in the emotional interaction between the two groups. "The study results reveal that not only did grandchildren who were taken care of by their grandparents express a desire to help, they were actually very involved in helping with day-to-day things like transportation, shopping, nursing care, emotional support and initiating visits," the university said. While granddaughters tend to express greater desire than their brothers to aid their grandparents, in actuality, the sexes are equally helpful, researchers found. They urged families to treat grandchildren as a key factor in caring for elders.

Record N.A. aliyah

A 33-year high in immigration from North America is expected in 2007, with some 3,500 Americans and Canadians expected to move to Israel this year, according to a report released by Nefesh B'Nefesh last week. The organization, which helps new arrivals to make their new home in Israel via monetary aid and other assistance, said there has been an 80 per cent rise in immigration from the United States and Canada since 2001, when Nefesh B'Nefesh began operating. This year's forecast is a 10 per cent jump over the 3,200 North Americans who immigrated last year.

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Ethiopian-Israeli rabbi is a light unto his people

By BATSHEVA POMERANTZ
IPS

Rabbi Sharon Shalom (formerly Zaude Taspei), a university lecturer and leader in Israel's Ethiopian community, experienced a strong connection to Jerusalem as a child.

"Everything was about Jerusalem. A stork flying in the sky was obviously flying there. As a seven-year-old, I asked my grandfather to show me where Jerusalem was. He pointed in the general direction. I set out in that direction and was lost for three days.

Feature

"As a boy, I thought that Jerusalem was lined with gold. I pictured a country flowing with milk and honey where everyone is Jewish," says Rabbi Shalom, 33, whose lectures about the history and tradition of the Beta Israel (Jews of Ethiopian origin), their yearning for Jerusalem and the challenges they face in Israel fascinate audiences in Israel and abroad.

In early 1980, with famine, disease and oppression rampant in Ethiopia, the clandestine rescue of Ethiopian Jews was high on Israel's agenda.

"I remember a Jewish Agency emissary coming to our village," Rabbi Shalom says. "We called him *faranji*, stranger, but we wanted to meet with him since he was a Jew from Jerusalem."

In 1981, Taspei and his family left their village in the Tigre region of Ethiopia for Israel and trekked for over two months to Sudan. Exposed to bandits, hunger and disease, they thought they would shortly reach Jerusalem. Some Beta Israel, however, remained in the Sudanese refugee camps for up to six years.

With the child mortality rate in the camps extremely high, a number of parents made the heartrending decision to send their children alone to Israel. In 1982, eight-year-old Taspei, his family's firstborn, arrived in Israel on his own as part of the Bat Galim operation of the Israeli navy's commando unit.

Rabbi Sharon Shalom

"We kissed the ground of the Land of Israel with great excitement," Rabbi Sharon says. "We felt we had come home. This was the realization of a dream, because we had felt like strangers in Ethiopia."

Zaude was renamed Sharon by the authorities and sent to a children's home in Afula. Shortly afterward, he received word that his parents had died. For two years, he believed he was an orphan, until one day the dormitory director informed him that his parents were alive and well in Israel.

"When I met my parents and brothers after their aliyah, I felt as if they had returned from the dead!"

His parents moved to Kiryat Gat in the south, where they live today, not far from Rabbi Shalom and his family.

Since very few Ethiopians lived in Israel at the time, Rabbi Shalom felt as if people were always looking at him. "I felt different, just as I had in Ethiopia."

Over the years, however, Rabbi Shalom learned to take curious stares in his stride. "One must flow with the current and deal with it in a positive way. It is a given in Israel that the veterans feel superior to the newcomers, in every wave of immigration. Although it was hard to bridge the gap between the dream of Jerusalem and the reality, it was still easier for me than for the older people."

Rabbi Shalom studied at the yeshiva high school in Merkaz Shapira and eventually became a regular guest at the home of the Israeli-born dormitory director, Rabbi Aryeh Shalom.

"By being allowed into his home, my perspective changed. Ethiopian youth worry about doing things wrongly compared to Israelis. They think their homes are very different. But once you go into Israeli homes you realize this isn't true."

Rabbi Sharon Shalom served as an officer in an elite army unit (among the first Ethiopian officers in the Israel Defence Forces), combining his army service with yeshiva studies. He later studied education and counselling at various colleges and Talmud at Bar-Ilan University, and became the first Israeli of Ethiopian descent to teach at the university and one of the first Ethiopian-Israelis to be ordained by the chief rabbinate of the State of Israel.

He and his wife, Avital, a social worker who made aliyah from Switzerland as a child, have two sons.

"Sometimes young women claim they're looking to marry an Ethiopian because they're nice. I explain to them that an Ethiopian is not a project but a person," she says.

Rabbi Shalom has lectured abroad for the organization Israel at Heart, which advocates on behalf of the Jewish state. He also lectures for organizations that helped him as a youth, including Emunah Women (which ran the children's home in Afula where he spent his first years in Israel) and World Mizrachi.

His lectures and courses at Bar-Ilan University and at various colleges in Jerusalem aim to shatter the stereotype of Ethiopian immigrants.

"Their image is often negative, especially on an emotional level. They're presented as negative and needy. I try to throw light on the community and highlight its positive aspects."

It was, for example, the only Jewish community since the destruction of the Second Temple to have its own Jewish monarch. In addition, since it was isolated from the Jewish world for many centuries, it is the only community with customs that date back to pre-talmudic times. Rabbi Shalom researched the circumcision customs of the community for his MA thesis at Bar-Ilan. He is now embarking on his doctoral thesis, which will research additional ancient customs.

In rural Ethiopia, the *kes*, or spiritual leader, was prominent. In Israel, however, this role has somewhat diminished, especially among younger Ethiopians. Rabbi Shalom feels strongly that a rabbinical or spiritual leadership needs to be developed for the community. To this end, he counsels students who are studying at the Or M'Ofir program at Yeshiva Or Etzion in Merkaz Shapira, which enables young Ethiopians to participate in a pre-army preparatory program followed by military service and then yeshiva study towards certification as teachers and rabbis in the Ethiopian community.

"These young leaders will help Ethiopians integrate into Israeli society while preserving their traditional customs, which they have either lost or abandoned. After all, the traditions of the Beta Israel can only enrich the Jewish people."

Another U.K. union calls for boycott

By HAIM BIOR
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

LONDON — Britain's Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) has called upon its 800,000 members to boycott Israeli-made products because of what they call Israel's "criminal policies in Palestinian territories."

The decision to call for a boycott, reached at a union conference in Brighton on Sunday, is declarative and does not include concrete steps to implement the boycott.

The TGWU is the second British union to call for such a boycott of Israel this year. Last month, the British public services union, UNISON, also urged its members to refrain from purchasing Israeli products, basing the call on Israel's "criminal behaviour in the territories" and its responsibility for the Second Lebanon War.

In addition, Britain's University and College Union called upon its members earlier this year to consider an academic boycott of Israel, which would include withholding funding for research projects conducted by Israeli professors and preventing Israeli lecturers from participating in seminars.

In the last six months, the public services union in Ontario, Canada, proposed a similar anti-Israel boycott, as did several professional unions in South Africa.

Histadrut International's activities director Avital Shapira said Sunday that the Israeli labour federation views the TGWU's boycott call seriously. According to Shapira, the Histadrut has decided not to co-operate with the British unions when they ask for help.

The British Embassy in Israel also issued a response Sunday: "The British government opposes boycotts of any kind. The boycott declared by the Transport and General Workers' Union will not harm the growing commercial relations between the two countries," the statement said.

Parliamentarians from 56 countries have rejected the union call for boycott, and the British academic boycott, in particular.

An announcement made Sunday at the conference of the Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in Kiev stated that the gathering "expresses its concern at all attempts to target Israeli institutions and individuals for boycotts, divestments and sanctions."

Labor MK Collette Avital, who was attending the conference as an observer, said she was surprised by the large majority that supported that motion.

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Living Jewish in Africa

By **MARCIE SOMERS**
Special to The CJN

NAIROBI — The Jewish Diaspora comprises many countries, so it came as no surprise while I was travelling through East Africa recently to discover a rich and diverse culture has existed here for more than a century.

According to Dr. David Silverstein, rosh kehillah and president of the Nairobi Hebrew Congregation in Nairobi, East African Jewry extends through Zambia, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Congo, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

However, the hub for religious observance and cultural activity is in the Nairobi Hebrew Congregation (NHC) in Kenya, with its vibrant community, its religious services, and social, cultural and educational events; not to mention its rich history.

The first Jewish settlers arrived in Kenya in 1903. From there, the community grew to include Jewish immigrants from around the world of Sephardi and Ashkenazi descent. Settlers came from countries as diverse as Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Germany, England, Canada, the United States, Israel, Yemen, Iraq, India and South Africa.

At its peak the community had more than 400 families. There were functioning synagogues in Nairobi and Nakuru and informal services were conducted in Mombassa and Kitale. However, in 1952 when Kenya became independent, many left for Israel, South Africa and the United States, and the once-thriving community was greatly reduced. Today, the Nairobi congregation has 100 families. The synagogue in Nakuru is gone, and informal services aren't held in Mombassa or Kitale. Yet despite the isolation and its size, the Kenyan Jewish community remains a vibrant one.

Barbara Steenstrup, who grew up in Baltimore and came to Kenya in 1986, loves the richness of the community and the Nairobi Hebrew Congregation (NHC). "One of the aspects of the NHC that I like most is its diversity," she says. "During a service, one observes Ashkenazi and Sephardic practices and melodies, standing and sitting for different portions. All the various forms of observance, Jewish practice and tradition all come together.

"Another thing I love are the discussions. Often after services or at Shabbat dinners, conversations revolve around comparisons of practice. The current Israeli ambassador, Emanuel Seri, holds discussions after Saturday morning services, and others gather for less structured conversation over cake, coffee and tea."

Silverstein came to Kenya in 1974 as a recent graduate from medical school. Originally, he came for the adventure. He says that the isolation of the Jewish community there brings people together. "Being a small community and by virtue of being an isolated one, I find that it brings a special attachment to the synagogue and the community itself.

"You often find people who had no Jewish identity back home become actively involved, from attending services every Friday night to participating in communal seders."

While living in Africa might create some challenges for the observant – there are no kosher restaurants and kosher meat has to be imported from South Africa – Steenstrup believes that one can fulfil the basic tenets of Judaism by performing mitzvot and by ethical behaviour.

"Personally, I don't find it difficult at all to follow the various rituals and observances," she says. "Despite not having a rabbi, the NHC maintains regular Jewish services all year round, services are held every Friday evening and Shabbat morning and all High Holy Days.

"The community holds an annual community Seder and publishes a magazine, *Shelanu*, in both Hebrew and English to coincide with Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur, Chanukah and Passover, so I don't feel like I'm missing out on anything. I find it very easy to live a Jewish life in Africa."

Silverstein adds that he and some community members are actively involved with the African Jewish Congress, which is the co-ordinating body that links the smaller Jewish communities in sub-Saharan Africa and helps them retain their links with world Jewry. "As a member of this organization, we meet yearly, where we're able to network with other Jews from all over Africa and discuss how we can provide our Jewish community in Kenya with a viable and vibrant Jewish spiritual life."

According to both Silverstein and Steenstrup, relations with their African counterparts are harmonious. Despite the terrorist attack in 2002 when three Israeli tourists as well as 12 locals were killed at the Israeli-owned Paradise Hotel in Mombassa, both have encountered little, if any, anti-Semitism.

"Many Africans are extremely positive when they hear I'm Jewish. As there is a wide knowledge of both the Old and New Testament," says Steenstrup. "Occasionally, there are anti-Semitic commentaries and letters to the editor in the press, but on the whole I'm not worried."

Silverstein concurs. "There are times when I get a bit uneasy, such as when the American Embassy was bombed by Al Qaeda in 1998. If anything, I'm worry more about it from an anti-Israeli perspective, but on the whole I'm quite comfortable being Jewish in Africa," he says.

"I came to Kenya in 1974 and haven't looked back. I love the community in which I live and wouldn't give it up for anything."

For more information on the National Hebrew Congregation, contact info@nhc.co.ke.

Marcie Somers is a Toronto-based writer.

Sculptor's history is as unique as his art

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

The fruits of Andrew Benyei's labour stare at him daily.

The Toronto sculptor's mixed media works are displayed in his studio, which doubles as his home with his wife, Judie.

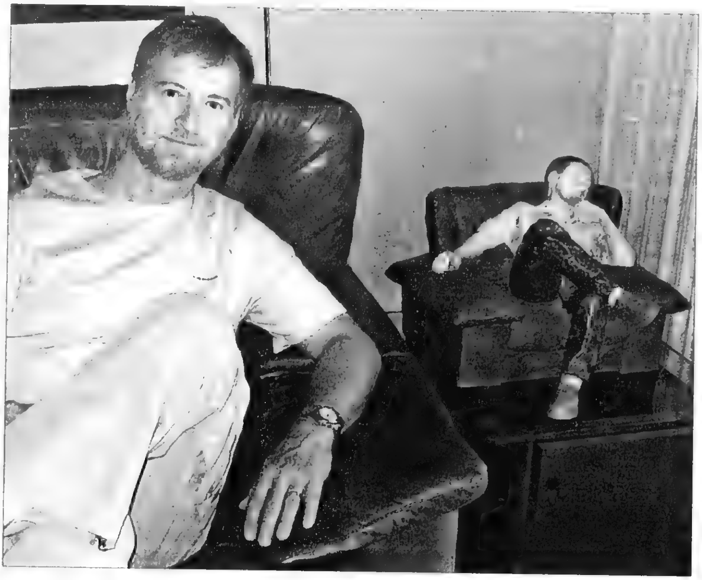
The Kiss, a sculpture of a man and woman whose bodies are splayed acrobatically and who are held together only by their mouths, sits in his dining room. *Graham*, a naked man floating in a bathtub, relaxes beside his couch. Various sculptures of long-in-the-tooth businesspeople stand around his sitting room. Benyei also paints, and most walls are adorned with paintings or mounted sculptures.

"I tend to sculpt what I feel and paint what I see," Benyei said.

"My art is representational, which means it is what you see. All of my sculptures are of people. Many of them look at relationships," he said.

Benyei's preferred medium is clay, and he also works with fibreglass, bronze and resin. The self-described "sculptor who paints" also paints many of his sculptures, an age-old technique that is not common in contemporary pieces.

In addition to people, Benyei also sculpts pigs, whose individuality, he said, makes them metaphors for humankind.



Andrew Benyei with one of his first sculptures, *Artist at Work*. [Abigail Bimman photo]

Benyei has many sculptures that represent the the white-collar business world, including a woman struggling to break through a glass ceiling. That world was Benyei's when he was an engineer and business administrator before he made his drastic career shift in 1990.

"I was very unhappy with what I was doing and something had to be done," Benyei said. "I spent almost 20 years carrying a briefcase and climbing the corporate ladder. I walked away and became a full-time artist."

The change wasn't easy, but said he loves his current work and would never go back to the corporate model.

Benyei recalled his early days painting in Kensington Market. When he needed a washroom, he said, he used a dirty public facility – and he had to step over people lying on the ground to reach it.

"I'm standing there thinking, 'A week ago I was on the 20th floor of a building and had a granite washroom – what am I doing here?'"

The Hungarian-born artist has a history as singular as his own journey and artwork.

His father, Laszlo "Laci" Antal Benyei, was a Catholic Hungarian born in 1919. Laci met Eva Kerty, a Jew, at a swimming pool during World War II, and they fell in love. Kerty's family home was destroyed by an air raid and they had to move to a ghetto in Ujpest, the Budapest suburb where they lived.

Laci moved Kerty to several different locations after that to keep her safe before the two married, although Kerty used a false name and dyed her hair blonde to hide her Jewishness.

During the Holocaust, Laci also took Kerty's six-year-old nephew, Biro Ivstan (now Biran Haim), into his home in order to save him, and in 1944, found a safe-house for Kerty's parents and sister.

"I think it was just the right thing to do," Andrew said of his father's actions. "It wasn't out of heroism or anything. The things that were happening just weren't right."

After the war, the couple married legally and had Andrew. Four years later, Laci died at the age of 34, and Andrew never knew his father.

Andrew and Kerty immigrated to Toronto when Andrew was seven. Kerty converted to Catholicism after the war, and Andrew Benyei doesn't consider himself religious.

"I see myself as being brought up Catholic, but I don't believe in all that," he said. "I saw too much hypocrisy [in religion]. I am comfortable in both environments," he said of Catholicism and Judaism, noting that Haim and the rest of Kerty's family made aliyah to Israel after the war.

In 2002, Laci was honoured posthumously with a Righteous Among the Nations medal from Yad Vashem, through the Israeli consul, Zehavit Ben Hillel. Benyei accepted the medal on behalf of his father.

Like his son, Laci was an engineer with an artistic flair.

"In a way, I broke out of my mould as well," Benyei said, comparing his career shift to Laci's marriage outside his faith. "In a way, there's that parallel."

For more information about Benyei's work, visit www.benyei.com or call 416-489-9991.

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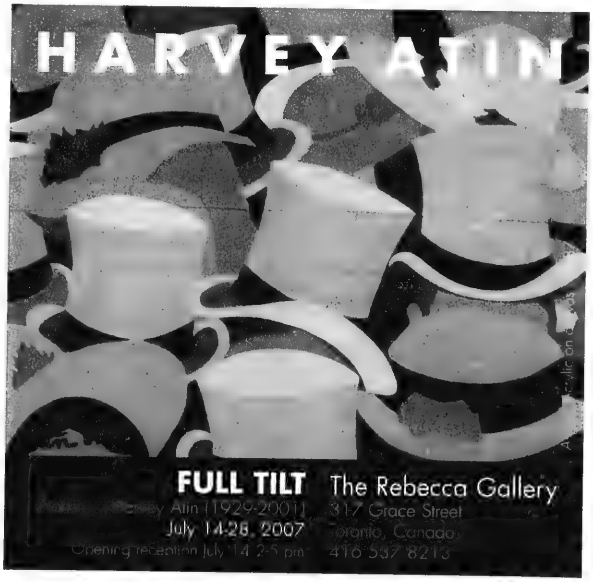

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Hezbollah probed and dissected

***Hezbollah* by Augustus Richard Norton, Princeton University Press.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shiite militia and political party formed in the wake of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, has left a deep imprint in the Middle East.

Long before fighting Israel in a 34-day war that erupted exactly a year ago in Lebanon, Hezbollah was an important player, having been instrumental in the departure of U.S. and Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Augustus Richard Norton, an American academic and former U.S. army officer, has studied that Islamic fundamentalist organization since its formation. And now, in *Hezbollah*, published by Princeton University Press, he offers a cogent analysis of its emergence and impact on Lebanese politics.

Augustus Richard Norton

In a view shared by most observers, including Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak, Hezbollah emerged after Israel invaded Lebanon. "When we entered Lebanon… there was no Hezbollah," he quotes Barak as saying. "We were accepted with perfumed rice and flowers by the Shia in the south. It was our presence that created Hezbollah."

Before Hezbollah appeared on the scene, Amal, a militia led by Nabih Berri, was the chief power broker in the Shiite community. Syria, Lebanon's big brother, if you will, regarded Amal as a mechanism for checking the Palestinians in Lebanon.

But after Berri supported the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon in the aftermath of the 1982 war, a treaty that was never consummated, Syria shifted part of its support to Hezbollah as a counterweight to Amal, observes Norton.

Amal and Hezbollah ultimately came to blows, ostensibly over the kidnapping of an American marine colonel attached to UNIFIL, the United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon.

In battles waged in the southern suburbs of Beirut in 1988, Hezbollah defeated Amal and thus became the leading representative of the Shiites in Lebanon.

Prior to these skirmishes, Hezbollah – a "stalking horse for Iranian interests," says Norton – made its mark by organizing attacks against the Israeli army occupying southern Lebanon. Various Lebanese groups, including Amal, joined forces with Hezbollah to end the occupation, but by the 1990s, Hezbollah was carrying out the lion's share of such raids in Israel's self-declared security zone. Norton adds that Hezbollah operations mainly targeted Israeli soldiers and the South Lebanon Army, a surrogate force established, financed and trained by Israel and led by Saad Haddad, a former Lebanese army officer.

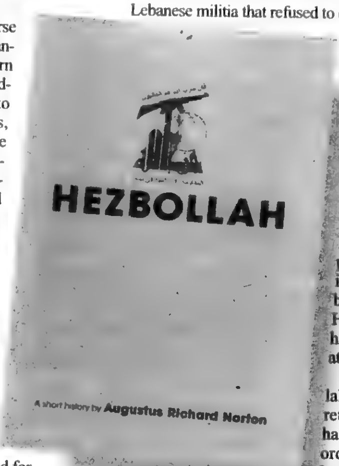
Norton believes that Hezbollah's goal went beyond forcing Israel out of Lebanon. "The ultimate objective was to destroy Israel and liberate Palestine," he writes. In this connection, Hezbollah has formed close ties with various Palestinian groups, from Hamas to Islamic Jihad, opposed to Israel's existence.

Apart from attacking Israel, Hezbollah took aim at American and French peacekeepers in Lebanon, kidnapped foreigners, including the American journalist Terry Anderson, and masterminded the 1985 hijacking of TWA flight 847.

In addition, Hezbollah exported terrorism.

Shortly after Israel killed Hezbollah's secretary general, Abbas Musawi, Hezbollah operative Imad Mughniyeh, aided by Iranian intelligence agents, bombed the Israeli embassy in Argentina.

This was followed, two years later in 1994, by the bombing of a Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires that Norton mistakenly describes as an "Israeli association." Last year, Argentina issued warrants for the arrest of, among others, Iran's former president and foreign minister.



Norton reminds readers that Hezbollah was the only Lebanese militia that refused to disarm under the terms of the 1990 Taif agreement, which ended the 15-year civil war in Lebanon.

Hezbollah's justification for flouting the accord was that it was the sole credible force for defending Lebanon. But this was merely a ruse. With Israel's unilateral pullout from Lebanon in May 2000, ratified by the United Nations, Hezbollah no longer had a valid excuse to attack the Israeli army.

To Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's secretary general, this hardly mattered. He ordered raids against Israeli patrols in a sliver of land known as Shebaa Farms, which Israel captured from Syria during the Six Day War. In contradiction to a UN ruling, he considered Shebaa Farms as sovereign Lebanese territory. These periodic cross-border attacks claimed the lives of 17 Israeli soldiers in a six-year period from 2000 onward.

Norton points out that these raids, rather than being universally popular in Lebanon, aroused indignation in certain Lebanese quarters. In a scathing piece in *an-Nahar*, one of Lebanon's leading dailies, publisher Gibran Tueni wrote: "Who authorized Nasrallah to represent all the Lebanese, to make decisions for them and to embroil them in something they don't want to be embroiled in?"

In this vein, Lebanese figures such as Tueni demanded Hezbollah's disarmament. Hezbollah ignored these pleas and periodically fired rockets into Israel. In response, Israel hit back. Chronicling these tit-for-tat exchanges, Norton says, "Both sides were clearly itching for a fight."

On July 12, 2006, Hezbollah ambushed a motorized Israeli patrol in the Galilee, killing three soldiers and capturing two others. The fighting escalated, and within hours, the second war in Lebanon broke out.

As Norton states, Hezbollah expected a perfunctory Israeli reprisal but got a war instead. "Hezbollah had made a major miscalculation." Yet, contrary to Israel's expectations, Hezbollah proved exceedingly resilient.

In assessing the effects of the war, Norton says that Hezbollah's show of military strength galvanized the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as the Shiites in Iraq.

The war, an economic calamity for Lebanon, prompted open questioning of Hezbollah's role in starting it and split Lebanon into two warring camps. Many Sunnis, Druze and Christians accused Hezbollah of needlessly exposing the country to Israel's wrath and of being an agent of both Syria and Iran. Shiites, however, rallied behind Hezbollah.

According to Norton, Hezbollah has been using the war to upgrade its status in the Muslim world and change the delicate balance of power of Lebanon's sectarian government in its favour.

"The July war," he writes in a dispassionate tone, "threw a bomb into Lebanese politics."

In his judgment, Hezbollah is fated to play a continuing and pivotal role in Lebanon. "And, one hopes, a constructive one," he adds.

Yet it remains to be seen, given Hezbollah's undying and visceral animosity toward Israel, whether this in fact will be the case.

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Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

SUMMER LITERARY COLUMN PART 2: HARRY POLLOCK, JOYCEAN SCHOLAR

How does a man with no university education become a world authority in the life and works of Irish writer **James Joyce**?

Harry Pollock

Harry Pollock of Toronto says he first became interested in Joyce for the same reason many others of his generation did – "because they wanted to read the erotic parts in *Ulysses* – in the course of which I discovered the other parts of the book," he says.

Pollock, who recently celebrated his 87th birthday and the publication of his third novel, spent the first 20 years of his career in advertising. Then, in 1969, York University's Stong College hired the Harbord Collegiate graduate to teach a course on Joyce to first-year students. He quickly left the business world and never looked back. He went on to teach Anglo-Irish literature and creative writing at York, which awarded him an honorary degree in 1995; he has also taught a course on English and Irish playwrights at McMaster University.

Having founded Toronto's James Joyce Society in 1964, he organized numerous influential Joycean events and international symposia, including several that featured **Marshall McLuhan** as a guest speaker. The renowned media guru "was an avid Joycean and his references were full of Joyceana," Pollock recalls of McLuhan. "He was excited about *Finnegan's Wake's* style and its puns and word play."

Born in Opatov, Poland, in 1920, Pollock was long involved in theatre and had early experience here with a local Jewish theatre associated with the Farband; he interviewed Yiddish actors, including **Jacob Ben Ami** and **Maurice Schwartz**, for its newspaper. He made numerous radio documentaries for the CBC and staged notable theatrical productions, including *Ulysses in Nighttown* at the Poor Alex Theatre in 1966, in which he himself took the role of Joyce's Jewish protagonist, Leopold Bloom.

Pollock's passion for Joyce – as well as **Samuel Beckett** and **Gustave Flaubert**, other writers he idolizes – was famously infectious.

"I put Joyce together with Flaubert," he says. "Flaubert said he would like, in his writing, to write without one unnecessary word, without one unnecessary adjective. Joyce was influenced by Flaubert to a degree. You can see that on any page in *Ulysses*, even in the first sentence" – and here he recites the opening passage by heart: "Stately plump Buck Mulligan came from the stairhead…"

The founding president of Temple Sinai, Pollock also directed plays there and taught a drama class at Holy Blossom Temple for 10 years. He was invited to give a series of lectures on Joyce in Japan, and has variously met, corresponded with, and befriended many of Joyce's close associates; the list includes **Samuel Beckett** and **Morris Ernst**, the American lawyer who, in a landmark court case in 1933, defended *Ulysses* against charges of immorality. "He gave me his whole docket of briefs that he used to fight the case," recalls Pollock, who has donated his own important collection of Joycean papers and memorabilia to the York Archives.

Becoming an expert in the works of the writer who perfected the modern stream-of-consciousness literary technique and invested prose with a new level of pun and metaphor, has required Pollock to become knowledgeable in Irish history, Catholic symbolism, the street geography of Dublin and diverse other subjects. Despite Joyce's preoccupation with Catholicism, there was much of Jewish provenance in the writer's world, beginning with his famous hero Leopold Bloom, a character based on the mythological figure Odysseus. Bloom's own fictional odyssey unfolds over a weekend in Dublin and is the substance of the central work in the Joycean canon.

"Joyce's portrait of Bloom was an amalgam of a number of Jews that Joyce knew in Trieste [Italy], where he spent a good number of years writing *Ulysses*," Pollock explains. "Bloom comes out of it as the only decent human being in the book." Despite the rampant anti-Semitism of his day, Joyce's most important friends and editors were Jewish, and he acquired a Jewish grandson in 1932, thanks to his son Giorgio's brief marriage to **Helen Kastor Fleischmann**, a Jewish New Yorker.

Besides providing the substance of Pollock's scholarship, Joyce has also been a major influence on his fiction – or "faction" as he calls it – not only for his latest book, *Anna's Journal* (Mosaic Press), but also for the two previous novels in what is now a trilogy: *Gabriel* (1975) and *Max* (1997). In the new novel, Pollock brings his characters forward from the 1940s into the '70s as they explore some intimate details in the life and times of – guess who? – James Joyce.

Besides its Jewish characters, the plot has numerous Jewish threads, some involving the founding of the State of Israel. Pollock, however, seems reticent to sum up the story. "It's an odyssey, if you will allow me to escape that easily," he says.

With a bit more persistent questioning, he admits to a central concern "with style over content" – another point of similarity with his chief literary idol. "But even though style is my persistent goal, there's got to be content," he acknowledges. "Something's got to happen. But that doesn't mean earthshaking activities. What happens in the mind of a human being is very important to me." (As it was with Joyce.)

A North York resident who lost his wife five years ago, Pollock still enjoys turning on new readers to Joyce, and offers a suggestion to those picking up *Ulysses* for the first time. "The only bit of advice I have is, get ready to consider it a long-term project… It has to be studied."

Anna's Journal
a novel by
Harry Pollock

A published poet whose collection *The He and the She of It* appeared in 1991, he has also worn the professional hats of a public relations director, journalist, scriptwriter, TV producer, cultural critic, actor and playwright. Ultimately, in his quest for information, he followed Joyce's trail from Dublin to Paris to Trieste. Following his intellectual passions has brought him a considerable international reputation, and all because his mental attitude likely parallelled that in the famous closing phrase of *Ulysses* – "yes I said yes I will Yes."

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Independent film/TV producer has several hits

Daniel Iron produced Sarah Polley's *Away From Her*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

It isn't easy being an independent film and television producer in Canada, where the market is relatively small.

Despite the odds, Daniel Iron has succeeded, though he admits that things can be precarious.

Iron, the 43-year-old founder of Toronto-based Foundry Films, has established himself with a succession of Canadian hits ranging from Sarah Polley's *Away from Her* to François Girard's *The Red Violin*.

For 11 years, Iron was one of the principals of Rhombus Media, where he produced or co-produced documentaries such as *Beethoven's Hair* and *The Music of Harold Arlen*, the TV series *Slings and Arrows*, and the films *Last Night* (directed by Don McKellar) and *Manufactured Landscapes*.

Daniel Iron

He left Rhombus Media in 2004 to strike out on his own. "It was time," he said, explaining that he craved full control over his projects.

Three years on, Iron – a lawyer by training – has several television productions and films to his credit, from the CBC comedy series *Northern Town*, which lasted for one season, to *Away from Her*, which has earned about $3.5 million in box office receipts in Canada and the United States so far.

Away from Her, adopted from an Alice Munro short story and made with a $4.5 million budget, has been sold to more than 100 countries, including Israel, and may be screened at the Jerusalem Film Festival in July.

An Osgoode Hall Law School graduate, he began working on *Away from Her* about four years ago, when Polley expressed an interest in buying the rights and writing a screenplay.

"I've known Sarah for years and years," he said. "I produced her first short film nine years ago."

Away from Her, which was co-produced by Jennifer Weiss and Simone Urdl, has enjoyed a measure of success for several reasons, he said. "It's an unusual love story, and the quality of the material is great. As for the cast, Julie Christie, the female lead, is in her first film in many years. Viewers find it moving, emotional and personal. It hits a chord."

Iron hopes to work with Polley again. "We have a close relationship, but she's concentrating on acting right now."

In general, Iron chooses projects on the basis of two criteria.

He likes films with a literary bent and enjoys working with directors and actors whom he admires and relates to.

"That's the joy of the job," he said in a reference to his favourite people in the industry.

Currently, Iron is working to develop *The Bang Bang Club*, which turns on the so-called township wars in South Africa during the 1980s. "We're in the process of raising money for it."

He is also in the midst of shooting a documentary on lightning. "We're looking at it from a metaphysical point of view," he said. "It's about fate and chance."

As it happens, chance is what an independent producer like Iron has to take into account when he considers a project.

Due to the vicissitudes of public taste, he never really knows what will fly. As a result, half of his projects wither on the vine, never seeing the light of day. Knowing this, Iron keeps a wide range of projects on the back-burner.

In taking on a project, he faces a multitude of challenges.

Since only about 10 films are made in Canada annually, financing can be a formidable problem.

With this in mind, Iron turns to actors with star appeal who can attract an audience.

Finding a film a good distribution deal is also challenging. Yet at the end of the day, some films are easier to sell than others.

Having said that, Iron acknowledged that Canadian films are usually at a disadvantage when competing against Hollywood blockbusters.

Yet a smart producer can win if he plays his cards right. Iron saw to it that *Away from Her* would open on the same day as *Spider Man*. Perverse? Not actually. "We provided a viable alternative to filmgoers, and in this case, the strategy worked."

Iron learned the business at Rhombus Media after a five-year stint as legal counsel at Telefilm Canada.

"I didn't ever really want to work for a Bay Street law firm, where I never belonged," he said.

Unlike some Canadians in his position, he has not considered a career in Hollywood.

"The advantage of working in Canada is that you can produce what you want," said Iron, whose father Larry is a real estate lawyer and whose mother Gilda is a retired United Synagogue Day School principal.

"And in Canada, there is less pressure to conform to a model," he added. "Anyway, I like Toronto and Canada."

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Just For Laughs cancels *Bar Mitzvah Show*

By MITCHELL SCHNURBACH
Special to The CJN

When the Montreal Just For Laughs Festival returned on July 8 for its 25th anniversary edition, it was without the the popular *Bar Mitzvah Show*.

"We unfortunately had to cut out some of the more popular annual shows in order to make room for one-time-only anniversary events," Robbie Praw, a talent programmer for the festival, said.

The Bar Mitzvah Show's usual venue, Club Soda, will instead feature a whopping 15 editions of *The Nasty Show*, traditionally the most popular small-venue English-language event of the festival. In previous years, it ran only five times.

During its 11-year run, *The Bar Mitzvah Show* featured performances from established and emerging Jewish comics.

What differentiated it from some of the other ethnically themed shows of the festival was the diversity of topics brought forth by the comedians.

According to some industry insiders, the paucity of specific Jewish humour in *The Bar Mitzvah Show* could be one of the reasons it is no longer part of the festival.

The standup routines in the show were not necessarily devoted strictly to Jewish humour, but often ran the gamut from politics to observational humour. Most of the other themed shows, such as *Wiseguys* and *Queer Comics*, feature comedians with acts that better reflect their shows' billing.

Jewish comedians tend to focus their material on topics with wide-ranging mass-market appeal, and it was quite difficult to find comics who make Judaism the focal point of their acts.

Earlier in their careers, Jewish comedians such as Jerry Seinfeld, Billy Crystal and Larry David never featured overtly Jewish themes.

The disappearance of *The Bar Mitzvah Show* does not mean that the 2007 Just For Laughs Festival will be devoid of Jewish talent or content.

In fact, Howie Mandel and William Shatner will be hosting galas at this year's event.

Tickets to see Mandel, a longtime standup comic and currently host of the popular game shows *Deal or No Deal* and *Deal or No Deal Canada,* were in such high demand that organizers brought him in to host two galas.

Other popular Jewish comedians – Seth Green, Lewis Black and local favorite, Joey Elias – will appear at various shows throughout the festival. Black and Mandel will also be hosting shows at the first annual Toronto component of the festival later this month.

Praw did offer assurances that *The Bar Mitzvah Show*, or some other incarnation of it, may return in the future. "We have certainly not closed the door on *The Bar Mitzvah Show* or some other type of event featuring comedians from the Jewish community," he said.

In the meantime, this year's festival offers plenty of comedy for everyone to enjoy.

The Montreal Just For Laughs Festival runs to July 29, with English shows taking place from July 12 to 22 at numerous venues throughout the city.

Toronto shows run from July 26 to 28 at Massey Hall.

For more information, visit www.hahaha.com.

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Heart disease study seeks patients

By **ABIGAIL BIMMAN**
CJN Intern

A new study seeks to determine the efficacy of chelation in the treatment of heart disease.

Dr. Shmuel Bergman is a Canadian investigator in the U.S.-based Trial to Assess Chelation Therapy (TACT). TACT is funded by the American National Institutes of Health (an agency of the U.S. Department of Health) and has about 150 centres across North America.

Bergman is the medical director of the Toronto-based Longevity Healthy Aging Research Group. His clinic has been performing chelation therapy since 1997.

He said heavy metals in the blood, such as lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic, can cause damage to blood vessels. The study seeks to determine whether chelation is effective in decreasing heart and cardiovascular problems.

> ***Study seeks to determine whether chelation is effective in decreasing heart and cardiovascular problems***

Chelation is an alternative therapy. Patients receive intravenous infusions of ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid, commonly known as EDTA. Bergman said EDTA bonds to heavy metals in the blood, and the complex is excreted by the body. Most cardiologists have not accepted it as a treatment for heart disease.

"I certainly don't advise my patients to have chelation therapy, because there is no evidence to support it," said cardiologist Dr. Jim Stone, clinical professor of medicine at the University of Calgary.

Stone supports further research, however, and was the principal Canadian investigator of the TACT trial before the decision was made to use only chelationists on the research team, as a result of funding cuts.

While he is now unaffiliated with the TACT trial, Stone was involved in the PATCH trial, a smaller chelation study performed by the University of Calgary between 1996 and 2000. Stone said PATCH was the first chelation study that clinical scientists could have considered to be done well. Its findings were neutral.

"It is great that they're taking a rigorous look at chelation, but for now, our position holds," said Jane-Diane Fraser, communications co-ordinator for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, whose position is that there is insufficient evidence regarding chelation.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Canada. According to the latest Statistics Canada information, 72,338 people died from cardiovascular disease in 2004.

TACT is a double-blind, placebo-controlled study. This means neither those who administer the infusions nor the patients know who receives EDTA and who receives the placebo.

Non-smokers over 50 who have suffered a heart attack more than six weeks earlier are eligible for TACT. The trial is looking for 2,372 patients.

The study is free for the patient and takes five years to complete. After an initial assessment, patients will receive an infusion once a week for 30 weeks. This is followed by a maintenance program of one infusion every two to four weeks for eight treatments. Patients are then tracked for the remainder of the five years.

A chelation infusion often takes more than three hours, but patients can read or watch television while the needle is in their arm.

As part of the study, TACT is also assessing the efficacy of antioxidant vitamins and mineral supplements on heart disease, and patients may be given these too.

Bergman said possible side effects of chelation include low blood sugar, reduced calcium and vitamin B, as well as local skin irritation at the site of the infusion, kidney and liver damage and an allergic reaction to EDTA. Patients are monitored closely, he said, and in most cases, side effects are a result of chelation being performed incorrectly – too slowly or with an incorrectly calculated amount of EDTA.

Tom dalBarco has been going to Bergman's clinic since 1999. After two angioplasty surgeries, he was waiting for triple bypass surgery when his uncle told him about chelation.

"There was no way I wanted to have bypasses when I was in my 40s," he said.

DalBarco said that within three months of starting chelation, he felt better. He has since had two additional angioplasty surgeries, but has so far avoided bypass.

In total, the surgeries put in four stents – wire mesh tubes used to hold the arteries open. Only one is working.

"I have these three stents that are plugged, and the chelation basically opened up a minor passageway through them so that I could function," dalBarco said.

In the beginning, dalBarco parked directly across from Bergman's clinic, had trouble walking across the street and paid $20 for parking each time.

"Then I started parking two to three blocks away from the office and walking there, and parking for free."

While Bergman said he has a number of client success stories, a lot more work needs to be done before chelation could become mainstream.

Stone agrees. "If the results of the TACT trial are significantly positive in favour of chelation, the cardiology community will dismiss that because they've been dismissing it for decades, and one trial does not change practice," Stone said.

He emphasized that while responsible chelationists don't do this, cardiologists take issue with those who offer chelation as a replacement for surgery rather than an adjunct treatment.

"Where cardiologists have a difficulty is when people advise patients that they don't need bypass or they don't need angioplasty when they are in desperately life-threatening circumstances," Stone said.

For more information about the TACT study or to inquire about eligibility, please contact Bergman's clinic at 416-652-9862 or e-mail chelox@rogers.com.

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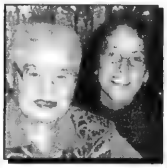

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Kids' sleep problems 'not a phase': psychologist

By **JENNIFER M. MACLEOD**
Special to the CJN

Maybe you've heard the saying, "If someone says they're sleeping like a baby, chances are, they've never had a baby."

Except in their first few days, when babies catch up on sleep after the ordeal of labour, it can take months or even years to synchronize them with the rest of the family's sleep schedule.

Helping kids achieve healthy sleep may be one of the most challenging tasks parents face in the early years, says Nicky Cohen, a clinical psychologist registered with the College of Psychologists of Ontario. She's dedicated her practice to coaching parents toward this goal.

Psychologist Nicky Cohen helps children achieve healthy sleep.

Before Cohen meets with parents, she ensures that medical issues have been ruled out. Snoring, pauses in breathing (sleep apnea), extreme night restlessness or a resumption of bedwetting – among other symptoms – could all be signs of a medical problem, according to neurologist Shelly Weiss at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children.

If everything is physically normal, a behavioural approach like Cohen's can work well, Weiss says.

Initially, Cohen meets with parents for up to two hours. "It's hard for parents to concentrate and take notes if a child is with them," she says, so kids stay home if possible.

She tailors her approach to each family. More important than finding a one-size-fits-all sleep solution is discovering "what the parents are comfortable doing," Cohen says.

"There's no one way that all children should sleep," Weiss agrees. "It's based in culture and preference in families."

Cohen says she'd rather send parents home "with a plan that may take them a little longer that they can follow through with," than a quick fix that's impossible for their lifestyle. However, in any family, Cohen says, "consistency is probably the most important thing in successful treatment."

Alan (Woody) Berzen, a Thornhill pediatrician in practice for 26 years, says that "flip-flopping between different techniques is sort of the worst for any kid."

Fine-tuning a sleep plan to the family is essential. "There are people who can let kids cry [themselves to sleep] and people who can't… they're never going to do it [let kids cry themselves to sleep], no matter how much you persuade them," he says.

Berzen has begun referring patients to Cohen for help in creating customized sleep plans.

After meeting and discussing the child's current sleep routine, Cohen and the parents agree on a plan. She also provides readings to accompany the plan and information about creating a "sleep diary," to concretely track sleep patterns.

Parents will often follow up by phone for help in keeping on track or to modify the sleep plan if necessary.

Choosing a sleep strategy can be hard, she says, because parents have read so much conflicting information in books and on the Internet. One recent client, a physician with her first child, "has lots of knowledge…[but] she's really confused," Cohen says.

Sleep training doesn't have to be hard, she continues, but "on your own, it can be hard to get there." Many parents have tried sleep training without success, but "when we go over our plan together, they usually become much more consistent," Cohen adds. Most parents actually start seeing positive results within a week.

"The anticipation of doing sleep training is much worse than the actual carrying out of the plan," she says.

Sleep training should wait until the child is at least four months old. "Younger infants don't have the ability to self-soothe," she notes, an important concept in her practice.

Cohen generally waits until at least six months, an age when Weiss says, "In a healthy, well-grown baby, you can start looking at better sleep routines," often through gradually eliminating night feeds, which most older babies no longer need.

It can be helpful for parents to understand natural sleep patterns. "During the night, we cycle between dreaming and non-dreaming sleep," Weiss explains. Depending on his or her age, a child might experience six to nine brief wakeful periods of "micro-arousal." As adults, "we have the same thing… we don't remember in the morning that we were awake."

If infants or children develop the habit of fully awakening to nurse or for comfort, they may need parents' help achieving what Cohen calls "independent sleep onset," an essential skill for healthy, all-night sleep.

Staying up all day won't help, either, says Cohen. It's a myth that skipping daytime naps creates better night sleep. "The most common cause of [night] terrors is sleep deprivation."

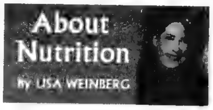
It is a myth that kids will outgrow sleep problems. Four years ago, when Cohen's pediatrician assured her that her daughter's sleep problems would disappear on their own, she took a proactive approach instead, based on her belief that "many kids aren't born great sleepers – they just need some help," she says.

Not able to find many resources locally, she turned to U.S. experts, and eventually set up a Toronto practice that offers parents the same advice that helped her battle those sleepless nights.

"Don't delay in getting help," Cohen says. "I keep hearing from patients, 'I wish I had found you eight months ago.'"

"Sleep problems are probably one of the most persistent behavioural problems in children… it's not a phase; they don't grow out of it – unless you do something."

For more information about children and sleep, visit www.kidsleep.ca.



Q. I have been hearing a lot about vitamin D lately. Should we be taking it as a supplement?

A. Vitamin D is a hot topic these days, and with good reason. There is mounting research that seems to stack up in favour of the idea that vitamin D may have great benefits in preventing some cancers or slowing tumour growth. It used to be thought that vitamin D's biggest benefit was the prevention of rickets, which we have not seen in our area for many years. Vitamin D is added to all milk and milk products, the major source of the vitamin for many. The problem is most of us don't consume enough dairy products to get the recommended amount of vitamin D, about 1,000 IU (international units) a day.

The other main source of vitamin D is sunlight. Our bodies can produce the vitamin when we are exposed to the sun. However, in the northern part of North America – including all of Canada – we do not get adequate exposure during the winter, and most of us are now covered up with clothing or sunscreen in the summer, again limiting vitamin D availability. So a supplement seems like a wise choice.

Adults can take 1,000 IU of vitamin D per day. Vitamin D3 is the form that is best absorbed. Remember though, don't overdue it. Vitamin D is fat soluble, meaning it is stored in our bodies; so a mega-dose is not a good choice unless your doctor advises it. Also, be aware that most calcium supplements contain good amounts of vitamin D, and if you are already taking a calcium supplement with vitamin D, you may not need as much. It is also important to review the content of your multivitamin before adding a supplement.

Q. I am a young mother with young kids and limited cooking skills. I really want to be a better cook but have little time. Do you have some suggestions of where I can find some inspiring recipes? I feel as if I am always making the same few things over and over again?

A. This is a common question that I hear regularly. Good for you for aspiring to cook for your family. I have a few suggestions that I find work for many people and worked for me as well.

I prefer to read cooking magazines rather than cookbooks. Don't get me wrong – there are many great cookbooks, and I have a vast collection, but we tend to use the same few over and over. The reason I like magazines is first, because they are less expensive than a cookbook, and second, because they are seasonal, so that when you buy one in the summer, it is full of summery recipes using seasonal ingredients. Finally, magazines are full of pictures that help to inspire you as a beginner cook, as well as show you what the finished product could look like.

I also think that TV cooking shows are an invaluable resource. For inexperienced cooks, they show techniques as well as giving recipes. Furthermore, you are learning from many of the world's best chefs without investing in expensive cooking classes and you can watch them at your convenience. I have learned a ton from these shows and continue to be inspired by them.

My last recommendation is to use your friends and family as resources.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

SENIOR STAR: The Constantia and Gibson retirement residences recently held a Senior Star event, a musical talent competition, attended by more than 150 people at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living. Eight contestants took part, and Shirley Goodman was the first-place winner for the Thornhill-North York region. The talent competition was held across Canada to celebrate Chartwell residences and senior centres' National Appreciation of Seniors Day. A panel of judges will choose 10 finalists from among the local winners, and there will be a final competition in fall 2007. Contestants were, back row from left, Edith Glassman, Jack Rosen, Harvey White, Lydia Sullivan, Shirley Goodman, Wolfie Frysh, Vital Benrubi and Alf Gerson; judges, front row from left, were Constantia resident and radio entertainer Geri Migicovsky, CFRB radio personality Mark Elliot and Gibson resident and educator Eldon Comfort.

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- **MEADOWBROOK.** Sp **RENTED** ment, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, steps to subway, $1,30
- **COLDSTREAM AVE.** Renovated 3 + 1 bdrm. bung., $2,250 / mo.

* * *

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New Westminster/Clark, bright, spac., 4 bed. + 1, 4 bath, newly reno'd bsmnt., jacuzzi, large bedrooms, move-in condition. Must see! $479,000. Owner. Please. call 416-427-0717.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Clark/Hilda, 3 bdrm. house, close to shops, synagogue, schools, $1850/mo. No agents. Avail. August 1st. 905-886-8841.

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

500 GLENCAIRN AVE.
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Thornhill condo Clark/Hilda, 2 br., 2 bath, eat-in kitchen, fitness centre, indoor pool, 2 parking spaces, $329,000. No agents. Please call 905-886-8841.

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120 Promenade Circle, lux. corner, 2 bed., 2 bath, balcony, 1 indr. prkng. Private sale, available immediately. 647-339-7272.

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

SPADINA/ST. CLAIR
Luxurious 1700+ sq. ft. 2 bedroom condo. Steps to Forest Hill Village, TTC, parks.
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35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

150 Neptune (Bathurst/Wilson), lux. 3 bdrm., 2 bath, 2nd flr. Sabbath elev. 416-783-1884.

Bathurst/Center, 1450 sq. ft. PH, 2 bdrms., balc., 2 pkg., Aug.1, $1725/mo. Call 905-731-7743.

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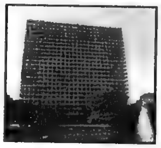

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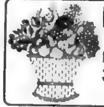

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Metulla to host inaugural World Jewish Cup

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

There are no Mike Cammalleris on this list, not even an Adam or a Michael Henrich. AHLers Cory Pecker and Eric Himelfarb were unavailable, so Alex Voihanski, the general manager tasked with assembling a Canadian Jewish hockey team, looked elsewhere – to the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL), the NCAA, Canadian colleges and junior A.

Outside of former Quebec Rampart Benji Rubin, who became famous for making a major junior team even though he would not play on Shabbat, there aren't really any high-profile skaters on the team. That's not to say the team won't be good – there are enough professionals and otherwise highly skilled players to make Canada the team to beat at the inaugural World Jewish Cup, Voihanski said.

Canada will take to the ice at Metulla's Canada Centre on July 15 to open the tournament against Israel, followed by contests against the United States and France. The gold medal will be decided in a playoff round.

The tournament, chaired by Canada's Sid Greenberg, is being staged on Israel's northern border with Lebanon almost one year to the day after the war with Hezbollah.

It's meant to show solidarity with the people of Israel, introduce Jewish players from around the world to the State of Israel and demonstrate to the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), which cancelled an international junior tournament in Metulla for security concerns, that Israel is capable of hosting a world-class event in the northern town.

Canada was to have competed against teams from the United States, France, Israel, Mexico and the Baltic (mostly Swedes and Russians), but Mexico and the Baltic team have pulled out.

Nevertheless, Alan Maislin, chairman of the Ice Hockey Federation of Israel and the main architect of the event, said the teams that will participate should provide spectators with good hockey.

The host Israelis, who will be coached by former Montreal bench boss Jean Perron, will be led by the three Eizenman brothers – Alon, Erez and Oren – who now live in Toronto.

Seth Klerer

France will feature several national team players and will be coached by Canadian Dave Henderson. The United States will be coached by John Anderson, the former Toronto Maple Leaf and now the man behind the bench of the AHL's Chicago Wolves.

Team Canada will be coached by Sherry Bassin, the head coach of 1983 and 1984 Canadian World Junior gold medal teams. Bassin also coached the Sault Saint Marie Greyhounds to three consecutive OHL championships before serving as assistant general manager of the Quebec Nordiques. He currently owns and manages the Erie Otters of the Ontario Hockey League.

While Canada's reputation for hockey excellence will no doubt precede it, Voihanski believes the United States will give Canada all it can handle on the ice. The Americans have chosen to go with college players, a reasonable approach given that it is a wide talent pool to choose from, he said.

Nevertheless, Canada's talent pool is the deepest, he continued. In addition to Rubin, Canada will rely on Jason Bailey, an Ottawa native who was a third round draft pick of the Anaheim Ducks and who has played for the University of Michigan and the Ottawa 67s. Defenceman Sean Starke, a Montrealer, played last year with the Quad City Mallards of the United Hockey League after skating for Bowdoin College in the NCAA.

Defenceman Oriel McHugh, another Montrealer, player last year for the ECHL's Roanoke Valley Vipers after a college career at the University of Vermont.

Vancouver native Trevor Smith was the leading scorer for the University of New Hampshire and has signed a pro contract with the New York Islanders, while Stacey Britstone, a former player with the Plymouth Whalers, played last year with the Tillsonburg Vipers in the OHA Senior League. Seth Klerer, former captain of the North York Rangers, played the past two years with RPI Engineers as a teammate of Oren Eizenman.

In all, Canada will rely on six full time professionals, five or six NCAA or CIAU players, and others from major junior and tier II junior A leagues, Voihanski said.

While this year's tournament was cut from six to four teams, Maislin believes future competitions will be bigger. When news began circulating in Europe about the tournament, players started coming out of the woodwork.

Jewish guys from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden "who never identified with Judaism now have come back to their Jewish identity," he said. "The next time we do it, I believe we can have as many as nine countries. It's caught on."

While there are only four teams participating, as many as 1,000 fans might be coming to Israel to take in the competition, including family and friends, Maislin said.

Oren Eizenman

But it looks like Maislin won't be one of them. He spoke to *The CJN* from his hospital bed in Montreal one day before undergoing a heart procedure. He said it's unlikely his doctors will permit him to make the trip to Metulla.

Here's Team Canada's full roster, as posted at www.hockeyisrael.ca, is: Jason Bailey, Andrew Brathwaite, Jesse Britstone, Stacey Britstone, Lorne Cooperberg, Casey Fazekas, Mitch Goldenberg, Ira Greenberg, Jordan Hennick, Jamie Klayman, Seth Klerer, Mikki Levy, Daniel Mandel, Oriel McHugh, Paul Ross, Benjamin Rubin, Cody Shniderman, Elliot Shully, Sean Starke, Aaron Stein, Shane Urowitz, Kevin Willer, Jamie Wolkove.

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BETAR TAGAR CANADA

Private schooling as public policy

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

New Views

There is a fairly significant secret about schooling that students generally keep to themselves: you learn virtually nothing of value in the first 12 years of going to school. Oh sure, the days are filled with teachers blubbering on about math this and science that, but ask most students what they learned in elementary and high school and they'll probably tell you, "Not much."

I'm too young to have forgotten how little I actually learned between Grades one and 12. Which means – and this is no coincidence – that I'm not old enough to have convinced myself that all the stuff taught in schools, plus the tests and grades, are of any significant value for kids.

After high school – now that's when we really start to learn. And there's a simple reason for that: in elementary and high school, we are students, there to be taught. But in university, trade school or the workforce, we are learners. We're there – at least most us are, anyway – because we finally have the opportunity to study the things we really want to know about. The vast majority of us had no clue what we wanted to do with our lives at age 18 because we were bogged down by 12 years of algebra classes, grammar lessons and memorizing the names and powers of all the Greek gods. There was little time for any self-examination or intellectual growth.

As educationally worthless as those elementary and high school years are, though, they serve a far more essential service to us. They act as an incubator of good social health. Schools teach us how to make friends, about the importance of teamwork and, in general, how to get along with our peers. Ask a doctor if studying the periodic table and memorizing the anatomy of a tadpole in Grade 10 biology class really benefited them in medical school and they'll surely say no. The note-sharing and pre-exam group cram sessions with classmates taught them a far more valuable lesson in the essential social aspects of life.

The cultivating of a social group, in the end, is more important in life than any chapter in any textbook.

So the argument for equal funding for religious school systems should not centre on the education prescribed for kids – kids will be forced to sit through equally useless lessons regardless of the classroom they're in. But culture is something you can't teach. You can only design a system within which it can be absorbed and then hope that it sticks to young people. And history shows us that those who are steeped in a culture from a young age are more likely to appreciate and contribute to that culture as they get older.

The preservation of culture is the compelling argument for why private, religious school systems must be supported by society as a whole. In Ontario, the value of religious schooling has, in essence, already been acknowledged by the provincial government's longstanding funding of Catholic school boards. Which makes that Liberal government's refusal to equally fund Jewish and Muslim schools all the more infuriating. You either fund all religious schools, or you fund none of them. Simple.

One more thought: There are those who argue that religious schools harm the greater social fabric by instilling in young people notions of exclusivity and insularity. There is something to be said for that: students in the Jewish day school system will exit Grade 12 with little or no understanding of the vast array of non-Jewish cultures out there.

But consider this: a healthy multicultural society must be built, first and foremost, on the foundation of individually healthy and strong cultures. In that sense, religious schools provide an important service not just to any specific religious group, but to the larger gathering of all groups.

GRILLED CHICKEN SALAD W/ MANGOES & GREENS

2 whole skinless boneless chicken breasts, halved
5 tblsps olive oil
2 scallions, minced
2 tsp fresh thyme leaves
1 tblsp balsamic vinegar
1 onion, minced
4 cups shredded romaine, rinsed & dried
1 small bunch watercress, stems discarded, leaves rinsed & dried
1/2 cup finely shredded red cabbage
1 large mango, peeled, pitted, and cut into 1" dice

On large plate drizzle chicken with 1 tblsp oil, sprinkle with scallions, 1 tsp thyme, salt & pepper to taste; turn to coat well. Marinate at room temperature, turning once, 30 min. In small bowl whisk together vinegar, onion, remaining thyme, salt & pepper to taste; add remaining oil, whisking vinaigrette until thick. Grill chicken on greased rack 4-5 min.on each side, or until cooked through. In large bowl, toss romaine, watercress, cabbage, mango with just enough of the vinaigrette to coat salad well. Transfer salad to a platter, top with the chicken. Serve the remaining vinaigrette separately.

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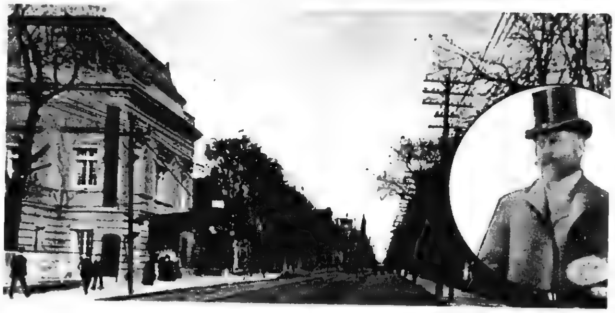

Solomon of the Royal Alex

By BILL GLADSTONE

Toronto-born Lawrence (Lol) Solmon (1863-1931) wore many hats, including that of managing director of the Royal Alexandra Theatre on King Street, which he was hired to build; it opened in August 1907, almost exactly a century ago. Historian Hye Bossin called him the "person of Jewish birth with the most important place in Toronto's stage history" and added that he was "without doubt the most popular and best known personality in the city" in his day. He built the Toronto Maple Leaf Baseball Stadium and was head of the Toronto Baseball and Athletic Club, a partner in the Sunnyside Amusement Company, a developer of Hanlan's Point and manager of the Mutual Street Arena. His father was one of the founders of the Holy Blossom Temple.

[Postcard courtesy Mirvish Productions]

There is room for us both

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

We really don't know what non-Jews think about us. Yet, I would hazard to guess that if we asked 100 of our people their opinion on such a matter, the overwhelming response would likely be that they consider Christian churches and their leaders to be, as a whole, anti-Jewish.

Certainly there is enough evidence to support this belief, however, we must keep in mind there are Christians who do indeed harbour positive feelings about the Jewish people. The following are some snippets from a speech given by the very prolific minister, Victor Shepherd, the pastor of Streetsville United Church, in October 2001, when he spoke about a moment he shared with an older Jewish man.

His words were sincere and his feelings for the Children of Israel were upbeat. I bring it to you because it's important to know who our friends are, especially at a time when our enemies are as ugly and perilous as the sludge at the bottom of our lakes.

"…And then there are the men and women I meet in ways that leave me amazed. It happened to me with most poignant profundity when I went to a funeral at Temple Sinai. Because I had arrived 45 minutes early, I went to a Jewish restaurant, Marky's Delicatessen, for a cup of tea. I noticed there were no seats available, and I was the only man without a hat on. All the other men were wearing either a yarmulke or a fedora. I waited for a minute, not knowing quite what to do, when at the back of the restaurant an old, thin Jewish man with the warmest smile and the face of an angel moved over on his seat and beckoned to me as he called out, 'There is room for us both!'

"My heart melted. I had grasped the double meaning he had uttered deliberately when he had said, 'There is room for us both.' I sat down beside him and we began to talk. He told me his older sister brought him to Canada prior to World War II. He and his sister were the sole survivors of his family. I asked him what he had done for a living. 'I was a simple peddler. I went door-to-door peddling tablecloths, sheets and pillow cases.'

"He said he was born in southeast Poland, in a small 'insignificant' village with a famous rabbi. 'It's a tradition,' he continued, 'that a rabbi remains in the place where he begins his work. Now, a minister has to go wherever he is sent. But our rabbi stayed in our little village, even though he could have gone anywhere at all, because the tradition meant more to him than the money; and besides, he loved us so much.'

"I then told him I was a minister. 'Oh, I knew that already,' he said as if it need not have been mentioned. It was spirit resonating with spirit.

"In view of the fact that words like 'minister' and 'Christian' are synonymous with persecution going back for centuries in Poland, do you have any grasp of what grace floods that old man's heart for him to have said to me, 'There is room for us both'? He knew I represented that institution which has afflicted his people for centuries.

"I'll not see that dear man until the day when Messiah tarries no more. But for my meeting with him I shall thank God for the rest of my life. Today my heart overflows in gratitude to God for the people whom he has brought before me, people from the big city as well as the tiny village in southeast Poland, not to mention soul mates because of whom I shall never be forsaken.

"Knowing the One whose depths are unfathomable and whose gift of himself is inexpressible, I am rendered ever more grateful for people whose richness is inestimable and for a universe whose wonders are endless." (www.victorshepherd.on.ca)

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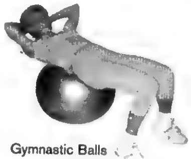

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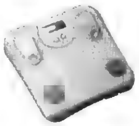

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Federal Court denies 'Jerusalem, *Israel*' designation

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The Federal Court of Appeal has upheld a ruling that a Toronto teen's passport can't designate "Jerusalem, Israel" as his birthplace.

Eliyahu Yoshua Veffer, 19, who was born in Jerusalem but moved to Canada with his family in 1998, has fought the federal government since 2004 to have his passport reflect his belief that the city belongs to Israel.

Ottawa holds that Jerusalem's final status will be determined in peace negotiations.

It's the second time the courts have ruled against Veffer: the Federal Court handed down a similar decision last year.

At his May 8 hearing in Winnipeg, Veffer, the son of a Toronto rabbi, repeated his argument that the government's policy violates his Charter rights.

"My religion teaches me that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. This is an integral part of my religious belief and my personal identity," Veffer wrote in a February 2005 affidavit. "When I am not allowed to have Israel in my passport… I feel that the government of Canada is refusing to allow me to express my identity as a member of the Jewish people."

But the appellate court ruled June 25 that Veffer's Charter rights aren't being violated and that any impact on his religious freedom is "negligible."

It ruled that a passport is not a document intended to express religious identity, but to identify a Canadian citizen and facilitate his or her travels.

"There is no evidence that the absence of a country name beside 'Jerusalem' hinders [Veffer's] ability to travel in any way," the ruling said.

"Mr. Veffer still maintains the freedom to express his faith and his subjectively held views as to the status of Jerusalem, he is just not able to do so in his Canadian passport."

The court added that even though Israel has occupied Jerusalem in its entirety since 1967, "[f]or the purposes of this appeal it is sufficient to say that the United Nations takes the position… since the adoption of Resolution 181 in 1947, that Jerusalem… has no sovereign."

The court said Veffer has the option to obtain an Israeli passport that would show "Jerusalem, Israel" as his birthplace.

Continued on page 20

On vacation

The offices of *The CJN* are closed this week and will re-open July 23. The next issue of the paper will appear Aug. 2. This issue of the paper went to press on July 13.

This Week

National

Ed Mirvish remembered as a savvy businessman. ***Page 3***

New Mount Sinai logo links past and future. ***Page 6***

Waterloo teen's tragic death shocks community. ***Page 28***

Books & Authors

Reagan Diaries discusses Israel and Mideast. ***Page 36***

Health & Lifestyles

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A GIFT TO LAST

Ronit Balaban, above, a former resident of Gush Katif, has re-established her life and her greenhouse business with the help of donations from Vancouver's Jewish community to JNF. *Please see related story on page 30.*

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Worrisome trend to delegitimize Israel growing in U.S. — see page 30

The News in Brief

CANADA

Ex-councillor Arrested

MONTREAL — A former Outremont, Que., city councillor with a history of conflict with the local chassidic community has been charged with armed assault after allegedly driving her car toward a chassidic man. Celine Forget will appear in court July 19. She was arrested July 4 at her home after Israel Brewer complained to police. Forget, a gardener, was working on a property neighbouring Brewer's home the evening of July 4. She and Brewer, who have a history of disagreements, became involved in an argument. She then allegedly got in her car and charged toward Brewer. He jumped out of the way and was not hurt. Over the past 15 years, Forget made many complaints against the chassidic community over alleged violations of zoning and other bylaws.

Man Fined For Hate

OTTAWA — An Ottawa man has been fined $4,000 and ordered to stop using the Internet to spread hate. The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal issued the ruling last week against Bobby James Wilkinson, 23, who posted hateful messages against blacks, Jews, Asians, gays, Arabs and Latinos on a "Canadian Nazi Party" website that he created and administered. It also contained posts urging people to kill blacks, Jews and gays, the tribunal heard. Ottawa lawyer Richard Warman filed the complaint against Wilkinson in 2003. Wilkinson did not attend the hearing against him earlier this year. The U.S. firm that hosted the site shut it down in 2004 for violating its hate provisions.

Israeli Diplomatic Cars in U.S. To Go Green

WASHINGTON — Senior Israeli diplomats in the United States will switch to hybrid gas-electric cars to cut down on petroleum consumption.

Sallai Meridor

The move, to be made this fall, was announced July 9 by Sallai Meridor, Israel's ambassador to the United States. The change will affect vehicles from the Washington embassy, Israel's nine U.S. consulates and Israel's mission to the United Nations.

"Reducing oil dependence and protecting the environment are key factors in improving international security," Meridor said. He said he's proud Israel is among the first countries to reduce oil dependency throughout its entire fleet.

In the years ahead, Israel plans to advance energy co-operation with the United States by collaborating in the development of alternative-energy technologies.

WORLD

Thieves Flood Shul

NEW ORLEANS — Copper thieves flooded a 103-year-old New Orleans shul that became unusable after Hurricane Katrina. Thieves sliced several pipes in Congregation Beth Israel's building last week, president Jackie Gothard said. A prospective buyer discovered the mess July 5. Cleanup began July 8. Gothard doesn't believe anti-Semitism is to blame. She said the sanctuary was under four feet of water and cleanup costs are unknown. It's unclear when the thieves entered the building, because the area is desolate. Most shul members lost their homes in the neighbourhood a half mile from the levees. They are praying together at an area Reform temple in a hall with a mechitzah.

Ramah Hosts Israelis

NEW YORK — Camp Ramah is welcoming bereaved Israeli children for the second year in a row. More than 90 Israeli children who have lost parents or siblings in wars or terror attacks will spend 10 days in the Conservative movement's camps in late July and early August. Forty-three will be hosted at Ramah's California branch. It's the second year this camp has taken part in the initiative, sponsored by Friends of the Israel Defence Forces. The group has been sending Israeli kids touched by war to camps in the United States since 2003. This year there were so many applicants that an additional group of 50 youngsters and counsellors will go to Camp Ramah in Massachusetts.

Iranian Defector Talks

TEL AVIV — An ex-Iranian deputy defence minister defected to the United States and told the CIA that Tehran has been pursuing a secret nuclear program, *Yediot Achronot* reported. Ali Reza Asgari, who went missing while visiting Turkey last month, said the Iranian program is enriching uranium with laser and chemical enhancers, said the report, which quoted an unnamed U.S. official.

Shul Vandalized

NASHUA, N.H. — A synagogue was vandalized in Nashua, N.H. Five windows at Temple Beth Abraham were smashed overnight July 9, building manager Richard Bryant told Foster's Online of Dover, N.H. Bryant said he found rocks inside the synagogue that had been part of a decorative display outside. He estimated the damage at $3,000.

Rabbi Attacked

KIEV — Ukrainian youths attacked a rabbi and tried to break into a Jewish school. Rabbi Shlomo Wilhelm was attacked in the yard of his shul on July 9 in the city of Zhitomir, in central Ukraine. Shul guards and local community members held off the unidentified attackers. The same day, a group of youths tried to break into a dormitory for girls at a local Jewish school, hurling verbal insults at the students. Police are investigating. Rabbi Wilhelm said the attacks weren't the first acts of anti-Jewish violence in town. Two years ago, the rabbi was verbally assaulted and beaten on one of the city's main streets.

Film In Production

WARSAW — The first co-produced Israeli-Polish movie started filming last week in Warsaw. *Spring 1941*, starring Joseph Fiennes, tells of a cellist's return to Poland 30 years after World War II and her memories of the Nazi occupation. The movie is based on stories by Ida Fink, a Shoah survivor who moved to Israel from Poland in 1957. Israel's Uri Barbash is directing the $2.5 million (US) film, which is being produced by Poland's Opus Film and Traxis Films of Israel.

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'Toronto has lost a mensch'

Businessman, theatre impresario dies just shy of 93rd birthday

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

It was a sad day in Toronto on July 11 when Edwin "Honest Ed" Mirvish passed away at St. Michael's Hospital about two weeks shy of his 93rd birthday, and people all over the country are celebrating the life of a Canadian icon who touched the lives of so many.

Mirvish – remembered as a savvy businessman, a class act and for his sharp, dry wit – was most famous for his 160,000-square foot discount emporium called Honest Ed's, located at the corner of Bathurst and Bloor streets. But he's also credited with revitalizing the entertainment industry in Toronto by purchasing and renovating the Royal Alexandra Theatre in 1963, and building the Princess of Wales Theatre with his son, David, in 1993.

"For decades, Ed devoted his life to helping Torontonians and to making Toronto the great city it is. Whether it was his iconic landmark retail store that was responsible for breathing new life into the Bloor and Bathurst neighbourhood or his commitment to the performing arts, Ed's passion for his city was second to none," Toronto Mayor David Miller said in a statement.

'Honest Ed' Mirvish

The funeral for Mirvish, who is survived by his wife, Anne, his son David and his sister Lorraine, was held at Beth Tzedec Congregation last Friday. The service was led by Rabbi Yael Splansky of the Holy Blossom Temple, where Mirvish was a member for many years.

When the Mirvish family released a statement announcing his passing, messages of condolences from all over the country – from Jews and non-Jews alike, from family, friends, strangers and admirers – poured into Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel's online memorial book.

"Ed Mirvish is one of the reasons why Toronto is the internationally renowned city it is. My grandmother, Esther Frydman, worked at Honest Ed's for over 25 years until her passing in 1980, and working there was something my grandmother took pride in, and I remember as a seven-year-old, taking pride in that fact, too," Jason Warga wrote.

"Toronto has lost a mensch. Toronto has lost an icon. Toronto has lost one of the greatest philanthropists of modern times. Toronto is very sad today, indeed. Toronto has lost a man for all seasons. Toronto has lost a wonderful, Jewish man who gave so much to so many ethnicities, religions and races – not asking for anything in return," Vardit Zafri wrote.

Mirvish's progression into becoming one of Canada's greatest success stories did not come out of luck or privilege, but hard work and determination.

Born to Jewish immigrants in Colonial Beach, Va., in 1914, Mirvish was given the name Yehuda, but his parents were persuaded by his cousin to Americanize his name and called him Edwin.

Nine years later, the Mirvish family moved to Toronto after their grocery store in Washington, D.C., went bankrupt.

After failing to sell sets of the Encyclopedia of Freemasonry to lodges in the Toronto area, his father, David, tried his luck again at opening a grocery store, this time on Dundas Street in the Jewish community. The Mirvish family lived humbly, in a small apartment behind the store. They rented the top floor to a rabbi who taught Hebrew to 50 students, with whom he had to share one bathroom.

During an interview almost 20 years ago, Mirvish told *The CJN* that when he bought his first mansion in Toronto, it was the bathrooms that sold him on it.

Continued on page 12

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Greater Toronto Area

Bold steps by this Merchant

From the editor's desk

For most of us, especially for most Jews, sitting through a performance of *The Merchant of Venice* is very difficult.

We wince with terrible inner pain at the total humiliation and degradation of the Jew, Shylock. Our fists clench, emotions roil and our anger seethes when vile depredations and insults pour down upon him and his "race" like stinging, hot acid burning disfigurement into dignity.

The play takes place in 15th-century Venice, one of the commercial centres of Europe at the time. It tells two stories: the wooing and marriage of Bassanio and Portia; and the resolution of the debt owed by Antonio, the merchant in the title of the play, to Shylock, the Jewish moneylender.

Of course, the gravitas and centuries-old renown of the play surround the character of Shylock the individual and Shylock the embodiment of his people.

The attitudes and opinions expressed in the play toward and about Jews are deeply offensive. They are a social and cultural snapshot of the times in which Shakespeare wrote the play, which most scholars peg to have been between 1595 and 1600. He wrote them not to shock his audiences because they would not have been shocked at hearing those attitudes expressed.

But the anti-Jewish dialogue that Shakespeare wrote was more than the equivalent of today's beerhall boorishness intended as atmosphere and background to the main story.

It was, rather, a theological dialectic brilliantly conceived and executed in which, for the benefit of the masses standing at the foot of the stage and the aristocracy sitting in the balconies, the God of Mercy again prevails over the God of Justice. The way of Jesus supersedes the way of Moses. Ecclesia trumps synagoga.

Over the years, scholars and laypersons alike have pointed to Shylock's poignant speech in Act III in response to Salanio's and Salarino's taunts – "Hath not a Jew eyes?" – as proof of the fact that Shakespeare himself harboured none of the anti-Jewish sentiments that he places in the mouths of his actors. Many have also pointed to this famous speech as Shakespeare's attempt to humanize the Jew who more than once is referred to as the devil.

But one need not seek a benign motivation for the placement of that speech. None exists. Rather than humanize Shylock (the Jews), the speech achieves a diametrically opposite result and deliberately so.

It humanizes the Christians.

Shakespeare reiterates what had been taught and bred for centuries as church doctrine and absorbed and repeated as popular folk lore. The Jews were not hated because of any intrinsic qualities, which, after all, Shakespeare writes are shared by all human beings. "If you prick us, do we not bleed?"

No. The Jews were hated, Shakespeare confirms, because of their vile behaviour. And what behaviour could be viler than to demand and actually try to slice a pound of flesh from near a man's heart?

Graham Greene as Shylock

The culminating, climactic scene in the courtroom – when Shylock plunges his knife forward to collect his debt – in the version currently running at the Stratford Festival of Canada brings home this fundamental aspect of the play with powerful, gripping clarity.

It is also indicative of the bold, innovative directing of the play by Richard Rose. Antonio bravely bares his chest for the excision by Shylock. But rather than having him sitting and held in a chair, Rose has Antonio, lying on the floor, each arm tethered to a rope, stretched and pulled to the side. The scene is harrowing. Antonio's prostrate, pitiful body forms a crucifix. And the Jew, Shylock, hovers sinisterly above him, ready to kill the Christian, as before him, the Gospels assert, the first Christian was killed by vile Jews.

From the opening scene to the last, Rose brings newer and more pointed insights into the play. In the first scene, in reference to a casual comment by Salarino to a "two-headed Janus," Rose has his actors wearing a two-sided mask, a pig's head on one side and and an emotionless human face on the other. In the last scene, Jessica, left all alone on the stage, covers her head with a shawl and hauntingly chants the beseeching prayer *Avinu Malkeinu*.

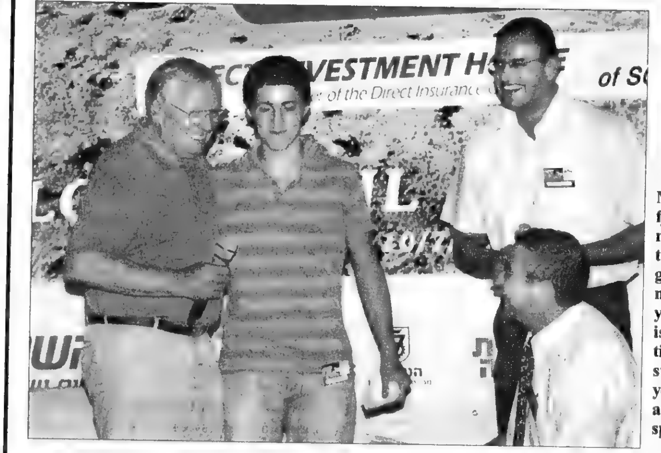
Graham Greene as Shylock is masterful at conveying meaning and emotion through the use of expression, movement and the gestured glance. But his delivery of the lines seemed sometimes too hurried, too conversational in tone and insufficiently angled with the edge, bitterness and torment that have been the role's usual tenor.

Severn Thompson is a superb Portia, executing the role with flare and elegance. She and Raquel Duffy, Portia's confidante Nerissa, play their roles with authority and command the stage with impeccable timing.

Shakespeare's play is a triumph of the theatre. Seeing it performed, understanding its history and import over the years and yet marvelling at the staging and acting is a triumph, too, of sorts, of Jewish confidence and of the goodness of living in a land where fists clench in anger at attitudes played on a stage and not, in the main, at such attitudes played on the streets or in alleyway shadows.

– MBD

SeeJN



FROM MOON WALK TO EARTH EMBRACE

Neil Armstrong, left, the first man to walk on the moon, made his first visit to Israel last week as a guest of an Israeli investment company. The 76-year-old former astronaut is pictured at Haifa's National Science Museum answering questions from youngsters aged eight to 13 about his experiences in space. [Isranet photo]

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Greater Toronto Area

Zareinu principal was advocate for special needs kids

By **FRANCES KRAFT**
Staff Reporter

Carol Goldman will be remembered warmly by students, parents and staff whose lives she touched as principal and clinical co-ordinator of Zareinu Educational Centre.

Obituary

The school – which grew under her leadership from 20 to 73 full-time students – serves children with special needs including including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and autism spectrum disorder.

Goldman died July 11 at North York General Hospital at age 60, following a brief illness.

"She went to bat for everybody. She fought everybody's battles, but she couldn't fight this one," said her sister, Rochelle Eisen.

As an educator, advocate for government funding for children with disabilities, and author and co-author of six educational books, the Toronto native was "incredibly creative, passionate and people-centred. Everything that she did revolved around consultation and making sure that the family was involved every step of the way in their child's progress and development," said Randy Spiegel, the school's executive director. "She was totally committed to the betterment of others."

Goldman cared about every aspect of a child's education and wanted to ensure that all Zareinu students received as much Jewish and secular education as possible for their level of ability, said Ezriel Reichman, a Zareinu board member who was involved in Goldman's hiring.

"Her qualifications were not only impeccable, they were incredible," he said.

Goldman, a native of Toronto, studied early childhood education (ECE) at Seneca College.

She married Mel Goldman in 1967 and gravitated to ECE after their two children were born.

Marion Goldmintz, their child's preschool teacher, was a mentor who became Goldman's close friend and later her co-principal at Zareinu.

Goldman, who had previously worked in a dental office, showed a "natural knack, a way of relating to children, that was very special," Goldmintz recalled.

Carol Goldman

The two women worked together out of Cresthaven Public School, with Goldman serving as classroom assistant and Goldmintz as the licensed teacher. At the same time, Goldman took night classes to obtain her own teaching credentials.

They opened Cresthaven, one of the first preschools to integrate children with special needs, and supervised the school for 17 years before moving to Zareinu as co-principals 14 years ago. While at Cresthaven, they also consulted to other schools and designed programs and workshops for educators.

As well, Goldman taught student teachers at the School of Child and Family Studies of the Canadian Mothercraft Society, sat on the Metro Task Force for Child Abuse, and chaired the board of J & F Home Child Care Services.

Earlier this year, she was an honoree at a fundraiser put on by DANI (Developing and Nurturing Independence), an organization created by parents of young adults with special needs.

When Goldmintz retired after four years at Zareinu, Goldman left her other positions to devote herself to heading the school. Later, she lobbied for government funding for applied behavioural analysis (ABA) for children with autism, as well as for therapies and respite care to help children with disabilities and their families.

Goldman "was an amazing person" with a lot of friends and a large extended family, Goldmintz said.

"She was very warm… She was helpful, she was kind, sympathetic. She was always there for you, and she didn't take herself too seriously. She had a great sense of humour, and she was very supportive."

She didn't need any recognition or anyone "to tell her she was wonderful or good. She wanted it quiet," her sister said.

"That was her whole life, Zareinu and her family … there was no bad [to be said about her], there was only good."

Goldman leaves her husband Mel, children Jordan and Elisa, her sister Rochelle Eisen and brother Phillip Campol, and two grandchildren.

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New Mount Sinai logo links past and future

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital has a new logo: a white Star of David with blue wings between the points of the star.

But look more closely and you'll see that the logo actually has the star superimposed on other sideways stars in different shades of blue.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL
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The blue wings can be arranged in different configurations for the hospital's various departments or for other uses the logo will have, said Judith John, the hospital's senior vice-president of communications and marketing.

The logo is accompanied by a new tagline, "Bright Minds. Big Hearts. The Best Medicine."

The logo, and tagline where appropriate, will be on signage, business cards, letterhead, lanyards, ID cards, brochures and PR materials, not to mention souvenirs such as mugs, T-shirts and caps. There are even cookies with the new logo.

John said the former logo, a stylized view of the hospital, "didn't feel expressive of Mount Sinai now and in the future."

She said the new logo is modern and dynamic, and illustrates both Mount Sinai's commitment to the hospital's Jewish heritage, as well as its openness to the entire community

In coming up with the new branding, the hospital "looked hard" at the competitive environment for fundraising – especially other hospitals and universities – in terms of services, facilities and academic appeal, John said.

Hospital personnel, hospital administration, patients, and Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation members were all asked for their input, and they were delighted to participate, she added.

"They showed their pride of being part of the place."

Mount Sinai is conscious of the health care budget crunch and the competition for philanthropic dollars. Creating and establishing the new logo, John said, is "the cost of doing business in a competitive world."

Nevertheless, the hospital is not rushing into the change. It will be a gradual process, with the logo being replaced as current supplies and signage run out or wear out.

John feels that the new tagline, "Bright Minds. Big Hearts. The Best Medicine" captures the thoughts that people expressed about the hospital over the year that the new branding was being developed.

Those thoughts included terms such as "pride in our heritage," "warm," "compassionate," "smart," "professional" and "leadership."

It will dovetail with Renew Sinai, the hospital's capital redevelopment plan that extends to the year 2020. It will include significant upgrades to the women's and infants' health program, as well as to surgery, the emergency department, critical care projects, and inpatient and infrastructure projects.

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Carol Solomons' granddaughters grew their hair long so they could donate it to A Child's Voice Foundation: Angel Hair For Kids.

Cousins raise $13,000, donate hair to foundation

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

To honour the memory of their grandmother, Carol Solomons, seven of her granddaughters recently donated their hair to A Child's Voice Foundation: Angel Hair For Kids.

Solomons died of cancer a year ago. Her granddaughters, aged seven to 11, grew their hair to give it to the foundation. The organization creates hairpieces for children who are from financially disadvantaged families and have lost their hair as a result of cancer treatments, alopecia and burns.

Along with their donation of hair, the children raised more than $13,000 for the foundation.

The seven first cousins are Carly Cohen, Madison and Michelle Dloomy, Brooke, Jordana and Stephanie Goldenberg, and Halle Solomons.

"We want to raise awareness that there are a lot of children who have lost their hair to illness who need to feel normal," says Lori Goldenberg, one of Solomons' daughters.

"If more people are aware, maybe there wouldn't be wig shortages," she adds.

For more information about A Child's Voice Foundation: Angel Hair For Children, call 905-275-3434, write to 3034 Palstan Rd., #301, Mississauga, Ont., L4Y 2Z6, or e-mail roslyn@childsvoicefoundation.com.

Carol Solomons' granddaughters hold their hair, which has just been cut for donation to A Child's Voice Foundation: Angel Hair For Kids.

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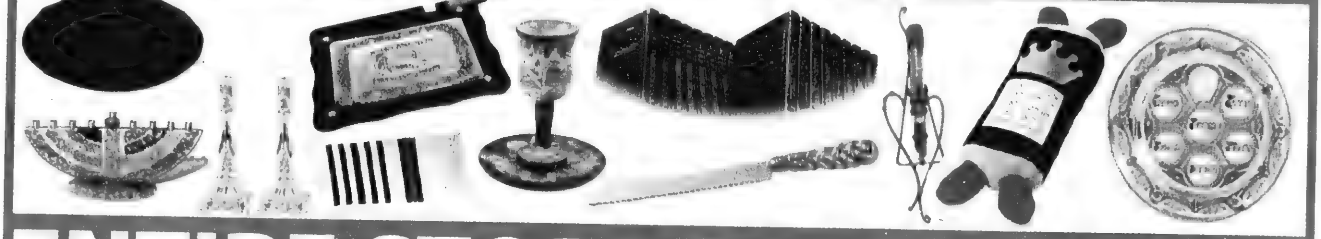

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The future we hold in our own hands

The Jewish People Policy Planning Institute (JPPPI), an independent think tank based in Jerusalem, has a straightforward yet profoundly important mission. It strives "to promote the thriving of the Jewish people via strategic thinking and planning on issues of primary concern to world Jewry."

The institute invited some 120 public officials, politicians, researchers, scholars and key decision-makers last week to Jerusalem for a three-day conference to deliberate and offer ideas *On the Future of the Jewish People.* Former Canadian justice minister Irwin Cotler delivered keynote remarks on the existential threats facing Israel and the Jewish people.

One of the most compelling topics on the agenda explored the increasing efforts among academics around the world to delegitimize the rightful place of a Jewish state in the otherwise Muslim Middle East. In particular, the conference was warned not to assume that the anti-Israel campaign is active only in Europe.

Avinoam Bar-Yosef, JPPPI's director general, termed the expanding anti-Israel campaign among American opinion makers on campus and elsewhere a "long-term threat" to Israel.

Brandeis University president Jehuda Reinharz echoed Bar-Yosef's sentiments. He told *Ha'aretz* that American academics are at the forefront of those denying Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state. "My feeling – and that of many people – is that we are at the start of a new era with regard to attitudes toward Israel in the U.S.," he added.

Though the threat has been identified, strategies for countering it have not. Reinharz is worried. "I see no combined effort to fight [the anti-Israel campaigns] by the Jewish organizations, and in truth, I myself don't know how this could be done," he said.

The situation as described on American campuses may not wholly apply to Canadian campuses. But we know there are similarities. And we have seen in the past on campuses here levels of hostility to Israel and to Jews in general that have been shocking in their vehemence and extreme contempt.

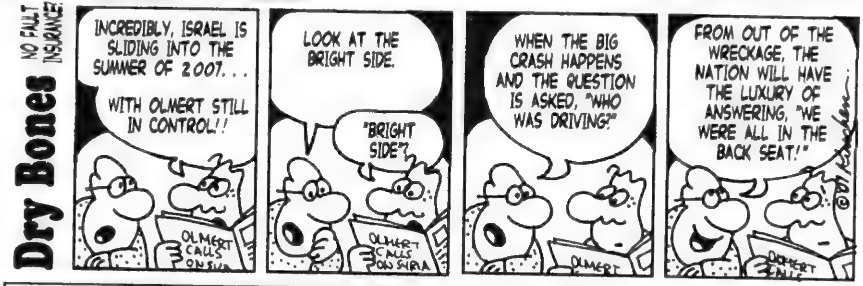
To deal with the "Jewish" crises looming on the horizon, including the many campaigns by zealous anti-Israel propagandists, the institute propounded a number of recommendations aimed at Israeli and Diaspora leaders. Indeed, the cornerstone of all the recommendations was the urgent need to recruit and train a new generation of leaders.

"The quality of leaders will be critical for the future of the Jewish people. This makes their development all the more essential."

But the development of leaders falls upon us all. It is a future we can and must build with our own hands, beginning with enhancing access to education for our children. Education is the portal to awareness, identity, caring, commitment, sacrifice and leadership.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Officials of six agencies providing relief to victims of the fighting in Lebanon, including CARE, the American Red Cross and Save the Children Federation, denied supporting an ad that ran in several U.S. newspapers criticizing Israel. The ad appeared, in the *New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe* and *Chicago Tribune,* among other publications.


Dry Bones
NO FAULT INSURANCE?
INCREDIBLY, ISRAEL IS SLIDING INTO THE SUMMER OF 2007...
WITH OLMERT STILL IN CONTROL!!
OLMERT CALLS ON SYRIA
LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE.
"BRIGHT SIDE"?
OLMERT CALLS ON SYRIA
WHEN THE BIG CRASH HAPPENS AND THE QUESTION IS ASKED, "WHO WAS DRIVING?"
OLMERT
FROM OUT OF THE WRECKAGE, THE NATION WILL HAVE THE LUXURY OF ANSWERING, "WE WERE ALL IN THE BACK SEAT!"
OLMERT CALLS
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Prosecute Nazi war criminals

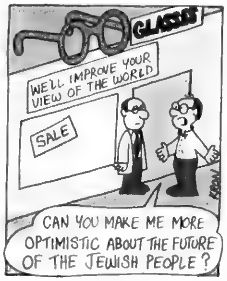
I received a letter from the Prime Minister's Office, dated June 27, 2007, in reply to a letter I sent regarding the prosecution of Nazi war criminals living in Canada. The PMO stated, in part: "Thank you… for your comments concerning war criminals. We agree that Canada can never be a safe haven for anyone who has been involved in war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide. Moreover, please be assured that Canada's new government will continue to strongly speak out against war crimes, human rights abuses and genocide around the world."

While I am thankful and appreciative of a reply from the Prime Minister's Office, I am very, very disappointed that the main reason and concern of my letter was completely ignored.

My letter said: "Prime Minister [Stephen Harper], you so rightly said, 'Remembering is not enough," as you urged the world to learn from history because the Holocaust 'stands alone in the annals of human evil.'"

I humbly and passionately urge you to put your own wise worlds into deeds, and without further inexcusable delay, prosecute the known World War II Nazi war criminals still living in Canada.

Monty Mazin
Toronto


GLASSES
WE'LL IMPROVE YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD
SALE
CAN YOU MAKE ME MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE?
KROWN

* * *

Spend government money on children

The article "Families sue for disabled funding in faith schools" (*CJN*, July 5) raises the question of why it takes a lawsuit filed by parents from our community to get the Liberal government's attention. The lawsuit seeks to get the provincial government to spend the full amounts of money that the government has set aside for the special needs children in religious schools each year. Your reporter should have asked why Michael Bryant, the attorney general, has refused to meet with the families of these disabled children. Bryant has decided instead to put forth his lawyers to fight these families in court. Why doesn't he spend the government's money on the disabled children in our Hebrew schools, instead of on lawyers?

Vicki Sterling
Toronto

* * *

Treating employees badly

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein's column "Keep your lawn kosher" (*CJN*, July 5) on how we as Jews have treated poor gardeners and landscapers resonated very strongly with me. I recently hired a nanny, and in the process interviewed many poor immigrant women who were treated badly by their former employers, who were Jews. One left her job because she was required to work seven days a week, with no days off.

As a Jew, I was ashamed to hear these stories. The Torah and our tradition, which specifically mention labour relations, demand better from us than this. These actions also give Jews as a whole a bad name. But most importantly, we are not so far ourselves from being poor immigrants. As the Torah demands that we "love the stranger, for you were strangers in the Land of Egypt," we should also be fair to immigrants to honour the memory of our own immigrant grandparents or great-grandparents who were at the mercy of their employers and who paved the way for us to be in such a comfortable place in society that we are in today, able to hire gardeners or nannies.

Aurora Mendelsohn
Toronto

* * *

Community should have paid gardener

In her column "Keep your lawn kosher" (*CJN*, July 5), Rabbi Elyse Goldstein tells of a Jewish neighbour who cheated her non-Jewish gardener of his pay. Her conclusion was that Jews should be honest in their dealings. This, however, is not enough. The lesson of "The Good Samaritan" or of tikkun olam includes not only personal honesty, but fixing wrongs where you see them. At Yom Kippur, we pray for forgiveness for communal, not personal, sins.

It is not enough to complain that all Jews are not honest. This is obvious. Rabbi Goldstein left out the part that all Jews, like the Good Samaritan, should try to fix wrongs when they see them. She should have ensured that the gardener was paid by herself or the Jewish community. By such an action, Judaism would have earned the respect it deserves.

Jonathan Usher
Toronto

LET THEM GO…

Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Ehud Goldwasser, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz, Eldad Regev, Gilad Shalit

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info@cjnews.com

British intellectuals not historically anti-Semitic

By JAMES MORTON

A few weeks ago, as rockets continued to fall on Sderot, Israel, I was in Jerusalem reading the press reports on the increasing tide of anti-Israeli (read anti-Semitic) boycotts from the United Kingdom. I was struck by how curious it is that anti-Semitism has found a renewed life in Britain.

Theodor Herzl's great book *The Jewish State* suggests Great Britain as a safe harbour for the financing and planning of the reborn Israel, precisely because anti- Semitism, a problem in Europe, was not a significant issue in Britain. British academics and intellectuals were not, until very recently, anti-Semitic. Britain was a friendly home to its Jews. Unexpectedly, the new anti-Semitism, driven by radical ideologues, has recently found a home in some British intellectual circles.

James Morton

As is all too well known, Britain's National Association of Teachers of Further and Higher Education voted in May this year to boycott Israeli academics. This is the third time since 2002 that British academics have gone on record to censure and isolate Israeli academics.

In 2002, 123 British academics published an open letter in the London *Guardian* calling for a "moratorium" on all cultural and research links with Israel.

In 2004-2005, the British Association of University Teachers voted to boycott two Israeli universities for their alleged complicity in their government's military policies. Only after a tremendous struggle was the British Association of University Teachers vote overturned. One would reasonably conclude that anti-Semitism is intellectually respectable among British thinkers – and sadly, that conclusion may have some truth.

But historically, anti-Semitism is not linked to British intellectuals. The trend of British thinking under Queen Victoria, when British power and prestige were at their height, was certainly not anti-Semitic. Speaking on a bill to remove civil disabilities against Jews in 1830, Tomas Macaulay said, "We are free, we are civilized, to little purpose, if we grudge to any portion of the human race an equal measure of freedom and civilization." His comments reflected the progressive views of Victorian England, its leaders and intellectuals.

Religious bigotry was on a downward slope. Alfred Lord Tennyson spoke for his nation when he wrote: "There lives more faith in honest doubt, believe me, than in half the creeds."

In 1837, the queen knighted Moses Haim Montefiore. When he dined with the queen, special arrangements ensuring that his food and the dishes it was served on were strictly kosher raised no issue. Four years later, Isaac Lyon Goldsmid was made a baronet, the first Jew to receive a hereditary title. In July 1845, Jews were allowed to run for municipal office, and in 1855, Sir David Salmons was elected lord mayor of London. The queen, although she made no public statements on the subject, made it clear that she viewed Jews as an able and loyal people who had long been mistreated by Christian Europe.

The removal of limitations on Jews was not without controversy. The right of Jews to be members of Parliament was disputed – the House of Lords repeatedly blocked changes allowing Jews to sit as MPs from 1833 until 1858. But the trend in favour of increased Jewish rights was unmistakable. Newspapers held up the House of Lords' intransigence as proof of the backwardness of that House. Certainly the electorate did not appear to be anti-Semitic. Up to 1858, Jews had been elected to the Commons, often by wide margins, but had been barred from taking their seats.

In 1851, the elected member for Greenwich insisted on taking his seat and voting, though he had not been sworn (and could not be sworn unless he took the oath "on the true faith of a Christian"). A genuine constitutional crisis ensued: the Commons had passed legislation allowing Jews to sit as early as 1833, but all such legislation was vetoed by the House of Lords. One House was determining the constitution of the other.

Finally a compromise was reached allowing the Commons to admit Jews, and in 1858, Baron Lionel de Rothschild, substituting the phrase "so help me, Jehovah" for the Christian words, was allowed to sit as a member of Parliament. Two years later, a more general form of oath avoiding the requirement to swear to a specifically Christian deity was introduced.

Mose Haim Montefiore, on his 100th birthday. He was knighted in 1837.

Sir John Simon, the first Jew to act as a British judge, was elected to Parliament in November 1868, from Dewsbury in Yorkshire. He was re-elected in 1874, 1880, 1885 and 1886, and sat continuously for 20 years, retiring in November 1888, even though there was not a single Jewish voter in his constituency. Since 1858, every British Parliament has had at least a few Jewish members.

Anti-Semitism in Britain, by the latter part of the 19th century, was seen as vulgar and generally lower class. When Richard Francis Burton (1821-1890), who was otherwise a leading British intellectual and diplomat, expressed a most troubling outburst of anti-Semitism in a frightening, unpublished manuscript, *Human Sacrifice among the Sepherdine* [sic] *or Eastern Jews* (still in the possession of the Board of Deputies of British Jews in London), his outburst was seen as a sign of madness and not considered worthy of consideration for rational debate.

In the 1880s, Jews were appointed to the House of Lords, and by 1890, all restrictions for every government position were removed. Benjamin Disraeli, who was baptized as a child but was perceived throughout his life as being Jewish (and in fairness he shared that perception), was prime minister twice, in 1868 and 1874. In 1876, he was created Earl of Beaconsfield.

Victorian Britain also saw the rise of Christian Zionism – a non-Jewish movement to re-establish a Jewish State in the historical boundaries of Israel. In truth, Christian Zionists were often motivated by a world view that suggested a reborn Jewish State would be a place for mass conversion of Jews to Christianity.

Christian Zionists had a significant following in British intellectual circles, including such powerful spokespeople as writers George Eliot (*Daniel Deronda*), Laurance Oliphant and the less well-known Charlotte Elizabeth (*Judea Capta*). Important statesmen such as Lord Salisbury and Lord Shaftesbury, and military leaders such as Colonel Churchill, promoted the restoration of a Jewish commonwealth in what, since Roman times, had been known to western Christendom as the Holy Land or Palestine.

Indeed, the highly implausible concept that the people of Britain were, in fact, part of the lost tribes of Israel was widely believed. Rev. John Wilson's *Our Israelitish Origins* was originally published in the 1840s and was remarkably popular – in fact, the British-Israel World Federation still exists and enjoyed the patronage of prominent Britons including Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone (Alice Mary Victoria Augusta Pauline, née Princess Alice of Albany Feb. 25, 1883-Jan. 3, 1981), a granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

Jews were so well-established in Britain that the only modern anti-Jewish riots in British history, which took place in South Wales in 1911, were aimed at Jews by striking railway workers. precisely because Jews were part of the "ruling classes." The rioting was widely covered (with uniform disapproval) by newspapers. Winston Churchill, then home secretary, quickly put down the rioting with troops, and his actions were generally lauded by the press. By contrast, regular anti-Catholic rioting continued in Britain well into the 1930s without significant media comment, and troops were not called out to quell such incidents.

By the end of the 19th century, Baron Henry de Worms had been secretary of state under Lord Salisbury, and Sir Julian Goldsmid had been deputy speaker of the Commons. In 1906, the *Jewish Encyclopedia* could write: "It may be stated that anti-Semitism as such does not exist in England."

It was because of the well-established tolerance for Jews and their success in Britain that Herzl was confident in saying that the administration and financing for the return to Israel ought to be set up in England. Although there were issues regarding immigration of poor Jews from Russia, and the final days of British rule in Palestine were problematic, Jews felt, quite properly, very much at home in Britain until at least the 1970s.

When Jacob Bronowski, perhaps Britain's best known scientific intellectual in the post-War period, wrote, in 1974, as a Polish Jew who came of age in England, "I whom England made," it was a proud affirmation of being both Jewish and British, something that required neither compromise nor apology.

It may be that the recent rise of anti-Semitism in Britain is transitory and driven more by displaced anti-American feeling than anything else. Be that as it may, the boycott news is very troubling. That said, the concern must not be overstated. British Jews sit in the Commons, the Lords, on the Bench and at the highest levels of British professions. British history does not show a trend to anti-Semitism. Constant vigilance and strong, direct opposition to the boycotts, as well as being prepared to explain that Israel is a free and democratic country, will defeat the new anti-Semitism.

James Morton teaches evidence at Osgoode Hall Law School and is president of the Ontario Bar Association. He lived in England in the 1960s. The views expressed here are solely his own.

Opinions

True graduation days

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

My twin boys Akiva and Hillel graduated in June

Graduation is a rite of passage, a moment for these sixth graders to take stock of their educational achievements. But it's also a rite of passage for parents We marvel at how the toddlers we just dropped off at kindergarten are already at the cusp of maturity

So please indulge me as I write out of naches!

Rites of passage are important. In Judaism, a child who turns bat or bar mitzvah is considered responsible for his or her actions. By necessity, a birthday is the dividing line, arbitrarily declaring that the child is now an adult.

Graduations are also arbitrary dividing lines. But far more important than ceremonial graduation days are the unexpected moments that test the character of a young adult. These true graduation days always arrive unexpectedly

David, a young shepherd, visits his brothers in the army. There, Goliath is challenging any Israelite soldier to fight him one on one. As the soldiers cower, David offers to fight Goliath

David is ridiculed by his brothers, and even King Saul demurs at first, saying, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him. You are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth."

But David, already anointed to be a future king, insists. David's battle against Goliath marks his true graduation day

That's when a young person rises to the occasion. Being anointed with academic degrees means nothing until one has passed real-life tests.

Tony Benetatos graduated in just a few hours. A "probie" firefighter, the 21-year-old was assigned to a firehouse seven blocks from the World Trade Center. Two filmmakers were filming Benetatos for a documentary, hoping to see how the "boy turns into a man in nine months." They followed Benetatos in his first days on the job, as senior firefighters broke him in

Then 9/11 occurs. Firefighters fight on the front line, risking their lives to save the lives of others. Benetatos shows remarkable courage and compassion. On 9/11, Benetatos becomes a hero.

He passed his true graduation day with honours. As the producer says at the end of the documentary, "we wanted to watch a boy become a man over nine months. Turns out, the boy became a man in nine hours."

On the road to becoming an adult, every child must pass a true graduation day. There won't be any caps and gowns, there won't be celebratory parties, but on that day, like King David and Tony Benetatos, the boy will become a man.

My blessing to Akiva, Hillel and all the graduates is that when their true graduation day arrives, they will pass with flying colours.

Mazal tov!

If we build it, they will come

Gil Troy in Montreal

There is, alas, a vast disconnect between traditional Judaism and today's me-oriented, iPod generation. Our synagogues and our schools, our homes and our communities, seem far better at producing alienated, bored, disengaged Jews than proud, stimulated and committed Jews. This failure is particularly apparent among the twentysomething and thirtysomething set, who often make defining life choices at a stage of life when they seem most distant from Judaism and the Jewish community

As easy as it is to diagnose the problem, it's hard to find the solution Some seek to open as many portals as possible for young Jews to "do Jewish" together. Others fear watering down our ancient product too much. In early July in Jerusalem, 120 young Jewish innovators from 25 countries gathered to contemplate new ideas for the Jewish future. The conference, called ROI 120, for the "return on investment" that funders seek, is sponsored by the identity-oriented Lynn and Charles Schusterman Foundation and birthright israel

In one classic exchange in a town-hall meeting with all 120 participants that I moderated, a young rabbi proclaimed the importance of uniting his generation around core ideals. I pressed him, asking what that uniting vision could be. He said: "recognizing that whatever God you believe in, God is the source of justice in the world." A Jewish activist from New York replied that Judaism is a mosaic and we all must find the facet that speaks personally to us

Here was a great illustration of the modern dilemma that Judaism faces: do we try honing a uniting vision or do we encourage "Shivim panim laTorah" – 70 different faces or ways into Judaism? The "unitarians" risk alienating those who do not share the common assumptions or the desired goal, while those of the "mosaic persuasion" risk creating such a diverse and colourful mixture that Judaism will lose its meaning and its focus After all, a mosaic with no plan is a mess

In a smaller session, we addressed a different variation on this dilemma. One Jewish hipster said he considered getting five Jews to walk their dogs together to be a Jewish activity, and he resented the rabbis who were always asking whether such activities were "quality Jewish experiences."

In a modern update of "I think, therefore I am," he was saying, "If Jews do it, therefore it is Jewish." He also reflected the modern Internet assumption that whatever gets the most clicks wins. But Judaism has never been a popularity contest. We need deeper criteria than "if it feels good, do it." Jewish leaders would be guilty of false advertising if we misled young Jews into thinking that Judaism does not require spiritual and intellectual heavy-lifting

While the conference did not resolve these issues, I walked away impressed by these young activists' pride, creativity and passion. We all agreed with the rabbis that it is not for us to complete the task, but we dare not absolve ourselves of responsibility, either Gathering the young superstars together, engaging these questions, seeking solutions and developing a network for continuing the quest together seemed noble – and enough of an accomplishment, even with so many tasks undone and issues unresolved

After the conference, I attended one of the first Israel Baseball League games. The delicious mix of old and new, of Israel and America, was charming, as the Tel Aviv Lightning beat the Modi'in Miracle at the field in Kibbutz Gezer

Tel Gezer, an archeological site, looms behind centrefield. A cornfield abuts right field, evoking the movie *Field of Dreams*, in which Kevin Costner immortalized W.P. Kinsella's expression, "If you build it they will come."

Contemplating Tel Gezer's layers of history and baseball's ability to evoke future dreams rooted in warm nostalgia, I thought about the power of the Jewish past, the need for a contemporary renewal, and our worries and hopes for the future. I believe that if we build it, they will come. If we re-create a Judaism that is inviting but serious, relevant but rooted, and open to new approaches but respectful of tradition, we can succeed

We need a mosaic that offers many interesting ways into the Jewish conversation, but we can't sacrifice the value of having core ideals, unifying messages, solid beliefs and grand visions.

The Jerusalem Film Festival is *beseder*

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

"The most dangerous words in this country are '*yih'yeh beseder*' – it will be OK," Lia van Leer said to me in front of the Jerusalem Cinematheque, three days before the opening of July's 24th Jerusalem Film Festival.

The Cinematheque, which houses the Israel Film Archives and hosts the annual Jerusalem Film Festival, had been closed for the past year for extensive renovation. The re-dedication was scheduled to precede the opening of the festival. With signs of ongoing construction around us, it was not at all clear to van Leer that the deadline for completion would be met, that things would indeed be *beseder*.

Cinematheque is the brainchild of van Leer, an 83-year-old dynamo who serves as its founder and director. Housed in a refurbished, centuries-old building with a magnificent view of the Old City walls, it contains tens of thousands of archival prints of films, along with a film research library, film classes and screening venues.

Decades earlier, van Leer recognized the value of film not only as entertainment, but as an art form, a mode of reflecting and reshaping contemporary culture. Long before other Israelis took movies seriously as anything more than a forgettable pastime, she and her late husband, Wim van Leer, began collecting and preserving Israeli and pre-state films.

Eventually, she expanded her mandate to include Jewish films more generally, seeking out rare copies of European Jewish films – remnants of the thriving Yiddish culture destroyed during the Holocaust. Her private collection was the beginning of what would become the Israel Film Archives based at Cinematheque, boasting the most extensive collection of Jewish films in the world, and the largest collection of films on the Holocaust.

A recipient of the illustrious Israel Prize for lifetime achievement, van Leer put the Jerusalem Film Festival on the map not only as a showcase for the finest in Israeli cinema, but also as a venue for bringing international films to Israel

This year's festival's opening ceremony, taking place during the 40th year of Jerusalem being in Israeli hands, served as a display of much that is well with the city and the country. Taking place in the open-air venue of the Sultan's Pool – a Herodian reservoir just outside the walls of the Old City – it visually cements the ancient with the new.

Anyone who has attended a performance at the Sultan's Pool knows that even in the heat of the Israeli summer, cool Jerusalem winds whip through the valley of Hinnom between the Old City and the neighbourhood of Yemin Moshe. It can be surprisingly chilly – even for those accustomed to Canadian climes – and veterans know to come equipped with sweaters, heavy socks and even hooded sweatshirts. This year, the festival distributed souvenir fleece blankets to the hundreds if people who attended the opening ceremonies and film.

As a medium, film projects in ways that enable us to see places we have never been, and to see familiar places in new ways. Because its lens offers us perspectives different from our own, it opens us to a range of views. Cinema's potential to encourage diversity was emphasized by the musical performance on opening night, featuring popular Israeli vocal artists accompanied by an Orthodox boys choir and a Jewish-Arab children's choir

Dieter Kosslick, director of the Berlin Film Festival – the world's largest – inaugurated the festival. It was Kosslick's first visit to Israel, and he said that he found it profoundly meaningful He noted that he was born in 1948 – that is to say, after the end of World War II – but nonetheless felt a particular sense of responsibility to history as a German. He recollected that he got to know Lia van Leer through their shared involvement in film culture. Through years of attending international film festivals, they formed a special friendship.

Over time, they developed a certain ritual During the Third Reich, books by Jewish authors and Jewish sacred texts were declared "degenerate," and they were confiscated and publicly burned. Van Leer collected volumes that had somehow eluded this destruction – saved remnants. Each time she and Kosslick met, she would select several volumes, old and crumbling, for him. He would, at his expense, have them restored and rebound.

As it turned out, Lia van Leer's worst fears evaporated. The renovated Cinematheque was ready on schedule, and the festival was, indeed, *beseder*, and more.

The Kirshner File

A cornucopia of books...

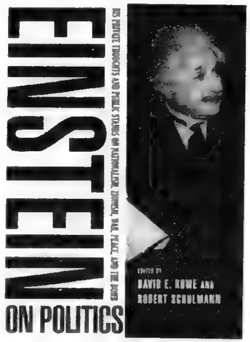
Book publishers never rest, as this batch of eclectic books gloriously proves.

Albert Einstein was not only a great scientist, the greatest since Issac Newton, but a political activist who committed his thoughts to paper. *Einstein on Politics* (Princeton University Press), edited by David E. Rowe and Robert Schulmann, offers readers a panoramic view of his writings on Zionism and anti-Semitism, nationalism, the fate of Jews during the Holocaust, war, peace, pacifism and nuclear proliferation. Einstein was a vigorous stylist and these selections from his private correspondence attest to his fluency with words.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Walter Isaacson's stellar biography, *Einstein: His Life and Universe* (Simon & Schuster), based on Einstein's newly released letters, is a tour d'horizon of the man, his achievements, his ideas and his forays into politics. Isaacson's grasp of Einstein's scientific theories is nothing short of masterful.

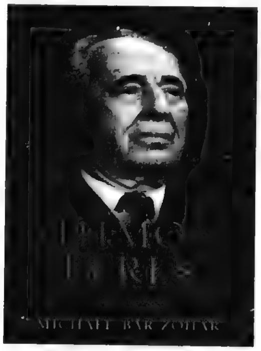
Hannah Arendt, the German-born philosopher and political theorist, is best known for *The Origins of Totalitarianism* and *Eichmann in Jerusalem.* Always a keen observer of Jewish affairs, she examined the underpinnings of assimilation, the nature of anti-Semitism, the arc of Jewish history and the evolution of Zionism, among the topics she addresses trenchantly in *The Jewish Writings 1930-1975* (Schocken Books), edited by Jerome Kohn and Ron H. Feldman. In a companion volume, *Why Arendt Matters* (Yale University Press), Elisabeth Young-Bruehl, one of Arendt's students, reviews her major works and their relevance.


EINSTEIN
ON POLITICS
HIS PRIVATE THOUGHTS AND PUBLIC STANDS ON NATIONALISM, ZIONISM, WAR, PEACE, AND THE BOMB
EDITED BY
DAVID E. ROWE AND
ROBERT SCHULMANN

Shimon Peres, twice Israel's prime minister and currently its president, has held more important jobs than any Israeli politician, bar none. Michael Bar-Zohar's sympathetic biography, *Shimon Peres* (Random House), is thorough, wide ranging and readable. Colin Shindler's slim primer, *What Do Zionists Believe?* (Raincoast Books), is instructive and illuminating. In *The Question of Zion* (Princeton University Press), anti-Zionist writer Jacqueline Rose presents a revisionist appraisal of the complexities of the Arab-Israeli conflict and concludes that Israel is in danger of destroying itself. And in *Peace, Justice, And Jews* (Bunim & Bannigan), left-of-centre Israeli and American essayists and poets offer their reflections on a wide assortment of contemporary issues, including Israel's struggle with the Palestinians. *Everyday Jihad: The Rise of Militant Islam Among Palestinians in Lebanon* (Harvard University Press), by Bernard Rougier, is a probing and timely account of a disturbing phenomenon based on the author's own observations and reading of documents.

Christopher D. Ringwald's intriguing *A Day Apart* (Oxford University Press) examines the Sabbath in Judaism, Islam and Christianity among three families. *The Atlas of Religion* (University of California Press), by Joanne O'Brien and Martin Palmer, is a pop survey, supplemented by clear maps, graphs and photographs, of the world's major faiths. In *Holy Unexpected: My New Life as a Jew* (Public Affairs), Robin Chotzinoff, raised by a Catholic mother and a Jewish father, comically relates her journey back to the fold.

The Jews of Windsor 1790-1990 (Dundurn Press) is a straightforward account of a venerable Canadian Jewish community whose numerical decline threatens its survival. Jonathan Elukin's *Living Together, Living Apart: Rethinking Jewish-Christian Relations in the Middle Ages* (Princeton University Press) challenges the standard view that this was a dark period for Jews. Jonathan Wilson, in *Marc Chagall* (Random House), analyzes his dazzling career as an artist, his attachment to a vanished past, his flight to Paris, his flirtation with communism and his relationship with Israel. Norman H. Finkelstein's accessible *American Jewish History (*The Jewish Publication Society) introduces us to the world's largest Jewish community. *Catholics and Jews in Twentieth-Century America* (University of Illinois Press), by Egal Feldman, charts the remarkable transformation of a relationship of enmity to one of coexistence. American foreign correspondent Ruth Gruber has had a full and stimulating life, and in *Witness* (Random House), peppered with sharp photographs of her travels around the globe, she recalls her experiences in the Jewish and non-Jewish worlds. *Supermob* (Raincoast Books), by Gus Russo, is the story of the controversial American Jewish lawyer Sidney Korshak, whose ties with labour unions and mobsters left him with an ambivalent reputation.



The tottering world of German Jewry is explored at length in *On Germans and Jews Under the Nazi Regime (*The Hebrew University Magnes Press), a volume of penetrating essays edited by the Israeli historian Moshe Zimmerman. *The Forger* (Raincoast Books), by Cioma Schonhaus, is the amazing tale of a young Jewish draftsman from Berlin who went into hiding and saved other Jews after the deportation of his family in 1942. Gunter Grass' memoir of his turbulent youth in Nazi and post-war Germany, *Peeling the Onion* (Raincoast Books) is bracing, eccentric, imaginative and altogether engaging. *Richard and Adolf* (Gefen), by Christopher Nicholson, is an examination of the influence of Richard Wagner's music and polemics on Adolf Hitler.

The Holocaust continues to generate a flood of books. Diane Wolf's *Beyond Anne Frank: Hidden Children and Postwar Families in Holland* (University of California Press) debunks the myth of Dutch resistance and tolerance. Benno Benninga's *In Hiding: Surviving an Abusive "Protector" and the Nazi Occupation of Holland* (Vallentine Mitchell) follows a similar route. Michael Englishman's *163256: A Memoir of Resistance* (Wilfred Laurier University Press) turns on the author's survival as a Jew in wartime Holland. Montreal businessman and Holocaust survivor Hermann Gruenwald offers enduring lessons in survival in a forthright memoir, *After Auschwitz: One Man's Story* (McGill-Queen's University Press). Dov Freiberg, in *To Survive Sobibor (*Gefen), leaves a reader grappling with pain. In *French Seduction* (Carroll & Graf), Eunice Lipton paints a compelling picture of France's role in the persecution and deportation of Jews. Daniel Mendelsohn's *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million* (HarperCollins) is a riveting chronicle of history and memory. *Johanna Krause: Twice Persecuted* (Wilfred Laurier University Press), by Carolyn Gammon and Christiane Hemker, is about a Jewish woman from Dresden who was persecuted both by the Nazis and the Communists in prewar and postwar Germany.

In general: Zbigniew Brzezinski, in *Second Chance* (Perseus), delivers a critique of U.S. foreign policy since the late 1980s. In *Security First* (Yale University Press), Amitai Etzioni calls for a complete reorientation of American foreign policy, claiming that Washington's preoccupation with democratization is misplaced. *Breaking News* (Raincoast Books) is a first-rate, illustrated account of how the Associated Press news-gathering agency has covered the biggest international stories. The ancient world tantalizingly unfolds in two books published by the University of California, *Rome* (by Ada Gabucci) and *Mesopotamia* (by Enrico Ascalone). *Toussaint Louverture* (Pantheon), by Madison Smartt Bell, zeroes in on the first and only successful slave revolt, in 18th-century Haiti. Diana and Michael Preston's *Taj Mahal* (Raincoast Books) is a glowing, well-deserved tribute to an architectural wonder.

Lonely Planet's guidebooks are concise and informative. *China, London, Paris, Istanbul, Hong Kong, Montreal & Quebec City,* and *Germany* live up to expectations. Cooks will love the 25th anniversary edition of *Silver Palate Cookbook* (Workman), a classic work, and bakers will adore Dorie Greenspan's mouth-watering compendium, *Baking From My Home To Yours* (Houghton Mifflin). *100 Simple Secrets Why Dogs Make Us Happy* (HarperCollins), by David Niven, will please canine lovers. Roger Angell, a distinguished writer for *The New Yorker,* has written an appealing autobiography in *Let Me Finish* (Raincoast Books).

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‘His motives were always about more than the bottom line’

Continued from page 3

“As soon as I saw the six bathrooms in it, I didn’t look at the rest of the house. I snapped it up right away. This is the biggest outhouse in Forest Hill Village, I figured.”

In the midst of the Depression Era, when Mirvish was only 15, his father passed away and the responsibility of providing for his mother Anna and two siblings, Robert and Lorraine, rested on his shoulders.

Mirvish dropped out of school to run the grocery store. Nine years later, he closed the unsuccessful store to work as a produce manager and buyer for Leon Weinstein, the founder of the Loblaw’s grocery chain.

Soon after, Mirvish met and fell in love with Anne Macklin, an artist and singer from Hamilton, Ont. They married and had a child, their only son, David.

In 1947, Mirvish cashed in his wife’s insurance policy to open a clothing store on Bloor, just west of Bathurst called The Sport Bar. After experiencing some success, he bought the neighbouring stores, and just a year later, a little clothing shop had expanded into Honest Ed’s.

He offered merchandise ranging from clothing to electronics, from housewares to beauty products, at discount prices. Torontonians flocked to Honest Ed’s, which also attracted the attention of tourists worldwide.

With possibly the world’s largest electric sign lit by thousands of light bulbs, and kitschy slogans peppered on the facing of the store, including “Welcome, don’t faint at our low prices, there’s no place to lie down,” and “Honest Ed’s is for the birds. Cheap. Cheap. Cheap,” the store has been a staple in the Annex for almost 60 years.

Between 1959 and 1963, Mirvish bought homes on Markham Street with the intention of tearing them down to build a parking lot, but when the city refused his request to do so, with the help and guidance of his artistic wife, he converted the buildings into art studios, galleries, restaurants and stores, and Mirvish Village was born.

“One of the things that made him so special and so endearing is that despite being a successful and savvy businessman, his motives were always about more than the bottom line. His philosophy was to keep prices reasonable so everyone could afford to shop at his store. And he always gave back to the community through his turkey giveaway and his annual birthday block party,” Miller said.

ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE

Ed and son David in front of Toronto’s Royal Alex

In fact, his birthday parties, attended by thousands each year since his 80th birthday, were such a hit that the city made his birthday, July 24, “Ed Mirvish Day.”

Mirvish was also hailed as a philanthropist who gave away thousands of turkeys each Christmas to needy families who lined up for hours, and he was a staunch supporter of the Toronto Police.

Although running Honest Ed’s was his priority, in 1962, he set his sights on the deteriorating Royal Alexandra Theatre and decided to buy it for $215,000, then spent hundreds of thousands more to restore it.

This was the beginning of Mirvish’s reputation as a theatre impresario, and he is responsible for bringing productions such as *Les Miserables* and *Mamma Mia* to Toronto.

In 1982, Mirvish and his son, David, also purchased and renovated the Old Vic Theatre in London, England. He was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for saving the historic theatre.

Mirvish and his son continued to immerse themselves in the theatre industry when they built the Princess of Wales Theatre in 1993, which ran successful productions including *The Phantom of the Opera* and *The Lion King*.

During his lifetime, he received honorary degrees from five Canadian universities and Tel Aviv University, and was inducted into the Canadian and American Business Halls of Fame, the Order of Ontario and the Order of Canada.

His charm was unmistakable and his ambition was unmatched. In 1987, when he sat down with *The CJN*, Mirvish hoped he would never stop.

“Even though it’s against the Jewish religion, I’d rather like to have my remains put into a great big hour glass in the centre of my store. Three employees on eight-hour shifts would do nothing all day but turn the hourglass – That’s so customers will be able to point and say, ‘Look, there’s Ed. He’s still running,’ ” Mirvish said.

“The lights may have dimmed on Ed’s life, but his spirit and legacy have been indelibly burned into the fabric of Toronto,” Miller said.

In his honour, the City of Toronto lowered the flags at City Hall and the civic centres to half mast last Friday, on the day of Mirvish’s funeral.

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The ball is squarely in Johnson's court

Helps to empower youth

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Basketball player, youth mentor and father Daniel Moshe Johnson shoulders some heavy life experience on his six-foot-six frame.

A black Jew originally from New Orleans, Johnson has made aliyah. He has also played basketball internationally.

He now lives in Toronto with his son and daughter, where he heads a sports and mentoring program for the International Charity Association Network (ICAN).

He says his job is all about spreading "positivity" and empowering youth through the rules of the basketball game – on and off the court.

ICAN oversees various member charities and non-profit organizations, focusing on delivering food and other items and services to those in need. The sports and mentoring program is ICAN's main youth-oriented service.

The program targets high-crime areas in the Greater Toronto Area, and in the past few months, it has set up five basketball teams, mainly comprising immigrant youths.

"I'd like to reach out to more youths in the Jewish area," says Johnson. "I realize that a lot of youths are not used to seeing a darker representation of their own.

"To be in this uniform – our bodies represent uniforms – I see it as an honour, and my job is to express positivity," he says.

Adversity, Johnson says, has brought him closer to God.

In 1999, his immigration documents to Israel came through after a two-year wait, and he signed a contract with the Hapoel Galil Elyon basketball team. But he was prohibited from playing.

Johnson says he was told that the "Brisker Rule," instituted by the Israeli Basketball Association, had just come into effect. According to it, new citizens had to be Israeli residents for three years before joining premier league basketball teams. "I started to study and just learn the land and get involved in the community, and I turned away from basketball and got closer to God," says Johnson, adding that he does not want to speak negatively about the situation.

Lawyers and agents advised him that the Brisker Rule was unconstitutional. After a long journey that began by taking his story to the Israeli press, the rule was repealed.

However, when he agreed to a new contract with a B-level team, his mother phoned to tell him she had one year to live. Johnson spent his mother's remaining time with her in New Orleans – she lived one year to the day of her call.

He eventually settled in Toronto with his children, Don, now 13, and Wendy, 9. He and the children's mother separated two weeks after they had moved to Israel, and she currently lives in Toronto. Johnson has full custody. He considered moving the children to New Orleans, but then hurricane Katrina struck and their home was destroyed.

"We're grounded here. ICAN has been great," Johnson says. "Unless Jerusalem or Maccabi calls me and offers me a contract, we'll be here until then," he says, referring to Israeli basketball teams.

Daniel Moshe Johnson

Growing up in a family influenced by both monotheistic Judaism and the Pentecostal movement of the 1950s, Johnson had an Orthodox conversion in 1998 in Toronto so that he would have proof of his Jewish identity.

His ex-wife, Wendy, is an Ashkenazi Jew. His children have lost their Hebrew, which they learned after spending three years in Israel, but Johnson says they have a strong sense of their Jewish identity.

"They know their identity, they know who they are," he says, adding that unfortunately "assimilation often overweighs society."

He adds that when his children are older, he would like to return to Israel and study in a yeshiva.

Johnson's family observes holidays and some kashrut laws, and are associate members of Beth Tikvah Synagogue. More important to him, though, are what he considers Judaism's basic laws as stated in the Torah: respect for others and for human interactions.

"Tradition is beautiful, but the most important thing is being able to represent Torah every second, every minute," he says.

Johnson's professional basketball career includes stints on Malta and Ireland's teams. He played for the B'nai Brith Men's League in Toronto this past season.

His main connection with basketball these days, however, is through youth mentoring at ICAN.

"It's been working out because I'm enjoying this aspect of coaching and teaching the game as opposed to playing. I would love to continue playing, but right now we're here and the kids like it here, and we've reached a lot of youth [through ICAN]," he says.

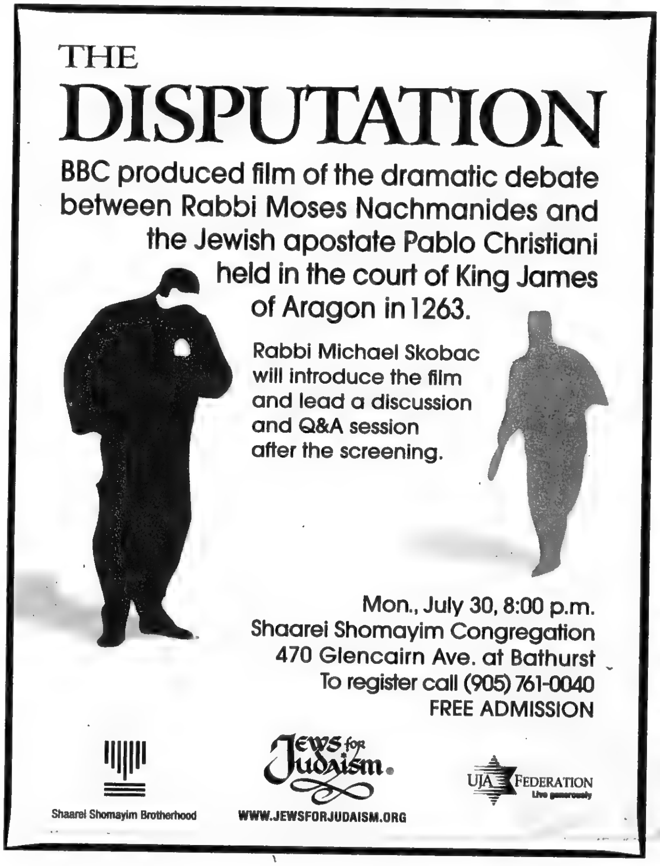
Is being a black Jew a difficult minority to be a member of? "Not at all," he says.

"I've come to the point in my life where I thank God for having parents that educated me on certain images and what they represent in the world, and colour's not an obstacle," he says.

"I've been able to move beyond that because I've been able to receive love and brotherhood, and it has nothing to do with skin colour."

Johnson admits, however, that the community of black Jews is very small.

"I know 'Sammy Davis [Jr.],'" he says with a smile.



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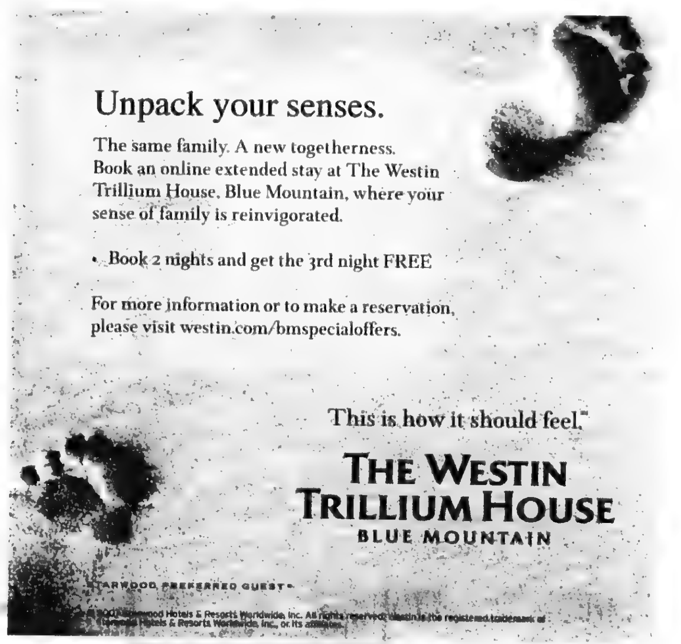

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On Campus

Animation school founder grounded in real world

By **SHERI SHEFA**
Staff Reporter

Ten years ago, the thought of opening an animation school was the last thing on her mind.

But when Maxine Schacker, an established artist who has exhibited in New York, Toronto and Montreal, realized that there was a growing demand for a comprehensive program for aspiring animators, she couldn't let the opportunity go.

This year, Schacker is celebrating the 10th anniversary of her Max the Mutt Animation School, which in 1997 began teaching students who have gone on to work on some of the most exciting animation projects to date.

Originally from Brooklyn, Schacker moved to Toronto in 1973 with her husband and five-year-old daughter.

"Toronto is what enabled me to pursue being an artist without sacrificing my child… If we stayed in New York, we would've had to decide to go after money," Schacker said.

After she spent years painting in her home and teaching painting part-time to supplement her income, in 1996, an affluent woman convinced her to share the rent for a space at 96 Spadina Ave. where she could paint.

"At that time, it was a very interesting building. It was full of art studios and a fun place."

But soon after, the woman she was sharing the rent with pulled out and left Schacker with a choice.

"There was no way I could afford the rent on my own. I could either go back to painting in my home, which is what I had done before, or I was going to have to raise more revenue."

Schacker said that if it weren't for the generosity of the affluent Jewish owner of the building, who granted her the space rent-free for three months to give her a chance to get on her feet, the school wouldn't exist today.

Maxine Schacker

"I had friends who were artists who needed space to teach out of and students who were going to [art] schools who weren't happy and asked if I could help them find someone who could teach them this or that," she said.

"Life is funny. My plan at that age – 10 years ago, I was 55 – was to paint and teach a little. It certainly wasn't to have a school. There was an enormous need for this. It fell in my lap. I had the choice and the ability to do it."

She said that at the time, there weren't many options for people who wanted to study classical animation. She recalled being approached by many students who wanted to find someone who could teach them this craft.

Schacker eventually partnered with Tina Seeman, currently the schools' director of animation, whom Schacker met while teaching life drawing and anatomy part time.

"The need was there. It was unbelievable how much need for real training there was… We had something real to offer when people needed real skills, so it didn't matter if the building didn't look slick. They were getting what they needed there."

By 1998, Max the Mutt Animation School registered with the government and became a vocational school that offers diplomas in areas such as illustration for sequential arts, comic books and graphic novels, classical and computer animation, and 3D computer animation and production.

Soon after, the school moved into 952 Queen St. W., which is in the same complex as the Museum of Canadian Contemporary Art, and it now boasts a faculty of successful industry professionals.

Schacker said the way she runs the school is a reflection of the values she learned growing up in a Jewish community in New York.

"I grew up in New York in the Catskills in the summers at a time when really it was a mainly Jewish society. The things I was hearing and the values I was hearing – about the importance of community, the importance of education, the importance of people having a fair chance [have shaped me]," she said.

"We're really committed to trying to be accessible to talent and to quality and to character."

The school recently hired Stephen Barnes, who was a character animator on such computer animated films as Pixar's *Toy Story 2*, *A Bug's Life* and *Monsters Inc*. Dave Ross, who has drawn and written for such Marvel Comics such as *Captain America* and *Daredevil*, is also a member of the faculty.

Schacker said many of her graduates have landed jobs with animation companies such as Electronic Arts, a producer of computer and video games, Cuppa Coffee, a Toronto-based animation studio, and Sony Pictures Imageworks, which is responsible for the effects in films such as *Spider-Man* and *Superman Returns*.

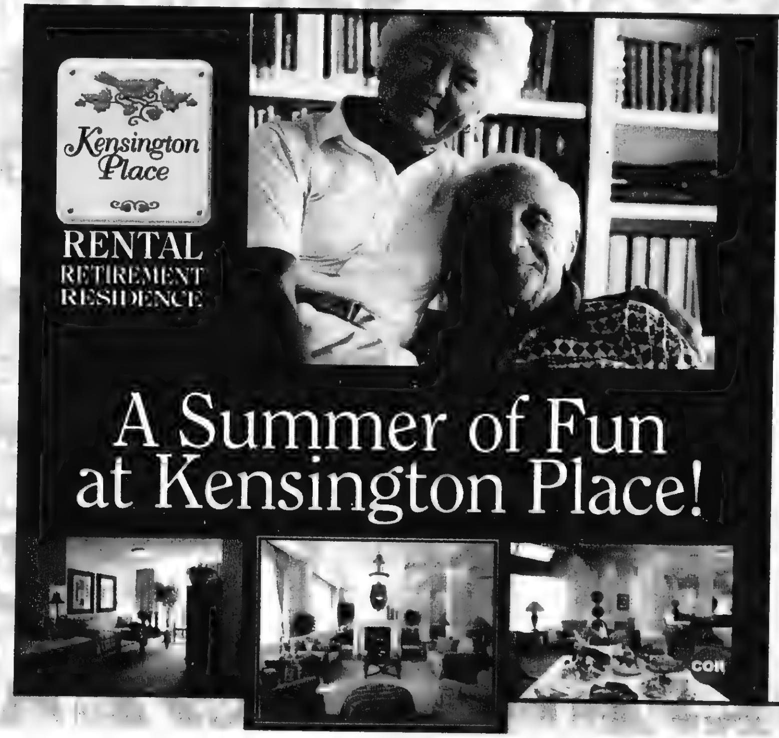
Schacker attributes her students' success to the school's curriculum, which offers a balanced combination of traditional arts and technology.

"What a lot of the other schools have done is drop [classical animation] courses, but we stuck to the Disney and Warner Bros. guidelines and just added computers," she said.

Although Schacker is thrilled with the success of the school, she still dreams that Max the Mutt Animation School could develop into an animation company with a school attached to it.

"We're working to that end. Our dream is to produce high-end animation with everything generated here, not to be a production house for companies in the U.S.," she said.

"We want to use all this wonderful Canadian talent to provide them with high quality projects to work on that will excite them and then enable them to use their capacities and be happy to stay here and not leave."



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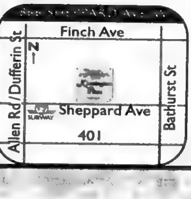

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Former Canadian contests Ms. Senior America title

Ms. Senior Arizona grew up in Toronto

By **ABIGAIL BIMMAN**
CJN Intern

Though she probably hears the joke a lot, Sharon Friendly is aptly named.

Last March, she was crowned Ms. Senior Arizona and recognized as the pageant's most elegant contestant. Her next move is to compete in November's Ms. Senior America competition.

Effervescent and bubbly on the phone at 7 a.m., the 65-year-old told *The CJN* she was en route to a nail appointment and then to her full-time sales-associate job in the Scottsdale Neiman Marcus department store's children's department. Friendly is the first employed Ms. Senior Arizona.

"I thought, 'Why not? I've never been in a beauty contest,'" she said about her choice to compete.

"And it's not really a beauty contest, because you don't have to wear a bathing suit, thank God," she added.

"I thought it would be a wonderful challenge and also I could share my gifts."

Friendly grew up in Toronto and has worked as a professional singer and entertainer all her life. As well, she's hosted a show in Los Angeles, *Let's Get Friendly*.

Representing the seniors of Arizona is a big responsibility, she said. Friendly's duties involve making appearances at retirement homes, hospitals, parades and state fairs. Seniors love to hear her sing and see her dressed elegantly, she said, because it brings back old memories. She enjoys dressing to the nines.

Friendly turned 65 on July 5 and spent her birthday in Italy with her daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren at their home. Her son, daughter-in-law and other two grandchildren live in Toronto.

"It's so hard to believe because it sounds like such a big number. It's not a big number because I feel like I'm 25," she said. "I'm happy and healthy, and there's nothing I could want more."

Ms. Senior Arizona, Sharon Friendly

Aside from work and her Ms. Senior Arizona duties, Friendly is a cantorial soloist at the Desert Foothills Jewish Community Association in Tempe. She also belongs to Congregation Beth Israel in Scottsdale, where she sang in the choir and performed cantorial duties.

"She's such a babe, they love her," said her sister, Lynda, of Toronto, referring to Sharon's cantorial performances.

"She wears her late father's tallis," Lynda added.

Friendly said that her father didn't approve of her going into show business and wanted her to be a cantor, but did not live to see it happen.

"I'm sure he knows somewhere up there and is turning cartwheels."

Friendly is passionate about increasing child literacy. She volunteers with the Screen Actors Guild Foundation BookPALS program, in which performing artists and other volunteers go into schools and read to students. She also records stories for children who phone in to listen.

During the Ms. Senior Arizona pageant, Friendly sang *Don't Rain on My Parade* for the show's talent portion and had to present a life philosophy.

The last portion of this philosophy speaks to a dark chapter in the cheerful senior's life.

"I believe you have to live your life. I'm a survivor. Don't regret what might have been, accept what is and rejoice in what is yet to be," she said.

In January 1994, in Los Angeles, 24 hours before the Northridge earthquake hit the city, Friendly was raped and robbed at knife point. She was working as a model at a downtown auto show.

At the same time, *Let's Get Friendly* had featured a segment on the homeless. Friendly hired a homeless couple to drive her to the auto show so she wouldn't have to go alone at night.

"I wanted to give them a new start in life," she said.

One night, when they picked Friendly up, she noticed the drivers had changed places. The woman was driving and the man sat in the back.

What followed were "3½ hours of unspeakable horror," Friendly said, during which the man raped her three times. She was tied up and gagged in the backseat, and a third person came into the car to appraise her jewelry.

The original perpetrator was taking crack and insulting Friendly, who stayed calm.

"The police told me that because I was very quiet and acquiescent I was able to get through what I got through," she said.

She finally persuaded the couple to let her go. After going to the police with her story and identifying the pair, whom she had interviewed on her show and invited into her home, the case went to trial and they were both convicted.

It turned out they were not a couple, but a man and an accomplice. The man was a wanted murderer and serial rapist, who is now serving a 102-consecutive-year prison sentence, and the accomplice was sent to jail for five years.

"It took me a long time to get comfortable with it and know that it wasn't my fault, that I didn't lead these people on," Friendly said.

She wanted to continue her work at the auto show, but said that for a long time she "was scared beyond anything" she has ever known.

Friendly turned her experience into a positive. She discussed it on her show and taught women how to protect themselves.

Her son, whom she had been estranged from for 22 years, saw her tell her story on *America's Most Wanted* and contacted her.

"He came back into my life and that's a wonderful positive," she said.

Now, Friendly is gearing up for the Ms. Senior America competition in Las Vegas.

She is anticipating what she said will be the "most wonderful experience in the world." One day, she said, she wants to write a book about her experience in the competition.

She said participating in the pageant counters the loss of confidence some women go through as they age.

"If you're going to mature, you might as well do it while wearing a tiara."

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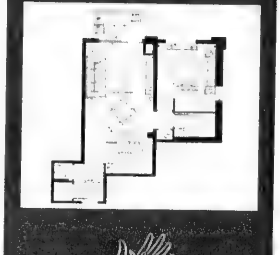

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Chefs' advice makes for great tastes

By **CAROLYN BLACKMAN**
Staff Reporter

Israeli master chefs Arik Porat and Oved Alfia brought a true taste of Israel to the Park Hyatt this past winter as part of a 10-city Canadian culinary tour sponsored by the Jewish National Fund.

The culinary event was the cumulation of JNF's Tu b'Shvat celebrations. Funds raised were to be directed to the replanting and reforestation program in those areas of the Galilee that were so adversely affected by Katyusha rockets during the Second Lebanon War last year.

The chefs, executive chefs at Dan Hotels, along with Nati Benaim of the Dan Acadia Hotels and Joan Monfaredi of the Park Hyatt, created a seven-course dinner that included grilled eggplant, halibut cake in savoury pickled lemon sauce, five herbs soup with egg ravioli, young chicken skewer, tomato granite, citrus herb braised short rib, and vanilla and cardamom poached pear for dessert.

Bonnie Stern, a local chef and cookbook author who has led two culinary tours to Israel along with Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, was master of ceremonies.

In a colourful booklet of recipes excerpted from a soon-to-be-published cookbook titled *The Book of New Israeli Foods: A Culinary Journey*, Stern writes that she went to Israel for the first time about four years ago, also with Rabbi Goldstein.

"She kept telling me not to expect too much in the way of food, and I kept reassuring her that I wasn't going for the food. I was going to learn about the culture…

"As we ate falafel at a roadside stand on the way to Haifa, had hummus in the Arab market in the Old City of Jerusalem, enjoyed a Sephardi Shabbat dinner at a hotel in Jerusalem and were wowed by a biblical feast cooked by an award winning chef, I knew food was the reason I would come back again and again."

SIMPLE SHAKSHUKA

This is the basic version found in most workers' kitchens. Shakshuka aficionados will opt for more elaborate versions.

4 tbsp. oil, for frying
2 cloves garlic, crushed
5 large, ripe tomatoes, peeled and diced (or 1½ cups canned diced tomatoes)
½ tbsp. red hot pepper)
salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
½ tsp. ground cumin (optional)
a pinch of ground caraway seed (optional)
2 tbsp. tomato paste
8 eggs

Heat the oil in a skillet and lightly fry the garlic, taking care not to scorch it. Add the tomatoes and seasoning and cook for 15 to 20 minutes at low heat, partly covered. Add the tomato paste, simmer for a few more minutes with the lid on and adjust the seasoning – the sauce should have a strong, piquant flavour.

Break the eggs one by one and slide onto the tomato base. Turn heat to low and cook until the egg whites have set (5-7 minutes). Partly cover to prevent the sauce from spraying. Cover completely if you like your eggs "over hard." Serves 4.

Shakshuka with onions and peppers: Slice one onion and two red peppers into strips and fry lightly. Add the garlic and tomatoes and continue according to the basic recipe.

Shakshuka with sausages: Lightly fry sliced merguez sausages or small cocktail sausages (or grill the sausages first and then add to the pan). Add the garlic and tomatoes and continue according to the basic recipe.

TABULEH

A delicious Arab salad made of bulgar wheat and fresh vegetables. Instant couscous (coarse) may be used instead of the bulgar wheat.

1 cup coarsely ground bulgar wheat, soaked in water for 30 minutes and drained
2 cups parsley leaves, chopped
1 red onion, chopped
2 tomatoes, peeled and chopped (optional)
1 green pepper, chopped
1-2 tbsp. lemon juice
3 tbsp. aromatic extra virgin olive oil
1 pinch ground allspice
1 pinch ground cinnamon
1 tsp. sumac (optional)
salt to taste

To serve:
⅔ cup pomegranate kernels

Mix all ingredients and set aside for 30 minutes to allow the flavours to settle (do not refrigerate). Add the pomegranate kernels, toss lightly and serve. Serves 4.

SPICY MOROCCAN CARROT SALAD

The choice between piquant and tongue-scorching hot is all yours.

8-10 carrots, peeled
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 tsp. cayenne pepper
2 tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 tbsp. oil
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. ground cumin
chopped parsley
2 tsp. Zhug hot sauce (optional)

Cook the carrots in boiling water for about 30 minutes or until tender. Allow to cool and slice into coins. Mix the remaining ingredients, pour over the carrot slices and mix well. Let stand for a minimum of one hour. Serves 6-8.

PICKLED TURNIP AND BEETROOT

3-4 beetroots, peeled and sliced
4-5 turnips, peeled and sliced

Chefs Arik Porat and Oved Alfia

1 tsp. salt

Place the turnip slices on a kitchen towel for one hour and allow to dry. Dissolve the salt in 3 cups of water. Arrange the turnip slices in a jar, place the beetroots on top and pour brine over everything. Close the lid tight and leave in a cool shaded place for one week. Will fill a 1-litre/1-quart jar.

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Jewish Life

Diversity and destruction

By RABBI AARON LEVY

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

It is commonly known that Jews will commemorate the destruction of the Second Temple this coming Tuesday with the fast of Tisha b'Av.

What's less known is that the period prior to the destruction featured great variety in Jewish life: there were multiple, competing groups with widely diverging ideologies on the most fundamental matters in Jewish belief and practice, including Sadducees, Pharisees, and Essenes, among others. Of course, there were also plenty of ordinary Jews not affiliated with any sect.

Sound familiar?

So how did the rabbis of late antiquity view this Jewish diversity? They could have cast the sects that they disagreed with in the harshest light – as idolatrous and, therefore, the spiritual cause of the imminent Roman devastation of the Temple. After all, the sages do attribute the First Temple's destruction to the idol worship, sexual depravity, and violence of the Jews of that time (586 BCE).

But their assessment of the causes for the Second Temple's destruction (70 CE) is quite different.

"Rabbi Yochanan ben Torta said: 'But with the Second Temple, we acknowledge that the people studied Torah and were circumspect with their tithes, so why were they exiled? Because they loved money and hated each other'" (Tosefta, Tractate Menachot 13:22).

Instead of seeing the mere existence of multiple Jewish ideologies as catastrophic, our tradition sees the *sinat chinam* – senseless hatred – that Jews harboured for each other as the underlying cause of utter calamity.

Other rabbinic sources further impress this point. The midrashic work *Tanna de-Vei Eliyahu* depicts conversations between the prophet Elijah and Rabbi Anan. In one discussion, the latter asks: "My teacher, why did the first exile end, while the second exile continues?" The prophet answers: "My son, although the Jews at the time of the First Temple were idolaters, they possessed derech eretz – civility."

If senseless hatred lies at the root of such massive Jewish tragedy, but civility is able to mitigate even the destructive power of idolatry, it's obviously crucial that we strive for civility. What would this look like?

Our tradition has an excellent model for positive and respectful interaction with all Jews: the figure of Hillel the Elder (first century BCE). While there are many inspiring stories about Hillel, I'll share just one, which sums up many of his qualities.

"Rabbi Abba said in the name of Samuel: Beit [the house/school of] Shammai and Beit Hillel debated for three years [!], one asserting, 'The halachah follows our views,' and the other asserting, 'The halachah follows our views.' Then a Heavenly Voice issued forth and proclaimed, 'These and these are the words of the living God, but the halachah follows Beit Hillel.'"

If the rulings of both schools are equally validated by God, why should Hillel's decisions prevail? The Talmud answers: "Because they were kind and modest, they studied their own rulings and those of Beit Shammai, and they even put the rulings of Beit Shammai before their own." (Tractate Eiruvin, p. 13b)

The organization for which I work is named for Hillel because he embodied the values of limitless kindness, openness, and respectfulness. As a pluralistic Jewish organization dedicated to engaging and empowering young Jews to explore Jewish life in numerous, varied ways, our name reminds us to aspire to emulate Hillel.

These values are just as needed off campus, in the larger Jewish world. If we want the Jewish diversity of our time not to lead to our Jewish community's ruin, we must each actively cast off our hatreds, suspicions and stereotypes of each other and replace them with civility, trust and respect. As we commemorate the past destructions of our history, let us effect a tikkun – a cosmic reparation – of their causes by committing ourselves to love the totality of the Jewish people, in all our diversity.

Rabbi Aaron Levy is the campus rabbi of University of Toronto Hillel at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life.

Things start with Him

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Midrashic Moments

The book of Deuteronomy is unique among the five books of the Torah. The rabbis of the Talmud tell us that this book contains the words of Moses. Unlike the rest of the Torah, which the traditional view maintains reflects God's words as revealed to Moses, the book of Deuteronomy records Moses' words unrevealed. The personal Moses, the man who led Israel as his life's mission, now knowing he will not lead them into the land, reflects upon his life. We have waited all year to hear his words.

The name of the book, Deuteronomy, does not reflect the Hebrew name of the book, *Dvarim*. Deuteronomy, rooted in ancient Greek, refers to the second rendition of the law that appears within the book. Dvarim literally means "things." These are the "things" that unfold within Moses. These are the things of his mind, the things within all our minds that churn and desperately try to communicate beyond ourselves. This is the book of things.

We anxiously await the first word that Moses will speak on his own behalf. Within a few verses, the text tells us that Moses' first word to Israel is the word "God." Moses pronounces the personal four letter name of God – the Ineffable Name. But would we have expected any less?

If we return to the book of Genesis and search for the first word the text tells us Abraham spoke, we find it early on when Abraham builds an altar and calls in the name of God – the Ineffable Name. It seems that both Abraham and Moses share a first true utterance of vision. Abraham, the visionary who initiates the covenant, and Moses, the visionary who fulfils the journey, both share a starting point of recognizing and connecting with the personal name of God.

Yet we, as a Jewish nation, also have a starting point. In the book of Exodus, we are redeemed from Egypt and leave as individual slaves. Once we have safely crossed the Red Sea and the Egyptian army is no longer a threat, we stand together for the first time as a nation. We are born as a people once we pass through the sea, and with our first breath as the nation Israel, we speak our first word: "*Ashira*," "I will sing."

It is a beautiful first word, followed by the phrase "to God." As one, we use our first breaths to proclaim "I will sing to God." And yet, as beautiful as it is, it is not the proclamation of a visionary. It is the beginning of a journey. It is the statement "I."

With the first words of Abraham and Moses, who utter the Ineffable Name, we are shown two truly pious and righteous people who understand that all things begin with God, and it is that relationship that informs everything else. The rest of us begin with our ego, with the statement "I" and view the world through its relationship to us.

When we ask our parents, as we all do, what was our first word, we are asking them to reveal to us our starting point in communicating. What was our outlook, what was the thing in our mind that first found its way outward? We all start with a sense of self, the "I," and the examples of Torah show us that we must journey from there to a point where the first words we begin to utter bring us closer to the personal name of God.

Yet there is a phenomenon that can occur on this journey that is neither modern nor ancient, but timeless. There are those who speak of the relationship with God and strive harder and harder to expand that relationship, and, indeed, they become stricter and stricter in their observances.

Yet, they have not changed their first word. To them the Talmud says we attribute the destruction of the world. The rabbis describe "the foolish pious man who sees a woman drowning and reasons, 'I must not jump in to save her for I may see her nakedness.'"

This person foolishly believes he is singing to God when in fact he is still only saying "I."

The ongoing saga of the Dead Sea Scrolls

By ALEX GROPPER

Past Forward

The Dead Sea Scrolls continue to fascinate the public some 60 years after their initial discovery. For many people, they represent the ultimate archeological discovery.

No one ever expected literary documents to turn up in Israel. All of the glamorous manuscripts and texts were turning up in Syria, Egypt or Iraq. Yet there had been accounts of a number of discoveries in the area of the Dead Sea in the third and ninth centuries CE. Some scholars believe that those documents influenced the Karaites, a fascinating Jewish sect of the ninth century.

But the ongoing saga of the Dead Sea Scrolls is full of amazing stories. First, there is the story of how Prof. Eliezer Sukenik of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the father of the legendary Yigael Yadin, obtained the first batch of Scrolls. Yadin recounted these fascinating stories to me when I interviewed him for a series I was doing for the CBC.

He told me that it was on Nov. 29, 1947, the day on which the United Nations in New York first voted to create a Jewish state in Palestine that his father first saw what would come to be known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. This was either a miracle or an amazing coincidence, considering that the last time the Scrolls had seen the light of day was in 70 CE when the previous Jewish state, as well as the Second Temple, were destroyed by the Romans, an event vividly portrayed on the Arch of Titus, which is still standing in the Roman forum.

After Sukenik's death, his son, Yigael Yadin, upon finishing his stint as commander of the Haganah in the War of Independence and acquiring his PhD, continued with his father's quest. Shortly after his father had acquired the first batch of Scrolls for Israel, the others were smuggled out of Palestine to the United States by Mar Athanasius Samuel, the patriarch of the Syriac Church in Jerusalem.

Yadin told me that it was while he was in New York in 1954 that he noticed an advertisement in, of all places, the *Wall Street Journal*, offering some of the Scrolls for sale. When Yadin attempted to answer the ad, his queries were not answered. Finally, he arranged for an intermediary to get involved.

Initially the asking price was $1 million, but the Scrolls were finally sold for $250,000, thanks to Sam Gottesman, an American-Jewish philanthropist who paid for the acquisition. Then they had to be smuggled back to Israel, with Yadin using a secret code to ascertain their safe arrival back in Jerusalem.

Almost a decade later, while excavating Masada in the early 1960s, Yadin continued to fill his important role in the Scrolls saga. He recounted to me that it was around this time that he paid $10,000 for a small piece of a scroll torn from a much larger document, with a promise that the entire manuscript would be delivered to him for an agreed price.

Nothing more was heard of this find until the Six Day War of 1967 when Yadin was the military advisor to the then-chief of staff, Yitzhak Rabin. Rabin allowed Yadin to send a patrol to east Jerusalem, to the house of Kando, the man who had sold the first batch of Scrolls to Yadin's father. The scroll was found hidden under Kando's home, where the top third had disintegrated. This amazing document came to be known as the Temple Scroll, and Yadin published it in the 1970s as a pleasant distraction from his involvement in Israeli politics.

Part II of the story of the Dead Sea Scrolls will be continued in the next column.

Acts of kindness – random and planned

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish
Highway

It can be hard to relate to disasters that happened 2,000 years ago. We are now in the period called "The Three Weeks," beginning this year on the evening of July 23 – the traditional time of mourning when we remember the destruction of the Temples and other Jewish catastrophes that have occurred on Tisha b'Av.

But the Talmud makes those events feel very relevant when it explains that the Second Temple was destroyed because of "sinat chinam," baseless hatred between Jews. The story is told of a man named Bar-Kamtza who was mistakenly invited to a feast. When the error was discovered, Bar-Kamtza was humiliated and told to leave. In return, Bar-Kamtza became an informant to the Roman Empire. **[tinyurl.com/2asuco]**

But baseless hatred still rears its head today. How many people who feel wronged in an inheritance choose to drag the case through the courts just to make sure the other side gets nothing? The Ohr Somayach site illustrates this hatred with the following parable: A king told someone, "Ask for anything you desire and I'll give it to you; and to your enemy I'll give double." After thinking awhile, he said, "O, King, poke out one of my eyes." **[tinyurl.com/34tabh]**

Of course, there is much good out there, too. And many wonderful sites focus on "gemilut chasadim," acts of kindness, for example, Mazornet's Chessed World **[tinyurl.com/2zemxz]**, the World-Wide Chessed Project **[tinyurl.com/2lhr43]** and the exceptional Ziv Tzedakah Fund. **[ziv.org]**

The Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda, Md., provides guidelines for three of the central acts of gemilut chesed: visiting the sick (bikur cholim), hospitality (hachnasat orchim) and comforting the mourner (nichum avelim). "In performing acts of gemilut chesed, we seek to unify our historic communal and individual experiences by enhancing our individual personal development as Jews, as members of the present generation of the Jewish people, and as members of the human family." **[tinyurl.com/2hz4s5]**

Rabbi Rami Shapiro explains that gemilut chasadim means putting other people first. But he emphasizes that this "does not mean denigrating yourself or denying yourself happiness. It means taking the other person into account and seeing how what you say and do impacts on those around you." He says putting the other person first will become natural, but here are some suggestions to get into the swing of things:

- Praise helpful employees to their managers.
- Reply courteously to unsolicited sales calls over the phone.
- Take care of the things that take care of you. Kindness is not simply toward people. The things in your life serve you tirelessly. Maintain your car. Polish your shoes. **[tinyurl.com/2ajnf5]**

There are many websites that speak about "random acts of kindness," doing the unexpected to bring joy into the lives of others. **[actsofkindness.org]** Miriam Scheibein questions this approach. "As Jews, we are commanded to visit the sick, clothe the naked, honour the elderly, give tzedakah, and to perform gemilut chasadim, acts of loving kindness. Thus, these acts are not random; they are obligations…" **[tinyurl.com/23s7gz]**

Emuna Braverman agrees. "We wouldn't advocate random acts of spending. So why treat kindness any less seriously?" She continues, "Sometimes people need empathy; sometimes they need a kick in the pants. A practitioner of well thought out acts of kindness makes this determination. If your kindness is random you may wind up doing more harm than good." **[tinyurl.com/2a6kv5]**

And here's Rabbi Shaya Karlinsky's take. "We shouldn't shy away from true confrontation and disagreements in pursuit of truth and growth… different people have different perspectives that need to be presented to the world, and without them, the world will be a less perfect place." **[tinyurl.com/yp8bo5]**

Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, the first Ashkenazi chief rabbi in British Mandate Palestine said, "There is no such thing as ahavat chinam – groundless love. Why groundless? He is a Jew, and I am obligated to respect him. There is only "sinat chinam" – hate without reason. But 'ahavat chinam'? Never!" **[tinyurl.com/575dn]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@ rogers.com.

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Papal mass decree may affect dialogue: rabbi

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

A July 7 decree from Pope Benedict XVI allowing wider use of the old Latin mass in Catholic churches has sparked concerns among Jews over a conversion prayer that's part of the old Good Friday mass.

"Obviously our concern is not whether they go Latin or English," said Rabbi Reuven Bulka, spiritual leader of Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas and co-president of Canadian Jewish Congress. "The prayer [for the conversion of Jews], even as obscure as it is, is entrenching a doctrine we had hoped was a thing of the past."

He added: "There is a major concern about how this is going to affect dialogue. You can't talk with people who have as an agenda to change you to their way and who don't accept your legitimacy."

The prayer sends that message by virtue of being "on [the] books," even if it's only optional and not used, said Rabbi Bulka, who has been involved in Christian-Jewish dialogue for many years. "You can't dialogue as equal partners. It creates problems."

However, he noted, it's too early to comment on the change. "I think people have to see it in order to know how to respond."

Archbishop Thomas Collins

Thomas Collins, the archbishop of Toronto, told *The CJN* last week that "a lot of people haven't read the document, or read it carefully. A lot of people are commenting on what they think it says."

Nevertheless, the archbishop, who has also been involved with interfaith dialogue, said he doesn't think anyone in the Church considered "any interest the Jewish people might have in this document… It was one side effect that I don't think was intended or maybe even thought of."

Rather, the decree is part of an effort to "bring reconciliation" to those who left the Catholic church when the current service, which replaced the conversion prayer with one for the welfare of Jews, became the main form of worship in 1970.

The decree also aims "to help people within the Catholic Church who treasure the ancient prayers," Archbishop Collins said. Six hundred thousand people now make up the Society of Pius X, which derives from those who left, he added.

"The Catholic church is committed to good relationships with the Jewish people," the archbishop said, citing the 1965 Nostra Aetate declaration that paved the way for better interfaith relations. "This [new decree] is intended as an internal Catholic thing."

The archbishop – who believes the decree is "a good document and much needed for some time" – said it would be difficult to even find a priest today who could celebrate the Latin mass.

"Latin hasn't been taught for 40 years," he said.

Also, he added that according to the decree, the Latin mass would only be celebrated on Good Friday in very rare circumstances. That's because the three days before Easter, which include Good Friday and are known collectively as the Sacred Triduum, are "so central that people should be with the community" and use the standard liturgy, he said.

It is "conceivable but rare" that a small parish that prefers the Latin rites could be considered a "community" and thus be permitted to use the Latin mass, the archbishop said.

The 1970 Missal, as it is known, replaced the Latin version as the standard liturgy. The more recent one is also referred to as the "ordinary" liturgy.

"I think a simple solution would be to take the 1970 prayer [for the Jews] and put it in the 1962 book. The newer prayer, instead of referring to conversion, is a prayer for 'the Jewish people who first received the word of God,'" Archbishop Collins said.

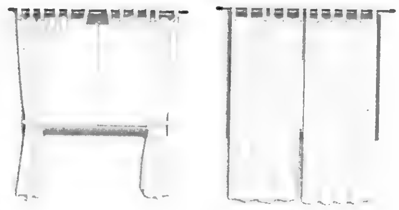
The 1962 Latin prayerbook is "a beautiful prayerbook and has a lot of good in it," said the archbishop. Its prayers are "rich and beautiful and profound, but there were problems."

Father John Walsh, of Montreal's St. John Brébeuf parish, said he would not conduct a Latin service now, although he did so shortly after he was ordained in 1966.

"There's a nostalgia, but not a sense of worship that's going to be enhanced" regarding the Latin service, said Father Walsh, a former co-president of Christian Jewish Dialogue in Montreal who, like Archbishop Collins, studied at Hebrew University.

He agreed with Rabbi Bulka that "honest dialogue would be very difficult" if there were a feeling that Jews should convert.

Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum of Toronto's Beth Tzedec Congregation, who has been involved in Jewish-Catholic dialogue for 37 years, said he thinks the decree represents "a return to traditional philosophy, [but] without anti-Semitic overtones. However, I think there is a danger that the metaphors that may be used will still carry old connotations."



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CIC dismayed by the ruling

Continued from page 1

Because of the competing claims to Jerusalem by Israelis and Palestinians, Canadian passport applicants born in Jerusalem are allowed to indicate either that city or the country – Israel in Veffer's case – but not both, as their birthplace.

According to federal policy, Israel is the exception to a rule that allows other Canadian passport holders to list their country of choice as their birthplace, even when a territory is under international dispute.

Veffer argued that this is also discriminatory.

Passport Canada's policy on Jerusalem reads: "Due to the present political situation, Jerusalem must stand alone" when indicated on a passport. The policy came into effect in 1976.

Canadian policy does allow "Palestine" to appear on passports if the applicant was born in Jerusalem prior to May 14, 1948, while the country was still known by that name under British mandate.

In an April 11, 2006, *CBC News* report, Foreign Affairs Minister, Peter MacKay, spoke about Canada's stance on the issue.

"We do not identify Jerusalem as being in Israel or in Palestine," he said. "That's something that has to be resolved in the context of the larger issues outstanding in the Middle East."

The CJN's calls to the Foreign Affairs Department were not returned.

Federal lawyers argued that according to international law, granting Veffer's request could be seen by some Arab countries as "taking sides" in Middle East affairs, a perception Canada wants to avoid.

In an interview with *The CJN*, David Matas, Veffer's Winnipeg-based lawyer, called the court's ruling "facetious and nonsensical."

"Canada won the peace prize in the old days when you could put Jerusalem, Israel, on your passport," he added.

Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), told *The CJN* he is dismayed by the ruling and indicated that his organization must work harder in the political sector "in order to secure a meaningful recognition of the inherent and unique connection between Jerusalem and the Jewish people – including the status of Jerusalem, Israel's capital."

Veffer, now studying at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, was given 90 days to file an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Gordon Wiseman, another lawyer for Veffer, has said his client intends to continue the fight.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

תשעה באָב, דער טאָג פון ייִדישן טרויער

פון אַלעק סילווער

טראַכט מען זיך אַריין, איז עס באמת צו באַוווּנדערן אונדזער ייִדיש פאָלק, וואָס איז איינציקאַרטיק אויף דער וועלט מיט איר אָנהאַלטן די בענקשאַפט פאַר טויזנטער יאָרן נאָך דעם לאַנד פון אירע אָבות. דערצו נאָך אָפּגעבן איין טאָג יעדן יאָר צו טרויערן אויף אַ געשעעניש, וואָס איז פאָרגעקומען יאָרהונדערטער צוריק — דער חורבן ירושלים און דער חורבן פון ביידע הייליקע בתי־מקדש. צי קען מען אָנווייזן אויף נאָך אַ פאָלק, וואָס קען זיך פאַרגלייכן צו אונדזערס מיט דער ביישפּילפולער באַציִונג צום ביבלישן לאַנד, צו די קאַמפן פון ייִדישן פאָלק אין אַלטערטום, צו די נצחונות און צו דעם פאַרלוסט פון זעלבסשטענדיקייט פון איר מלוכה זינט דעם יאָר 70 אין דער נייער צייט רעכענונג.

שוין טויזנטער יאָרן זאָגן ייִדן אין טרויער „איכה“ און קינות. זיי הערן נישט אויף צו וויינען אויף דער גרויזאַמער קאַטאַסטראָפע, וואָס עס האָט פאַסירט צום ייִדישן פאָלק אין דעם זעלבן טאָג, ווען עס זיינען חרוב געוואָרן ביידע הייליקע בתי־מקדש — דער ערשטער דורך נבוכדנצר מלך בבל, און דער צווייטער דורך דעם רוימישן קיסר טיטוס הרשע.

און נישט בלויז אין דעם באַשטימטן טאָג טרויערט דאָס פאָלק אויף דער צעשטערונג פון ירושלים און פון בית־המקדש, נייערט טאָג־איין און טאָג־אויס, צו יעדער צייט טרויערט דאָס פאָלק אויף דעם דאָזיקן חורבן. בשעת דער חופה, בעת אַזאַ וויכטיקער פריילעכער געשעעניש אין אונדזער פערזענלעכן לעבן, צעברעכן מיר אַ גלאָז, ווי אַ זכר לחורבן און מען ברענגט אויף ירושלים „על ראש שמחתנו“. ווען מען בויט אַ הויז איז עס אַ מנהג איבערצולאָזן אַ קוואַדראַט־אייל נישט געפאַרבט ווי אַ זכר לחורבן.

אַ מערקווירדיקער קוריאָז איז פאַרצייכנט אין דער וועלט־כראָניק: דער פראַנצויזישער פירער נאַפּאָלעאָן באָנאַפּאַרטע איז אַמאָל אום תשעה באָב אַריין אין אַ שיל און געזען ייִדן זיצן אין זאָקן אויף נידעריקע בענקלעך און זאָגן טרויער־טעקסטן מיט אַ ספּעציעלן וויינענדיקן ניגון. אויף זיין פראַגע וואָס דאָס מיינט, האָט מען אים דערקלערט, אַז ייִדן טרויערן שוין טויזנטער יאָרן אויפן חורבן פון זייער הויפּטשטאָט און זייערע הייליקע טעמפּלס. „אויב אַ פאָלק איז פעיִק צו געדענקען און טרויערן אויף אַזאַ נאַציאָנאַל־רעליגיעזער קאַטאַסטראָפע אומאויפהערלעך אַזוי פיל יאָרן — האָט נאַפּאָלעאָן געזאָגט — איז עס אַן אייביק פאָלק און וועט זוכה זיין צו דער אויסלייזונג!“.

איך קען נישט גאַראַנטירן דעם אמת פון דעם דאָזיקן אַנעקדאָט, נאָר אויב אַזאַ אויסזיכט קען קומען פון מויל פון אַ וועלט־באַרימטן קריסטלעכן הערשער, ווערט אונדזער פליכט נאָך גרעסער צו רעספּעקטירן אָט־דעם טראַגישן טרויער־טאָג און אים אָנהאַלטן און אויספירן זיינע פאַרבאָטן. האָבן מיר דאָך באַקומען די הבטחה, אַז „דער וואָס טרויערט אויף חורבן ירושלים וועט זוכה זיין צו זען איר אויפריכטונג און פרייד“.

עס איז נישט קיין ספק, אַז אַ דאַנק דעם דאָזיקן אייביקן טרויער־טאָג, וועלכן מיר האָבן מיטגעטראָגן מיט אונדז במשך דער לאַנגער פינצטערער און פיינפולער גלות־נאַכט, איז עס געווען אַ סך לייכטער איבערצוטראָגן די אַנדערע חורבן קאַטאַסטראָפעס פון ייִדישן פאָלק. עס האָט אויך געהאָלפן צו פאַרוואַנדלען אונדזער גאַנצע עקזיסטענץ אין איין לאַנגער „ציוניסטישער קייט“ און האַלטן וואַך דעם גאולה־טרוים פאַר טויזנטער יאָרן, וואָס האָט אונדז ווירקלעך דערפירט צו דער באַנייונג פון מלכות ישראל.

מיר ווינטשן אַלעמען אַ לייכטן תענית!

Harper mulling reinstatement of funding to Palestinian Authority

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF

Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said last week he was still considering whether to resume funding to the Palestinian Authority on the West Bank, the territory controlled by PA President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party after it was violently expelled from Gaza by Hamas last month.

During a two-day visit to Ottawa by King Abdullah II of Jordan last week, some newspaper reports said Harper was set to pledge $8 million in immediate aid to the PA and bump up the total to $30 million shortly thereafter.

Stephen Harper

The reports said the Harper government had decided to lift its funding freeze-out of the PA, in place since Hamas won legislative elections last year.

Canada, which considers Hamas a terrorist group and was one of the first countries to suspend aid to the Palestinian Authority after it gained control of the Palestinian parliament, would also urge Abbas to end the corruption that is perceived to be rampant in his government, the reports said.

Repeated attempts by *The CJN* to confirm the reports with the Prime Minister's Office were unsuccessful as of press time last week.

But Harper and King Abdullah held a press conference on Friday, July 13, after a private morning meeting on Parliament Hill, and Harper reaffirmed his support for Abbas and the Mideast peace process.

King Abdullah II

"It's important that moderate Middle East leaders have support," Harper said. "We must use negotiations instead of force. Now that Hamas is not the government… we support Abbas."

For his part, the Jordanian king thanked Canada for its role in helping to foster peace and said he hoped Canada would do more over the coming weeks and "be part of a larger team to renew peace in the region."

In recent weeks, King Abdullah has publicly urged Canada to use its leverage as a "friend of Israel" to pressure Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to accept a peace initiative proposed by the Arab League, of which Jordan is a member.

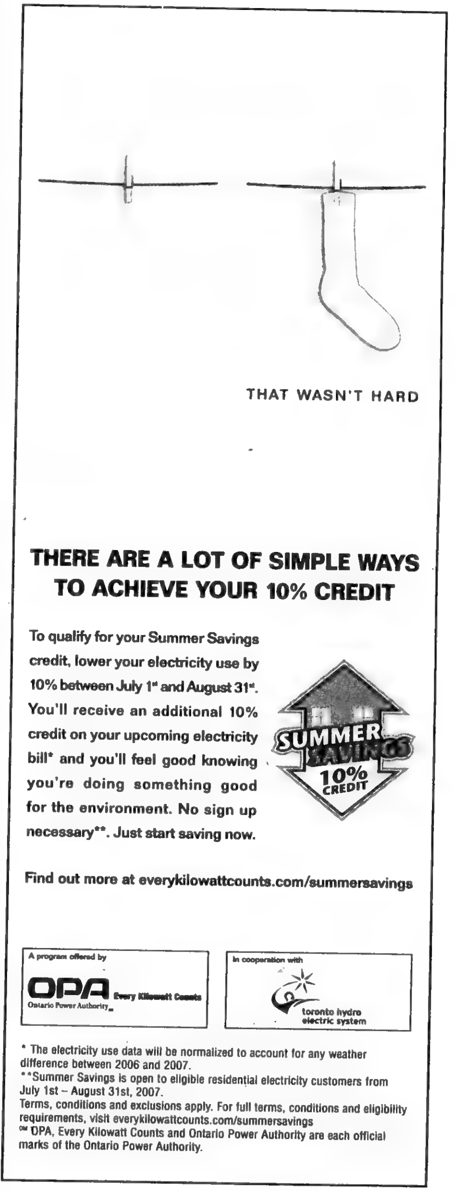
The League's plan, first outlined in 2002 and recently reaffirmed, calls for all Arab countries to formally recognize and normalize relations with Israel. In return, Israel would relinquish all lands captured in the 1967 Six-Day War, partake in the creation of a Palestinian state and acknowledge the "right of return" of Palestinian refugees.

While Israel has welcomed the chance to renew peace negotiations, it has remained cool to some of the details of the plan, particularly regarding the call for a Palestinian right of return.

Harper told reporters he regretted that Olmert was unable to visit Canada earlier this year, but said he remained confident a meeting would take place between them shortly.

The prime minister also called on Israelis and Palestinians to accept that a two-state solution is the "only possible outcome" for peace.

Arab League representatives from Egypt and Jordan are scheduled to arrive in Israel this month for the start of bilateral talks.



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Blog TV provides users with their 15 minutes of fame

By DEBORAH STRESCU
Special to The CJN

Israel and Canada are two countries with obvious differences in climate, geographic location and size.

After speaking with Claude Galipeau, executive vice-president of Alliance Atlantis, however, it seems that Canada and Israel have much more in common than you might think.

Blog TV, Canada's only live video blogging service, through which users become their own broadcasters, was brought from Israel about two years ago.

Tapuz, a web portal and the largest social media website in Israel, launched the service after it began to work with Israeli reality TV.

The site allows people to broadcast from their own home and see themselves on TV. The service was an immediate success, which prompted Tapuz to expand Blog TV to mobile.

Shemi Levi, the CEO of GS (Gravity Sabio) New Media, a distribution company based in Toronto, with offices in London and Tel Aviv, decided to bring Blog TV to Canada. He partnered with Alliance Atlantis, the broadcasting, entertainment and motion picture distributor, to make it happen.

In March 2007, Blog TV celebrated its launch in Canada. Almost immediately, more than 400,000 bloggers visited the site, and within a month this number grew to over 1.1 million. Twelve hundred live shows are created every day.

What is the appeal, you ask? Well, according to Galipeau and Levi, Blog TV is a "novel and unique application in the Canadian face of technology." Blog TV, above anything else, is a platform to express yourself more directly with your "fan base" and "a chance to be famous."

You must be Canadian-based to register as a user of Blogtv.ca.The Canadian aspect of the website is extremely attractive, say Galipeau and Levi, as "it's a Canada club... They're not lost in a sea of foreign users."

Israeli Blog TV works on the same principle, as Israelis are just as patriotic as Canadians. The idea behind the website is to be proud of who you are and to express yourself in an open environment.

"Anyone can become famous on Blog TV," says Levi. "Even those who have serious psychological problems... They share their difficulties, and one can see that they are extremely bright people."

On Blog TV, those with real problems are "big celebs" because people can relate. There is a variety of content on the website, ranging from sports and politics to the meaning of the Qur'an.

On the Canadian website, hundreds of programs are broadcast across the country. Programs includes DVD and music reviews, prankster programs (à la Leno and Stern) and live Q&A sessions with TV hosts of food and gardening shows. There is even after-hours content provided for all different moods.

Claude Galipeau

Shemi Levi

Whether it's because of its innovative technology, creative service or variety of programs, Blog TV is taking off. What will this mean for the way we communicate with each other in the future? Increasingly, we are seeing audiences taking charge of content, as "media companies are embracing their audiences as creators," says Galipeau.

Broadcasters are no longer in charge; we are witnessing the democratization of distributing content. Blog TV is simply another example of this, and it is proof of the success and popularity of user-generated content. Thoughts are original not edited or scripted.

Alliance Atlantis recognized the potential of this idea. Tapuz's success with its Blog TV website was phenomenal, a testament to the technology visionaries of Israel.

Galipeau thought to customize their vision for Canada and with Alliance Atlantis, a company that speaks clearly to a defined community of interests with 13 specialty channels. Galipeau believed he could relate those interests in the online forum, an alternative to watching television.

There are even plans to expand to mobile, which is working well in Israel.

The marketing campaign for Blog TV includes a crew of 24/7 bloggers who run around Toronto interviewing people in clubs and various hot-dog stands throughout the city.

YouTube has carried display ads online for Canadian Blog TV. Google Israel helped launch Blog TV in Israel.

So far, Canadian Blog TV has managed to create a buzz. Galipeau believes that the "fact that it's live gives Blog TV a high degree of authenticity and unexpectedness."

Any broadcaster can interact with their fans in a live network. This aspect is "addictive," says Levi, as users want to be interactive.

"It is an amazing experience for anyone that wants to be someone."

blogTV.ca

Only paid Family Moments announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

Mazel tov announcements featured on onlysimchas.com will appear once a month.

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

As featured on

onlysimchas!

Celebrating Jewish Life

www.onlysimchas.com

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words, maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments,
1500 Don Mills Rd., #205
North York, ON. M3B 3K4

or email to:
cblackman@cjnews.com

Mazel tov on the recent wedding of Chaim Ciment & Dvoiri Glick.

Mazel tov on the birth of Shifra Razel to Zecharia & Dena Adler.

Mazel tov to Sima Ostrov & Yosef Mendlowitz on their recent engagement.

Mazel tov on the pidyon haben of Yonatan Yisrael Sueke.

Mazel tov to Youri Werner & Natasha Peterfreund on their engagement.

Mazel tov on the engagement of Avi Pollock & Zahava Herskowitz.

Mazel tov on the recent wedding of Ari Hirsch & Zena Pearl of Ottawa.

Mazel tov to Angelika Zilberman & Jeffrey Schlanger on their engagement.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, July 23, is the deadline for the Aug. 2 issue and Monday, July 30, is the deadline for the Aug. 9 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Saturday, July 21

B'NAI SHALOM SERVICES

Join B'Nai Shalom of Halton-Peel, an egalitarian Conservative synagogue, for Shabbat services with guest cantor **Audrey Kaufman** followed by kiddush and conversation. 10 a.m. For location e-mail info@bnaishalom.ca or call **Judi** at 905-469-4344.

Sunday, July 22

SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Enjoy a nature walk at the Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat with Walk and Talk Etc., a walking club for Jewish singles 50+. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Humber Bay Park E. Registration and info at walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

Monday, July 23

ADVOCATES FOR HUMANITY

Advocates for Humanity, a Jewish volunteer group dedicated to *tikkun olam*, is holding a planning meeting at 7:30 p.m. New members welcome. Contact **Marleine** at 905-763-1136 or marleine@rogers.com.

TISHA B'AV TALK

Rabbi David Aaron will give a pre-Lamentations talk at the Minsker Shul on "Does God Cry," followed by a discussion. 9 p.m. 10 St. Andrew St. 416.595-5723 or reachus@theminsk.com

Tuesday, July 24

TISHA B'AV PROGRAM

Torah in Motion all day Tisha b'Av program begins at Or Chaim Yeshiva with Shacharit and explanations of selected *kinnot*, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. The program continues at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation at 12:30 p.m. with The Chofetz Chaim Heritage video film featuring **Rabbi Abraham Twerski** and **Rabbi Jonathan Rietti** 2 p.m. Minchah, 2:30 p.m. **Dr. Eric Lawee** on "Jewish Sovereignty and its Discontents," 3:30 p.m. **Dr. James Diamond** on "And Aaron was Silent: Resignation or Protest in the face of Tragedy?" 4:30 p.m. **Dovid Asher** on "Mourning the Lack of Clarity," 5:30 p.m. **Chaim Klein** on "Jerusalem and Rome: Is the Churban the Result of a Clash of Civilizations?" 6:30 p.m. **Dr. Elliott Malamet** on "Finding God: The Constant Challenge." For information visit www.torahinmotion.org or call 416-633-5770.

Wednesday, July 25

PROSTATE CANCER INFO

Man to Man and Side to Side, prostate cancer support groups, present **Dr. Charles Catton**, of Princess Margaret Hospital, on "Salvage Radiation" followed by a question period. 7:30 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. 416-932-8820.

Thursday, July 26

FAMILY FUN

Come out to Earl Bales Park for free activities for the whole family including crafts, jumping castle, sports skills and more. 5:30-7 p.m. followed by a busker-like show, The Ben Show, 7-8 p.m. For information call 416-395-7873.

Sunday, July 29

MOSAIC BBQ AND PARTY

Mosaic Outdoors Club of Ontario hosts its second annual summer membership party with canoeing, climbing, barbecue and beach time. Meet at Yorkdale Mall outside the Indigo Bookstore at 8:30 a.m. where participants will carpool to the party. Departure at 8:45 a.m. Barbecue is kosher and vegetarian. Bring your own reusable plate and drinking cup. www.mosaictoronto.org

SUMMER DAY OF STUDY

Women's League for Conservative Judaism Canadian Seaway Region holds its second annual

Continued on page 25

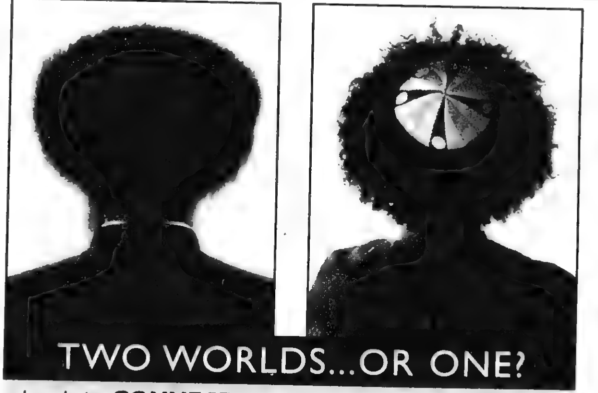
Together we mourn the passing
of a special and unique lady whose spirit
and joy for life will always be remembered.

Sara Pachter
who will be sorely missed by all

Sincerest Condolences to her family and children,
Maida, Charles, Karen & David
"May the Almighty consol you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem"

With warm regards from your friends in Israel

Danny Pavell & his family,
Nava Bibi – the Beit Ticho House,
Danny Alkali and the Sheraton Tiberias,
Ilana Beradt and all the Mount Zion,
Jimmy Zohar, Suzy ben Dori and the Carlton Tel Aviv staff
and Rodney Sanders, Joanne Odes
and the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel staff



TWO WORLDS...OR ONE?

Introducing **CONNECTIONS*:**

The How & Why of Mitzvahs Between One Jew and Another
A programme all about the importance and basics behind the mitzvahs between people.

WEEKLY CLASSES

Mondays @ 8pm
July 9 - August 6
Sephardic Kehilah Centre
7026 Bathurst Street, Thornhill
Note: No class on Monday, July 23

Thursdays @ 9pm
July 5 - August 9
Thornhill Community Shul
949 Clark Avenue West

905.764.1818

Visit www.thornhillshul.com for full details and
other exciting Connections* programmes this summer.

CONNECTIONS
Making Bonds of Love Between Jews

Thornhill Community Shul

aish25

This programme is a joint effort between the Center for Jewish Values (under the direction of Harav Yitzchak Berkovits) & the Toronto Jewish Community

What's New

Continued from page 24

women's summer day of study, "Songs of Songs: A Time to Study, A Time to Create," with **Loretta Tanenbaum**, of the Melton Adult Mini-School. The day begins at 10:30 a.m. with a 90-minute walking tour of historic Jewish Spadina. Meet at Anshei Minsk Synagogue, 10 St. Andrews St. Tour followed by lunch and study at Beth Tzedec Synagogue. All welcome. $30. Call **Fran Caine**, 905-881-4830, for registration and information.

STAGED READING

Medina Theatre Ensemble present a staged reading of *Social Security* by **Andrew Bergman**, a comedy about two families facing the decision of what to do with an aged mother. 2 p.m. Earl Bales Community Centre. $5. 416-633-2057 or 416-785-0344.

SINGLES SOCIAL EVENT

Mini golf with Walk and Talk Etc., Jewish singles 50+. 6 p.m. For information and directions e-mail walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, July 31

SUMMER CONCERT

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents the Kelzfactor at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park. 7:30 p.m. Free. 416-395-7873.

SAR-EL INFO MEETING

Find out about the Sar-El program, civilian volunteers working on Israeli army supply/maintenance bases. 7:30 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089 or www.sarelcanada.org.

Other News

YU SUMMER KOLLEL

Yeshiva University Summer Kollel offers the following free study programs. Sunday, July 22-Thursday, Aug. 2. A half-hour lecture by **Rabbi Shmuel Marcus** on "The Spiritual Significance of Melody and Song," followed by an hour and fifteen minutes of simultaneous classes and workshops on Jewish philosophy, Tanach, the Relevance of the Siddur, the Legacy of Jerusalem, Talmud, and Understanding Jewish Law. The program concludes with the option of one-on-one *chavrutah* learning. Sunday, July 22 at Clanton Park Synagogue, 8:15 a.m. Shacharit followed by program; Wednesday, July 25 at B'nai Torah Congregation, 7:45 p.m. and Thurs. July 26 at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, 7:45 p.m. During the week of July 26-Aug. 2, Rabbi Marcus will lecture on "Contemporary Stringencies: Prudent or Excessive?" The program format remains the same. Sunday, July 29 at Or Chaim Yeshiva, 8:15 a.m. Shacharit followed by program; Monday,. July 30 at Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue, 7:45 p.m.; Tuesday, July 31 at Adas Israel of Hamilton, 7:45 p.m.; Wednesday, Aug. 1 at B'nai Torah Congregation, 7:45 p.m.; and Thursday, Aug. 2 at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, 7:45 p.m. For information or to reserve a chavrutah contact 416-783-6960 or e-mail canada@yu.edu.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada offers The Helen Weisbrad Memorial Scholarship ($1,000) and the National Council York Mills Study Branch Scholarships ($500) providing financial assistance to enable high school graduates to attend first year at any accredited university, 416-633-5100.

GARAGE SALE ITEMS

Donate your unwanted gifts, new or very gently used clothing, children's wear, games, china, silver, jewellery, fashion accessories, books, bric-a-brac etc. to a garage sale. All proceeds will fund humanitarian relief projects supported by Advocates For Humanity. For information, **Marleine** at 905-763-1136 or marleine@rogers.com.

AWARENESS PLAYERS

Council Awareness Players, a troupe of volunteer actors and authors who provide education on elder abuse, healthy heart and fire safety using dramas and skits, are available to perform for community groups. To book the group call Council House, 416-633-5100.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hebrew Club for the Blind requires volunteer secretary and drivers. **Bess** at 905-508-2892.

FOR SENIORS

Chai Shalom Social Club offers an evening with vocalist **Jack Garson**, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 7:30 p.m. Members $7, non-members $9. Annual membership $20. For information call 416-633-3838.

Join **Beth Emeth Sisterhood and Chai Shalom** on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at the Stratford Festival to see *To Kill a Mockingbird*. 2 p.m. $80 including transportation. To reserve call 416-633-3838.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park. Casino Rama, Wednesday, Aug. 8; Casino Niagara, Thursday, Aug. 23. For information, call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Stories of Family and the Miracle of Chance and Circumstances" with **Alvin Abram**, Tuesday, July 24. 10 a.m.

Israeli Festival, Wednesday, July 25, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Free.

"Play Bridge On-Line" a free 2-hour demonstration, Thursday, July 26., 2-4 p.m. Register at ext. 128.

"Stories from the Heart" with **Evelyn Yuditsky**, Thursday, July 26, 12-1 p.m.

"Classic Movies" with **Sandy Bokser** and **Barbara Ziegler**, Thursday, July 26, 2-4 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Annual barbecue, Wednesday, July 25, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Members $8, guests $12. For tickets call ext. 2267.

Lunch and Learn, Tues. July 31, 11:30 a.m. **Anna Bloom** discussing "Dolls for Democracy." Call ext. 2267 to reserve.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Good Age Club "Day Trip to Centre Island," Thursday, July 26, meet at the MNjcc at 1 p.m. Participants will be taking the streetcar to the ferry to Ward's Island for a day in the sun.

Good Age Club drop-in $3 per event. Annual membership dues include one yoga and one aquafit class at the MNjcc per week. For information contact ext. 0.

"Intensive Hebrew Grammar Course," learn the Hebrew verb system including structures, types and how to conjugate verbs, in just 4 days. Improve your vocabulary and fluency with **Tammy Keren**. Monday through Thursday, Aug. 13-16, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For information and registration call ext. 154.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Ottawa and 1000 Islands Trip, Oct. 23-25, hotel, transportation, meals and entertainment included. To reserve call **Teme**, ext 364.

BJCC Chai Dancers open for members 55+. **Teme**, ext 364.

Registration is continuing for September 2007 for BJCC Morning School for Tic Tac Two, Nursery and Junior Kindergarten. The program includes music, Hebrew, Fun Centre time, gym time, and swimming. Call ext. 248 for information and to book a tour of the school.

JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILD WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT: Richard Orzy, left, new president of Jewish Family and Child, accepts the gavel from outgoing president David Peltz at the agency's recent annual general meeting.

The Bernard Betel C
for Creati

NA'AMAT PRESIDENTS INSTALLED: Club Beersheba of Na'amat Toronto recently installed co-presidents Phyllis Fraser, left, and Ruth Jacobson at a gala dinner at the Bernard Betel Centre. [photo: Mollie Rothman]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 28

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OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Bennie Tepper	Jul 1/07	141 Kennard Ave
Wilfred Shapiro	Jul 1/07	7601 Bathurst St
Ricky Schachter	Jul 1/07	561 Avenue Rd
Nancy Markowski	Jul 1/07	155 Alexis Bl
John Taylor	Jul 1/07	28 Ranwood Dr
Martin Ungar	Jul 2/07	5378 Cochrane Pl
Fania Levitsky	Jul 3/07	5935 Bathurst St
Dalia Sharet	Jul 4/07	7250 Yonge Str
Ben Pinkus	Jul 5/07	199 Waterloo Ave
Marvin Goodman	Jul 5/07	57 Old Park Rd
Tosia Berlin	Jul 5/07	111 Cortleigh Bl
Norman Rabkin	Jul 6/07	3900 Yonge St
Evelin Nadler	Jul 7/07	85 Skymark Dr
Jeanine Fletcher	Jul 7/07	247 Maxome Ave

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Fleitman, Eugenya Efimovna	Jun 26/07	3174 Bathurst St
Mandel, Toby Gail	Jun 27/07	85 Skymark Dr
Pecker, Miriam Rose	Jun 27/07	65 Skymark Dr
Clairman, David	Jun 27/07	
Brown, Leo	Jun 28/07	105 Baycrest Ave
Kuretzky, Marlene	Jun 29/07	12 Marwood Rd
Chase, William	Jun 29/07	45 Barksdale Ave
Levitt, Eric	Jun 29/07	61 Ames Circle
Lowenfeld, Aurora	Jun 30/07	Private
Shulman, Elsie	Jun 30/07	3560 Bathurst St
Sher, Hyman	Jun 30/07	22 Southport St
Geigner, Margit	Jun 30/07	
Berger, Belle	Jul 2/07	22 Norfinch Ave. W.
Bergman, Friderika	Jul 2/07	989 Eglinton Ave. W.
Levin, Samuel	Jul 2/07	Private
Nasimov, Eilya	Jul 2/07	Shiva in Israel
Krivyan, Michael	Jul 3/07	Private
Goodman, Howard Keith	Jul 3/07	2739 Victoria Park
Horowitz, Avroham Elimelech	Jul 3/07	

HEBREW BASIC

Sylvia Grossman	Jul 2/07	120 Promenade Cir
Anne Usprech	Jul 7/07	3560 Bathurst St

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

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Sunday, July 22nd, 12:15 p.m.

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

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will take place

Sunday, July 29th, 10:30 a.m.

Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Dufferin St., n. of Major Mackenzie
Adath Israel (New Section)

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

ARTHUR LEVSON ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, July 22nd, 10:00 a.m.

Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Beth Emeth Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Coast to Coast

Three additional universities come out against British boycott

By **ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF**
Staff Reporter

Three more Canadian universities have come out against a proposed boycott of Israeli academic institutions by Britain's largest post-secondary teachers union.

B.C.'s Simon Fraser University, Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., and Toronto's Ryerson University have all added their names to the growing list of Canadian academic institutions that have denounced the proposal, passed May 30, which urges members of the University and College Union (UCU) to consider a boycott of Israeli universities.

'Conflicts with the free exchange of ideas'

In a statement last week, Michael Stevenson, president of Simon Fraser University said, "I wish to state my clear disapproval of such a move. An academic boycott conflicts with the free exchange of ideas and research that is central to the mission of universities."

Stevenson continued, "Israeli universities share our commitment to the fundamental value of academic freedom. I call for all who subscribe to this value to oppose the proposed boycott of Israeli universities."

On July 9, Sheldon Levy, president of Ryerson, stated, "I must add my voice to those who have urged [UCU members] to reject any call for a boycott of Israeli universities. We will not stand by as the very nature of university education is being undermined."

In a July 6 statement on her university's website, Queen's principal Karen Hitchcock declared, "The academic boycott of Israeli universities being considered by [UCU] is antithetical to the core value of academic freedom."

Hitchcock called the proposal "ill-advised," adding, "We are proud to align ourselves with those who deplore the UCU's unacceptable attack on the values and principles that define us."

The addition of Simon Fraser, Queen's and Ryerson brings the number of Canadian universities voicing support for Israeli academia to 17.

Others that have denounced the boycott proposal are the University of Toronto, McGill University, Concordia University, the University of British Columbia, the Université de Montréal, York University, the University of Western Ontario, Dalhousie University, the University of Ottawa, the Université de Québec à Montréal, and the universities of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Calgary and Alberta.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

YAKOV (JACK) KETER ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, July 29th at 10:00 a.m.

Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Dufferin St. north of Major Mackenzie
Grand Order of Israel Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

Ottawa lawyer gets public service's highest honour

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Henry Molot, a lawyer in the federal Justice Department, recently received the Public Service Award for Excellence.

The award was presented June 14 by Kevin Lynch, clerk of the Privy Council.

In his message congratulating this year's recipients, Lynch said, "Your efforts have made a positive difference in the lives of Canadians, while exemplifying the values, ethics and priorities of the public service. In being selected for this award, you are being recognized both for your dedication and achievement as public servants."

Henry Molot

Molot, 68, joined the department in 1966 after his graduation from Yale Law School. After his first year, he took a four-year "break" to teach at the University of Ottawa and the University of Alberta in Edmonton, but he returned in 1971 and remained there until his retirement this past spring.

For a man so deeply involved in Jewish life, it's fitting that Molot received the award in his "double chai" year of service.

Known as the Justice Department's leading authority on administrative law as well as aspects of constitutional law, parliamentary law, statutory interpretation and Crown liability, Molot is widely respected both professionally and personally.

A modest, thoughtful and easygoing colleague, Molot has for many years been a mentor to junior members of the department. More than 20 years ago, he created the popular department-wide Constitutional Law Seminar and thanks each speaker with a gift of bagels.

Molot was born and grew up in Ottawa and is a fixture in its Jewish institutional life. He and his wife, Maureen, are members, or associate members, of four synagogues. He is also a longstanding member of the Ottawa Chevra Kadisha; of the Jewish National Fund (Ottawa); the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society; the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation; and is on the Tikvah Committee of Jewish Family Services.

"It is great that Henry has received such recognition," said Rabbi Reuven Bulka, co-president of Canadian Jewish Congress and spiritual leader of Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas. "But knowing Henry, that is still not as important to him as bringing laughter and cheer to all those in his ambience."

Molot received official notification of being chosen for the award while vacationing in Israel.

"There we were in the Tel Aviv Art Museum in the middle of an exhibition… when our cellphone suddenly begins to ring. In my usual fashion, I grope for the phone in my shirt pocket… and who was on the other end of the line but my deputy minister! I have to apologize to him for not being able to speak loudly enough while in the museum, and in the meantime, scurry out of the exhibition hall into the lobby area," he said.

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by **Sidura Ludwig**

* * * *

December 3
Kathy Tile
will explore
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close
by **Jonathan Safran Foer**

* * * *

March 31
Cynthia Good
will focus on
A Thread of Grace
by **Mary Doria Russel**

November 19
Celine Kessier
will discuss
The Ministry of Special Cases
by **Nathan Englander**

* * * *

December 10
Ruby Newman
will analyze
The Yiddish Policemen's Union
by **Michael Chabon**

* * * *

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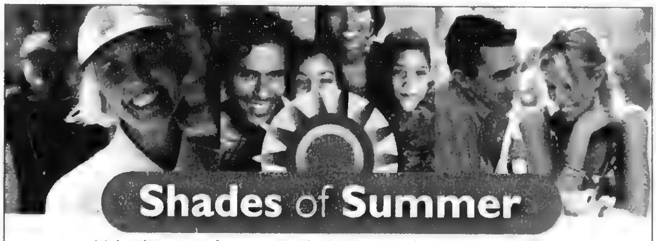

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Calgary	Holiday Inn Macleod Trail	$179.00	403-287-2700	Calgary Stampede Park	Heritage Park
Guelph	Holiday Inn	$165.00	519-836-0231	African Lion Safari	St. Jacobs Market and Village
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	Holiday Inn Select Halifax Centre	$169.00	902-423-1161	Pier 21 National Historic Site	Citadel Hill Historic Fortress
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Mississauga	Holiday Inn Toronto West	$119.00	905-890-5700	Canada's Wonderland	FIFA Under 20 World Cup 2007
Montreal	Holiday Inn Select Centre-ville**	$179.00	514-878-9888	Old Montreal	Montreal Casino
Oakville	Holiday Inn Select Hotel & Suites @ Bronte	$139.00	905-847-1000	Glen Abbey Golf & Country Club	Happy 150th Birthday Oakville! Summer Long Celebrations
Oshawa	Holiday Inn	$149.00	905-576-5101	Bowmanville Zoo	Bowmanville Cedar Water Park
Ottawa	Les Suites Hotel***	$199.00	613-232-2000	Renoir Landscapes Exhibit, National Art Gallery	Masters of the Plains Exhibit, Museum of Civilization
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Toronto	Holiday Inn Airport East	$149.00	416-240-7511	Canada's Wonderland	Wild Water Kingdom
	Radisson Suite Hotel Airport	$149.00	416-242-7400	Canada's Wonderland	Slots at Woodbine Racetrack
Whistler	Hilton Resort & Spa*	$209.00	604-932-1982	Whistler/Blackcomb Bike Park	Whistler Golf Course (by Arnold Palmer)
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Waterloo teen's sudden death stuns community

Case remains under investigation

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Leejay Levene will be remembered by his friends and family for his kindness, depth, sense of humour and artistic talent.

The 18-year-old Waterloo, Ont., youth went to the dentist to have his wisdom teeth pulled on Wednesday, July 5. He was put under a general anesthetic, with intubation to help him breathe, but almost immediately had trouble breathing. Paramedics were called, but Levene's heart was not beating when they arrived five minutes later.

He was rushed to Grand River Hospital. His heart started beating again, but his internal organs had failed and he was put on life support. His parents decided to disconnect the machine Thursday evening.

"It's tragic. We're all shocked here, because this is an anomaly," said Irwin Fefergrad, the registrar for the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario. "Intubation sedation is very, very safe."

Dr. Timothy Wallace who performed the surgery was not available for comment. He has practised dentistry for more than 30 years and treated thousands of patients for wisdom tooth extractions under general anesthetic, Fefergrad said.

Wallace used an outside anesthesiologist to administer the medication, which Fefergrad said is common practice so that the oral surgeon can focus on the surgery.

"At the moment, the case is continuing in investigation," said acting regional coroner Dr. David Evans. At the end of the investigation, he said, he can submit the case to an inquest committee.

The body was not released until after Leejay's parents, Ron and Shifra, won their fight against having a full autopsy, with the help of local Rabbi Yosil Rosenzweig.

Funeral services were held at Temple Shalom, a Reform congregation, on Friday, July 7, with Rabbi Rosenzweig officiating. Six hundred people packed the synagogue. Some of them had flown in from across the continent, including a group of camp friends from Halifax.

"I've never seen anything like that," said Ron, who noted that because everything happened so quickly, the family was not able to alert the press or many other people about the funeral. "It's just kind of a testament to how he touched the lives of so many people."

"He was nice to everybody, he respected everybody," said Leejay's brother Elli, 16. "He was one of those people who you can get close to. He was a really good student and he put deep thought into his work. If I needed a good idea, I would go to him."

Leejay Levene is seen at his cottage on the Canada Day weekend. He is reading a Harry Potter book in anticipation of the newest novel's release. This is the last photo the family took of their son before his death.

Leejay was the middle child – older brother Casey is 20. Elli and Casey left Camp Arowhon in Algonquin Park for the funeral and to sit shivah.

Leejay graduated from Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School and was headed to the University of Toronto in the fall. The artistic teen planned to study architecture.

He is described by his family as a deep thinker with a rich sense of humour. A clarinet and bass guitar player, he enjoyed indie punk and rock bands like Alesana and Silverstein.

Leejay's high school held a memorial for him. Camp Arowhon will plant a tamarack tree with a plaque in his name, and the humane society where he volunteered also plans to do something in his honour. His friends have created a website, www.leejaylevine.com.

"There will be sort of an emptiness where Leejay used to be. It will never be the same," said Martin Levene, Leejay's grandfather.

Martin has fond memories of his grandson at the family's chalets near Collingwood, Ont., with his grandmother, Charlotte, aunts, uncles and eight cousins. Leejay loved snowboarding.

The tragic story ends on a bittersweet note. Seven hours after his death, the Levene family welcomed their first great-grandchild.

The baby was originally meant to be named Jordana Rose Singer. Her middle name was changed to Lee.

Singles Events
is an advertising feature of *The Canadian Jewish News*

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Jerusalem mayor asks Turkey to return ancient tablet

© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Jerusalem's mayor has asked the Turkish government to return a famous 2,700-year-old tablet uncovered in an ancient subterranean passage in the city, Jerusalem officials said Friday.

Known as the Siloam inscription, the tablet was found in a tunnel hewed to channel water from a spring outside Jerusalem's walls into the city around 700 B.C.E. — a project mentioned in the Old Testament's Book of Chronicles. It was discovered in 1880 and taken by the Holy Land's Ottoman rulers to Istanbul, where it is now in the collection of the Istanbul Archeology Museum.

Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski made the request in a July 12 meeting with Turkey's ambassador to Israel, Namik Tan, Lupolianski's spokesperson, Gidi Schmerling, said July 13.

Lupolianski suggested the tablet's return could be a gesture of goodwill from Turkey, Schmerling said.

Turkey and Israel, both western-aligned Mideastern states, are close regional allies.

An official in Turkey's embassy in Israel, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the request would be passed on to the Turkish government. A transfer of ownership is unlikely, the official said, but Turkey will look into lending the tablet to Israel or creating a replica.

In the Bible's account, the Siloam water tunnel was constructed by King Hezekiah to solve one of ancient Jerusalem's most pressing problems – its most important water source, the Siloam spring, was outside the city walls and vulnerable to the kingdom's Assyrian enemies.

The tunnel, around 500 metres long, was hollowed out of the bedrock by two teams of diggers starting from each end, according to the tablet, which was installed to celebrate the moment the two teams met underground, pickax to pickax.

When there were only three cubits more to cut through, the men were heard calling from one side to the other, the Hebrew inscription recounts.

The tunnel and spring are located in what is today the east Jerusalem Arab neighbourhood of Silwan, which has been controlled by Israel since 1967.

Soldier killed in Gaza

JTA

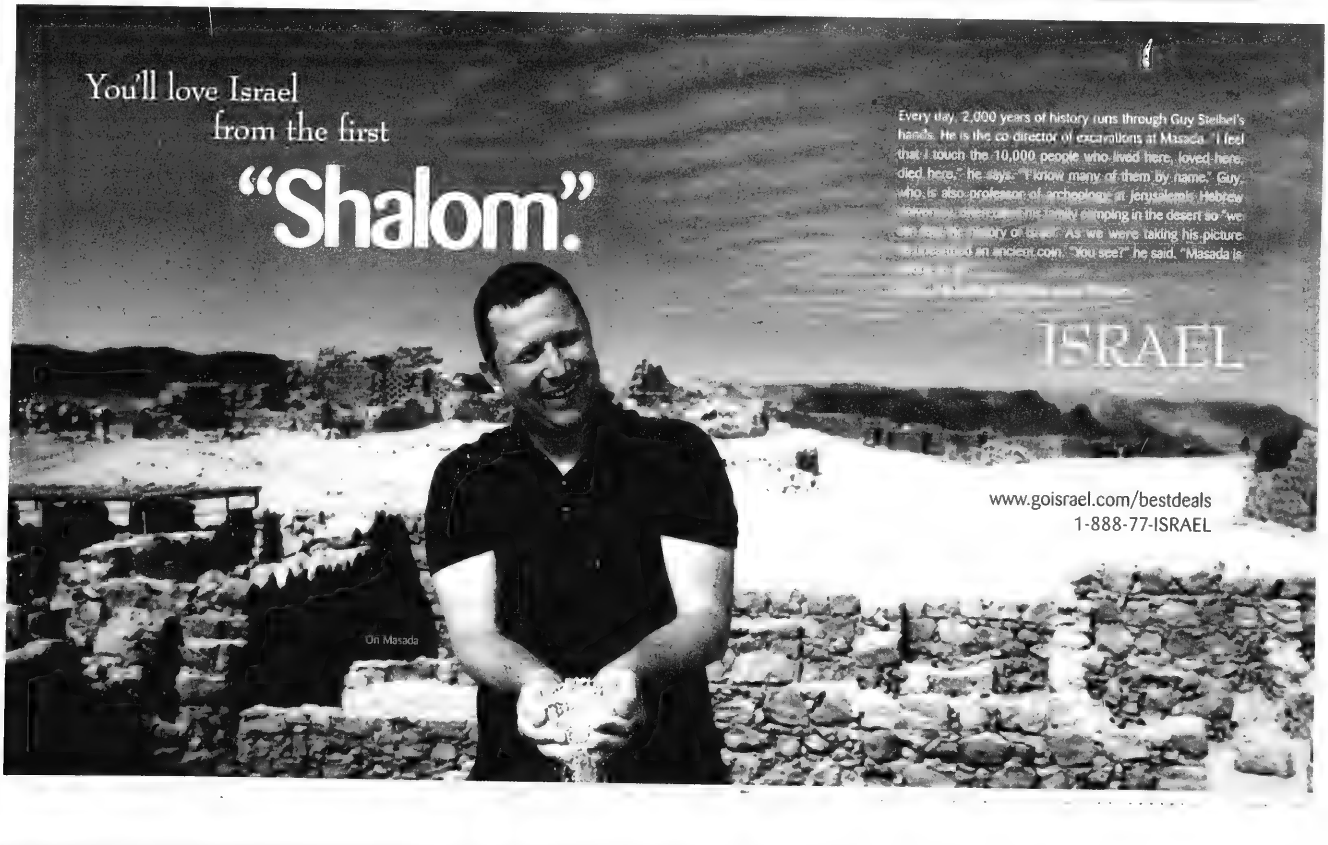
JERUSALEM — Israeli special forces backed by tanks entered Bureij, a village in the central Gaza Strip, last Thursday in search of Palestinian gunmen and weapons caches.

Staff Sgt. Arbel Reich, 21, from Yuvalim in the Galilee, was killed when his unit came under fire from Islamic Jihad militants.

Reich was shot as a reconnaissance unit of the brigade carried out an operation two kilometres into the Gaza Strip. Two other soldiers were injured in the incident.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the killing. There are least four Palestinian casualties in the clash.

Israel has mounted regular cross-border incursions since Hamas seized control of Gaza last month. The operations appear aimed at pre-empting Palestinian terrorist infiltrations.



Every day, 2,000 years of history runs through Guy Stiebel's hands. He is the co-director of excavations at Masada. "I feel that I touch the 10,000 people who lived here, loved here, died here," he says. "I know many of them by name." Guy, who is also professor of archeology at Jerusalem's Hebrew [illegible] his family camping in the desert so "we [illegible] history of Israel." As we were taking his picture [illegible] an ancient coin. "You see?" he said. "Masada is [illegible]

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Israel Briefs

Israel alone on Iran?

NATO leaders reportedly told Israel that it would have to stop Iran's nuclear program alone. Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Avigdor Lieberman, who visited NATO headquarters in Brussels two weeks ago, said he came away with the impression that western powers are unwilling to use pre-emptive military strikes to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, *Yediot Achronot* reported.

Israel warns Morocco

Israel reportedly warned Morocco about impending Al Qaeda attacks. Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, meeting her Moroccan counterpart in Paris last week, passed on intelligence information on the recent infiltration of Islamist terrorists in Maghreb, Morocco's *Al Ahdath al Maghribia* reported last week. The newspaper said Livni's tip seems to have been corroborated by a European Union alert about possible terror attacks in Morocco and Algeria. Livni's aides denied knowledge of any intelligence sharing. Morocco is home to 3,000 Jews and has low-level ties with Israel.

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Life after Gush Katif

By EDGAR ASHER

MAVKI'IM, Israel — A gift of $700,000 (Cdn) from the Jewish community of British Columbia has changed the lives of 11 families who lived in the Gush Katif settlement of the Gaza Strip before the August 2005 withdrawal from the area.

The money was raised by the Canadian Keren Kayemet LeIsrael – Jewish National Fund (JNF) in Vancouver, in honour of the 100th birthday last month of B.C. philanthropist Ben Dayson, who contributed most of the funds.

"With this donation, JNF was able to prepare the entire infrastructure for greenhouses [in Mavki'im], just south of the Mediterranean city of Ashkelon. This means that 11 families who were evacuated from Gush Kativ can restart their businesses," said Aaron (Araleh) Lapidot, the JNF shaliach in Vancouver, who returned to Israel to participate in a ceremony to dedicate the new project.

One of the former residents of the settlement of Ganei Tal in Gush Katif is Ronit Balaban. Balaban made aliyah from Sweden in 1971 when she was 16. In 1985, Balaban, now married with three small children, went to live with her husband, Ya'acov, in Ganei Tal and set up a successful business of flowering potted plants for export to Europe in the winter season.

In 2002, Ya'acov was gravely injured by a terrorist bomb near Tel Aviv and Ronit decided to continue to run the business herself with the help of her oldest child, Ayelet, then 22.

Balaban's hard work paid off, and soon 750,000 plants were growing on her nine-acre farm. In 2004, the government announced its plan to evacuate all Jewish settlements from Gaza. Balaban decided to co-operate, hoping her business could be transferred into Israel with minimal loss. Six months before the actual disengagement, she started looking for a suitable location. She chose an area south of Ashdod that had a climate somewhat similar to that of Ganei Tal.

"I was not happy with the disengagement to say the least, but I decided to co-operate with the disengagement authority," Balaban said. "When we left Gush Katif, the government said, 'We have a solution for every settler.' They didn't have and haven't such a solution, and all the settlers felt very let down."

About two months before the disengagement, Balaban went to visit a possible site for her business in Mavki'im, suggested to her by JNF.

Balaban agreed to move to the new location, and JNF sent in bulldozers to remove the acacia bushes and flatten the land. With the help of volunteers, she brought about half her plants to Mavki'im.

The Canadian gift has enabled JNF to complete the essential infrastructure, and the 11 families are grateful to JNF for enabling them to start over. Today only about a quarter of the farmers from Gush Katif have been able to transfer their businesses to Israel. Like Balaban, most of them will be in debt for years.

Growing trend to delegitimize Israel

By AMIRAM BARKAT
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The trend toward delegitimizing Israel's existence as a Jewish state is growing not only in Europe, but also in the United States, according to Jewish-American academics and community leaders.

Anti-Israel attacks are even beginning to affect Jewish supporters of Israel, who have been accused of trying to silence public debate, they said.

This trend toward delegitimization was one of the topics discussed at a conference on the future of the Jewish people in Jerusalem last week. The conference, which was attended by researchers, heads of Jewish organizations and senior Israeli politicians, was organized by the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute.

Avinoam Bar-Yosef, JPPPI's director general, said that anti-Israel attacks in the U.S. constitute a "long-term threat" to Israel's standing, American Jewish organizations and the pro-Israel lobby.

"Public attention is currently focused on Europe, due to initiatives like the [proposed] British academic boycott," he said. "In the U.S., the problem is still under the radar. But as a planning institute, we believe that it is necessary to formulate policy on this issue now."

Brandeis University President Jehuda Reinharz told *Ha'aretz* that American academics are at the forefront of those denying Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state. Veteran advocates of this position, such as Tony Judt and Noam Chomsky, were joined last year by Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer, both from reputable academic institutions, who charged that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) dictates American foreign policy.

"My feeling, and that of many people, following Walt and Mearsheimer and other publications is that we are at the start of a new era with regard to attitudes toward Israel in the U.S.," he added.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, believes that Jimmy Carter's book *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, which was published last November, had a much greater impact than did other publications.

"In the past, people who said that Jewish supporters of Israel control the media and politics belonged to the margins," he said. "But after former president Carter said it, it gained legitimacy in the mainstream. Today, the debate is already on questions such as to what extent the Jews dominate."

Foxman said that Jews who challenge anti-Israel attacks find themselves accused of undermining freedom of expression.

Reinharz said that he is worried by the lack of effective response to anti-Israel publications.

"I see no combined effort to fight this by the Jewish organizations, and in truth, I myself don't know how this could be done," he said.

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Pro-Israel Muslim journalist due to stand trial

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

The Bangladeshi Muslim journalist who could be facing execution or three decades in prison for daring to advocate that his country recognize Israel was due to have his trial begin on July 18.

Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, as well as former justice minister Irwin Cotler, are among those who have been making representations on behalf of Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury.

Choudhury, the editor of the provocative Bangladeshi newspaper, *The Weekly Blitz*, is charged with sedition, treason and blasphemy.

Cotler is serving as his international counsel and has submitted what he described as an exhaustive brief to the Bangladesh court delineating the "violations of its own laws of such magnitude" that the case should be dismissed outright, he said in an interview with *The CJN*.

Cotler said his brief outlines the complete lack of due process in Choudhury's case, which violated virtually every principal of justice, including his right of being presumed innocent, to have legal counsel, to be protected against coercive interrogation and many more.

"These are false charges with fabricated evidence. What you have here is a systematic violation of his rights," he said.

The charges – which Choudhury and his defenders avow are trumped up and the result of Choudhury's persistent efforts to promote human rights and positive relations between Muslims and Jews, as well as to speak out against Islamic extremism and have his country accept Israel – go back to November 2003.

At that time, he was charged with the minor offence of violating Bangladesh's Passport Act for trying to travel via Bangkok to Israel to attend a writers' peace conference in Tel Aviv.

Bangladeshis are forbidden from traveling to Israel because Bangladesh doesn't have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Choudhury subsequently disclosed that following his initial detention, he was blindfolded and beaten for 10 days, and accused of spying for Israel. But he refused to confess.

Two months later, he was charged with sedition and spent 17 months in solitary confinement. Cotler has written that all this took place "without access to counsel or even medical treatment for debilitating glaucoma."

In April of 2005, Choudhury was finally released on bail, largely due, he related on a July 11 *Weekly Blitz* website posting, to the efforts of U.S. Congressman Mark Steven Kirk and "my Jewish brother," Dr. Richard Benkin, who elicited the support of groups and politicians all over the world.

Cotler noted that the trial has already been postponed four times and that he hoped Bangladesh's Supreme Court would be able to rule on a motion to quash the charges before the trial began.

He noted that a considerable number of representations have been made on Chouhury's behalf, including – from the Canadian perspective – by Cotler to Bangladesh's High Commissioner, who gave Cotler reason to believe that the charges might be dropped.

He hopes the pressure on Bangladesh would have a salutary effect on the case. "If not, we will have to notch it up," he said. "It could have an adverse effect on Canadian-Bangladeshi relations.

"In my opinion, they should acquit, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it is their self-interest, politically, diplomatically and economically."

Cotler said it was "patently ridiculous" for Choudhury to be considered an Israeli spy. "Why would a secret agent proclaim his support for Israel?"

The *New York Times* has called the charges against Choudhury "a baseless sham."

Choudhury has said that about a year ago, he became "the target of continuous threats, intimidation and violence," including the bombing of his newspaper office by Muslim extremists.

Cotler noted that Canada has been an active partner and participant in a Canada-Bangladesh Rule of Law project, including joint initiatives to promote the protection of fundamental rights as well as due-process principles and the rule of law in Bangladesh.

In a *Weekly Blitz* website posting six days before his trial was to begin, Choudhury blamed a corrupt caretaker government led by the BNP-Jamaat coalition (the most corrupt and most violent government in Bangladesh's history, according to *Frontline*, an Indian magazine) for his travails.

Choudhury noted in his posting that the U.S. Congress and European Parliament have passed motions on his behalf, as have organizations such as PEN, Reporters without Borders, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Middle East Web and the American Jewish Committee.

However, he wrote that "most of the so-called human rights groups maintained tight lip on my case.

"Imagine, a place in this world where criticizing Islamist militancy is blasphemy. Imagine a country where advocating interfaith understanding is sedition. Imagine a country where talking about establishment of relations with Israel is treason," he continued.

"Could we ever believe that someone would be arrested, tortured and imprisoned just for being in favour of global peace, interfaith dialogue and ending religious hatred?

"Yes, all this happened during the past five years…

Choudhury concluded: "Many times I questioned myself as to how long I shall have to bear the burden of such notorious allegations. But up to now, there is no reply to it.

"Should the present interim… government in Bangladesh continue the false allegations and charges against me, which had been falsely brought up by the former rulers, who are nothing but a bunch of corrupts and culprits?

"Who will reply to my questions?"

Cotler says 2007 is like 1938 for Jews

By YAIR ETTINGER
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — In some ways, 2007 is 1938 for the Jewish people," former Canadian justice minister Irwin Cotler said July 9 in his keynote speech in Jerusalem at the opening of the Conference on the Future of the Jewish People.

Jews face "a gathering storm without parallel or precedent since the 1930s," Cotler said, referring to the nuclear threat from President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Iran, as well as the threats posed by Hamas, Syria, Hezbollah and global Islamist terror.

But he added that the existence of Israel – as well as the wealth of Jews worldwide and the support for Israel by such states as Canada, Australia and the United States – distinguishes the current age from the pre-World War II era.

The conference, organized by the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute (JPPPI), aims to set priorities for the Jewish people and to create strategies to head off the threats facing it.

The 120 participants in the three-day conference include community leaders, academics, Israeli cabinet ministers and Jews from abroad.

In his own keynote address, JPPPI chairman Dennis Ross also referred to the Iranian threat, saying that a nuclear-capable Iran would change the world as we know it. He said that once Iran obtains nuclear weapons, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries would be interested in following its lead.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert also addressed the conference on its opening day.

Iran stones gays to death

JTA

TEHRAN — Iran is executing citizens for adultery, "rape, insulting religious sanctities and laws, and homosexuality." The Islamic Republic's government confirmed last week that it executed an adulterer earlier this month by stoning, and that 20 more men would be executed in the next few days on morality violations, the *New York Times* reported.

The stoning was carried out near the city of Takestan, despite an order by the chief of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mahmoud Shahroudi, not to permit such executions. Most executions in Iran are public hangings, often at the scenes of the alleged crimes, according to the report.

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

CHINA COLLECTION SHINES AT THE GARDINER MUSEUM OF CERAMIC ART

The Gardiner Museum houses a world-class collection of ceramics in a beautifully renovated building on University Avenue that was greeted as an architectural triumph when it was unveiled a year ago.

The Toronto *Star*'s architecture critic **Christopher Hume** called it "easily the most compelling, even exhilarating, example of architectural excellence to have appeared in Toronto in some time." That statement presumably holds true even after the recent opening of the Royal Ontario Museum's much-touted Crystal across the street – of which the Gardiner affords a delightful view.

Displayed in the museum are thousands of works that span many periods, including the Ancient Americas, Italian Renaissance and the heyday of Chinese and Japanese porcelain. Currently on view is the special exhibition "Made in China," consisting of some 150 objects produced from the 1500s to the 1800s, all made in China for export to western markets. After viewing the exhibit, you may wish to relax with a drink on the outdoor patio overlooking the street. www.gardinermuseum.com

* * *

Names in the News: Israeli author **Amos Oz**, who is a professor of Hebrew literature at Ben-Gurion University in Israel, has been awarded a literary prize from the Prince of Asturias Foundation in Spain, alongside former winners such as **Mario Vargas Llosa**, **Gunter Grass**, **Doris Lessing** and **Arthur Miller**.

Amos Oz

According to the awards committee, Oz has "fashioned the Hebrew language into a brilliant instrument for literary art and for the truthful disclosure of the most dire and universal realities of our time, focusing especially on advocating peace amongst peoples and condemning all forms of fanaticism."

Oz has written 18 books in Hebrew and hundreds of articles and essays. His works have been translated into more than 30 languages. In a statement, he said, "If I have to say in one word what my entire literary work is all about, I would say 'families.' If I had two words, I would say 'unhappy families.' If I had more than two words, you would have to read my works."

* * *

Mystical Poetry: Michaela Sefler of Montreal, who describes herself as a "mystical poet," draws on the Kabbalah and other ancient writings to convey a message of hope in her poems. Spiritual and esoteric, her poetry alludes to ancient ideals. She has released five collections, including the most recent, *Seven Stars: Mystical Poetry*, published by Inner Circle Publishing. icpchad@fairpoint.net

* * *

Arts in Brief

- The recent fourth annual Israeli Film Festival, during which four films were screened at the National Archives in Ottawa, was "a success both in terms of numbers of attendees – setting records on subsequent nights – and the quality of films screened," said **Gali Karmon**, cultural officer with the Israeli Embassy. Director **Neil Weisbrod** was on hand to introduce his documentary film about **Ilan Ramon**'s ill-fated trip into space aboard the space shuttle Atlantis. The other films were *Sweet Mud*, *Three Mothers* and *Frozen Days*.
- The Koffler Centre of the Arts presents its first annual Summer Arts Party for children aged six to 16, daily from Monday, Aug. 27, through Friday, Aug. 31, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Arts "partiers" help the children learn about and explore many art forms – music, dance, painting, drawing, pottery – with the help of professional artists, including drummer **Kwasi Dunyo** from Ghana and television and film recording artist **Alan Hetherington**. The cost is $350. For details or to register, please call 416-636-1880, ext. 222.
- Just For Laughs comedy festival comes to Yonge-Dundas Square and vicinity, July 26 and 27, 6 to 11 p.m. Some 60 shows are to be presented on a series of stages. Visit www.hahaha.com for details.

* * *

At the Galleries

- Toronto artist **Hillel Kagan** has contributed a series of paintings to Art Process Trapani 2007, an international exhibition in Trapani, Sicily. The paintings appear to be portraits of rabbis. "For over a thousand years, rabbis, scholars and thinkers from **Maimonides** and **Spinoza** to **Buber** and **Kafka** and countless others, have benefited European culture even while under duress from their neighbours," Kagan said in an artist's statement. "It's in the spirit of that contribution that I've created this series of paintings." See a portfolio of Kagan's works at www.artprocess.com.
- "The Long and Winding Road," an exhibition by artist **Susan Szenes**, is at the Engine Gallery Distillery, Distillery District, 55 Mill St., until July 31.
- "Ancient Peru Unearthed: Golden Treasures of a Lost Civilization" is one of two exhibits at the Royal Ontario Museum that have been extended until Sept. 3. It features a collection of elaborately crafted objects reflecting the pre-Incan Sicán culture, some dating back 1,000 years; as an accompanying documentary film explains, they were only excavated in the 1990s. Also at the ROM, the exhibit "Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History" has been extended to Sept. 3.

Israeli's *Cemetery Club* is humorous, poignant, saddening

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

For two decades, a group of Israeli seniors have been planting their folding chairs in a circle every Saturday at the Mount Herzl National Cemetery in Jerusalem. There they discuss life, banter, share memories and eat lunch.

These meetings are the subject of Tali Shemesh's documentary, *The Cemetery Club*. Shemesh has been following the "Academy" for the last five years, focusing on Minya, her grandmother, and Lena, her great-aunt, who are both Polish Holocaust survivors. Dialogue is in Hebrew and Polish with English subtitles.

Cemetery Club protagonists Lena and Minya soak in the rays at the Dead Sea.

The group's conversations are intriguing and thought provoking. The seniors, who are mostly Holocaust survivors, have varied and interesting opinions on a myriad of topics, from poetry and politics to philosophy. Some of them listen, while others are eager to share stories or recite poems that bring tears to their eyes.

The Cemetery Club's meetings are humorous at times, with conversations ranging from light to serious. But when the film explores the conflicts between Lena and Minia, it tends to drag.

Lena is a well-educated and well-read bossy bully. Her chatterbox harshness is almost beyond belief. Minya is hardly able to get a word in when they are on camera together, and is constantly criticized by Lena, but it is evident that the two widows are inseparable.

Shemesh is often in the film as an interviewer. She brings out Lena's overly dramatic and curmudgeonly qualities. Lena is, nevertheless, an interesting soul with quite the history, and one-on-one interviews with Shemesh reveal some riveting stories about family and survival.

The film's cinematography is beautiful. It is shot in a variety of locations, including the Dead Sea, Jerusalem streets, various private homes and, of course, Mount Herzl National Cemetery.

Shaky camera work takes away from the cinematography's beauty, sometimes making the film hard to watch.

Most poignant and saddening is the film's look at aging Holocaust survivors. Over the five-year period, several of the Cemetery Club members die, and the club must rethink its Mount Herzl location.

The Cemetery Club opens July 20 at the Sheppard Grande theatre in Toronto.

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Documentary gives a voice to Israeli Arabs

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

When the Israeli government announced its decision to disengage from the Gaza Strip in 2005, a heated emotional and political debate erupted and Israeli news outlets interviewed Jews throughout the country who were either for or against the plan.

Ron Furman, a Haifa-born Canadian filmmaker, was in Israel in the weeks before the disengagement and was struck by the absence of the Israeli-Arab voice in the debate.

He sought to remedy this omission and give Israeli Arabs a voice in his latest documentary, titled *Disengaged From Reality*.

Last month, 28-year-old director Furman and producer Zohar Romm, 23, screened the film – which has already been picked up by TPI Distribution – for the first time at the Regent Theatre in Toronto.

Furman said he spent a month interviewing Israeli Arabs who live and work in Israel and enjoy the benefits of being Israeli citizens.

Many of his subjects described their satisfaction with the standard of living in Israel and regard their Jewish co-workers and neighbours as friends, as they are treated with respect.

But still, as the interviews progressed, comments were made about Jews keeping Arabs under their thumb.

"If you are a Jew, please don't get mad. But Hitler is better than you," one subject said.

Despite repeated calls for peace, another subject said he'd like nothing more than to rip the beard off a Jewish man's face and cut off his legs.

Others said they loved living in Israel and thought of it as home, and wouldn't consider moving, even if there was a Palestinian state.

Despite that, one refused to condemn Palestinian aggression.

"You are saying they are terrorists. Yet the whole world doesn't agree. I don't find them to be terrorists," he said.

Between the interviews, Furman incorporated images of the Israel-Palestinian conflict, as well as images portraying the hostilities between Israelis who were both for and against the disengagement.

One optimistic interviewee predicted that "if the Israeli government goes out of Gaza, they would have their land. Do you think there will be more trouble once they've got their own land?"

Hindsight shows that the disengagement didn't deliver the scenario that millions hoped for, yet all the Israeli Arabs who were interviewed hoped that the disengagement would bring peace.

One of the Israeli-Arabs interviewed in *Disengaged From Reality*.

In an interview with *The CJN*, Furman said that he felt that the disengagement process was a failure.

"The reason we [settled in Gaza] was in order to have a bargaining chip for peace. We got nothing in return, except another war, more operations, terrorist cells, no peace and 8,000 displaced Jewish citizens… It was not a mistake to leave, but a failed attempt for peace," said Furman, who works with Stand With Us, an organization that works to enhance Israel's image internationally.

That aside, Furman said he was happy that the film was able to show that Israeli Arabs do not live as second-class citizens.

"Some of them recognized that Israel was a country for the Jews, but at the same time a democracy that is open to all cultures. When I lived in Israel, I saw that first hand. However, hearing it from the horse's mouth and having it on camera was worth it all," said Furman, who added that the response to his film has been amazing.

On the other side of the coin, Furman said he was affected by one of his interviewees living in Jerusalem who "always had a smile on his face about being completely bigoted and hateful towards anyone who wasn't Muslim."

"I actually had a one-hour interview with him, and he kept contradicting himself over and over again," Furman said, adding that his subject referred to an article in which a Hamas member was quoted as saying Hamas will kill every man, woman and child who looks like a Zionist, but later said that Israel needs to have mercy on innocent Palestinians.

Following the screening, a panel that included Tarek Fatah, the founder of the Muslim Congress of Canada; Peter Kent, candidate for MP of Thornhill; and Raheel Raza, an author, speaker and interfaith advocate discussed the film and took questions from the audience.

Kent said that he was struck by the fact that many of the subjects would choose to stay in Israel regardless of whether a Palestinian state was established.

"They were content and satisfied with their situation. They recognized that they have absolutely no inclination to go to Gaza or the West Bank, where expressing even some of those very gentle thoughts of a peaceful coexistence with the state of Israel would be suicidal. They would not be able to express those thoughts about Israel," Kent said.

Raza said the film is important because "for once we weren't hearing from the so-called experts, but from the people who say that they still want peace despite what is happening. They're not pointing fingers and saying who is right or wrong. They are people who are living there and are passionate about peace, and what comes through also is the realization that there needs to be justice."

Fatah said that for there to be peace in the Middle East, the Arab states would have to come to sincerely believe that Israel has a right to exist within secure and sovereign borders.

"Until and unless that comprehensive peace is achieved, it is foolhardy to believe that war or a conflict that is based on race and religion will not affect the lives of innocent people on each side of the border. Even if the best people have the best intentions, people are going to suffer," Fatah said.

Furman, who is moving to Los Angeles next month in hopes of furthering his film career, is also about to release a film called *Welcome Home*, about birthright israel trips, and *Intensive Care*, a documentary about the extraordinary relationship between two doctors – one an Arab and the other a Jew – who worked together at Haifa's Rambam Hospital during the Second Lebanon War.

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Musician presents free roots, world-music concert

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Brian Gladstone, along with his five siblings, inherited musical talent from the family patriarch. Growing up, the Gladstone kids all played well together – literally – and music wafted through the air at the Gladstone abode in Toronto.

And they're still playing together, as they did in the 1960s and '70s. "We have the best jam sessions of our lives when we all get together," says Gladstone, a singer-songwriter and guitarist in the roots tradition. "We've never played publicly together, but whenever we get together, somebody always pulls out a guitar.

"Every one of us, except my brother Bill (a *CJN* entertainment writer), has albums out, but he's actually the best musician of all of us, but he chooses to channel his art form through his words and not music."

Gladstone, 57, does cross paths with his siblings – he recently played at the same festival in Toronto's Distillery District with his brother, Howard; and his sister, Bonnie, lent her voice to his CD, *Psychedelic Pholk Psongs*.

Gladstone's adult sons, Jeremy and Michael, and his daughter, Lindsey, all inherited the musical gene. The eldest, Jeremy, is the only one, though, who went into the family business – he's in the rock band Zygote.

Gladstone, who is a self-taught musician, has four albums out. The latest is *A Time for New Beginnings*, available at www.brianglad-stone.ca. All his CDs are acoustic.

He says his music has been influenced by everything he likes. Most of his radio play comes from country stations, although he doesn't consider himself a country artist. His vocal stylings have been compared to Bob Dylan's.

"I was weaned on Dylan, like everybody of my generation. He's one of the best lyricists… that is a compliment," he says.

For 25 years, Gladstone worked as a research engineer – making his mark in the high-end audio industry. Two and a half years ago, he walked away from that world to pursue music full time.

"I have a lot more responsibilities dealing with my life and making ends meet, but I think it is a worthwhile trade because I have the freedom for me to set my agenda of what works for me around what I need to write, when I need to tour and when I need to nurture my creative spirit," he says.

> ***Gladstone has been compared to Bob Dylan***

When he's not on tour this summer, he's heading to the East Coast, where he plans to write songs for his new CD. Recording begins this fall. He writes his songs simultaneously, as opposed to starting one and finishing another, he says. It works for him, with all the songs coming together in the end to create a coherence to an album.

"I try to write for all peoples," says Gladstone. "I think if you are Jewish, or whatever your persuasion is, the messages are the same for everybody. I'm not a very religious person, but my parents were very good at making me understand our heritage, our culture and how our people have been persecuted since the beginning of time.

"I feel very proud to come from a bloodline that has fought and become stronger. I don't think it is reflected specifically in the lyrics, but it is reflected in the fact that the strongest of our culture has survived, and I feel very happy that I can be part of it."

Gladstone is very much into giving back, to his community and to the next generation of musicians.

He founded a non-profit organization called the Association of Artists for a Better World. It sponsors a number of projects, including the Concert for Peace held annually at Mel Lastman Square, across the street from where Gladstone lives.

The sixth annual concert takes place on Aug. 18. As well as promoting the concert, Gladstone will perform that day. He describes the event as a free day of roots and world music with themes of peace.

"I still feel very privileged that I have a public voice, a public stage and the ability and the opportunity to use my words to make a difference – always, which I try to do. I'm happy to be here and grateful for the opportunity. I have fun every day," he says.

FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

The Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver is the endowment program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver. Established in 1989, the Foundation currently has assets of over $25 million in nearly 300 endowment funds. In the fiscal year ending 2007, the Foundation distributed over $800,000 in grants through its restricted and unrestricted funds to a wide range of organizations in areas as diverse as education, youth development and arts and culture.

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Books & Authors

Mideast, Holocaust figure in Ronald Reagan's diaries

***The Reagan Diaries*, edited by Douglas Brinkley, HarperCollins.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Ronald Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, diligently kept a daily diary during his term of office from 1981 to '89. His observations, written in a flat, staccato style that will never be confused with literature, have been published under the title of *The Reagan Diaries*, edited by Douglas Brinkley, a professor of history at Tulane University.

Reagan's diaries, though, shed light on himself and his policies. The Middle East was one of the subjects that piqued his interest, and in this respect, he mentions Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians.

Dealing as well with contemporary events connected to the Holocaust, Reagan wrote of his visits to a former concentration camp and a cemetery in Germany where the dead of the dreaded Waffen SS force were buried.

In one of his first entries, Reagan expressed annoyance with American Jews who opposed the sale of advanced U.S. reconnaissance aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

As he put it, "I'm disturbed by the reaction… in the Jewish community… It must be plain to them [that] they've never had a better friend of Israel in the [White House] than they have now." He added, "We have assured the Israelis we will do whatever is needed to see that any help to the Arab states does not change the balance of power between them and the Arabs."

He returned to the topic when Israel's prime minister, Menachem Begin, visited him in Washington, D.C. "While he didn't give up his objection [to the proposed sale], he mellowed. By the time the meetings and the state dinner ended, he said this was the warmest reception he'd ever had from a Pres. of the U.S."

But just a few months later, after Reagan slapped an arms embargo on Israel for having annexed the Golan Heights, Begin went ballistic and hurled accusations at the United States. Reagan's response was succinct: "First thing this A.M. a message from Israel – an angry denunciation of us with charges of betrayal and anti-Semitism. Obviously, it is intended for the public to arouse our own Jewish community against us."

Taking issue with Israel's bombing of Iraq's French-built nuclear reactor, Reagan noted, "I can understand [Begin's] fear but feel he took the wrong option. He should have told us and the French, we could have done something to remove the threat. However, we are not turning on Israel – that would be an invitation for the Arabs to attack."

Despite his objection to Israel's air raid, Reagan had no illusions about the Iraqi regime. "The truth is the Arab indignation on behalf of Iraq is a waste. Saddam Hussein is a 'no good nut,' and I think he was trying to build a nuclear weapon. He has called for the destruction of Israel…"

As much as he disliked Saddam, Reagan admired King Hussein of Jordan. "I really like him," he wrote. "He is our hope to lead the Arab side and the PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization] in negotiating with the Israelis."

Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon in was a source of tension between Israel and the United States. Describing a meeting with Israel's foreign minister, Yitzhak Shamir, he observed: "I was rather severe regarding Israels [sic] continued shelling and bombing of W. Beirut and in effect delivered an ultimatum."

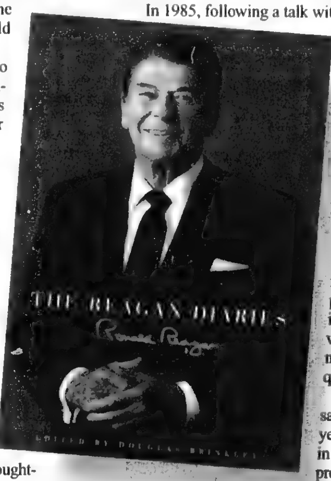
A year later, when Shamir was prime minister, Reagan told him that he wanted to strengthen relations with moderate Arab states so as to "help bring peace to the area."

Like previous presidents, Reagan regarded Israel's policy of building settlements in the West Bank as counter-productive to peace. "Had a brief on the West Bank. There can be no question but that Israel has a well-thought-out plan to take over the W.B."

Reagan was concerned that a war pitting Israel against Syria loomed on the horizon. "The possibility of an Israeli-Syrian [plus Soviet] confrontation cannot be ruled out. Armageddon in the prophecies begins with the gates of Damascus being assailed."

On July 19, 1984, after conferring with B'nai Brith officials, Reagan wrote, "They are pleased with our positions and our relationship with Israel."

Yet shortly afterward, Reagan voiced irritation with Israel concerning its military presence in southern Lebanon. "They are horrendous due to their extended [military] deployment. We want to help them but they'll have to demonstrate some willingness to help themselves."



In 1985, following a talk with Israel's defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, whom he misidentified as foreign minister, Reagan again raised the issue of U.S. arms sales to certain Arab states.

"I tried to impress on him why we feel we must sell weapons to the moderate Arab states if we are ever to bring them around to making permanent peace with Israel. It isn't an easy sell even when I tell them we'll never let Israel lose its qualitative edge."

The question of arms sales was on the agenda yet again when Reagan, in a meeting with Israel's president, Chaim Herzog, said that Israel should stop sending weapons to its enemy, Iran. "We did suggest Israel shouldn't be selling arms to Iran."

Reagan had high praise for Shimon Peres, who was Israel's prime minister when he met with him at the White House in 1986. "I admire him very much and I am sorry the [political] rotation agreement will see him replaced with Shamir." In another reference to Peres, Reagan wrote, "He's done a great job seeing the way toward peace in the Middle East."

In 1988, Reagan's attention was drawn to the West Bank once more. "Report that Israel was planning new settlements in the West Bank, commented, 'We are going to try and talk them out of that.'"

Reagan agreed with his secretary of state, George Shultz, that the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, should not be issued a visa to visit the United States: "Israel is very happy. Arab states are upset about it. Our law is very clear on the subject. George is right and the visa should be denied."

Commenting on a raid Israel conducted in northern Lebanon in 1988, Reagan fumed, "We think it's stupid."

After Kurt Waldheim – an intelligence officer in the German army during World War II – was elected Austria's president, Reagan wrote, "Framed a letter to [him] but avoided using the word 'congratulations.' The press would have a run with that because of the charges against him having a Nazi background."

Reagan's decision to visit the Bitburg cemetery in Germany caused a wave of indignation and prompted him to remark, "The press continues to chew away… on my supposed insensitivity… They are really sucking blood and finding every Jewish person of Jewish faith they can who will denounce me."

Reagan's vice-president, George Bush, supported the trip to Bitburg. "I was very proud of your stand," he noted. "It's not easy, but you are right!!"

Reagan invited the Jewish novelist and Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel, to accompany him to Germany. "[Wiesel] said yes, except that he won't be present at the cemetery."

After Bitburg, Reagan went to the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. "This was an emotional experience," he wrote.

Referring to Bitburg, he wrote, "Here I made the speech I hoped would refute the phony charges that had been made. I declared we must not forget and we must pledge, 'never again.'"

Commenting on his appearance at a Holocaust memorial day in Washington, long before his visit to Bitburg, Reagan wrote, "It was an emotional experience for them and us. I know I choked up a couple of times while I was addressing them."

The Reagan Diaries are plain and unadorned, hardly the stuff of great political writing, but they add to our knowledge of Reagan's eight-year presidency.

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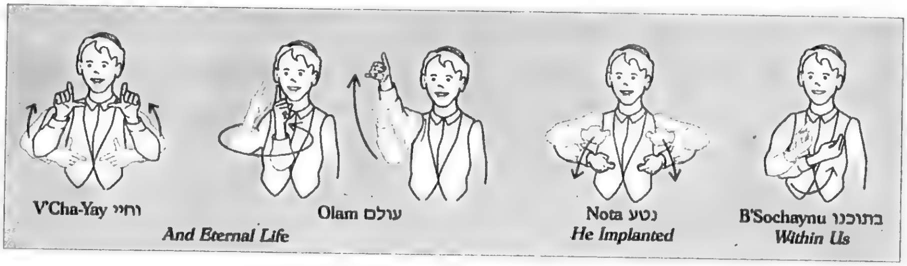
How-to guide teaches blessings in sign language

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern



A new handbook shows the deaf how to perform bar mitzvah blessings in American Sign Language.

The guidebook is produced by Our Way, the New York-based outreach program for the Jewish deaf and hearing impaired, part of the larger National Jewish Council for the Disabled program sponsored by the Orthodox Union. The four-page handbook is easy to understand.

OUR WAY/NJCD
SIGNS OF BAR MITZVAH
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Sponsored by Annette and Leo Brown
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Step-by-step translations of five blessings are given in Hebrew, transliterated Hebrew and English, accompanied with a sketch of a boy depicting how each word is signed.

The booklet is available with a suggested $18 donation from Rabbi Eliezer Lederfeind, Our Way's director, at 212-613-8127 or ourway@ou.org.

Our Way has been designing guidebooks for the deaf for the last 15 years. Other manuals include a how-to for lighting Shabbat candles and information on halachic law for deaf people, which deals with issues such as wearing hearing aids on Shabbat and hearing the shofar on the High Holy Days.

"It's all doable if you do it right," said Rabbi Lederfeind.

The bar mitzvah handbook was sponsored by Leo and Annette Brown. Leo is a CODA, the abbreviation for children of deaf adults.

"He very much wanted to make something for a bar mitzvah boy to be said orally and in sign language," said Rabbi Lederfeind. He is a hearing CODA with two deaf and four hearing children.

There are two ways of raising a deaf child: signing or oral, Rabbi Lederfeind said. The deaf child either communicates non-verbally through sign language or learns to speak with the aid of speech therapy, lip reading and, more recently, with the help of a cochlear implant.

Cochlear implants, pronounced *kok-lee-uhr*, are small electronic devices that help deaf or hearing-impaired people hear by converting sounds into electrical impulses and sending them to the auditory nerve. The device has two parts, one that sits behind the ear and one that is surgically implanted under the skin.

These implants were developed in the mid-1980s and are becoming more common, he said, and slowly replacing signing as the method of choice for raising a deaf child.

"It's a new world," Rabbi Lederfeind said. "Technology has changed everyone's life."

He said that deaf Jews often feel isolated. Our Way runs programs, such as Shabbatonim, to counter this.

"Sometimes you can be sitting next to a deaf person and there can be a wall between you," Rabbi Lederfeind said. "That's what we're trying to break down. [The manuals] accomplish two things: the deaf people learn about Judaism and the hearing people learn about deafness."

Our Way has a Canadian branch located in Toronto.

For deaf Jews, the "greatest loss is not their hearing – it's their lack of Jewish heritage," said Toronto Our Way representative Joely Bernstein. She was raised by Jewish deaf parents and signing was her first language.

She said parents have a lot to deal with when raising a deaf child, such as choosing a method of communication and the type of school to attend, and as a result, Judaism often falls by the wayside.

"Or they bring the deaf child to services but they think, 'There's no way my son can have a bar mitzvah, he's deaf.' But it's not like that," said Bernstein.

"We have interpreters who are fluent in Hebrew and who know the services, whether it be Reform, Conservative or Orthodox. I get called all the time about interpreters."

Bernstein said the Canadian Our Way chapter has about 100 people of all ages on the mailing list and urges anyone who can benefit from Our Way to contact her.

"If you are Jewish and deaf, you are part of our family," she said.

In the coming Jewish new year, Bernstein said Our Way has many plans, including a Holocaust education series featuring deaf, signing survivors and a Shabbaton featuring deaf rabbis and other Jewish role models.

Bernstein can be reached at 416-785-7949 V/TTY or at joely@palomablanca.com.

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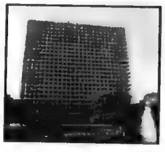

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Is a two-state solution still viable?

By LESLIE SUSSER

Analysis

For years the "two-state solution," envisioning Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace, has been the almost exclusive formula for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But the Hamas takeover of Gaza last month is challenging conventional wisdom. Following the coup, politicians and pundits are expressing grave doubts about the viability of the two-state concept and are floating new alternatives.

The problem is simple: With Hamas in control in Gaza and the rival Fatah ruling the West Bank, how can a unified Palestinian state be established in the two territories?

In other words, with Hamas' growing strength and Fatah's weakness reflected in the Gaza takeover, how can Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah make a two-state deal with Israel that would stick?

The foreign ministers of Egypt and Jordan are due in Israel this month, representing the Arab League in its first visit to the country. The delegation will discuss the threat posed by Hamas and Islamic extremism, as well as the 22-nation league's peace proposal. The plan offers full Arab recognition of Israel in exchange for its full withdrawal from lands captured in the 1967 Six Day War, repatriation of Palestinian refugees and the creation of a Palestinian state.

But the Arab League plan is unlikely to provide a framework to circumvent the Hamas-Fatah split. Indeed, it will likely only get off the ground if there is significant progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track.

The following are some of the new ideas that would circumvent the changes on the Palestinian side of the equation:

The return of the Jordanian option

For many years the Labor Party in Israel advocated solving the Palestinian problem in a deal with Jordan, which would take back most of the West Bank, annex Gaza and establish a Jordanian-Palestinian federation or confederation. This idea, without the Gaza element, is now enjoying something of revival. A number of conservative American think tanks are suggesting some form of political connection between Jordan and the West Bank as the most practical option in the new circumstances.

The Palestinian radicals in Gaza would be circumvented, and the moderates in the West Bank would be buttressed by a union with the pro-Western Hashemite monarchy. Privately, some senior Fatah people, once mortal enemies of the Hashemites, claim to be interested. Former Jordanian Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali, who reportedly backs the confederation idea, maintains that it has significant grassroots support.

Palestinian research seems to bear him out. A recent poll conducted by Khalil Shikaki of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research found that as many as 42 per cent of Palestinians would back a union with Jordan.

But here's the problem: the Jordanian king and current prime minister are dead-set against the federation-confederation proposal.

"We reject the formula of confederation and federation, and we believe that proposing this issue at this specific point in time is a conspiracy against both Palestine and Jordan," King Abdullah declared in early July.

The non-Palestinian East Bank elite around Abdullah have no interest in co-opting more than two million West Bank Palestinians into the kingdom and significantly worsening the demographic balance against them. Nor do they relish the prospect of taking Israel's place in policing radical hot spots such as Nablus or Hebron.

The regional solution

For the Israeli right, the Hamas takeover in Gaza illustrates what it sees as the inherent frailty of the two-state approach.

"The Oslo process is predicated on the need for a Palestinian state," says Benny Elon, chairman of the hawkish National Union, "but everything that has happened since shows that it would destabilize the entire region."

Elon proposes using the current West Bank-Gaza divide to solve the West Bank question with Jordan and the Gaza problem with Egypt, even though neither Arab state has shown the slightest inclination to be involved in this way.

In Elon's scheme, Israel and Jordan would negotiate over sharing functional responsibilities for the West Bank, West Bank Palestinians would become citizens of Jordan and vote there, Jewish settlers would be Israeli citizens and vote for the Knesset. In Gaza, the main thrust would be to put an end to Palestinian "refugeehood" by offering refugees a choice between a lump sum and relocation abroad or rehousing in Gaza.

"The goal," Elon says, "should be to get rid of the Gaza refugee camps over a 10-year period."

Two states in stages

The idea here, favoured by the Israeli government, the Israeli left and the U.S. administration, is to maintain the two-state approach but defer its implementation. Israel and the Palestinian moderates under Abbas would negotiate the contours of a final peace deal, with the understanding that any agreements would become operational only when circumstances permitted.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice calls this a "shelf deal" – that is, a deal to be negotiated, shelved and only used when conditions are ripe. The most outspoken advocate of this approach on the Israeli side is Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, who argues that once Palestinian moderates are reassured about the kind of final peace deal being offered, they will have a strong incentive to take the steps they need to get there. One example cited is the need to disarm the militias and clamp down on terror.

Under this scenario, the boycott on Hamas in Gaza would continue and everyday life in the West Bank would significantly improve, with credit for the change going to the moderates. The problem is that Hamas is unlikely to allow any of this to happen without a major fight. And that could mean more terror rather than less.

Long-term ceasefire with Hamas

Some Israelis, such as the former Mossad chief Ephraim Halevi and former Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben Ami, advocate negotiating a long-term cease-fire, or *hudna*, with Hamas. Their approach is based on the assumption that no matter how much Israel and the international community do to strengthen Abbas, he will be too weak to deliver.

They conclude that any serious Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking will have to find a way to include Hamas and allow for its input in the process. Hamas and Fatah would be encouraged to settle their differences, so the Palestinians can present a united front in negotiations with Israel. The goal would be to draw Hamas into an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal, which it might not like but would accept for want of a better choice.

Clearly the Hamas takeover in Gaza has led to a shake-up in political thinking on the Israeli-Palestinian track. But just one month after everything changed, it's too early to say whether any of this new thinking will take root or have a significant impact on the conflict.

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B.C. fighter is the ultimate knock-out

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Sarah Kaufman kicked, punched and grappled her way to the top.

The 21-year-old is one of the best Canadian mixed martial arts fighters with a professional record of five wins, no draws and no losses.

She fought in the first female mixed martial arts fights in both Manitoba and in Quebec.

Mixed martial arts, or ultimate fighting, is a blend of muay thai, boxing, grappling, wrestling, jujitsu and other fight forms that allows fighters to use a wide variety of techniques.

"There's no eye poking, gouging, biting or hair pulling, but other than that, it's pretty much anything goes," said Kaufman, whose father is Jewish.

She has been an ultimate fighter for 4½ years. Kaufman works full time and trains at Zuma Martial Arts in Victoria, B.C.

A dancer since the age of two, Kaufman decided to try something new when Adam Zugec opened his training centre right below her dance studio.

Sarah Kaufman, in the blue shirt, pictured in her match against Valerie Letourneau

After two years of pre-medicine studies at the University of Victoria, with the goal of becoming a cardiovascular surgeon, Sarah left school to pursue fighting full time.

She now teaches and is the office manager at Zuma, and she trains for about 20 hours a week.

"I love winning. I always want to improve on something from the last fight," Kaufman said.

Mixed martial arts started to gain momentum in 1993 with the creation of U.S.-based Ultimate Fighting Championship organization.

"Within the last six or seven years, it really started to blow up," Kaufman said. She cited the advent of reality television shows such as *The Ultimate Fighter* and *Fight Girl* as being partly responsible for the sport's increase in notoriety.

"It's a really popular growing sport, because it involves so many different aspects. There's a huge conditioning aspect. You have to be in really good shape, but you have to have pretty much the full package in terms of being able to do stand-ups, take-downs, take-down defence and fighting on the ground," Kaufman said about the variety of fight skills needed.

Also important to her is having fun at each match.

"For me, I'm just there to have a good time," she said.

"Everyone's so serious, and I'm smiling and I'm relaxed, and the reason for that is I've trained the hardest I possibly could."

Kaufman has had some air time on the Fight Network, which plans to air her previous fights in full at a later date. Her June 1 fight in Montreal against Valerie Letourneau was aired June 29 on pay-per-view.

"That was my biggest fight," said Kaufman, who was excited to be broadcast on the channel.

Kaufman is currently looking for a corporate sponsor and she hopes to hold a title in mixed martial arts soon.

Her next fight is July 21 in Edmonton against an opponent to be announced.

Businessman saves Kiev soccer club

By NATHAN TSIVLIN
JTA

KIEV— Add another high-profile Jewish businessman from the former Soviet Union to the exclusive fraternity of soccer team owners.

Vadim Rabinovich, president of the Ukrainian Jewish Congress and a major donor to Jewish causes in Ukraine, joined the elite group when he purchased Kiev's second premier club, Arsenal, for an undisclosed amount.

Members already were Grigory Surkis, president of the Ukrainian Football Federation and part owner of Dynamo Kiev, Ukraine's leading soccer club, and Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, owner of the Chelsea squad in London.

In April, Kiev Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky indicated that Arsenal would be de-listed, or removed from the elite division of Ukrainian soccer, because its maintenance of $8 million (US) a year was too financially draining.

That's when Rabinovich, a media magnate and one of the leading figures in the Ukrainian Jewish community, stepped in.

"A close friend called me up and asked me if I wanted to purchase Arsenal, and I said yes," Rabinovich told JTA. Rabinovich bought 97 per cent of shares in the team.

His timing was impeccable. Ukraine recently was awarded the right to co-host Euro 2012, the next biggest soccer tournament after the World Cup. Arsenal plays its home games at Kiev's premiere Olympic Stadium, the venue for the Euro 2012 final. Arsenal has mostly struggled since its founding in 1934, especially in comparison with crosstown rival Dynamo. In the past three seasons, Arsenal has finished no better than sixth in the 16-team Ukrainian Premier League.

Rabinovich hopes his investment can reverse the losing. He says he will bring in "better staff and better players."

"I have high hopes for Arsenal," he said.

His early memories played a role in his decision to purchase Arsenal, Rabinovich said.

"I played football when I was a child, and then later I began concentrating on Jewish matters," he said. Except in North America, the game of soccer is known throughout the world as football.

"Now I have bought a football club, but I will not be pushing aside my involvement in the Ukrainian Jewish community."

It seems the purchase may even have boosted his reputation among Ukrainian Jews.

"I have been president of the Ukrainian Jewish Congress and head of the Israel-Ukraine Committee for many years, but the first thanks I received, from both Jewish and non-Jewish people in the street, was after I bought Arsenal," Rabinovich said.

While the new owner, who holds Israeli citizenship and maintains homes in Israel and Ukraine, would love to see some Israeli players on Arsenal, he is leaving those decisions to his management. "If there happens to be an Israeli player that we like, then we will take him on board," he said.

Looking at next season, Rabinovich said if Arsenal finishes higher than sixth it would be a success.

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The dating game

ALMOST FAMOUS

BY JACOB MEDJUCK

They say that as one of our senses weakens, the others often strengthen. From that, I postulate that in the absence of an early social life, I evolved, for a time, into a blind, aggressive capitalist (which some who know me prefer I simply acknowledge as workaholism).

I am a recovering workaholic. And therefore, my week must include a Sabbath. I have to set boundaries on my work schedule. I have to be careful to avoid working socially – which is difficult, as my work is mostly social. But it's never a problem to drive home from an event, since it's likely I didn't go out in the first place.

If you study on the weekends, you will excel in your grades. And if you do not start dating until university, you will ultimately have a dazzling sea monkey tank into your late 20s. Or you may get married out of the gate, ending up being beaten by, or beating up, someone pretty while you learn the ABCs of patience and privilege that are generally required in a mature relationship.

But my need for strict behaviour did not come by choice or request, but because of geography.

When I grew up in the Maritimes, there were four Jewish boys and two Jewish girls our age – two beautiful girls with far better taste than we males merited – and therefore, we had no Jewish girls to date. And since we had to date Jewish, we did not date at all.

It was not until university that we'd share in the trials and troublesome joys of dating or benefit from the personal growth of that activity. This left plenty of time for other labours, which yielded these results: by the time we entered university abroad, already with professional resumes, we were instead like show dogs with fancy papers and no survival training.

"Luck" can be defined as the moment when opportunity meets ability. And once we were out of the Maritimes, the occasion to mix with Jewish females crossed paths with our Grade 3 dating skills and we small-town Jews were quickly without "luck."

From ages six to 16, we'd had only a few short weeks each summer to dance with the wash of Ontario Jews who came east for camp – not nearly enough time to execute any ethical technique. Camp always felt like a bank job gone wrong: someone shot a cop and the alarm went off early. We'd just grab what we could and run. (It wasn't the delicate realization of courtship that Oprah promoted.)

University was frustrating in that our contemporaries were learning to open the doors of industry, while we were learning to open doors for girls.

Fighting for an edge in our new worlds, Louis exercised, honing his physical prowess. Daniel developed his mind, attending Harvard and Princeton, while I spent time in stand-up, struggling as a chemist of words. Morris, however, refused to exercise his body or mind, insisting that the perfect mix tape would make a woman remove her top. It required not just an ideal musical selection, but songs in specific order.

Life had thrown us curves.

Evolving into modest Jews and decent suitors took an underdeveloped and mutually exclusive effort, while we lived remotely on the continental fringes.

Morris eventually sang his mix tape – and he is now a cantor and a proud father. Louis is also a soon-to-be father, and I heard that Daniel was dating a dignitary.

It turned out OK for me – the jokes were funny – but I was not. And thus I became a writer for others. However, since discovering that this plan was not the winning pheromone of love, I simply joined a gym.

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(optional) Sprinkle with your favourite spices, i.e. za'atar (available in Middle Eastern stores), garlic, Italian seasoning.

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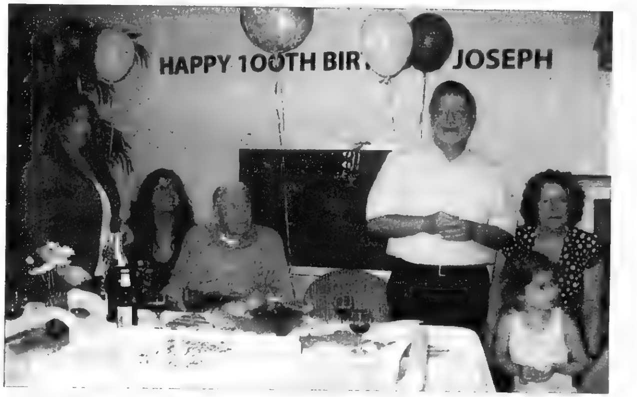


JOSEPH THE ARTIST: **Joseph Dattner began to paint after his beloved wife passed away when he was in his early 80s. Since moving into Pine Villa Retirement Residence more than five years ago, Dattner began to experiment with acrylics and cut-outs. His artwork can be seen throughout Pine Villa. He will even custom design paintings based on listening to a staff member or resident speak about things they enjoy. He has also sold many of his paintings. Pictured with Dattner, third from left, at a special birthday celebration and exhibition for his family and friends are, from left, granddaughters Amanda Luftman and Jessica Waldman, son-in-law Jack Luftman, daughter Barbara Luftman, and great-granddaughter Katrina Boren.**

Don't be fooled by Hamas charm offensive

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

There is a frightening amount of disinformation about Israel being promoted in some media circles. For example, this column recently spotlighted a piece by Canadian writer Naomi Klein, published in the *Nation* magazine (where she is a columnist), the *Guardian* newspaper, and in Canadian alternative weeklies, including Vancouver's *Georgia Straight* and Toronto's *Now* magazine. Klein erroneously claimed that the recent growth in Israel's economy was due to its military arms exports, an argument designed to paint Israel as a military aggressor and oppressor of the Palestinians.

The *Nation* continued this misinformation about Israel in a June 18 editorial, "Endless Occupation?" which discussed rethinking the two-state solution in favour of binationalism – a solution that spells the end of Israel as a Jewish state. In reply to complaints about the editorial's factual inaccuracies (for instance, blaming Israel for failure to achieve peace with the Palestinians), the editors responded with even more distortions.

The *Nation* claimed that Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, in a Guardian op-ed ("1967: Our rights have to be recognized," June 6), wrote that he "would accept a two-state solution."

In fact, Haniyeh wrote that the then-Hamas-led Palestinian Authority "envisages the establishment of an independent state on all the Palestinian land occupied by Israel in 1967, the dismantling of all the settlements in the West Bank, the release of all 11,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and the recognition of the right of all Palestinian refuges to return to their homes."

Nowhere did Haniyeh write about Hamas accepting Israel. Some have argued that Haniyeh has "implicitly" accepted Israel. That too is nonsense, as indicated by Haniyeh's insistence that all Palestinian refugees – numbering more than 3.5 million, according to the UN agency responsible for them – be allowed to return "to their homes" in what is now Israel. In other words, Israel would cease to exist as a Jewish state in accordance with Hamas' charter, which decrees that Israel be destroyed.

Haniyeh's wording in the *Guardian* was sufficiently vague and coded as to leave the baseless impression that Hamas has "moderated" its rejection of Israel.

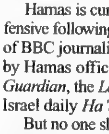
To understand just how illusory this impression is, one has only to consider what Haniyeh and other Hamas officials have said repeatedly since coming to power – they refuse to recognize Israel's right to exist on any part of "Islamic" (not Palestinian) land.

In a June 12, 2006 interview in *Der Spiegel* ("We want peace and stability"), Haniyeh was pressed specifically about Hamas' refusal to recognize Israel. When asked what he'd do if Israel withdrew to the pre-1967 borders and relinquished east Jerusalem, etc., Haniyeh offered only a *hudna*, or long-term ceasefire.

Hamas is currently engaged in a charm offensive following its involvement in the release of BBC journalist Alan Johnston, with op-eds by Hamas officials appearing recently in the *Guardian*, the *Los Angeles Times* and even the Israel daily *Ha'aretz*.

But no one should be fooled about Hamas' rigid Islamic ideology, or its insistence on using violence against Israel as justified "resistance."

Paul Michaels is communication director for the Canada-Israel Committee.



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Israel denies report of soldier's death

Red Cross refused access to PoWs

By JUSTIN SULSKY
JTA

NEW YORK — Israeli officials dismissed a Lebanese newspaper report that one of the two Israeli soldiers taken captive last summer by Hezbollah is dead.

Saturday's report in the *An-Nahar* newspaper quoted anonymous German diplomatic sources who said Lebanon's Free Patriotic Movement leader Michael Aoun told them one of the soldiers is dead. Aoun reportedly did not identify which of the two soldiers, Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser, was alive. Their abduction on July 12, 2006 sparked last summer's war between Hezbollah and Israel.

On Sunday, Israeli President Shimon Peres said Israel's position is that both reservists are alive.

Family members of the captive soldiers dismissed the newspaper report, saying they were used to such attempts to play with their emotions.

"This report isn't worth anything to me," Karnit Goldwasser told Army Radio. "They can't play with my feelings."

Continued on page 27

Karnit Goldwasser, left, the wife of Ehud Goldwasser, and Aviva Shalit, the mother of Gilad Shalit, attended a rally recently in Haifa on behalf of their loved ones and Eldad Regev, the Israel Defence Forces soldiers who were abducted last year by Hamas and Hezbollah. ***[Isranet photo]***

Federal government resumes aid to PA

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Canada has partially restored funding and humanitarian aid to the Palestinians.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay announced last week that the government, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), has reinstated $8 million in assistance to help Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

A year ago, Canada was one of the first countries to suspend funding to the Palestinians – holding back $30 million in aid – after Hamas won Palestinian elections.

Canada, which considers Hamas a terrorist group, will also send another $1 million for explicit humanitarian aid to Gaza, to be administered by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Peter MacKay

After meetings with King Abdullah II of Jordan last month, in which the king pleaded for Canada and the West to help stabilize Abbas' government, it was widely speculated that Prime Minister Stephen Harper would restore funding to the PA.

At the time, Harper said, "It's important that moderate Middle East leaders have support. We must use negotiations instead of force. Now that Hamas is not the government… we support Abbas."

In a statement announcing the renewed funding, MacKay praised Abbas and his prime minister, Salaam Fayad, for their government's "commitment to non-violence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations."

MacKay added that Canada recognizes "the fundamental challenges facing [Abbas and Fayad] in such areas as governance and the rule of law, and hopes that Canada's support will contribute to much-needed reforms."

Canadian aid will focus on helping with social and economic development, security assistance and democratic promotion.

Continued on page 27

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PA drops 'armed struggle' from political platform — see page 27

The News in Brief

CANADA

Sanctions Denounced

TORONTO — Four more Canadian universities have added their names to the list of schools denouncing a proposed boycott by Britain's largest post-secondary teachers' union. The presidents of the University of Waterloo, the University of Windsor, the University of Guelph and McMaster university came out last month against the proposed boycott by the University and College Union, saying it was contrary to the principles of academic discourse. The statements brought the number of Canadian universities that have denounced the proposed boycott to 21.

300 Attend Vigil

TORONTO — Some 300 people attended a vigil for three kidnapped Israeli soldiers that was held July 16 outside Israel's consulate in Toronto. Speakers in support of Gilad Shalit, who was taken to Gaza by Hamas last June, and for Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, who were kidnapped by Hezbollah last July, included Consul General Ya'acov Brosh and Josh Cooper, executive director of the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA). The event was sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, B'nai Brith, CIJA and Mothers for MIAs..

WORLD

Grant for Camping

NEW YORK — The Foundation for Jewish Camping has received an $11.2-million grant to start a preteen camping program. The money from the Jim Joseph Foundation targets preteens in communities west of the Rockies. It will provide 3,000 U.S. children with two summers at Jewish overnight camp. In early May, the foundation announced another $15-million gift from a Chicago donor. The new grant will give $1,800 to first-time campers to attend a non-profit camp for at least three weeks. Kids returning for another year get $1,000.

Cash for Survivors

NEW YORK — The Claims Conference will spend an extra $67 million (US) on programs for Nazi victims over the next three years. The new funds will add to the $300 million it already planned to spend on such programs from funds acquired from the sale of unclaimed Holocaust-era Jewish property in the former East Germany. The new money is meant to make up for the decline in funding for social welfare programs due to the end of allocations from the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), the Claims Conference said.

College Raps Boycott

NEW ORLEANS — Dillard University, a black college in New Orleans, has condemned a proposal by Britain's largest post-secondary teacher's union to boycott Israel. "We find such efforts antithetical to the values of academic freedom and civility," president Marvalene Hughes wrote to the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, which promotes black-Jewish ties. She said Dillard "unequivocally detests the effort to silence, isolate, discount and ignore academic values of free expression and open discourse."

Humanistic Judaism Founder Dies in Crash

RABAT — The founder of Humanistic Judaism, Rabbi Sherwin Wine, 79, died July 21 in a car crash in Morocco.

Rabbi Sherwin Wine

Born in Detroit in 1928 to Conservative parents, Rabbi Wine went to Reform rabbinical school before founding the first Humanistic congregation, the Birmingham Temple, in the Detroit suburb of Birmingham in 1963. He helped establish the Society for Humanistic Judaism in 1969, gradually building it into a worldwide movement with some 40,000 members. He retired in 2003.

A self-professed atheist, he was the author of several books, including *Humanistic Judaism* and *Judaism Beyond God*. He was in Morocco this summer writing a book on living a meaningful, moral life without faith for guidance.

He and partner Richard McMains were near Essaouira, Morocco, when the taxi they were riding in was struck by another car. Rabbi Wine was killed instantly and McMains was hospitalized in stable condition.

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Tory fleshes out school funding pledge

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Provincial Conservative leader John Tory promised last week that if elected this fall, his party will spend even more money than previously promised on education, and that he'll appoint a commission to evaluate how best to integrate private and faith-based schools into the public system.

At a July 23 press conference at Queen's Park, Tory and Conservative opposition education critic Frank Klees elaborated on their party's pledge, unveiled in June, to bring private schools into the public system and to increase funding to the system by an additional $800 million in the first year of a Conservative government.

Last week, Tory upped that amount, pledging his party would inject "a minimum" of $2.4 billion into the public education system by the fourth year of its mandate.

As well, he said he will appoint a "Public Education Fairness Implementation Commission" that would be chaired by former Ontario premier Bill Davis and would convene immediately after a Conservative victory to study the issue using, among other methods, other province's public schools as reference points.

LEADERSHIP MATTERS
Expanding Public Education

John Tory and Frank Klees address the media last week at Queen's Park to unveil new details about their party's promise to fund faith-based schools.

[Photo courtesy John Tory's office]

The Davis-led commission would also oversee a pilot project for the 2008-09 school year, in which some private schools would effectively become part of the public system, though Tory gave no details about how the pilot project would work.

After a "prudent" evaluation period, the commission would set out its recommendations to "set the standards and shape of our final policy," Tory said.

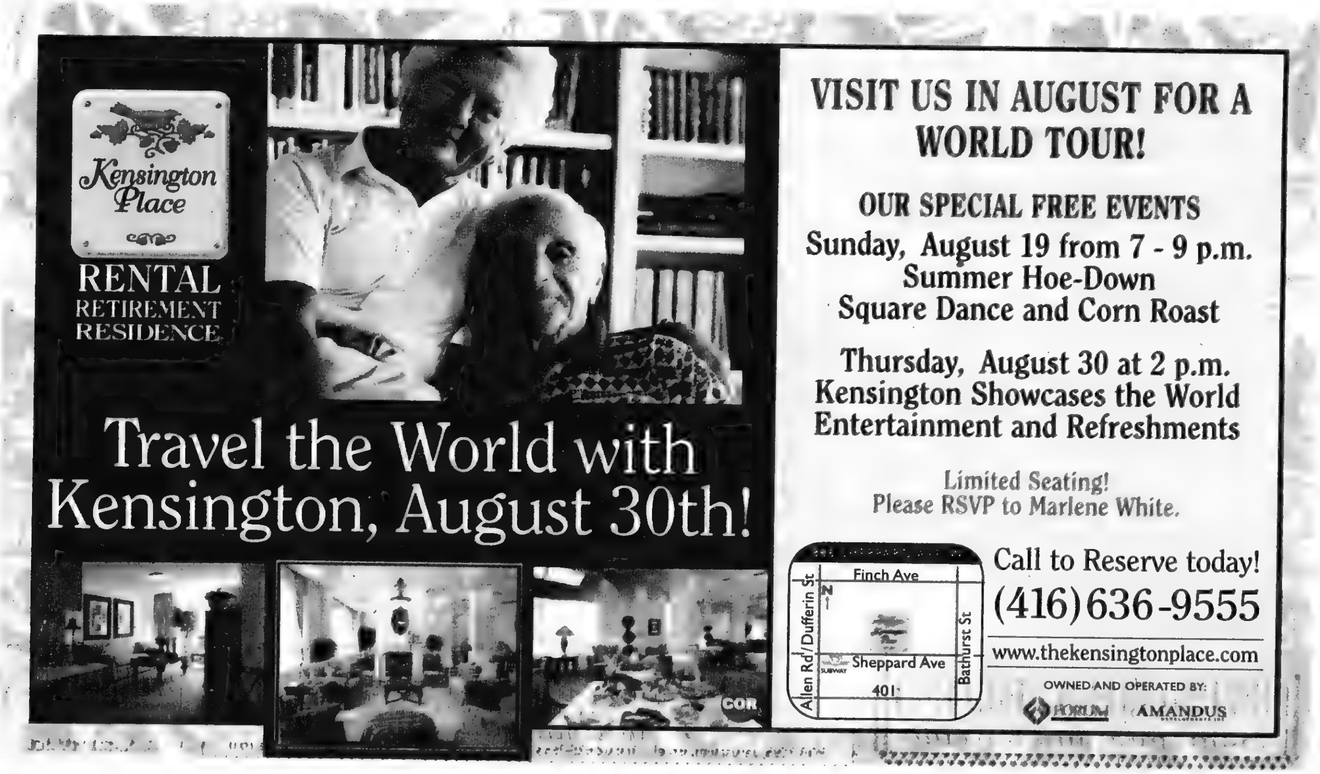
Klees and Tory said they believed full implementation of a "new, inclusive public school system" could occur by the fall of 2010.

However, Tory warned that his plan would subject any faith-based and private schools who wished to join the public education system to "clear and reasonable conditions."

There will be three basic requirements for private or faith-based schools to meet under the plan: the adoption of the Ontario common curriculum, mandatory standardized testing and "teacher credentialing" that meets the standards of the Ontario College of Teachers.

Tory said specifics about how private and public schools would share revenue, materials and accountability would need to be worked out by the commission.

Continued on page 20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Community's poor face real hardships

JEWISH POVERTY: A persistent problem

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Simon Kalkstein, manager of the Gordon S. Wolfe branch of Jewish Family & Child, located in the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, often sees clients having to make agonizing choices.

"Do they pay their rent or their utilities? Do they pay their phone bill or buy extra food? They are choosing between basic necessities," says Kalkstein, a social worker who has worked at the downtown branch of what used to be called Jewish Family & Child Service for 20 years.

He also sees single mothers on Ontario Works, a program that provides income and employment assistance for people in temporary financial need, who have to decide whether or not it's profitable to work an occasional shift.

"From the $9 an hour they may earn, Ontario Works takes off half. From those earnings, they need to pay for transportation, and they need to buy some working clothes. They want to get ahead, but the way the government is structured, it's not easy."

Of the 380 client files Kalkstein has at his branch, he says, at least two-thirds are working poor or on fixed incomes such as Ontario Works or ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program). "Some of the case files are individuals, but some are families, so the numbers [of people in poverty] are actually higher."

Things are harder now than they were 20 years ago when he arrived at the branch, he says. "The case loads are larger, the city is bigger, and subsidized housing has not kept up the pace."

Ed Segalowitz, vice-president of budget and allocations for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, notes that the *2001 Census Analysis Series on the Jewish Poor in the Toronto Jewish Community,* prepared in 2004 by Charles Shahar and Tina Rosenbaum, gives a sense of the extent of poverty in the community.

Poverty Status
Toronto Jewish Population
(Historical Summary)

Census Year	Poor		Not Poor		Total
	#	%	#	%	#
2001	19,745	11.0	159,170	89.0	178,915
1991	18,870	11.6	143,790	88.4	162,660
1981	15,480	12.0	113,555	88.0	129,035
1971	13,075	12.3	92,920	87.7	105,995

"[The report] is outdated, but we're told that 20,000 Jews live at or below the poverty line – the National Council of Welfare sets the poverty line as $28,500 for a family of three – which is about 11 per cent of the Jewish population," Segalowitz says.

"That is a minimum of 11 per cent, because seniors in long-term care are not included."

He acknowledges that the poverty rate among Jews is lower than the 16 per cent seen in the general population, "but it is still 20,000 people, which includes about 3,000 children and 5,800 seniors."

He notes that Toronto has 40 per cent of the total Jewish poor in the country. As well, about one-quarter of Toronto's Jewish families led by single mothers are economically disadvantaged.

"There are 4,000 working poor in the community whose incomes are below the low-income cut-off line. If the [head of the family] of three does not earn at least $16 an hour, the family is poor."

The report also found that about 66 per cent of young adults between 15 and 24 who live alone or with non-relatives are poor, and about 32 per cent of unattached Jews are poor.

Among immigrant families, about one-fifth rely on government benefits for at least a decade after their arrival in Canada, and the highest level of poverty is found among immigrants from the former Soviet Union, followed by those born in eastern Europe.

Seniors, the report states, comprise the largest disadvantaged group, with about 30 per cent of poor Jews being 65 years or older. Senior women are almost twice as likely to be disadvantaged than men.

Teri Kay, executive director of the Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, says that because seniors are more at risk when it comes to health problems, they are seriously affected by living in poverty.

"Quality of life, health and income levels are all interconnected. If most of their money is going to rent, they're not able to purchase items that improve their quality of life."

Continued on page 5

From the editor's desk ***will return***

SeeJN

GOLF WINNERS: Proceeds from the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation's 17th annual On the Green golf tournament, held June 14 at Caledon Woods Golf Club, will benefit the pediatric department at the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. Over its 17 years, the tournament has raised more than $700,000 for the hospital. Pictured, from left, are the winning foursome, Brian Warshafsky, Neil Warshafsky, Max Warshafsky and Steven Warsh.

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Seniors comprise the largest disadvantaged group

Continued from page 4

Even if seniors own their own home, Kay says, their income is often not enough to keep up with maintenance and taxes. "They could be house rich and cash poor."

Richard Cummings, Jewish Family and Child's executive director, says that many of the people that his organization serves have family incomes below the poverty line, even with help. "With a top-up from [our agency], their salary comes to $23,000. That is about $5,000 below the poverty line."

In order to help staff and volunteers understand the plight of those living in poverty, Cummings says, he has them break down the expenses for a family of three and figure out how they could live Jewishly on their earnings.

"They can barely cover expenses, never mind any extras. Their children need computers so they have access to information, and the families need resources to celebrate Jewish holidays, buy kosher food, and send their kids to Hebrew school and camp. There is a huge premium to living Jewishly," Cummings says.

"Their identification with the Jewish community also depends on where they live, so they look for housing along the Bathurst corridor from Sheppard to Steeles. It is a struggle, though, to find appropriate and reasonable housing in that area."

The report confirms that since that strip includes about 5,500 Jewish poor, it's one of the areas with the highest levels of Jewish poverty.

The need for financial support is what usually leads clients to his door, "but most have been struggling with other issues long before they get to us," Cummings says.

"Alcohol, drugs, undiagnosed mental health issues or family violence are all reasons why people could be unemployed or underemployed," he adds.

Kalkstein says that by the time people see him, they are often frustrated and defeated. "I have a young woman in her 30s who applies for at least three jobs a week and is refused every time. There are problems here that go beyond the financial."

More people live marginally downtown, he says. "There are more psychologically disadvantaged people living in subsidized housing and rooming houses than there are up north."

When people look for single causes of poverty, they're not looking at the whole equation, Cummings says, since many reasons are to blame.

"Education is an important protection factor, and those that drop out of school early are vulnerable," he says.

Eric Kirsh, supervisor of Jewish Family and Child's financial assistance and rehabilitation program, says the statistics belie the myth that poverty does not exist in the Jewish community.

"It is a little bit lower than the broader community, but it is definitely there," he says.

"Another myth is that if people pull up their socks, snap out of it and try harder, they won't be poor. No one chooses, though, to live such a life."

His organization sees a lot of people who have good work histories but for one reason or another have fallen on hard times.

"Families face changes in life, and they suddenly find themselves unable to pay their bills. If a woman has to leave her marriage, her whole life could be altered dramatically. By the grace of God, these people could be us."

Next time: The community's response.

Poverty Status
Selected Populations

Census Year	Poor		Not Poor		Total
	#	%	#	%	#
Toronto Jewish Population	**19,745**	**11.0**	**159,170**	**89.0**	**178,915**
Toronto Non-Jewish Population	751,785	16.9	3,702,710	83.1	4,454,495
Total Toronto Population	771,530	16.7	3,861,880	83.3	4,633,410
Montreal Jewish Population	17,110	18.4	75,800	81.6	92,910
Vancouver Jewish Population	3,150	14.0	19,275	86.0	22,425
Winnipeg Jewish Population	1,830	12.4	12,905	87.6	14,735
Ottawa Jewish Population	1,320	9.8	12,105	90.2	13,425
Calgary Jewish Population	815	10.3	7,110	89.7	7,925
Canadian Jewish Population	49,525	13.4	320,040	86.6	369,565
Canadian Total Population	4,720,485	16.2	24,385,215	83.8	29,105,700

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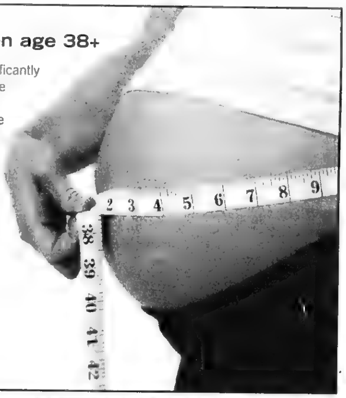

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UJA Federation can keep grant, province says

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The province likely won't ask UJA Federation of Greater Toronto to return a $15-million grant from a controversial government fund-used to support ethno-cultural organizations, federation and government sources say.

Contentious granting practices by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration were investigated by Auditor General Jim McCarter after Premier Dalton McGuinty asked for a review on May 10 in the wake of mounting pressure to scrutinize the ministry's procedures.

Opposition parties alleged the province was using the grants to reward Liberal-friendly organizations, but McCarter said he found no evidence of this.

Federation was given its grant money to help fund a new Jewish community centre in Vaughan and for redevelopment of existing infrastructure.

An aide to Minister of Government Services Gerry Phillips indicated his office will look into what, if anything, can be done to redress the situation and perhaps reclaim some of the money that was given to the various cultural organizations, but he said it's unlikely the federation would be part of any clawback.

Phillips added the citizenship and immigration portfolio to his duties as the minister for government services after Mike Colle resigned as citizenship minister in the wake of McCarter's report.

Colle's ministry doled out more than $32 million in unconditional grants to numerous non-profit ethno-cultural organizations over the last two fiscal years, with little or no formal procedures in place, and McCarter called on the province to tighten up ship.

Federation's grant far eclipsed the $3 million received by the Brooklin Community Centre, the ministry's next largest recipient of funding.

"[T]he decision as to who got what was often based on conversations rather than applications," McCarter's report stated.

But while the scathing report, handed in last week, censured the province for a lack of transparency and accountability in how the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration handled its year-end capital grants program, it also lauded federation for being one of the few organizations to provide adequate, detailed paperwork to justify its grant.

"[Federation's] grant application was better than the poor process [engaged in] by other grant seekers. It was a reasonably well-managed application process," Tiina Randoja, a spokesperson in the auditor general's office, told *The CJN*.

Federation spokesperson Howard English was unconcerned about his organization coming under further review.

"We have not been contacted by the government and… we do not foresee any future contact [regarding the funding]," English said. "There would be no reason for [the province to seek repayment from federation], because the auditor general himself acknowledged that the funds are being used for the purposes intended and that our request for funding was extremely well-documented."

McCarter's report stopped short of accusing the province of providing money to reward political loyalties.

"We found no evidence that any organization received a grant because it had political ties," it stated before adding that "in some cases those ties did exist, and, when this is combined with a process lacking in openness and controls, it can create the perception of favouritism if the organization ends up obtaining a grant."

In compliance with the report, McGuinty said he was putting an end to the practice of using money from the ministry to provide grants to cultural organizations.

Instead, he said, funding for "ethno-cultural communities" will be administered by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal.

"Helping newcomers to Ontario, from all over the world, is the right thing to do, and the smart thing to do, but it must be done in an open, transparent and accountable way," McGuinty said.

VisionTV to review policies after airing radical imam

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Despite VisionTV's first instinct to defend its decision to air a lecture last month by an Islamic preacher who called on Muslims to fight jihad either physically or financially, Canadian Jewish groups say the station has since taken the proper steps to prevent something similar from happening again.

The lecture by Israr Ahmad, a fundamentalist who runs a seminary and a bookstore in Lahore, Pakistan, and is known for writings that compare Jews to parasites and describe the Holocaust as divine punishment, aired on VisionTV, a Canadian multi-faith religious channel, on July 14.

Although Ahmad, who heads an organization called Tanzeem-e Islami that advocates turning Pakistan into an Islamic state, didn't voice anti-Semitic views during the show, titled *Dil Dil Pakistan*, he was quoted as saying "Jihad… can be pursued either with your financial resources or your bodily strength when you go to fight the enemy in the battlefield."

When confronted about the decision to allow such content on Canadian television, Mark Prasuhn, VisionTV's vice-president of programming, told the *National Post* that Ahmad's comments about fighting jihad didn't contravene the station's policies because the comments were made in a historical context.

"[Mr. Ahmad] does make the point about, you either contribute financially or through your body, and he uses the word fight.

Continued on page 21

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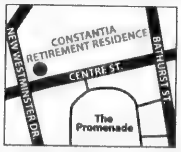

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Mischief that could be deadly

A very disturbing report appeared in the Israeli media this past weekend. Moscow is rumoured to be on the verge of concluding the sale of 250 Sukhoi-30 war planes and some 20 airborne fuel tankers to Tehran. The cost of the sale would run into the tens of billions of dollars. Some reports have the Iranians already training on the new fighter aircraft and demanding that the first shipment arrive before the end of 2007.

If the reports of the sale are true, it would significantly alter the military balance of power in the region.The sheer number of aircraft involved would immediately make Iran's air force one of the largest in the Middle East, with a significantly enhanced long-range fighting capability.

The Sukhoi-30 can operate, even in poor weather conditions, at great distances from home base. The inclusion in the sale of the airborne fuel tankers will extend an already prodigious range of some 3,000 kilometres, according to some analysts, by an additional 5,000 kilometres.

Considering the avowed intent of Iran's leaders to wipe the Jewish state off the map, the government of Israel is justifiably worried about these troubling reports. Other governments should be worried too.

The sale of the Sukhois would be the latest major military transaction between the two countries. Russia recently supplied Iran with advanced anti-aircraft systems that are to be used to protect Iranian nuclear installations, presumably of course, from Israeli or western attack.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has embarked on a dangerous double game. His country is a member of the Quartet – along with the United Nations, the United States and the European Union – and publicly committed to advancing peace, security and stability in the Middle East. Yet his policies belie any suggestion that peace and stability are a matter of even slight priority.

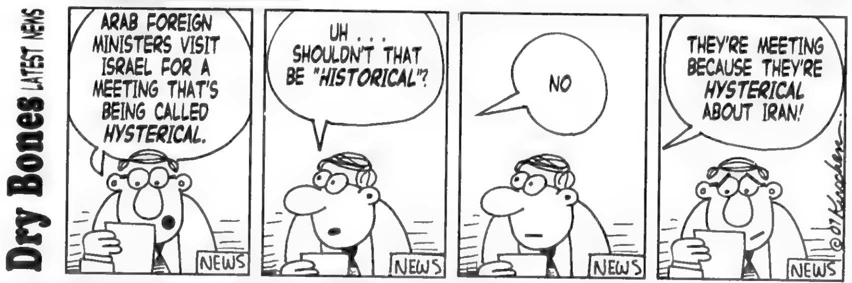
He is not unaware of the torrent of Iranian threats to annihilate Israel. Nor is he blind to the feverish Iranian effort to acquire nuclear military capability. By so willingly and it must be added lucratively boosting the Iranian military, Putin has cast his credibility and very integrity into serious doubt.

It is not surprising that rumours of the possible massive arms transaction should have surfaced last weekend, merely hours after reports of a proposed $20 billion arms deal between the United States and Saudi Arabia and an accompanying announcement of a proposed $30-billion contract between the United States and Israel. In a harking back to the worst days of the Cold War, it seems that Russia is determined to frustrate and confound American influence in the region irrespective of the potential price in blood and countless deaths that others might pay for his mischief.

The countries of the West, including Canada, must try to persuade the Kremlin decision-makers to abort this potentially deadly deal.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Israel expressed regret that its bombing of a nearby target damaged the Beirut residence of Theodore Arcand, Canada's ambassador to Israel. However, after Arcand said he was "disappointed in a country that Canada has given so much support to," the Canada-Israel Committee called his comments ill-considered and insulting.


Dry Bones LATEST NEWS
ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS VISIT ISRAEL FOR A MEETING THAT'S BEING CALLED HYSTERICAL.
UH . . . SHOULDN'T THAT BE "HISTORICAL"?
NO
THEY'RE MEETING BECAUSE THEY'RE HYSTERICAL ABOUT IRAN!
NEWS
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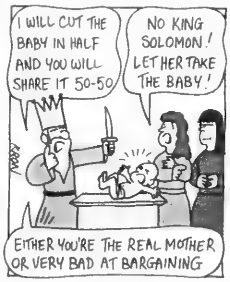
Klein responds to Michaels

Paul Michaels denigrated a recent op-ed article of mine as "total rubbish" ("Klein's thesis on Israel is 'total rubbish,'" *CJN*, July 5). The op-ed in question was a much-abridged version of a chapter in an upcoming book. The book, *The Shock Doctrine: Rise of Disaster Capitalism*, is focused on a global phenomenon, but it does contain a major chapter on the extraordinary growth of Israeli's "homeland security" sector. In the chapter, I draw on 75 difference sources, primarily mainstream Israeli business newspapers, as well as the financial reports of the companies themselves. I do not claim that defence and homeland security make up the majority of Israel's gross domestic product. I do demonstrate that they are some of the fastest growing sectors in the Israeli economy.

Michaels attempts to refute this claim by citing fast growth in the telecommunications and Internet sectors. He overlooks the fact that in Israel, security-related services account for large portions of both these sectors. For instance, Verint, a subsidiary of the high-tech giant Comverse, is a leader in the global homeland security sector, supplying video surveillance products to the U.S. Department of Defense and other government agencies. Nice Systems, another Israeli tech company, provides telecommunications and video surveillance software to police departments in major U.S. cities. In 2006, high-tech products accounted for a staggering 60 per cent of Israel's exports.


I WILL CUT THE BABY IN HALF AND YOU WILL SHARE IT 50-50
NO KING SOLOMON! LET HER TAKE THE BABY!
EITHER YOU'RE THE REAL MOTHER OR VERY BAD AT BARGAINING

A half century ago, then-U.S. president Dwight Eisenhower warned of the emergence of the "military-industrial complex," an economic lobby with such a powerful incentive for continued conflict that it threatened to undermine the foundations of democracy. Today, that powerful lobby has vastly expanded its reach. It sells not only weaponry, but everything from privatized health care for soldiers to the tools for fighting a never-ending terrorist threat. Rather than casually dismissing the importance of this new economy, journalists should be willing to closely examine how it is reshaping policy around the world, including inside Israel.

Naomi Klein
Toronto

* * *

Response to Morton

James Morton, in his essay "British intellectuals not historically anti-Semitic"(Perspectives, *CJN*, July 19), provides a brief history of increasing acceptance of Jews in British society. The conclusion is that Britain is not an anti-Semitic environment. Morton, however, bemoans the "increasing tide of anti-Israeli (read anti-Semitic) boycotts from the United Kingdom," specifically U.K. academics boycotting Israeli academics. Considering that the United Kingdom is not generally anti-Semitic, even according to Morton, one may question Morton's casual and unsupported assumption that the academic boycotts represent a new form of anti-Semitism. Perhaps they are, as the boycotters claim, opposed to Israeli policy, rather than opposed to Jews. The U.K. academics are not boycotting Brandeis or Yeshiva universities in the United States. It is illogical to assume that any criticism of Israel is a manifestation of anti-Semitism. It is also unproductive, as it shields Israeli policy makers from any criticism, which may be dismissed as motivated by anti-Semitism rather than by genuine disagreement.

C. Peter Herman
Toronto

* * *

Trial not limited to chelationists

The research team carrying out the trial to assess chelation therapy (TACT) wishes to clarify that TACT is funded at a level of $30 million (US), which has been adequate to enrol more than 1,300 patients so far, with many more projected in the United States and Canada ("Heart disease study seeks patients," *CJN*, July 12). Moreover, TACT has never made any decision to involve only chelationists. In both the United States and Canada, we have included chelation practitioners, conventional cardiologists and academic centres as enrolling sites. The Canadian country leader is Dr. Jean-Claude Tardiff, director of research at the Montreal Heart Institute, for example. We feel that a diverse group of investigators ensures buy-in from all the interested scientific communities and will ensure broad acceptance of the results.

Gervasio Lamas
TACT Principal Investigator
Mount Sinai Medical Center
Miami Beach, Fla.

* * *

Weinstein didn't found Loblaws

I'd like to point out that Leon Weinstein was not the founder of Loblaws ("'Toronto has lost a mensch,'" *CJN*, July 19). As a matter of fact, he was originally one of the owners of Power stores, and was one of Loblaws' strongest competitors. Eventually, Power was bought out by Loblaws and Leon became president of Loblaws.

Harold Zener
Toronto

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J. B. Barron: the Jew who founded Alberta's oilpatch

By IRENA KARSHENBAUM

February 2007 marked the 60th anniversary of the major oil discovery in Alberta, an anniversary that has been almost forgotten. And little do most Calgarians know that without the actions of one man, the source of their fortunes might well have travelled north to Edmonton.

In 1947 oil started to gush out of Leduc No. 1 well site. Imperial Oil Ltd. executives invited the mayor of Edmonton and other guests to a public celebration on the morning of Feb. 13, 1947, to officially turn on the taps. By that afternoon, black gold was flowing from the well site that changed Alberta's history forever.

Leduc was closer to Edmonton than to Calgary, and as such, oil companies perhaps should have set up their headquarters in the province's capital. But they didn't. They came to Calgary thanks to the chutzpah of one visionary who built Calgary's first high-rise office tower.

After J.B. Barron – perhaps thinking along the lines of the not yet uttered phrase, 'If you build it, they will come" – made the prescient move to erect his building, the oilpatch became anchored in Calgary.

Jacob Bell Barron was born in Winnipeg on New Year's Day in 1888 to Joseph and Elizabeth Barron. His younger brother, Abe, came 16 months later. J.B. probably inherited his pioneering spirit from his father, a jeweller, who, in 1898 left his family in Winnipeg to climb through the White Pass before the railroad was built to seek his fortune in the gold rush at Dawson City.

Elizabeth waited patiently for him for almost five years, but eventually she couldn't wait any longer.

In 1903, she endured an arduous journey with their two sons to be reunited with her husband.

In a 1963 CBC radio interview, J.B. Barron recalled that journey, in which he travelled with his mother and brother by train from Winnipeg to Regina to Calgary to Seattle, where they boarded a liner that sailed north to Skagway on the coast of Alaska. They then took the railroad to Whitehorse, where they boarded the Casca sternwheeler to finally reach Dawson City.

J.B. and Abe stayed long enough to be the first graduates of Dawson City High School, and then they headed to the prestigious University of Chicago law school in 1905. Their devoted mother came with them to the Windy City, helping to support her sons by sewing dresses for vaudeville and Yiddish theatre actresses, and by cooking for them.

Immediately after their graduation in 1911, J.B. Barron came to booming Calgary. Elizabeth and Abe arrived a year later.

In 1914, J. B. Barron married Winnipegger Amelia Helman. The couple had three sons: William (1915-1991), Robert (b. 1916) and Richard (b. 1921).

In 1915, J.B. Barron became the second Jewish lawyer to be admitted to the bar in Calgary. His brother, Abe, passed the bar in 1919 and together they started the law firm Barron & Barron, which has remained in the family ever since and is known today as Ridout Barron.

Despite his sons' early successes and his own constant setbacks (his business burned down three times in Dawson City), Joseph Barron resisted leaving his beloved Klondike.

So the courageous Elizabeth had to once again take another arduous journey in order to coax her husband to return home to be with his family. The parents eventually joined their sons in Calgary in 1913. But Joseph's days were numbered. He passed away in 1915. Elizabeth survived him until 1941.

In those early booming Calgary days, J.B Barron remembers the movies being a "principal amusement." But he also saw them as an opportunity.

After acting as a solicitor for the Allen brothers, a Jewish family that had established a national movie theatre chain, he acquired the Allen's Palace Theatre in 1923.

It was at this time he discovered that, "I seemed to have a flair for the theatre business and that I enjoyed it."

He certainly did. Barron was a powerful force in bringing culture to Calgary. He brought renowned violinist Jascha Heifetz in 1924 and master pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff in 1925 to play to thrilled audiences.

But those heady days weren't to last. J.B. Barron lost the Palace Theatre in 1928 and had to return to practising law.

It took him another nine years before he would acquire another theatre, the Grand, located in the Lougheed Building, which he bought from the Depression-beaten Lougheed family for $50,000. Built in the Beaux-Arts style, the Grand became home to the Calgary Symphony Orchestra and the Calgary Philharmonic.

Robert Barron, in a 2003 interview, described his father as, "Very well known as a theatre manager and operator and owner. He would have known every prominent person in Canada in connection with management of the theatres."

J.B. Barron was truly a renaissance man.

Yet despite being a lawyer, a self-taught photographer, a theatre owner and operator, and an inventor with five patents to his name, he decided to take on his biggest challenge.

And his timing was perfect.

When oil started to flow at Leduc, there was virtually no office space in Calgary. Workers employed by American oil companies that were coming to Calgary found themselves working in basements.

Barron saw another opportunity.

John Barron, his oldest grandson (out of 13 grandchildren), who broke ground for the construction of the building in 1949 with his five-year-old's shovel, remembers that his grandfather was thought of as "crazy" at the time.

"Grandfather was told the city is never going to move that far west," since most of Calgary was centred further east around City Hall.

How short was the naysayers' vision.

Located at 610 8th Avenue S.W., the city has grown for miles beyond the Mobil Oil Building, as it was originally known in honour of its largest tenant.

Richard "Dick" Barron remembers Picassos hanging in the plush Mobil Oil offices. The cluster of office buildings that sprung up around the Mobil Oil Building became known as "the oilpatch" and Calgary became the oil capital of Canada.

J.B Barron and his mother Elizabeth in 1936. [Photo courtesy Joshua Barron]

These days, most of the neighbouring glass boxes dwarf Calgary's first high-rise office tower, concealing its critical contribution to the city and its cosmopolitan vision.

Modelling his tower after the Lougheed Building and the Grand Theatre complex, J.B. Barron created a mixed-use building, with the Uptown theatres on the first two floors, office space on the second to 10th floors, space for his family business, and a penthouse for himself on the 11th floor.

The penthouse must have been the pinnacle of cool in its day, with its rooftop garden for Barron's dog, Butch. The Uptown theatres, too, were a centre for art and culture, showing movies and live theatre.

Completed in 1951 at a cost of $1.25 million, the Barron Building has been designated as "Significant Alberta Architecture" by the Alberta Association of Architects (ASA). And the rooftop garden won the Vincent Massey Award for excellence in urban planning for a rooftop garden.

The ASA describes the building's exterior as being made of "yellow brick, Tyndall limestone and ornamental aluminum featuring angled chevron and scalloped Art Deco motifs… The penthouse design was influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright.

"A Moderne element was incorporated into the lobby and interior of the theatre bar, echoing Miami Beach hotel interiors by Morris Lapidus."

On the day he died, Sept. 27, 1965, of a stroke, Barron was planning a theatre and shopping centre complex.

In 1981, at the height of the last oil boom, with perfect Barron timing, his sons sold the building to a Swiss family for what is believed to be $6 million. The real estate market collapsed shortly thereafter and the mortgage on the building was eventually foreclosed.

It stood on the market until 1992, when a young banker named Blake O'Brien found himself the accidental owner of the Barron Building after placing a joke bid of $250,000 on it at an auction.

O'Brien has kept the Uptown theatre active, and it's only one of three venues in the city that show art-house and foreign movies. He lives in the penthouse with his own dog.

As other Calgarians obsessively renovate, O'Brien has spared the penthouse from the indignities of homogeneous home improvements. The kitchen has original 1950s rounded-edged cabinets and appliances; the fireplace is made of black slate; the walls are covered with brown panels, and multi-coloured crushed marble floors glow in all their retro-chic glory in the eating area. O'Brien adds to the ambience with his own retro 1950s and 60s furniture.

Despite being the only Art Deco building in Calgary, it has stood nearly empty for most of the last decade and has not escaped the danger of being demolished, especially now that it's once again up for sale.

Joshua Barron, J.B.'s youngest grandson, who bears an uncanny resemblance to his grandfather, says he is grateful to O'Brien.

"If it wasn't for him, the building wouldn't be there. It would have been torn down and there would have been a parking lot or a glass box. Calgary would be poorer."

J.B. Barron endured the risks of being the first to build a high-rise tower in Calgary, but the challenge for future owners is simpler – restore it, and they will come.

With files from Joshua Barron.

Irena Karshenbaum writes in Calgary and is the president of The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society www.littlesynagogue.ca.

Reframing the debate

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

The Jerusalem Summit is an Israel-based advocacy group that brings together evangelicals, neo-conservatives and supporters of Israel from around the world. Its objective is to reframe the debate over the status of the Palestinian territories, radical Islam, and what's been viewed as the "moral relativism" of the West.

To its detractors, the summit is regarded as a strident right wing anomaly that was created to influence U.S. foreign policy and incite a "clash of civilizations" with the Arab-Islamic world.

There are others who disagree with its strong ties to evangelical Christians, who have nonetheless been described by the summit's academic director, Martin Sherman, as "the only group with the spiritual energy, numerical mass and moral resolve to confront Islamic extremism."

But like it or not, this new entity has given a long overdue shot in the arm to those who are becoming increasingly disenchanted with the often passive, placatory and defeatist attitudes of an array of organizations that are supposed to be more vigorously defending the interests of Israel and Diaspora Jewry.

It could also be seen to be addressing what novelist Martin Amis has referred to as "people of liberal sympathies, stupefied by relativism, [who] have become the apologists for a creedal wave that is racist, misogynist, homophobic, imperialist and genocidal."

Is it not about time that we stopped trying to explain, for example, why Israel is not an apartheid state and instead began to identify where apartheid – much as the term is misused – might really be flourishing?

One of the summit's strategies is to expose what it describes as the "gender and creed apartheid" (i.e. the subjugation of women and the persecution of religious minorities) that is so much a part of radical Islamic ideology. By reversing the paradigm and focusing on the tyrannies of the very regimes that demonize not only Jews and Israel, but all those who do not adhere to strict Islamist doctrine, it hopes to bring to much wider public awareness the imminent dangers of Muslim radicalism.

Israel has had to put up with far more than the apartheid slur. Its enemies have persistently tried to taint it with just about every canard in the political lexicon. More often than not, such allegations have gained far more traction than they deserve, thus fuelling the various academic boycotts, divestment campaigns and biased resolutions from international agencies that have sought to undermine the state's very legitimacy.

No one is suggesting that the philosophy and modus operandi of the Jerusalem Summit are sacrosanct. However, by ignoring political correctness and aggressively drawing attention to the hypocrisy and real motives of those who would wish to see Israel destroyed, it provides Israel advocates with a proactive framework that ought to be more widely endorsed.

Iran seeks to avert pre-emptive Israeli attack

Leslie Susser in Jerusalem

As it inches toward nuclear weapons capability, Iran is taking steps designed primarily to deter a pre-emptive strike by Israel or the United States. The main focus, analysts in Israel say, is to keep Syria in the Iranian orbit and to prevent Saudi Arabia from playing an active role in the latest American-sponsored Middle East peacemaking initiative.

The Iranian strategy is two-pronged:

- to undermine the U.S. peace initiative, thereby perpetuating Middle Eastern chaos in Iraq and significantly reducing America's political will for a showdown with Iran;
- to beef up the Iranian-Syrian-Hezbollah-Hamas missile threat against Israel. With the prospect of simultaneous missile attacks on all parts of the country from Syria, Lebanon, Gaza and Iran itself, Israel would think long and hard, according to this plan, before even contemplating a pre-emptive strike against Iran's nuclear facilities.

An active Saudi peacemaking role in the region or an Israeli-Syrian peace deal could upset Iran's plans. This was the context of recent strong Iranian messages to Riyadh and of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's July 19 visit to Damascus, just two days after Syria's newly re-elected President Bashar Assad spoke about possible peace moves with Israel.

The day after Ahmadinejad visited Damascus, a report in the London-based Saudi newspaper *Asharq al-Awsat* claimed that the Iranian president had promised to foot the bill for $1 billion (US) in advanced weapons for Syria if Damascus promised not to pursue peace talks with Israel.

Iran immediately denied the report, and Israeli intelligence officials said they strongly doubted the total accuracy of its details. The report had claimed that the money would be for advanced Russian tanks, fighter planes and helicopters; that Iran would help Syria build a factory for medium-range rockets; and that it would provide assistance in nuclear research and the development of chemical weapons.

Still, Israeli officials argue that even if the details were not accurate, Iran has been investing heavily for some time in a significant Syrian arms build-up and in Syria's economic infrastructure with a view toward keeping Damascus in its sphere of influence. Indeed, ever since early 2005, Iranian investments in Syria have been freeing up Syrian capital for the purchase of Russian arms, including sophisticated air defence systems and anti-tank weapons.

Assad, keenly aware of how much Iran needs his support and how much the West would like to have Syria on the other side of the strategic equation, is playing a double game: keeping close to Tehran while intimating that under certain conditions, he might be prepared to switch sides. He is trying to raise the price Iran or the West would have to pay for Syria's allegiance.

In his re-election speech to parliament in mid-July, Assad laid down tough conditions for peace talks with Israel: first, Israel would have to provide a commitment in writing to hand over the strategic Golan Heights should negotiations succeed; second, he rejected Israel's call for direct, secret talks, saying Syria would only be ready for public talks through the good offices of a third party.

At the same time, he revealed that progress had been made in secret negotiations through a third party.

So far, the United States has not been prepared to become involved in Israeli-Syrian peacemaking. This vacuum apparently has been filled by Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, who has been mediating between the parties for months.

Despite Assad's double game, Iran, at least for now, seems to have the Damascus-Jerusalem peace track well blocked.

The Iranians also seem to have had success in deterring Saudi Arabia from playing a leading role in pushing the 2002 Saudi peace initiative, which has since become the Arab League peace plan. The lead in carrying the Arab peace plan, therefore, has been taken by Egypt and Jordan – two countries that already have peace with Israel. Israeli and U.S. officials are deeply disappointed that the Saudis have failed to join them, believing that open Saudi contacts with Israel could have served as a powerful signal for other moderate states.

How to get the Saudis to be more proactive will be a major American policy challenge in the run-up to the regional peace conference recently announced by U.S. President George W. Bush. Otherwise, Israel and the United States may find themselves outmanoeuvred by Iran on the Syrian, the moderate Arab and the Palestinian tracks.

It's time for a debate on the New Israel Fund

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

In response to my *CJN* column on "How the Diaspora can help fix Israel" (Feb. 8, 2007), which included a brief comment on the New Israel Fund, Isser Dubinsky, president of NIF Canada's board of directors, and Jay Brodbar, NIF Canada's executive director, wrote a long letter singing the praises of their organization and rejecting the image of "an aging-hippie projection of American Jews involvement in the Civil Rights era." One month later, the *Harvard Crimson* carried a news story headlined "New Israel Fund lawyers compare Bedouins' plight to U.S. civil rights movement." If the shoe fits…

In its almost 30-year history, the NIF has become one of the most wealthy and powerful Jewish institutions in Israel and the Diaspora – in that sense, it's a huge success. But like other power brokers, NIF officials systematically reject constructive criticism. As a result, mistakes are compounded until the organization reaches a crisis.

As mail from NIF donors to me and NGO Monitor (of which I'm executive director) demonstrates, an increasing number of people are asking questions about how their money is being used.

But with at least 150 groups receiving grants at any time, it's difficult for anyone to get a general picture of the NIF, or to understand how its decisions are made.

Some of these grants and projects are strictly charitable, such as assistance provided to communities in northern Israel to overcome the impact of last year's war.

However, much of the NIF's budget goes to highly political activities designed to change Israeli society according to a particular design.

Some Israeli board members who are central in selecting the NGOs and projects are fringe politicians and activists who use the money to impose their agendas after being rejected at the ballot box. As a result, in this sense, many Israelis have an image of the NIF that is anti-democratic, arrogant and dangerous – as a body that comes from the outside and mysteriously gives large sums of money to a few activists.

Unlike government programs that are subject to public debate and accountability, most Israelis have no recourse when the NIF promotes an agenda to which they strongly object. And most NIF donors are shielded from this perception.

The largest chunk – one-third – of the NIF's annual budget goes to more than 20 organizations that claim to promote "civil rights" for Israel's Arab minority.

But these NGOs use the money to demonize and delegitimize the concept of Jewish sovereignty and equality among the nations. Some, such as Adalah and Mousawa, submit papers to the United Nations accusing Israel of apartheid. They also refer to Zionism as racism, and distribute an alternative constitution for Israel that would abolish the concept of a Jewish state.

The NIF is responsible for "empowering" the most radical Israeli Arab voices and giving them the resources to dominate the discussion at the expense of moderate leaders.

Misguided NIF policies also support radical groups such as Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, and the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, whose head, Jeff Halper, supports the most virulent boycott promoters, such as Naim Ateek.

And after funding Tel Aviv lawyer Shamai Leibowitz – who supports economic sanctions against Israel and the creation of a binational state west of the Jordan River – NIF officials quietly admitted that they don't endorse his views, but they didn't apologize for this error, and the damage was done.

For these and other reasons, the time for an open debate on the NIF is long overdue. NIF donors should be able to listen to different Israeli views and decide how best to use their considerable funds.

The NIF is an important institution that should help cement the relationship between Israelis and Diaspora Jews. With realistic goals and by encouraging valid criticism and open debate, the NIF can play a constructive role. In this spirit of co-operation, I urge Dubinsky and Brodbar to forgo the standard letters to the editor and join me and other Israelis in public discussions on how best to realize our shared goals.

The Kirshner File

U.S. involvement in Mideast goes back a long way

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The United States has replaced Britain and France as the pre-eminent foreign power in the Middle East, yet most Americans have no idea that their country's role in the region is steeped in history. They generally assume that U.S. interest in the Mideast is a function of the Cold War, the Arab-Israeli dispute and Washington's partial dependence on Arab oil. But the truth of the matter is that American involvement in Middle Eastern affairs predates U.S. tensions with the Soviet Union, the birth of Israel and the discovery of oil deposits in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.

Indeed, you may be surprised to learn that the United States' first military engagement in the Mideast – the Barbary wars, fought off the coast of North Africa before and during the 1800s – galvanized America's sense of identity and led to the creation of the U.S. Navy.

This is the story that Israeli-American historian Michael Oren tells in *Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the* Middle East, *1776 to the Present* (W.W. Norton), a work of sweeping erudition and range.

Oren, whose last book was *Six Days of War*, the definitive account of the Six Day War, acknowledges that there is no shortage of books about this important topic. As examples, he cites George Lenczowski's *American Presidents and the Middle East* and Robert Kaplan's *The Arabists*.

But in his estimation, no one before him has examined this subject in all its military, economic and cultural dimensions. Nor, he claims with less veracity, has there been an academic account that is accessible to both scholars and general readers. "This book strives to fill that vacuum," he writes.

Oren explores three motifs that have been integral to America's presence in the Middle East: power, faith and fantasy.

Power is related to Washington's pursuit of its interests. Two examples will suffice: President James Madison's decision to use gunboat diplomacy against Algiers in 1815 and President Abraham Lincoln's attempts, in 1863, to dissuade Egypt from meddling in Mexico.

By faith, Oren refers to the impact religion has had on the shaping of policy. Christian missionaries, the first of whom departed in 1819 with the goal of restoring Palestine to Jewish sovereignty, were certainly influential. But Jewish lobbyists, particularly after 1948, were similarly effective in setting the agenda.

With respect to fantasy, Oren has in mind the romantic montage of images – minarets, pyramids, oases, camels and sand dunes – that originated in the Bible and countless books and Hollywood movies. These notions influenced public perceptions of the Middle East and prompted President James Polk to sponsor a naval expedition to the Jordan River and the Dead Sea in 1847.

According to Oren, the United States faced its first serious external threat from the Middle East when Barbary, or Arab, pirates hijacked three American vessels on the high seas and imprisoned their passengers in 1785. An emissary, John Lamb, was dispatched to Algeria to secure the release of the ships and the hostages. Lamb failed and America's first diplomatic initiative in the Mideast fizzled.

The problem persisted as yet more ships were seized. In response, President George Washington implored Congress to build a navy. In 1794, Congress passed a bill authorizing an outlay of $688,000 to construct six frigates to protect U.S. commerce in Arab waters.

Within seven years, the ships were put to use when an American armada sailed to Libya to deal with a local ruler whose troops had defiled the American consulate in Tripoli.

Subsequently, a U.S. naval task force under the command of Stephen Decatur was dispatched to North Africa to crush the Barbary pirates once and for all. Decatur succeeded, and the menace was permanently removed.

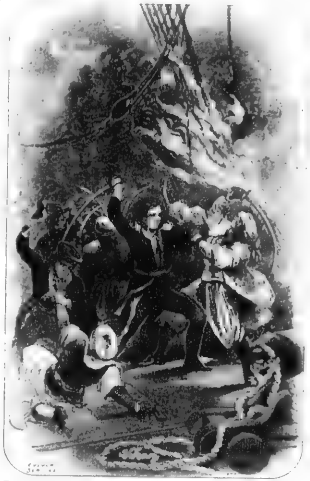
During this period, Islam was poorly regarded in the United States, having been denounced as a false and degenerate religion by prominent colonial theologians, and the Mideast was perceived as both a romantic and threatening realm thanks to memoirs written by European diplomats and travellers.

As Oren points out, the concept of restorationism – the repatriation of Jews to their ancestral homeland in Palestine to hasten the messianic day of redemption – gained currency in the United States around the mid-19th century.

As a result, many American Protestants were fascinated by Jews, some wishing to convert them to Christianity and still others hoping to restore them to Palestine.

In line with the belief that the Second Coming could be kick-started by the immigration of Jews to Palestine, the restorationist George Adams and his disciples set sail for Jaffa in 1867. The settlement they founded floundered in a miasma of sickness and disorganization.

According to Oren, the missionary movement, which blossomed into "a national passion" in the four decades prior to the Civil War, was instrumental in establishing the first modern universities in the Arab world and Turkey and the nation's first chair in Arabic at Yale University.



In this early 19th century print, Stephen Decatur leads his men against Barbary pirates.

As the 19th century wore on, novelists continued to expose Americans to the allures of the Middle East. As well as writing *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and creating a character named Rip Van Winkle, Washington Irving produced *Alhambra*, an anthology of scintillating Arabian tales that, Oren observes, perpetuated "the myths that Americans continued to harbour about the Middle East."

Herman Melville, the author of *Moby Dick*, deftly deflated such notions after visiting Palestine and describing it as desolate. The satirist Mark Twain travelled to Palestine as well. He, too, was not impressed, dismissing it "a hopeless, dreary, heart-broken land."

In general, American tourists with the means to visit the Holy Land were also disappointed, finding not the idealized settings of the Bible but rather the ruins and poverty of a neglected backwater. And yet, as Oren notes, books about the Middle East proved to be exceptionally popular with Americans.

Strangely, the United States evinced little interest in Egyptian affairs, probably because Egypt was not a focal point of American missionary activity, and thus passed up an opportunity to participate in the digging of the Suez Canal.

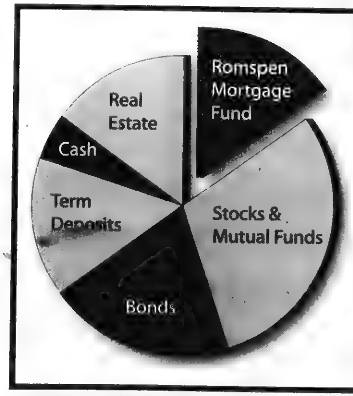
Yet the United States was not loath to project its military power far beyond the Suez Canal. In 1879, the USS Ticonderoga became the first American warship to pass through the Strait of Hormuz and penetrate the Persian Gulf, which had previously been an exclusively British lake.

Nonetheless, at the dawn of the 20th century, the Mideast seemed irrelevant to American decision-makers, while the Far East and South America loomed large. American shortsightedness was such that Congress refused to allocate funds for the building of a U.S. embassy in Istanbul.

On the eve of World War I, the United States, a major oil producer, realized that its domestic fields could no longer sate the appetite of industry, car owners and the armed forces. And so the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey started prospecting in Mesopotamia – modern-day Iraq – while Standard Oil of New York acquired rights to drill in Syria, Palestine and parts of Asia Minor.

The hunt for black gold would become a raison d'etre of American policy in the Mideast. But until the outbreak of the great war in 1914, Washington's primary interest in the area turned on buttressing trade and nurturing missionaries.

Next week: America raises its profile in the Middle East.



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Sara Pachter was a passionate advocate for Israel

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Obituary

Sara Pachter, a tour leader who led thousands of tourists to Israel, is remembered for being a passionate advocate for the Jewish state.

Pachter, 93, who died on July 9 of congestive heart failure, led her 100th tour in 1991, and continued to work until two years ago at Fisher- Fremont Travel Ltd. on Eglinton Avenue West – she started working for owner and president Shelley Fremont's father, Butch, in 1964.

Fremont said she was 12 when her mother died "and Sara was the mother I lost. She was an extraordinary woman and was never too busy to talk."

She said she can't even estimate how many more times Pachter travelled to Israel after that 100th tour.

"She led tours and she went on her own. She went for the first time in 1959, and it took 37 hours to get there. It was her place. She loved Israel, and she wanted other people to share in her love," Fremont said.

"She made the mould when it came to travelling [there]. Other people tried to live up to what she did, but she was the best. She left very big footsteps," she added.

"She was devastated when tourism dropped [during the intifadahs], and took it personally when people cancelled their trips. She always told them that 'If I'm going, it's safe to go.'"

Fremont said that until Pachter stopped working, she remained "feisty and sharp. She kept everything in her head and never used a calculator.

"She loved fulfilling people's fantasies about their special trip to Israel, and when she went with them, she was tireless. People had to keep up with her.

"She would take all-night flights home and come right into the office to begin organizing another tour. She was overflowing with enthusiasm and energy."

Pachter's daughter Karen Ross said in her eulogy that her mother set the bar for working hard, making time for friends and providing a loving home for family gatherings.

Sara Pachter

"She lived an accomplished, amazing full life. What a privilege to have had her as a role model."

Ross said that as her mother's strength diminished in the last few months, "her frustration, anger and will to survive increased. This was my mother – stubborn, determined and a fighter to the very end."

Jennifer Ross, Pachter's granddaughter, said her grandmother was an inspiration to all her grandchildren.

"She was always positive, and you never heard her complaining. She lived the life she wanted to live, she enjoyed it all, she loved her work, and she never let her age hold her back. She showed us that age is just a number. What really matters is how you feel about yourself."

In a telephone interview, Pachter's son Charles, a well-known Toronto artist, called his mother a legend.

"She didn't know what feminism was, but she was a wife, a mother to four kids and she had a full-time career."

His mother knew how to make an event special, he said.

"She would be at a bat mitzvah celebration at Masada at dawn, and she would bring out sparklers. She would add something sensational to an already sensational event."

He said that after his father died in 1998, he travelled with his mother and his brother David to Vienna, Prague and Budapest. "We could not keep up with her. She was adventurous, incredibly energetic and full of curiosity."

Pachter, a longtime member of Holy Blossom Temple, was the wife of the late Harry, and mother and mother-in-law of Maida and Rick Williams, Charles, Karen Ross, and David. She also leaves her grandchildren Michael and Raina Williams, Jennifer and Adam Irwin, Adam and Katherine Ross, and great-grandchildren Ryan, Jesse and Harrison.

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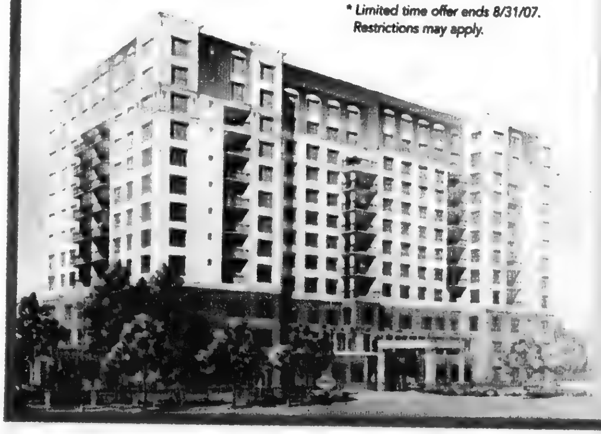

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Arts patron remembered for her charm and resolve

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Obituary

Bluma Appel used charm, determination and originality to make the world a better place.

The Montreal-born philanthropist and arts patron died of lung cancer July 15 at Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital. She was 86.

At her funeral, Appel's son Mark credited his parents' love after 67 years of marriage as the explanation for her many involvements.

In addition to her arts and charity work, Appel – for whom Toronto's Bluma Appel Theatre was named in 1983 – was a federal candidate for the Liberal party in the Ottawa area in 1979 and served as liaison to Marc Lalonde, the minister responsible for the status of women, from 1975 to 1979. In that role, she campaigned successfully to have women advance onto the boards of large Canadian companies.

Bluma Appel

"There is the spark of good in all of us, and in my mother and with my father that spark was their love for each other, which became something of conflagration. The fire that was created enabled her to fly," he said.

David, the Appels' older son, recalled his mother's "life force and exuberance for life," as well as her ability "to make you feel life was truly an adventure." He remembers his childhood home in Montreal – the city of Bluma's birth – as a place of laughter, noise and dinner table discussions on topics such as philosophy, love and politics.

At a young age, he learned that "there are always others who need your help" when his mother gave him his first allowance – 25 cents – and told him he had to give a nickel to charity.

Appel was known for supporting charitable causes that were not necessarily on the radar screen of other philanthropists – from AIDS in the very early days of the disease, to including struggling comedians among the beneficiaries of her arts support.

Eli Rubenstein, who officiated at Appel's funeral, recalled in his eulogy his first encounter with Appel more than two years ago, a story he felt was indicative of her persistence, charm and generosity. She called him after seeing his name in a newspaper article about the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind, an organization that trains guide dogs for Israelis who are blind.

Appel told him she wanted to help, but when Rubenstein suggested that she meet with the organization's director next time he was in town from Israel, Appel insisted she wanted to help right away and that Rubenstein come to meet with her the following day.

Rubenstein "simply couldn't say no to her," he recalled. Before long, the Appels became the largest donors to the guide dog association, he said.

At their initial meeting, Appel decided she wanted Rubenstein, the spiritual leader of Congregation Habonim, to officiate at her and her husband's funerals, when the time came. To that end, she set up further meetings so that he could learn about the type of people they were, Rubenstein said.

As he got to know Appel better, Rubenstein learned of her "countless" theatre initiatives, many of which were artistic but not commercial successes. Appel's take – in contrast to her husband who suggested she was losing money – was that, on the contrary, she was "spending" money.

Rubenstein said there was not enough time to touch upon the breadth of Appel's philanthropic activities, which included support for the Canadian Opera Company, the National Gallery, the Royal Ontario Museum, CANFAR (the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research, which she founded in the 1980s), ORT and the University of Toronto. She once told Rubenstein, "We look for orphan causes, the ones that are neglected by others."

Appel became a member of the Order of Canada in 1988 for her community involvement, and the honour was upgraded to officer in 2001.

Among other honours, the Canadian Club of Toronto named her Canadian of the Year earlier this year, and she received the Dora Mavor Moore Award from the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts in 2005 for her dedication to the performing arts in Canada, as well as honorary doctorates from two universities. In 1987, she received the National Council of Jewish Women's national community leadership award.

In addition to her husband and two sons, Appel leaves five grandchildren and her sister, Goldie Epstein. She was predeceased by her brothers Hy and Irving Levitt.

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UJA Federation unionized employees decertify from CUPE National

Members cite union's anti-Israel initiatives as reason for leaving

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA FEDERATION

After promising to decertify from the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) over its demonization of Israel, and CUPE National's lack of support, union members of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region, formerly known as CUPE 2063(a), has made good on that promise.

The move towards decertification began in May 2006 following a convention in which the 170,000-strong Ontario division of CUPE passed a motion unanimously calling for a boycott of Israeli goods while describing Israeli policies in the Middle East as "apartheid-like."

Despite a storm of protest – headed up by employees of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region - to have the boycott rescinded, CUPE remained unimpressed.

NO 2 50
MISINFORMATION is not EDUCATION
TRUTH TO 50
TRUTH TO 50

Former members of CUPE 2063(a) hold placards during an informaton picket in front of CUPE's Scarborough headquarters on June 16, 2006.

"After resolution 50 was passed at the convention, we realized that the union no longer represented the needs of our membership and we would have to find a union that did," said Lil Nobel, the former president of CUPE 2063(a). "It took a long time to get to where we are now, and I am proud to say we are no longer part of CUPE."

A five-page letter sent to CUPE's National president, Paul Moist, which was signed by representatives of five Jewish social service agencies representing several hundred workers, was not even acknowledged until six months after receipt said Nobel, and only then after learning of the local's plan to decertify.

On June 16, 2006, in another attempt to be heard, the union staged an information picket – with representatives of other CUPE locals - at CUPE's Scarborough headquarters.

Although the local executive was eventually contacted by the office of the president of CUPE National indicating his willingness to sit down and discuss the matter with Nobel, it was too late.

"The call came just prior to the vote that the union was going to conduct regarding decertification. It was too little too late," said Nobel.

According to Steve Shulman, Ontario director and national general counsel, Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region, the CUPE resolution was not based on fact. "The resolution read like something that might have been issued 20 years ago instead of today," he said.

"We were absolutely outraged when we heard about this ridiculous, untrue anti-Israel initiative," said Nobel. "In fact, it wasn't only us in the union. The phone was ringing off the hook when the boycott was announced, as people – Jews and non-Jews alike – wanted to voice their dismay. Our members were regularly voicing their shame in being part of CUPE and we immediately began looking at other options."

This boycott wasn't the first time that CUPE Ontario became immersed in Middle East resolutions. In June 2002, at the height of the intifada, a CUPE resolution demanded that "Israel immediately end its current military assaults" and that the Israeli government "immediately withdraw from the occupied territories and abide by UN resolution 242." Beginning this month, UJA Federation and Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region are members of the United Employees Association, an association formed by employees of both organizations.

Koffler Centre takes the sting out of going back to school

As students begin to gear up for another challenging school year, Toronto's Koffler Centre of the Arts has come up with a fun and educational way to bid farewell to the joys of summer vacation.

The first annual Summer Arts Party, created for children aged 6 to 16, will be offering participants an exciting and eclectic array of activities. Known for its innovative arts programming, the Koffler Centre has designed the week especially for children who are curious about music, dance, painting, drawing, and pottery to experiment and let their creativity loose.

Arts "Partyers" will explore many art forms - from clay sculpture, to painting indoors and out, to creating their own dance moves - all with the help of professional artists.

Sculpting with clay is one of the many art forms children can explore during the Koffler Centre of the Arts' Summer Arts Party.

"The Summer Arts Party is a way for the Koffler Centre to introduce young people to the amazing variety of the arts from many cultures," says Lorri Starr, executive director of the Koffler Centre of the Arts. "It is for kids who love music, dance, and visual art, or think they might want a chance to spend that last week before school doing something totally liberating, fun, engaging, and varied - hopefully with their friends."

Among the artists featured is a master drummer from Ghana, Kwasi Dunyo, who will both perform and teach participants how to play. Television and film recording artist, Alan Hetherington, will lead a Brazilian Carnivale jam session on a wide range of percussive and string instruments. Two evening programs for the teens round out the week. *The Big Draw*, on Tuesday, August 28 is an evening of drawing-based games and contests with MC Misha Glouberman, who regularly spins tunes at the Drake Hotel. He is making his "uptown" Koffler debut. Thursday, August 30 is the evening *Battle of the Dancers* where the dance group, Sole Power, will lead a groove to the latest hip hop, break dance steps and more.

"This is a first for the Koffler Centre and shows our commitment to multi-disciplinary arts education, and the joy of being creative," says Starr.

The first annual Summer Arts Party will be held from Monday, August 27 to Friday, August 31, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Visit www.kofflerarts.org to view the schedule of each day's activities which includes a mid-morning swim. The cost is $350 all inclusive for the week. A limited number of scholarships are available. To register or to receive further information, call Elyse Goody at 416-636-1880 ext. 222.

Fostering diversity through inclusive public education

By IGOR ELLYN

In the debate about integrating faith-based schools that meet provincial standards into the public system, critics have suggested that inclusive public education will "segregate children" by faith.

53,000 faith-based students would be affected by a policy of inclusive public education.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

In fact, integrating faith-based schools in public education will bring children of all faiths closer together. Think about the possibilities of intramural sports, science fairs, classroom exchanges and cultural events – just a few examples of kids from different public classrooms coming together to share their heritage. Equally important are the opportunities for teachers from diverse communities meeting and learning from one another through professional development.

Isn't this what the public system is all about?

The public system already includes 600,000 Catholic school children who are fully integrated. Publicly funded Catholic school students interact with those of other faiths in many areas of life and thousands of Catholic graduates are making significant contributions to Ontario and Canada in every possible field.

Similarly, faith-based schools that would qualify for integration into the public system, including Jewish day schools, teach students the importance of diversity, offer them opportunities to learn about and interact with other communities, and encourage them to become positive contributors to society. The ranks of day school graduates are filled with medical researchers, lawyers who assist the vulnerable, volunteers for the disadvantaged and overseas aid workers. Under a policy of inclusive public education, interfaith understanding and cooperation would likely become an even larger component of school life.

The reality is that 53,000 non-Catholic faith-based students are currently disenfranchised from public education. The status quo is inequitable and out of touch with Ontario's 21st century diversity.

We encourage all political parties to carefully consider the value of inclusive public education, and develop their own plan to integrate faith-based schools that meet provincial standards into the public system.

Igor Ellyn is Education Chair, Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region.

Toronto teen spearheads Ethiopian shoe drive

Over 1,200 children benefit from Jacob Shiff's vision

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG

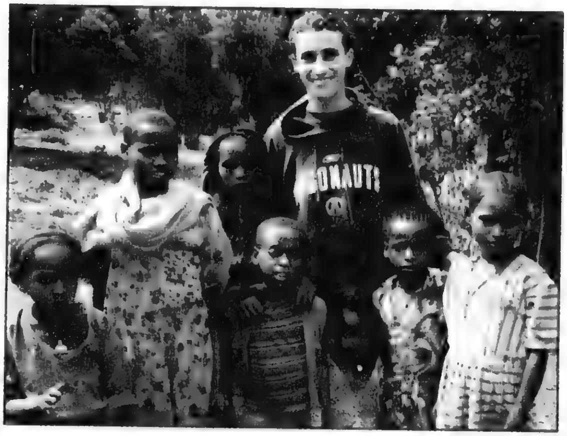
When Jacob Shiff heard his father describe the poverty he saw during a UJA Federation mission to Ethiopia, he wanted to see what it would feel like with the shoe on the other foot – literally.

With the help of his school, TanenbaumCHAT, Shiff ran a "shoe drive for Ethiopia," and, as a result of his efforts, 1,200 more Ethiopians now have protection during the rainy season.

"It just made so much sense," says Shiff, explaining how the project came about. "On the one hand, our closets were overflowing with old shoes that we wanted to get rid of. On the other hand, you have a country full of people who are so desperate for shoes that they tie rubber tires around their feet."

Shiff was inspired by a request his father and sister encountered while on their Ethiopian mission.

"Dr. Rick Hodes, the medical director in Ethiopia for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), who also acts, voluntarily, as the doctor in charge of the Mother Theresa Mission in Addis Ababa, a palliative care clinic, asked us to leave behind extra shoes to be distributed to needy people," says Shiff's father, Randy. "I told Jacob the story and he saw the opportunity."



Jacob Shiff poses with some of the Ethiopian children who were the beneficiaries of a shoe drive organized by the Toronto teen.

With posters proclaiming "many of Ethiopia's children have no shoes," Shiff appealed to his classmates and teachers to help them. Overwhelmed by the positive response from TanenbaumCHAT, Shiff was able to accommodate only two of the other Toronto schools that wanted to participate, Netivot HaTorah Day School (which he had attended) and United Synagogue Day School. In all, over 1,200 pairs of shoes were donated.

But if collecting the shoes was relatively easy, getting them to Ethiopia was a logistical headache, requiring the international cooperation of Canada Israel Experience, El Al, Taglit-birthright israel, UJA Federation, the JDC, United Jewish Communities, and the Jewish Agency for Israel, Israel's overseas agency.

Shiff, however, never gave up ownership of his project. Accompanied by his father, he flew in July to Addis Ababa where, along with Hodes, he oversaw the distribution of the shoes through the Missionaries of Charity, a Mother Theresa organization.

"It's a whole other world," says Shiff of Ethiopia. "Even in the cities – it's not as though there's garbage collection twice a week. The floor is full of broken glass and garbage; it's flooded with diseases. Just walking through, seeing where these people are coming from, and on the flip side, seeing how happy they were to get the shoes, made me understand even more how much we could do with a little work."

Hoop dreams alive and well in Kiryat Moshe

By SHARON SCHWARTZMAN

Like many of his Canadian peers, Toronto native David Goodman's birthright israel trip included a visit to Kiryat Moshe, a Rehovot neighbourhood with many Ethiopian immigrants where UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has provided significant assistance. His group participated in a new building project to develop a clubroom next to the existing community centre.

But Goodman had a greater vision. Upon returning to Toronto, he decided to take his commitment to the neighbourhood a step further and, after speaking to representatives from Kiryat Moshe, Goodman decided to sponsor a basketball court. To raise the funds, he organized a basketball tournament in Toronto called *Hoops For Israel*. Goodman recently witnessed the fruits of his labour firsthand when he participated in the new court's dedication ceremony and opening game.

Toronto's David Goodman (front, right) enjoys the new basketball court in Kiryat Moshe, which he made possible.

"It is incredibly emotional to see what one kid with a dream, and a community that is committed to helping people reach their dreams, can achieve," said Lorne Klemensberg, director of Canada Israel Experience (CIE) Israel, affiliated with UJA Federation and Canada's largest organizer of birthright israel trips. "I am so unbelievably proud of David and the others who helped make today a reality."

Guests at the ceremony, which began after the birthright participants worked on the clubroom renovations, included Rehovot mayor Shuki Forer; Yossi Tanuri, director-general of UIA Federations Canada, the umbrella organization for Canadian Jewish Federations; UJA Federation of Greater Toronto chair, David Engel; and UJA Federation president Ted Sokolsky.

"From the moment he returned to Toronto, David Goodman worked tirelessly to make this vision a reality," said Engel. "David's commitment is an example to both our communities."

"It is such a pleasure to be here today and witness, firsthand, the joy on these kids faces all made possible by a committed and passionate former birthright israel participant," said Sokolsky. "David Goodman is the personification of what birthright is all about; connecting our future leaders to Israel and having them continue that connection with, and love for, Israel long after their trip has come to an end."

Following their remarks, a group of local Ethiopian youth performed an original rap, celebrating the partnership between Kiryat Moshe and Toronto. But most appropriately, the festivities ended with a basketball tournament,and thanks to David Goodman, every team that participated was a winner.

Remembering Israel's Captive Soldiers

TELLASSAD
FREE GILAD
FREE THE CAPTIVES

Nearly 300 people recently gathered outside the Israeli Consulate in Toronto on behalf of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah on July 12, 2006 and Gilad Shalit, taken captive by Hamas on June 25 last year.

The vigil was sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, B'nai Brith Canada, Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC), International Christian Embassy Jerusalem and Mothers for MIAs.

Speakers included Israel's Consul General Cobie Brosh, B'nai Brith Executive Vice-President, Frank Dimant, UJA Federation Vice-Chair David Koschitzky (pictured above), Josh Cooper, the Executive Director of CJPAC, Helen Cohen from Mothers for MIAs and Ted Greenfield of B'nai Brith International.

"Gilad, Eldad and Ehud were not the victims of a battle; they were the victims of kidnapping," said Koschitzky. "Their terrorist captors should be considered criminals."

"Canada's Jewish community stands united in demanding the safe return of Gilad Shalit, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev," said Dimant. "We speak with one voice reminding all governments of their commitment to oppose terrorism, whenever and wherever it may occur."

Vigil participants also remembered Israeli soldiers who are missing in action: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Majdy Halabi, Guy Hever and Yehuda Katz.

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

CLUB BUYS AMBULANCE: **Members of Maple Downs Golf and Country Club recently raised funds to buy an intensive care ambulance for Magen David Adom in Israel. The fundraising was so successful that extra money was available to purchase medical supplies and equipment.**

[Picture courtesy Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel]

Members vote to reorient Holy Blossom sanctuary

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The membership at Holy Blossom Temple has voted in favour of a resolution to make renovations to its 69-year-old Bathurst Street building that will include a controversial reorientation of the 1,100-seat sanctuary.

Of 2,458 voters who cast their ballots by the July 16 deadline, 2,458 were in favour of renovating, and of those, 1,505 were in favour of reorienting the sanctuary so that it would face east as in more traditional synagogues, while 953 were opposed to that option. A reorientation of the sanctuary would mean that worshippers would no longer face the temple's domed apse, but instead its stained-glass rose window at what is now the rear of the sanctuary.

Critics said such a change would not be in keeping with the congregation's history and the building's architectural integrity, while supporters said it would make the building more user-friendly, and in the process show support for Israel and bring the congregation in line with other shuls whose sanctuaries face Jerusalem.

With more than 61 per cent in favour of reorienting the sanctuary, "I think that's a clear mandate that we go forward to the next step of the project," said Benjamin Applebaum, the synagogue's executive director. He noted, as well, that the sanctuary represents only one aspect of the project.

Other aspects in the plan developed by Diamond & Schmitt architects include a three-story central atrium that would serve as a gathering space and entry to other parts of the building; a new social hall with offices above it; and an underground parking lot with an elevator to the atrium.

In a July 24 letter to congregants, Holy Blossom president Barry Silver wrote, "I think we all recognize that in getting to this stage, there has been a long, passionate debate with strong opinions voiced on both sides. We sincerely hope that the next few months will be a time of healing and that we can all come together and work for the best future of Holy Blossom Temple."

He invited members to become involved in taking the plans from the conceptual stage to a more detailed design phase. There are many decisions to make over the next several months, he wrote.

Applebaum said the temple is "probably two years away" from breaking ground. However, the project is contingent on an upcoming congregational vote to approve a comprehensive financial plan that will be developed in the coming year.

61 per cent in favour of change

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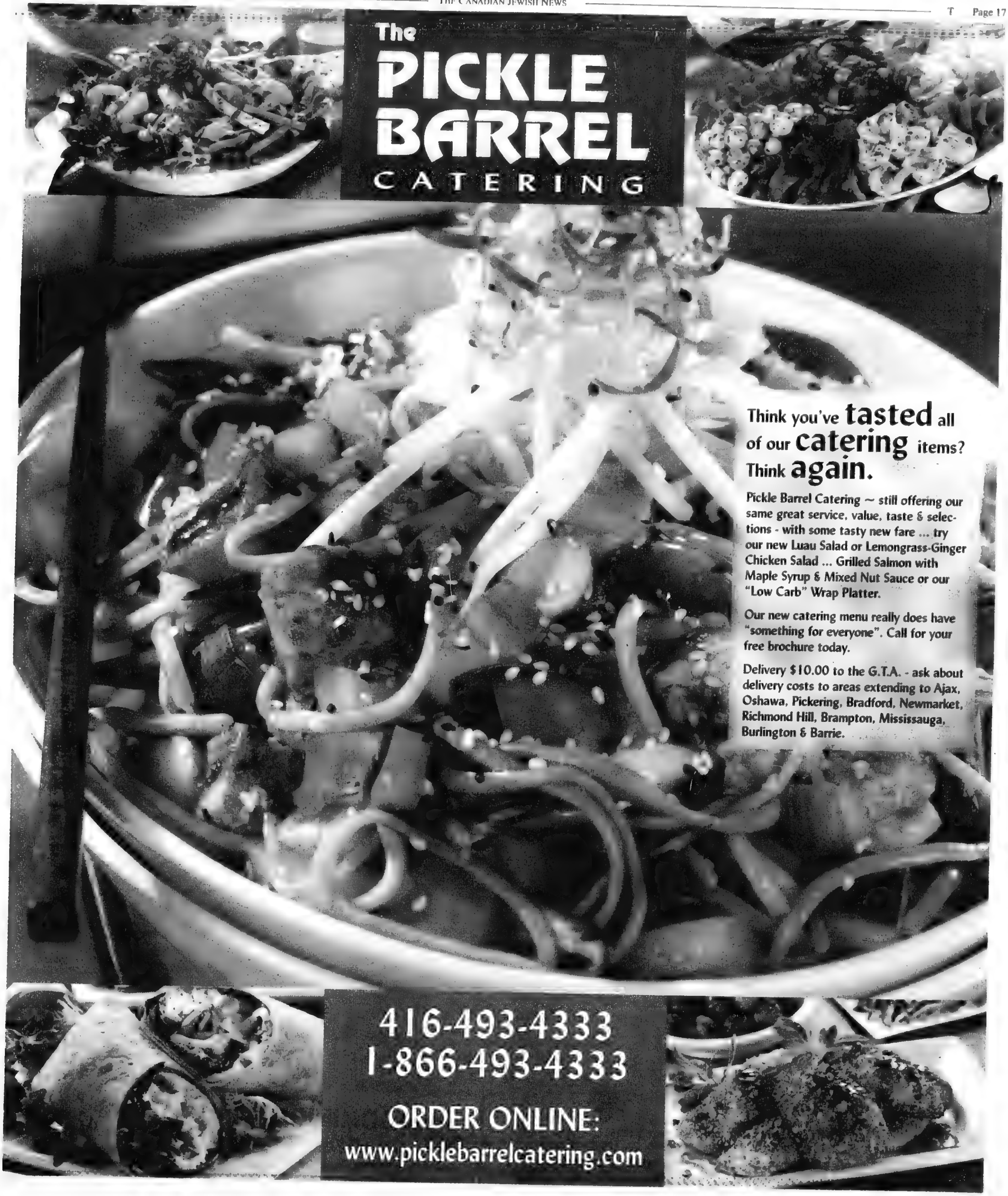

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The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

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The Jewish art of compromise

By RABBI MARK FRIEDMAN

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

The late great leader and scholar Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik wrote a brilliant essay titled "The Torah Way of Justice." In it, he maintains that the system of law in Judaism possesses a higher form of justice than any other legal system. This critical concept is called *pesharah*, compromise.

Maimonides, in his great corpus of Jewish law, the *Mishneh Torah*, writes that a Jewish judge must always ask the litigants: "Do you prefer *din* [a decision according to the law] or *pesharah* ?" If the litigants choose *pesharah*, the judge must abide by their decision, according to Maimonides. Then he concludes with these words: "*Ve-kol bet din she'osin pesharah tamid harei zeh meshubach*." "And a court that always settles cases through compromise is most praiseworthy."

Rabbi Soloveitchik points out that in actual practice, in traditional Jewish courts, the rabbi, acting as judge, settled almost 95 per cent of all cases by *pesharah* rather than by the requirements of the law, the din. As a matter of fact, a *dayan*, a judge, who settled cases by strict application of the law was considered derelict in his duties.

Why is *pesharah* superior to *din*? In the case of *din*, one party emerges victorious while the other is vanquished. Even though a trial has ended and a verdict has been given, discord, anger and resentment linger on. While the legal issue may have been settled, the human bitterness may continue to fester.

When there is *pesharah*, on the other hand, the goal is not to be juridically precise and correct. Instead, the objective is to achieve social healing. The Torah wants the judge to act not only as a magistrate but also as a teacher and healer. For the Jewish tradition, true justice in the highest sense exists only when there is reconciliation between the parties.

In truth, *pesharah* is a concept that applies beyond the walls and chambers of the courtroom. Consider how we could improve our relationships if we learned the art of the compromise.

If this art was practised by employers and employees, we could drastically diminish the number of strikes, lockouts and work actions. We could also relieve the attendant suffering. Instead, compromise would prevail among the parties.

Imagine how much anguish and hurt feelings between parents and children could be relieved if both sides were willing to compromise.

In conflicts between husbands and wives, each person has to give a little, to be able to admit, "I am not always right, and you are not always right, so let's try to work things out," in order for there to be *shalom bayit*, peace in our homes.

I am certain we have all heard the joke concerning the two claimants and their meeting with the rabbi, in which he tells the first man, "You are right" after he presents his case and he tells the second man, "You are also right." This humour reflects an essential aspect of the art of compromise: a person must see the merit of the arguments or positions on the other side. Even though a person may believe they are, so to speak, more in the right, this does not automatically translate into the opposing side being totally in the wrong.

We are now reading the book of Deuteronomy in the Torah. It speaks of the importance of justice, for example, "*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof*" – "Justice, justice, shall you pursue." Do we want real justice in our lives? Instead of gloating over victories or suffering over defeats, we should remember the lesson of "You are right" and learn and practise *pesharah*, the art of compromise.

Rabbi Mark Friedman is spiritual leader of Congregation Sha'ar Shalom in Chomedey, Quebec.

A toxic refusal to communicate

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

It is hardly surprising to assert that we live in an era of profound religious globalization. Perhaps as a result of the significant impact of the communications revolution in modern life, creeds of every kind have spread out to all corners of the globe.

Jews and Judaism have experienced this in a dual way. To cite one item, the ubiquitous presence of Chabad ensures a Jewish reach virtually everywhere. On the other hand, the interaction is reciprocal, resulting, for instance, in scores of Jews becoming full-fledged Buddhists in both ideology and practice. To give yet another example, the majority of Dutch children entering grade school in Rotterdam are Muslim.

The inevitable result of this trend is the phenomenon of religious pluralism, the co-existence of various faiths in relative harmony. But as Prof. Peter Berger recently argued, this is actually a rather limited concept if it omits the possibility of interaction between the different groups.

One can have multiple religious communities all in the same geographical domain, but if each retreats to its own corner with no sign of a relationship, that is a fairly denuded version of what could emerge in such circumstances. As Berger states, it's the social interaction between the groups that's key, "because as people talk to each other, as they converse with each other, they influence each other, and that is the real challenge of pluralism."

Jews today are confronted more than ever before by the spectre of those who do not think or practise the way they do. Not only is this true in the potential divide between Judaism and other religions, but it's perhaps even more poignantly to be found in the relationship between fellow Jews who feel and relate to Judaism in fundamentally diverse ways. One response, of course, would be to look at this pluralistic hypothesis as a nightmare, with influence from the outside being the last thing to be wished for if it diverts the believer from the "true path."

The argument is not hard to fathom. If the onslaught of secular modernity can be likened to a bit of a flood, swamping Jewry with enticements toward compromise or outright surrender, then isn't the most rational response to build an ark, so to speak, shut out the waters of acculturation and wait it out? Or perhaps this, ironically, may testify to an already weak faith, if it can be so easily disrupted by different perspectives and ideas.

It often seems that dialogue between Jews of different religious and political views has virtually disappeared, replaced in a fear-ridden Jewish community by separation and exclusion. Has Spinoza's thesis – that only anti-Semitism unites the Jews – reached an ironic fruition in contemporary Judaism?

The post-Enlightenment fracturing of any religious consensus has never been mended, leaving us with only "support for Israel" and "remember the six million" as the shattered remnants of things upon which Jews can agree.

It does not bode well, this toxic inability or refusal to communicate. We would do better to speak directly to, rather than across, one another.

Chabon scores with witty *Union*

The Yiddish Policeman's Union **by Michael Chabon, Harper Collins.**

Books

Bernard Baskin

In 2001, the Pulitzer Prize was awarded to Michael Chabon's astonishing novel *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*. It was a high-spirited and richly imagined work, exhilarating in style and fecund in story and character.

Chabon's new work, like its predecessor, must be approached with a willing suspension of disbelief.

The absurd plot has it that in 1948, Israel loses its struggle for independence and the American government offers the defeated and homeless Jews a temporary haven in Alaska – to be returned to the United States after 60 years.

Two million refugee Jews are resettled in an "interim district" – the territory of Sitka. Yiddish becomes the new official language. Shopping options include a kosher mart, a Walgreen's, and a Big Macher outlet store. Detectives are known as "shammes," police officers as latkes, and cellphones as shofers.

The so-called "frozen chosen" face a bleak and uncertain future. In addition to their other woes, they are surrounded by unfriendly Tlingit Indians.

The novel begins just several months before the "Reversion" when, once again, uprooted Jews must find a new home.

What concerns Meyer Landsman, a sardonic, irreverent, hard-drinking detective and his partner, Berko Shemets, a native Alaskan Tlingit who has been raised as a Jew, is the mysterious murder of Mendel Shpilman, the son of the chief rabbi of the Verbover chassidic sect.

The victim, at one time, had been revered for his learning and charisma. Some believed that he possessed supernatural powers and might even be the prophesied Messiah. Now a cadaver in a seedy rundown hotel, he is forsaken by his family and fellow chassidim as a hopeless heroin addict and despised homosexual.

The plot becomes involved and convoluted. The two detectives eventually find the murderer, as they also unearth a cabal that seeks to rebuild the ancient Temple in Jerusalem with the help of fundamentalist Christians.

What will be of special interest to many readers is the author's masterful use of language. His style is fluent, evocative and witty.

Rabbi Heskel Shpilman is described as "a deformed mountain, a giant ruined dessert, a cartoon house with the windows shut and the sink left running. A millionaire could cover a Rolls-Royce with the fine black silk-and-velvet expanse of the rebbe's frock coat and trousers. It would require the brain strength of the 18 greatest sages in history to reason through the arguments against and in favour of classifying the rebbe's massive bottom as a creature of the deep, a man-made structure or an unavoidable act of God."

Landsman, watching the sky, feels that it "is like a mosaic pieced together from the broken shards of a thousand mirrors, each one tinted a different shade of gray. The winter sky of southeastern Alaska is a Talmud of gray, an inexhaustible commentary on a Torah of rain clouds and dying light."

The *Yiddish Policeman's Union* "is an entertaining, counter-factual fantasy that examines – however obliquely – such themes as exile, the quest for home and security, the meaning of faith and the importance of community.

Jewish Genealogy – Part 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish
Highway

As we read the Torah, we are given quite a clear record of the births and deaths of its historic figures. Thousands of years later, there is little doubt who begat whom.

Our own extended family trees, however, are rarely that clear.

That's why it's ironic that one of the best tools to investigate our history is one of the most modern – the Internet. With a bit of research and luck, you may be able to shed new light on your family history. Today, the very best place to start your hunt for your Jewish past.

When I first wrote about "JewishGen: The Home of Jewish Genealogy" several years ago, I felt it ranked among the very best Jewish sites of any type. I'm delighted to report that it's still thriving. **[jewishgen.org]** JewishGen is actually many sites in one. In addition to its own extensive resources, it also hosts many other related genealogical websites. Start off your travels in the Frequently Asked Questions area. This massive document will not only give you an overview of the site but will tell you how to get started in Jewish genealogy with advice about everything from finding ocean liner passenger lists going back to 1800 to locating a local Jewish genealogy society. **[tinyurl.com/ytjbzc]**

Next, check if you have relatives in the site's massive database, Family Tree of the Jewish People. If you are lucky to find relatives (or would like to enter your own information), the page is set up like a standard family tree in which you fill in the blanks. **[jewishgen.org/gedcom/]**

You can link up with family you never knew you had at JewishGen Family Finder. It contains "100,000 ancestral surnames and 18,000 town names, and is indexed and cross-referenced by both surname and town name." This incredible database is the work of over 80,000 Jewish genealogists worldwide. By the way, before you can do a search, you will be asked to create a free account for yourself – understandable since they want to add names of people interested in Jewish genealogy. **[jewishgen.org/jgff/]**

Did you grow up hearing all about life in the ancestral town of Máriafürd but you have no idea where it is (or how to spell it)? Type the name (or a reasonable guess) into ShtetlSeeker – Town Search and you'll get a map of that corner of that corner of the world. **[jewishgen.org/ShtetlSeeker]** And have you forgotten how far it is from Plonsk to Minsk? Just plug the longitude and latitude into the Distance Calculator to find out it's 94.5 kilometres. **[jewishgen.org/jos/]**

At some point in your travels, you'll have questions about the best way to research your family's history. The JewishGen Discussion Group offers a moderated e-mail list you can subscribe to. **[tinyurl.com/2g7exj]** But before you fire off your question, check to see if it's already been answered in the group's database of 100,000 messages. **[tinyurl.com/2exfrx]**

Do you have a precious family document or letter but don't understand what it says? Or a picture with people you can't identify. Scan it, upload it and post it to ViewMate. Someone is bound to know what it's all about. When I visited this section, I found people looking for translations from Russian, Yiddish, German and Polish, or some who just wanted to share their keepsakes. This is an amazing place to browse other people's treasures. **[data.jewishgen.org/viewmate/]**

In the Projects section, you'll find a link to the Holocaust Global Registry, which has been set up to help survivors who are looking for family members, and for child survivors searching for their identity. You will also find links to the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry, the Yizkor Book Project and a site called Genealogy by Genetics. Through DNA testing, they help "genealogists find lost relatives when the paper trail ends and the brick wall takes its place." **[jewishgen.org/#Projects]**

There is much more to JewishGen and that's why this is such an incredible resource. And like all our family trees, the more you probe, the more surprises you are bound to find. Finally, now that you're a budding genealogist yourself, don't miss the article with the irresistible title, "Publish before you Perish." **[tinyurl.com/2d3thq]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

Sicko

הקולנוען האמריקני עב המידות מייקל מור עשה זאת שוב. אחרי סרטים נוקבים שלועגים לנשיא בוש (שעליו קיבל את האוסקר), שמתארים את קלות הדעת הרצחנית שבה מוכרים כלי נשק חפשי על הבר, הוא התפנה לעסוק בבעיית מערכת הבריאות האמריקאית. והמספרים קרוב לודאי מוכרים לכם :

בארה״ב חיים כחמישים מיליון איש שאין להם שום ביטוח רפואי, אלא שלא בהם עוסק הסרט-הוא מספר דווקא את סיפורם את אלה שיש להם ביטוח ולמרות זאת הפסידו הכל (רכוש או חיים) כשנזקקו לעזרה רפואית.

הנה כמה דוגמאות מתוך הסרט :

מייבל, ילדה כושית כבת שנתיים הובהלה על ידי אימה לבית חולים מקומי כשהיא סובלת מחום גבוה. חברת הביטוח שלה הודיעה לבית החולים שהם אינם מאשרים את אשפוזה שם ושיש להעבירה לבית החולים ״שלהם״. למרות תחנוני האם, ולמרות התכווצויות כלליות של הילדה-היא הועברה ומתה עם הגיעה לבית החולים ה״נכון״.

ויליאם, גבר יחסית צעיר, השתמש במסור חשמלי וחתך את קצות שתי אצבעות יד ימין. בבית החולים אמרו לו שהביטוח שלו אינו מכסה, ושחיבור אצבע אחת יעלה לו כששים אלף דולר, וחיבור השנייה כחמש עשרה אלף דולר. בלית ברירה הסתפק ויליאם באצבע ה״זולה״. ואז עוברת המצלמה של מייקל מור את גבול קנדה, ומראה את מקרהו של סטיב, גבר מלונדון אונטאריו שגם אותו קיסח מסור חשמלי וקטע את כל חמשת אצבעותיו. וההבדל! הן חוברו על ידי צוות של ארבעה מנתחים בבית החולים של לונדון אונטאריו בניתוח שערך שמונה שעות. הניתוח הקנדי לא עלה לצעיר מלונדון אונטאריו אפילו סנט אחד, כי ביטוח הבריאות מכסה את כולם.

אחת הסכנות הגדולות בסיפורי מקרים מסוג זה הוא שמקרים רעים וטובים אפשר למצוא בכל מקום בעולם. אבל למרות הנטייה הדרמטית של הסרט- מייקל מור צודק בגדול, כפי שמעידים המספרים הכוללים :

בקנדה רק 9% מהתוצר הגולמי מוקדשים לביטוח רפואי של מאה אחוזים של האוכלוסיה. לעומתה, בארה״ב מושקעים 14 אחוזים שמממנים רק שמונים וחמישה אחוז מהאוכלוסיה ומשאירים חמישים מיליון איש ללא ביטוח!

והמחיר של ביטוח רפואי אמריקאי עולה בממוצע ב 11אחוז לשנה, פי ארבעה יותר משעור העלייה ביוקר המחיה!

בארה״ב סיכוייו של אדם לראות את אותו רופא ברציפות לאורך חמש שנים הם חמישים אחוז לעומת שמונים אחוז בקנדה.

ולמרות שבקנדה משלמים רק כחצי מתקציב הבריאות לגולגולת, תוחלת החיים ארוכה יותר, ואיכות החיים הרפואית הכוללת של אנשים יותר גבוהה.

כל האמור לעיל איננו בא ללמד שמערכת הבריאות הקנדית מושלמת.-יש גם כאן בעיות רציניות ביותר שנובעות מכך שאמצעי הרפואה נמצאים בשליטה מאוד צמודה ואגרסיבית של ממשלות שפוחדות להוציא יותר מידי.

אחד הקטעים המזעזעים ביותר בסרט הוא עדותה של רופאה אמריקאית שעבדה בחברת ביטוח רפואי ותפקידה התמקד בשלילת שירותים מאנשים למרות הביטוח שלהם. בהופעה בפני ועדת קונגרס הצהירה אותה רופאה בקול רועד שבשל מעשיה היא גזרה את מותם של מבוטחים רבים. לדבריה, רופאים כמוה מקבלים בונוסים מחברות הביטוח על כל מקרה שבו הם מונעים מהחברה ״הפסד״.

בסיומו של הסרט עושה מייקל מור את הבלתי ייעשה : הוא לוקח קבוצה של נפגעי ביטוח רפואי לקובה,ש בה יש ביטוח בריאות ממלכתי שווה לכל נפש, ובצורה מאוד בוטה הוא מראה איך הקובנים מטפלים באורחים ועוזרים לבעיותיהם הרפואיות. אין ספק שאנשי פידל קסטרו שמחו על המציאה להראות את אמריקה בכשלונה, ואת הצלחת המערכת שלהם, למרות היותם מדינה ענייה עקב החרם האמריקאי. אבל מעבר לתעמולה – הנקודה החזקה שעוברת בסרט היא שהמעצמה הגדולה בעולם נכשלת כישלון קולוסאלי במתן שירותי בריאות לתושביה, כשתעשיית הבריאות מנצלת בצורה מזוויעה את מבוטחיה, בתמיכת השלטון.

רוצו לראות את סיקו. עשר.

Former premier Bill Davis to head commission

Continued from page 3

"We can't break it down into details at this point," Tory said. "There are many questions that have to be answered. There are many stakeholders out there."

In remarks to reporters the next day in Guelph, Premier Dalton McGuinty strongly criticized the Conservative plan.

"If they want to take a half a billion dollars out of the public system and put that into private schools, then they can vote for Mr. Tory. If they want to segregate children in classes according to their faith at home, then they can support Mr. Tory," McGuinty said.

He added that "one of the reasons for our success as a pluralist, multicultural society is because we bring all the kids together in the same classrooms."

Education Minister Kathleen Wynne charged that the Tory plan will take money out of public education.

"When I knock on doors, families tell me they want investments in our public education system," Wynne said.

"This latest distraction highlights Tory's lack of understanding of publicly funded education. The end result of this poorly thought out policy is gutting the publicly funded education system in favour of private religious schools."

Representatives from faith communities were at the Queen's Park press conference, including Stuart Lewis, executive director of the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools (OAJDS); Howard English, spokesperson for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and Ira Walfish, chair of the Multi-Faith Coalition for Equal Funding of Faith-Based Schools.

All have fought to have faith schools funded by in the province and were pleased with Tory's announcement.

"This is good. This is broadening the faith-based system," Walfish told *The CJN*. "We're excited and a commission makes sense. [The Conservatives] really are committed to this… what this could do for the Jewish community is mind-boggling."

But Walfish also stressed that his coalition is non-partisan.

"If the Liberals want to introduce a policy [like this], then we'll sit at the table with them," he said.

English commended Tory on choosing Davis to lead the commission. "We think this is an excellent initiative."

Canadian Jewish Congress also praised the Davis appointment, saying that he would instill confidence that "the process of integrating faith-based schools… will proceed fairly for the benefit of public schools and all Ontario residents."

Also present at the news conference were lawyer Aaron Blumenfeld and his daughter, Nirelle, who will attend Ulpanat Orot high school next year.

"This [announcement] means a lot for my dad," she said. "He's going to pay $40,000 for three children this year in school [fees]."

Blumenfeld, who is involved with the OAJDS, said the announcement was "exactly what should happen." He added that the "majority of Jewish schools already fulfil the provincial criteria."

Also on hand were representatives of the Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Coptic Christian communities.

For years, many Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and non-Catholic Christian groups, among others, have argued that the province's Roman Catholic schools enjoy preferential status.

The ruling Ontario Liberals have maintained that they are constitutionally obligated to fund Catholic schools, saying they have a clear mandate to obey the 1867 Constitution, which protects existing rights for denominational schools of the time and requires Ontario to maintain a publicly funded Catholic school system.

In 1999, the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) ruled that this funding is discriminatory, violating Canada's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that the province should fund other faith-based schools as well. The UNHRC censured the province again on this issue in 2005.

"We have a Catholic school system that is… thriving within our public system right now," Tory said. "[T]hat is a great model for how the principles of faith-based learning and public system standards can successfully coincide."

In the mid-1980s, Davis' Progressive Conservative government extended public funding to Catholic high schools. Tory was an aide to Davis at the time.

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Outremont candidate sees himself as a 'critical friend' of Israel

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Outremont Liberal party candidate Jocelyn Coulon has always considered himself a friend of Israel and was taken aback by B'nai Brith Canada's July 20 call for party leader Stéphane Dion to "disqualify" him from the byelection in the federal riding because of his "well-documented anti-Israel bias."

"It came out of the blue," Coulon said last week in an interview. "I have always considered myself to be a friend of Israel - a critical friend, but a friend."

Coulon, 50, is a respected Quebec journalist and academic - he is a frequent commentator on television and currently a professor at the Université de Montréal, which is in the riding. He is a star candidate in what is considered a Liberal stronghold whose seat was left vacant with the departure earlier this year of Jean Lapierre.

The byelection is expected this fall. Also in the running are former diplomat Gilles Duguay for the Conservative party, former quebec environment minister Thomas Mulcair for the NDP – considered Coulon's strongest challenger – and Jean-Pierre Gilson for the Bloc Québécois.

In an interview, B'nai Brith legal counsel Moïse Moghrabi said Coulon's extensive collection of writings, viewable on the web site www.cerium.ca, attest to his biases against the United States and Israel, as well as his "wrongheaded" views on topics like Iran and terrorist groups like Hamas.

For example, Moghrabi said Coulon has, as early as 2004, used the word "massacre" when referring to U.S. actions, has referred to the terrorist threat as "insignificant," and last year wrote that Hamas should be seen as a negotiating partner.

Moghrabi expressed concern that if the Liberals form the next government, Coulon, whose expertise is international affairs, could become defence minister or "point man" on international affairs

"[Coulon] said his thinking is in line with the Liberal party, but it is not," Moghrabi said. "He could eventually influence Canadian policy."

As of last week, however, B'nai Brith appeared to have found few if any allies in calling for Coulon's nomination to be rescinded. French-language newspapers *Le Devoir* and *La Presse,* both of which Coulon has written extensively for, ardently defended his intelligence, humanity and integrity.

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler attended Coulon's campaign launch, and in an interview, agreed with the assessment of Coulon as a "critical friend" of Israel.

"Look, he has written 160 pieces for *La Presse,* and there are things I agree with and things I disagree with. But he is a supporter of the basic principles of Canadian foreign policy, and that should be the benchmark," Cotler said.

Referring to B'nai Brith's position, Cotler said you can always "single out" positions you disagree with, "but that cannot be the basic for judging whether you are a suitable candidate.

"It has to be judged on overall experience and expertise on domestic and international issues," he said.

The Quebec-Israel Committee's director of public affairs, Philippe Elharrar, likewise felt that whatever "ambiguity" might have existed over Coulon's positions were clarified by his recent pronouncements on the Middle East, which, Elharrar said, are in "perfect symbiosis" with Liberal party policy.

Coulon told *The CJN* that while he has certainly criticized the government of Israel, he has also shown support, for example when Israel built a "protective wall" against terrorists and when then-prime minister Ariel Sharon withdrew from Gaza.

Coulon acknowledged that he did write about the need to negotiate with Hamas, but only through the authority of Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, and only on the condition that Hamas renounce terrorism, recognize Israel and accept the "Oslo process."

"Obviously, they have not," Coulon said. "It is a terrorist organization and we should not deal with it."

Coulon said that while he has used the term "massacre," he was referring to the perceptions of "one billion Muslims" reacting to images they saw regularly on Al-Jazeera television.

"Did I use strong words? Yes. But I write a column, and columnists often use strong words from the emotion of the moment. I think I have the right to be judged based on my entire body of work, not a word here or there."

Coulon visited Israel in 1993, just as the Oslo process was being commemorated on the White House lawn, and he was deeply impressed by Israel's vitality and democratic spirit.

Coulon said that for the first time, he was also able to truly grasp Israel's vulnerability as a "small country surrounded by hostile neighbours."

At the same time, Coulon has expressed empathy for the situation of the Palestinians, and while he has been critical of Israeli government policies, he said he has always tried to reach a nuanced and thought-out position.

"I read everything I can, and then I write," Coulon said.

Coulon regrets the fact that B'nai Brith did not try to meet with him before calling on Dion to withdraw his nomination, so that he "could have explained the context of each column."

Moghrabi, however, vowed to continue to bring Coulon's writings "out in the open" during the coming campaign.

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CJC pleased with VisionTV response

Continued from page 6

But none of this, as far as I could see, is in any way correlated or referenced to the present day. It is strictly a historical context and reading of the Qur'an by a Qur'anic scholar," he told the *Post*.

In response, Canadian Jewish Congress spokesperson Len Rudner said that even if the comments were made about Islam in the 14th century, the screeners still need to consider the "context of what is going on in the world today.

"And while the true meaning of jihad is a matter for religious authorities to debate… there are some people today who believe that jihad is physical and is violent, and the last thing that these people need is additional encouragement," Rudner said.

According to Reports
By
PAUL MICHAELS
will return next week

Despite promises that VisionTV content would be monitored more closely after complaints followed the July 14 show, another episode of *Dil Dil Pakistan* that included Ahmad aired the following week on July 21.

Although the second broadcast was blamed on the show's producer being distracted by his daughter's upcoming wedding, VisionTV's president and CEO Bill Roberts released a statement on July 23 that condemned Ahmad's comments.

"Any statements by Mr. Ahmad that infer or encourage violence are not and will not be defended by VisionTV. Such statements run counter to our mission and long-standing track record of celebrating, reflecting and respecting Canada's many faith communities," Roberts said.

In addition to the statement that condemned Ahmad's views, VisionTV has banned him from appearing on further broadcasts, and Roberts said he will create a task force that will include members of the faith community to review the station's policies and procedures.

Rudner said he is pleased with the way VisionTV has responded to the controversy.

"Frankly, it is what we would expect from a respectable and responsible broadcasting organization, and we think VisionTV is both of those things," Rudner said.

In the broadcaster's defence, Rudner said he can understand that the programmers may have been unaware of Ahmad's reputation for vilifying Jews through his writing.

"My point of view isn't that they should have known before, it's that, they know now, so what are you going to do? I think that the proof will be in the pudding, but Vision's statement appears to indicate that they are acting properly."

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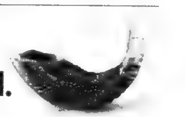

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Back to school... again

By **CARALEE SALOMON**
Special to The CJN

Zev Zelman

Zev Zelman, 31, glides comfortably into his seat at a west-end Montreal café. With a grilled chicken sandwich and a Snapple for lunch, he quietly confides, "I promised God that if I passed my exam I'd never mix milk and meat again."

The test he refers to, the one he recently passed, is Quebec's notorious bar exam, the difficult rite of passage for law school graduates, who must pass it before articling and being admitted as a lawyer to the Quebec Bar Association.

Five years ago, and four years after graduating from McGill University with a BA in industrial relations, Zelman left behind a comfortable job trading mutual funds at CIBC and returned to school, enrolling in law at the Université de Montréal.

Tucking into his chicken sandwich, *sans* cheese, he readily admits that "going back to school was the best decision I ever made. I wouldn't change a thing."

Committed to making a future for himself in Montreal, he says he knew the CIBC job "wasn't going to take me to where I eventually wanted to be."

He'll soon make his long-awaited return to the working world, this time as an articling student at a corporate law firm in Montreal.

But it certainly wasn't always easy.

"On the one hand, you realize that you're not 19 or 20 anymore, when you could study less, party more and get away with it," he says.

On the other hand, heading back to university for the second time meant he took the work more seriously.

"I wasn't trying to find myself this time. I knew what I wanted to do and I needed to commit to the work."

Elated with his accomplishment, Zelman sees a rosy future ahead. "I can basically write my own ticket at this point."

* * *

Susan Molnar, a Montreal-based career counsellor, sees a lot of clients who feel stuck or bored in their careers and want to make a change by going back to school.

It's a serious decision, she says, and one that requires a lot of honest reflection. The consequences of going back to school, she says, can range from having to live on a student budget after getting used to a steady income to more subtle impacts.

"I see a lot of doctoral students who have a hard time managing relationships, particularly their romantic ones," Molnar says. "They've lost their social life and feel isolated. On top of that, they've lost their professional identity, which is huge."

So, how do you know if going back to school is right for you?

"Ask yourself whether you need another degree to advance your career or are you doing it for the prestige or for the personal challenge," she says. "Ask yourself whether another degree will improve your lifestyle."

Molnar says often, people who enrolled in a program thought it was the answer, but ended up in the exact same spot three or four years later, except unemployed and further in debt.

After years in a career helping job-seekers find work, Molnar has learned that advanced or multiple degrees don't always translate into better or higher paying jobs. "Unless you're entering a field where the degree is essential to the practice, real work experience wins over more education," she says.

"If you're going back to school for a better salary, find out what your career path will be like," she says. "If you have to start at an entry-level position, research where you would be in three years and then, three years after that. Get a sense of what the future holds before you dive in."

As for Zelman, he's looking forward to moving into his own apartment this summer after starting work.

He says his father once told him, "'Your twenties are for learning, your thirties are for earning.' I started law school at 27 and I can't think of a better way to have spent the last four years."

Top 5 tips on how to save for a return to school

Brad Wise, a financial advisor with SFL Investments in Montreal, offers some ways to mitigate the financial impact of leaving the workforce to head back to school.

Start investing already! If you're 25 and don't have any investments, don't freak out. But know that money sitting in a bank account is losing value. If you want to make sure you're covered for future eventualities, invest it.

Meet with a financial advisor. Shop around until you find an advisor you trust. Decide if it's more important to hire someone with years of investment experience, or someone younger who can relate to your lifestyle, and with whom you'll grow from university through to retirement years.

Turn bad debt into good debt: Although credit cards are easily accessible, many have high interest rates. Try to limit your credit card debt and find solutions with lower interest rates, such as lines of credit with the bank. A few percentage points could save you a lot of money in the long run and potentially take years off paying down your debt.

Open a high-yield savings account. This isn't a way to get rich, Wise says, but it is a way to at least keep up with inflation. Some financial institutions offer savings accounts with higher interest rates than banks. If you tend to leave money in your bank account but aren't ready to invest it for the long term, this is a great option to at least generate some interest while ensuring the safety and liquidity of your savings.

Borrow up to $20,000 from your RRSP. If you are enrolled in a qualifying educational program, then the federal government's Lifelong Learning Plan allows you to borrow up to $10,000 a year, up to a total of $20,000, from your RRSP to help finance you or your spouse's education over a four calendar-year period. That money won't be taxed as income if it's repaid to your RRSP over the 10 years following its withdrawal. Consider it an interest-free loan from your future self. "Remember that if you have debt, your paycheque isn't all money in your pocket," warns Wise. "On top of loans, you still have rent and car payments. If you're re-entering the workforce after a few years, you'll probably need to invest in a new wardrobe and you might also have to pay dues to a professional order," he says.

— **CARALEE SALOMON**

Dairy delicious summertime entertaining with a taste of nostalgia

By NORENE GILLETZ
Special the The CJN

A *Taste of Nostalgia* by Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, and Judi Dick (Mesorah/Artscroll) is not just another Jewish cookbook. It's actually a storybook that includes 150 recipes that nourish the body, along with nostalgic stories, traditions and vintage photos that nourish the spirit and soul. This warm and wonderful book of Jewish "soul food" is bound to become a reference book for Jewish holidays and special celebrations.

The authors explain that food has always occupied a pivotal place in Jewish culture. Jewish mothers expressed their love for the children through food. Special days in the Jewish calendar are often associated with certain foods. The charming chassidic stories and recipes are arranged in chronological order, according to the Jewish year, using simple ingredients that were probably available in the shtetl 100 years ago.

Shabbat recipes include Mommy's Chicken Soup, Friday Night Farfel, Chopped Eggs and Onions and Arbes (Nahit). Special dishes for other holidays include Moroccan Fish, Gedempte Honey Chicken, Kishka and Helzel, as well as Babka with a Twist. You'll even learn how to make schmaltz and gribenes. These are not recipes for the faint of heart – or for those with a heart condition! But this unique cookbook will definitely touch your heart.

There are many varieties of kugel to choose from, including Lisa's Challah Kugel, Onion Kugel, Cholent Kugel, Overnight Potato Kugel, Eggless Sweet Potato Kugel, Yerushalmi Kugel and a rich Milchig Sweet Lukshin Kugel. You'll also find plump Cheese Crepes for a Crowd and a wonderful recipe for Caramel-Topped Cheesecake – all excellent for summertime entertaining!

In *A Taste of Nostalgia*, the authors tell the following story:

"If you use our recipes for blintzes, you will have true gourmet blintzes, not like those of Shepsel.

"Shepsel was a porter, who barely earned enough to put bread on his table. One time, upon delivering a parcel to a wealthy man, Shepsel saw the man enjoying a tasty dish of blintzes.

"When he returned home he said to his wife, 'Yentl, only the rich people can enjoy this world. I saw a rich man eat delicious blintzes that made my mouth water.'

"'You want blintzes?' Yentl said. 'I'll make you blintzes, just like the rich people.'

"Having no eggs or refined flour, Yentl made a batter of coarse flour and water. Having no cheese, she filled the blintz with mashed potatoes. Having no fresh butter, she fried the blintz in recycled oil.

"Shepsel tasted the blintz and promptly spat it out. 'Those rich people are meshuge [insane]. I can't understand what they find so good about blintzes!'"

The following blintz recipe comes from co-author Rabbi Twerski's daughter-in-law, Hendel. These blintzes are super rich and super delicious. If you have the time but don't have the crowd, they can be frozen and used at your pleasure. Enjoy!

CHEESE CREPES FOR A CROWD

Crepes
7 eggs (extra-large)
3 cups flour
3 cups milk
1/2 cup sugar
2 tsp. vanilla sugar
1/8 tsp. salt
1/2 cup oil
1 cup water
oil, butter or margarine for frying

Filling
1 1/2 lb. farmer cheese (dry cottage cheese)
8 oz. plain cream cheese, whipped
8 oz. sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
1 packet vanilla sugar
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar

Combine crepe ingredients in a bowl and blend together. Place a very lightly greased frying pan over medium heat. When it is hot, coat the bottom lightly with batter. Fry briefly and turn out of the pan when slightly browned. Repeat with remaining batter, regreasing the pan as needed.

Mix the filling ingredients together. With the cooked side of the crepes facing you, divide the blintz filling evenly so that each crepe has the same amount of filling. Fold the sides over the filling and then roll up the crepe. Fry on both sides until golden. May be eaten immediately or rewarmed in a 350-degree oven (or even served at room temperature). Yield: 35 blintzes.

MILCHIG SWEET LUKSHEN KUGEL

This recipe is a cut above the rest. Co-author Judi Dick writes, "I think I got the recipe from my friend Mindel Press many years ago. I don't make it often, but only because it's too good and is impossible to resist. It's very rich. Just reading the ingredients is enough to put on a couple of pounds. For that once-in-a-while special meal – try it!"

1 lb. medium noodles, cooked al dente
6 extra-large eggs, beaten
3 cups milk
1 lb. sour cream
1 lb. cottage cheese
1 tsp. almond extract or lemon zest
1 1/2 cups sugar

Combine all the ingredients in a large pot or mixing bowl. Mix thoroughly, making sure the sugar is dissolved.

Place in the refrigerator for 8 hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 350. Pour the mixture into an ungreased 9x13-in. pan. (Do NOT use a disposable pan. It is actually 8x12 in. and is too small to hold the entire mixture.)

Bake uncovered for 1 1/2 hours.

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant.

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish News

Mazel tov Ruth & Henry Dickler on your 65th wedding anniversary. Love, your children, grandchildren and great-grandson, Noah.

Happy 60th anniversary Morris & Sarah Reiter. Love, Ed & Tammy, Syd & Rhonda, Justin, Stephanie, Kimberly, Leora, Melissa, Michelle and Hilary.

Happy first birthday to Joshua Ethan! We adore your giggles and smiles! With love from your biggest fans - Mommy, Daddy and Ashley.

Mazel tov to Michelle who turned 15 years old in March. We love you and are proud of you. The Goldenberg family.

Mazel tov to Natania Tova Sherman on graduating from CHAT and receiving the Art Award and Governor General's Award for community services. From your loving family.

Mazel tov to Ketzia Dvorah Sherman for graduating from Associated Hebrew School and being accepted at CHAT. From your loving family.

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Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
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What's New deadlines: Friday, Aug. 3, is the deadline for the Aug. 16 issue and Monday, Aug. 13, is the deadline for the Aug. 23 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Tuesday, Aug. 7

SUMMER CONCERT

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents Ballet Jorgon at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park. 7:30 p.m. Free. For information, call 416-395-7873.

KABBALAH CLASS

The Lodzer Centre Congregation offers a three-week introductory Kabbalah course with **Rabbi Matthew Kaufman** using the classic Kabbalah text, *The Gates of Light* (*Shaarei Ora*) by **Rabbi Joseph Gikatilla**. Beginning tonight through Aug. 21, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. For information and to register, call 416-636-6665.

Wednesday, Aug. 8

FUN IN THE PARK

The Jewish Centre for Learning and Living hosts Kids' Entertainment in the Park, a free show every Wednesday through the summer, 7-8 p.m. at Thornhill Woods Public school. Performers each week include magicians, clowns, singers, storytellers and dancers. Performances take place in the field behind the school. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. 905-762-0566

Other News

SUMMER FUN FEST

Beth David Congregation invites the community to Summer Fun Fest on Thursday, Aug. 9, 5:30-8 p.m. for a barbecue, snow cones, bouncy castles, dunk tank, magician, relay races, inflatable twister and more. Rain or shine. Payment by Aug. 3, $10, youth $5, At the door, $12, youth $7. 416-633-5500

SUMMER SERENADES

Beth Tikvah Synagogue presents a concert by three singers in a program of diverse musical styles, including jazz, opera and Broadway. Featuring **Jennifer Finestone**, **Jodie Katz** and **Andrea Wiltzius.** Accompanist **Bruce Harvey**. Thursday, Aug.16, 8 p.m. Tickets, $8, non-members $10, available at the door. 416-221-3434

BRAIN HEALTH

View the documentary *The Art of Aging: The Limitless Potential of the Brain*, a film that explores how to live a fuller and healthier lifestyle as we age. It introduces a number of seniors who lead healthy lives at nearly 100 years old. Through them, the film searches for the keys to living a healthy and vital life regardless of age. There is a post-film discussion with **Ellen Cohen**, Baycrest physiotherapist in the Brain Health Centre, Stroke and Cognition Clinic. Thursday, Aug. 23, 1:30-3 p.m. Register at 416-785-2500, ext. 3374.

CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL

Register now for Chabad Markham Hebrew School for 2007-08. For information and registration, call 905-886-0420, ext. 227.

HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute is accepting registration for the fall session of Hebrew-language classes for adult, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 13 sessions. Classes are taught in the morning and evenings on Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning the week of Sept. 4. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. To register, call **Joseph Klinger**, 416-787-0197.

MAKIN' MUSIC

Join Beth Tzedec for Families Makin' Music beginning Friday, Sept. 7, mixed ages to five years old, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; children under seven months, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Call **Helen Bauer**, 416-844-5655, to register.

Continued on page 25

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If you are a strong communicator with knowledge of investigative techniques, the criminal justice system and policing-community issues, consider these six opportunities with the **Special Investigations Unit** (SIU), the civilian agency that conducts investigations into the circumstances of serious injuries and deaths involving police officers. Using your analytical and interviewing skills and proven understanding of legislation governing the SIU, you will conduct high-profile, complex and sensitive investigations, serving as the front line of the SIU and its face in the community. Your good judgment, integrity, objectivity, tact and strong ethical values will serve you well in carrying out investigations in a credible, fair and balanced manner. A valid driver's licence is required. **Locations: Mississauga, Toronto Region – Job ID 2832 (one permanent full-time position); Greater Toronto Area – Job ID 2833 (five 12-month contract positions, working on-call as needed, with possible extension).** Provincewide travel.

Please visit our website to view detailed job information, including qualifications, salary and instructions on how to apply. Alternatively, you may send your resume, quoting the **appropriate Job ID number(s)**, by **Aug. 13, 2007**, to: **Trish Waters, Administrative Manager, Special Investigations Unit, 5090 Commerce Blvd., Mississauga, ON L4W 5M4.** *Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted.*

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Ontario

The Executive, Board, Clergy, Staff and members of
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Bluma Appel ז"ל

on the loss of their beloved wife, mother and grandmother.
Her generosity and vision live on in the achievements of
ORT students.

Continued from page 24

COHEN SONGFEST

Support mitochondrial disease research at the McMaster University Medical Centre at the Leonard Cohen Songfest Gala 2007, Sunday, Sept. 9. The gala includes performances by **Cliff LeJeune**, Symphony Nova Scotia's Blue Engine String Quartet, soloists **Tracey Benoit Haynes** and **Patricia Nadine Currie**, pianist **Paul Simmons** and guitarist **Fabrizio Del Monaco**. Tickets $75. To reserve, contact 905-387-0007 or boxoffice@carmens.com

LITERARY STUDY GROUP

Forum 15 Study Club, a multi-generational group offering lectures on current literary novels often containing Jewish content, welcomes new members. Seven sessions take place on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. throughout the year in homes in North York and Thornhill. For information, call **Randy**, 416-756-0183.

BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM

Torah in Motion offers a 10-week Matan mother and daughter bat mitzvah program beginning in October 2007 at Or Chaim Yeshiva. The program focuses on Jewish women throughout the ages and is built around mother and daughter learning and creative activities. It concludes with a celebration. For registration and information, visit www.torahinmotion.org or call 416-633-5770.

NEED MONEY FOR UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE?

Are you experiencing an end-of-summer cash crunch? If you need financial assistance with the costs of post-secondary tuition and books, Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa may be able to help. TJFLC lends up to $5,000, interest free, to needy Jewish post-secondary students who are residents of the GTA to help with school-related expenses. For information about loan requirements and eligibility, call 416-635-1217.

SUPPORT GROUP

Are you caring for an elderly parent with dementia or do you know someone who is? The Caring for a Loved One Support Group starts this fall at Baycrest, Wednesday evenings, 6-7:30 p.m. Caregivers learn about dementia and how to deal with related issues. To register, call 416-785-2500, **Nira**, ext. 3587, or **Elaine**, ext. 2995.

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

If you are looking to be a part of a women's support group, to network, share and address concerns and have fun in an informal and friendly environment, join National Council for Jewish Women every second Tuesday morning for a free ongoing program open to all women in the community. For information, leave a message for **Rachel**, 416-633-5100.

EATING DISORDERS

Eating Disorders of York Region provides services, education and support groups for families and friends of individuals who are affected by eating disorders. Join them Thursday evenings, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Thornhill Square Mall, 300 John St., Suite 271. For information, contact 416-576-0457 or visit www.edoyr.com.

L'CHAIM SUPPORT GROUP

L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women provides confidential, caring support via telephone or personal visits to women facing cancer diagnosis and treatment. L'Chaim members are all cancer survivors. For information, call 416-630-0203.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the palliative care unit at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. Good English skills are necessary. Other languages needed are Hungarian, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish. Training and supervision provided. Training starts mid-October. If you have not previously volunteered at Baycrest, you must attend an orientation prior to training. For information, call 416-785-2500, ext. 3005.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for more information, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Café: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual, friendly environment with JIAS volunteers Thursday evenings at the Bathurst JCC or Thursday afternoon location in Thornhill. Children are welcome.

FOR SENIORS

Seniors Mixed Bowling. Enjoy two games of 10-pin bowling Tuesday afternoons, 1 p.m., at Playtime Bowl, 33 Samor Rd. All welcome.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park. Casino Rama, Wednesday, Aug. 8; Casino Niagara, Thursday, Aug. 23. Activities include mahjong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; duplicate bridge, Wednesdays, 12-3 p.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m. For information, call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 416-395-7881.

Bathurst JCC and Miles Nadal JCC present 55-plus tours to Ottawa and 1000 Islands, Oct. 23-25. Includes two nights accommodation, tours, food and entertainment. $385, $435 single. For information and registration, contact **Teme Kernerman**, 416-636-1880, ext. 364, or bjcc55plus@bjcc.ca, or **Randi Sokolsky**, 416-924-6211, ext. 154 or randis@mnjcc.org.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies: Enjoy a recent film Friday, Aug. 3 and 17, 1-3 p.m. in the party room. For information, call **Monica**, ext. 2297.

Torah study group meets every Sunday, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Classroom C. For information, call **Monica**, ext. 2297.

Old Time Jazz Band: **George Grossman** and his trio perform Thursday, Aug. 9, 3-4 p.m.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

MNjcc Full Day Adventure Camp, for four- to five-year-olds, 10 weekly sessions through the summer, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fees, week of Aug. 7, members $160/week, non-members $224/week; other weeks, members $200/week, non-members $280/week. Extended care fee $8/day. For registration, contact **Risa Antoine**, ext. 128, or risaa@mnjcc.org.

Good Age Club drop-in: $3 per event. Annual membership dues include one yoga and one aquafit class at the MNjcc per week. For information, contact ext. 0.

Intensive Hebrew grammar course: Learn the Hebrew verb system including structures (*binyan*), types (*shoresh*), how to conjugate verbs in all tenses (present, past, future, imperative and more) and pronouns in four days. Improve your vocabulary and fluency dramatically with **Tammy Keren**. Monday through Thursday, Aug.13-16, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For information and registration, call ext. 154.

Jewish meditation: Sundays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Connecting the practice of meditation to our tradition. With instructor **Michelle Katz**. Drop in $15, series 10 for $125.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Sign up now for the Summer Arts Party, a fun-filled weeklong program of music, dance, painting, drawing, pottery and swimming. Monday, Aug. 27, through Friday, Aug. 31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. for ages six to16.

Share in the Bathurst JCC's block of tickets with premier seating to Cirque du Soleil on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 8 p.m. at Port Lands, on Cherry St. Tickets can be purchased by calling ext. 271. A tax-deductible receipt will be issued for the maximum allowable amount.

Registration is continuing for September 2007 BJCC Morning School for Tic Tac Two, nursery and junior kindergarten. The program includes music, Hebrew, fun centre time, gym time and swimming. Call ext. 248 for information and to book a tour of the school.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registrations for fall classes in piano, violin, cello, guitar, Suzuki violin, babies and preschool music, children's choir, kids' band, adult band, rock band for teens and adults, African drumming, Brazilian samba and digital music. For information and registration, call ext. 228.

SUPPORTING CANADIAN STUDENTS AT JTS: Debbie and Warren Kimel recently hosted an evening in support of a bursary fund for Canadian students attending the Jewish Theological Seminary. Alan Cooper, the newly appointed provost at JTS, was the guest speaker. From left are Debbie Kimmel, Warren Kimel and Cooper.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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Tosia Berlin	Jul 5/07	111 Cortleigh Blvd.
Dr. Isaac Shleser	Jul 8/07	3705 Bathurst Street
Maxwell Cole	Jul 8/07	1 Northwestern Avenue
Sollie Berman	Jul 8/07	4266 Bathurst Street
Sara Pachter	Jul 9/07	111 Avenue Road
Max Bercovici	Jul 9/07	15 Atwood Court
Eva Adler	Jul 9/07	55 Belmont Avenue
Ed Mirvish	Jul 11/07	115 Dunvegan Road
Sylvia "Chippy" Dubinsky	Jul 11/07	15 Peveril Hill Road, South
Abe Bresver	Jul 11/07	330 Spadina Road
Nathan Arback	Jul 12/07	1 Chedington Place
Norman Shnier	Jul 12/07	342 Spadina Rd.
Anna Bernstein	Jul 15/07	625 Roselawn Avenue
Gertrude Marks	Jul 15/07	22 Norfinch Drive
Bluma Appel	Jul 15/07	18-A Hazelton Avenue
Jack Shatz	Jul 16/07	784 Centre Street, West
Sonia Green	Jul 17/07	46 Wilson Avenue
Arnold Zurin	Jul 17/07	205 Cummer Avenue
Norman Shapiro	Jul 18/07	1 Benvenuto Place
Esther Bluma Krakowski	Jul 18/07	76 Reiner Road
Sarah Kerzner	Jul 20/07	645 Castlefield Avenue

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Anne Usprech	Jul 7/07	3560 Bathurst Street
Stan Friedman	Jul 10/07	55 Coldstream Crescent
Milton Pollock	Jul 16/07	8720 Wellingtron Road 50
Joseph Jurman	Jul 17/07	55 Ameer Avenue

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Rosenthal, Ferenc	July 5/07	3636 Bathurst St
Aptowitzer, Hadassah	July 5/07	1035 Eglinton Ave.
Koplowitz, Sara	July 5/07	7300 Yonge St
Lazer, Max	July 6/07	866 Sheppard Ave
Schecter, Nathan	July 7/07	
Wainberg, William	July 8/07	
Pilc, Rose	July 8/07	1101 Steeles Ave. W.
Marmurek, Saul	July 9/07	65 Maxwell St
Karten, Roslyn	July 9/07	Private
Goulding, Natalie Billie	July 12/07	
Karpati, Kate	July 12/07	5 Kenneth Ave.
Naft, Robert B.	July 15/07	33 Claridge Dr
Kranz, Jakub	July 14/07	
Goldfarb, Shura	July 15/07	3174 Bathurst St
Kun, Magdalena	July 15/07	8 Kingsbridge Crt
Pomirçhe, Sura	July 15/07	255 Chelwood Rd
Sheer, Marcel	July 15/07	51 Ealing Dr
Harris, Jack	July 15/07	Private
Glick, Issie	July 16/07	Private
Lazar, Avram	July 18/07	175 Cummer Ave
James, Esther	July 18/07	1085 Steeles Ave. W.
Rubinoff, Alexander	July 18/07	541 Finch Ave. W.
Lipsman, Roza	July 18/07	86 Katerina Ave
Levy, Charles	July 18/07	47 Kimono Cres.
Zacks, Evelyn	July 18/07	391 Cortleigh Blvd
Kalb, Brian Daniel	July 19/07	3000 Bathurst St
Rochman, Sonia	July 19/07	Private
Koltunov, Genya	July 22/07	4300 Bathurst St
Zaidenberg, Feiga	July 22/07	Private
Rymar, Zakhar	July 22/07	5 Fisherville Rd
Gangbar, Beryl	July 22/07	Private
Nightingale, Sam	July 23/07	90 Fisherville Rd
Weiszner, Fani	July 23/07	Private
Fleisher, Solomon	July 23/07	
Bely, Rosalia	July 23/07	Private
Clodman, Joyce	July 23/07	209 Searle Ave

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Sunday, August 12th,
10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn
Memorial Park
Apter Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
honouring the memory of
MAX
MAIR ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 5th,
11:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom
Cemetery
Community Section Phase 5
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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'You can't expect the Red Cross to go in with guns blazing'

Continued from page 1

Ever since her husband's abduction, Goldwasser has tirelessly campaigned for his and the other Israeli soldiers' release.

In her speech at a rally in New York last month on behalf of her husband and the other kidnapped Israeli soldiers, she demanded to know: "Where is the Red Cross?"

The international organization, however, insisted it has been doing all it can to gain access to Ehud Goldwasser, Eldad Regev and Gilad Shalit, Israeli soldiers kidnapped last summer by Hezbollah and Hamas during raids on Israeli soil.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has "in fact, taken the matter of the three captured Israeli soldiers seriously from the very onset," said the organization's spokesperson, Simon Schorno. The Red Cross, he added, brought up the issue "every time we met with Hamas officials and Hezbollah officials."

In addition, the organization's website features an interview in which its president, Jakob Kellenberger, states: "We deeply deplore the fact that the Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Palestinian factions in Gaza have so far denied our delegates access, and that several attempts to transmit family news such as Red Cross messages or to obtain a sign of life were rejected."

Schorno said the Red Cross has been unsuccessful in repeated attempts to gain access to the Israelis.

"We made a series of public calls for the three soldiers to be treated according to basic principles of humanity," he said. "It's a very pressing issue, one that unfortunately has not developed in any substantial way.

Ehud Goldwasser

Eldad Regev

Gilad Shalit

Marc Stern, assistant executive director and general counsel of the American Jewish Congress, said the Red Cross is doing all it can given the nature of the terrorist organizations holding the soldiers.

"What's perplexing is people are blaming the Red Cross when really it's Hezbollah and Hamas," Stern said. "You can't expect the Red Cross to go in with guns blazing to free these guys."

The Red Cross "reached out to us," he added. "They are, as far as we can tell, working to establish contact with the soldiers."

Representatives from the UJA-Federation of New York and Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, which helped organize the rally that featured several prominent local politicians and high-ranking Jewish leaders, did not respond to requests for comments.

Stern said he believed that people in the Jewish community are unfairly targeting the Red Cross because of their memories of past misdeeds, including the organization's refusal until last summer to recognize Israel's Magen David Adom.

"The Red Cross didn't exactly distinguish itself during World War II," Stern said, referring to widespread criticism that it didn't do enough for those in the concentration camps. "Now they are a different Red Cross. It's not fair to act as if nothing has changed."

In response to a question about how effective the Red Cross has been in trying to reach the kidnapped soldiers, the Israeli consulate in New York released a statement saying that "Israel is calling upon all international organizations, including the UN and the Red Cross, to fulfil their mission and obtain information about the kidnapped soldiers and help secure their immediate release and return home to their families."

Schorno said the Red Cross would continue to press Hamas and Hezbollah.

"We're not taking no for an answer," he said. "We're not letting this slip off the radar."

CIC praised MacKay's announcement

Continued from page 1

The assistance will comply with a 2006 process adopted by the so-called Quartet of peace brokers – the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations – that endorses "needs-based assistance directly to the Palestinian people, including essential equipment, supplies, and support for health services, support for the uninterrupted supply of fuel and utilities, and basic needs allowances to poor Palestinians."

The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) praised MacKay's announcement.

"We support Canada engaging in the region and supporting the stability of a moderate and accountable Palestinian leadership that can serve as a credible partner to Israel," said CIC chair Moshe Ronen.

But Ronen cautioned the government to ensure that the aid is properly used and monitored.

"We expect that Canada will establish benchmarks for the necessary reforms the PA must undertake to retain the confidence of Canada," he said. "The CIC commends [Canada] for taking… the necessary precautions to ensure that none of this support is accessed by Hamas."

New PA plank omits 'armed struggle'

JTA

RAMALLAH — For the first time, a political platform proposed by the Palestinian Authority does not call for "armed struggle."

The plank presented last Friday by PA Prime Minister Salaam Fayad instead cited "national opposition to the occupation." It includes language regarding the "attainment of an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement consisting of pre-1967 borders, Jerusalem as the capital of both states, the honouring of past agreements between the two" and a resolution to the refugee problem based on UN resolutions, the *Jerusalem Post* reported.

Salaam Fayad

Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Haim Ramon said Israel should try to work with PA President Mahmoud Abbas, head of the more moderate Fatah party, as Israel has a partner for peace for "the first time in seven years." Israel has yet to issue an official reply. Officials have not received the new platform in writing, nor has it been voted on by the Palestinian Parliament.

The platform also declares the PA's intention to exert its rule over the Gaza Strip, which was taken over last month by Hamas. Abbas vowed that an internal 200-page report detailing the failures of officials in handling the Hamas takeover would be implemented immediately. Hamas has vowed to continue its armed resistance against Israel.

Abbas told reporters that he hoped to broker peace within a year and has the support of U.S. President George W. Bush and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

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Israel Briefs

Arab League reps visit Israel

Egypt and Jordan's foreign ministers met with the Israeli prime minister to discuss the Arab League's peace initiative. "We were invited as representatives of the Arab League in order to advance the Arab peace initiative," Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit told reporters at a press conference last week with Israeli President Shimon Peres. "This is a time of opportunity." During their visit to Israel, the Jordanian and Egyptian ministers also met with Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, and paid a rare visit to the Knesset, where they were scheduled to address the foreign affairs and defence committee. They were also scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. "It is the first time the Arab League has authorized a delegation to come to Israel," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mark Regev said, calling the visit "historic." Yet in a contradictory statement, the Egyptian state information service released a communique Saturday saying Aboul Gheit was "representing Egypt and only Egypt, not the Arab League" during his visit.

Iran nuke plant delayed

Israeli media reported that the completion of Iran's first atomic power plant will be delayed by more than a year, to the fall of 2008, a Russian nuclear subcontractor said. "Today, we can say for sure that to launch the Bushehr nuclear plant this autumn is unrealistic," Ivan Istomin, the head of Energoprogress, a company doing the work for the Russian state-owned firm building the Iranian plant, told Russia's RIA news agency. Despite pressure from western countries to halt work on the plant, Russia has said it will stick to the project. The Russian company building Iran's nuclear plant had announced a delay in its launch once before due to payment problems. The plant was supposed to open in September 2007.

Israelis moving to Germany

The number of Israelis moving to Germany is growing. Newly released German immigration statistics show a sharp rise in the number of Israelis becoming German citizens. In 2006, 4,313 Israelis became German citizens, a 50 per cent increase over the previous year. While foreigners can apply for naturalization after eight years living in the country, they generally must forfeit their former citizenship. There are some exceptions, including Jews who lost their German citizenship due to Nazi persecution, as well as the children and grandchildren of Jews who fled Nazi Germany. Many Israelis fall into this category.

Steinhardt plans changes in funding he provides

By JACOB BERKMAN
JTA

NEW YORK — Unhappy with the results of his $125-million investment in Jewish causes over the past 12 years, philanthropic trailblazer Michael Steinhardt says he is scaling back and refocusing the efforts of his signature foundation.

Michael Steinhardt

"The last six months have been particularly hard because I came to the realization that I was doing things I really did not want to be doing, that were really not where my head was," Steinhardt said last Wednesday in an interview with JTA at his Manhattan offices. "I felt that some of the places I spent money were not where I really wanted to be spending money, that I knew were not achieving what I wanted to achieve, and they created conflicts for me and difficulty for me, and I think that period is over."

The hedge-fund mogul made waves in the mid-1990s, when he retired from the money management business with roughly half a billion dollars in the bank, pledging to devote his energies to the Jewish philanthropic world.

Steinhardt quickly made a significant impact through his foundations and Jewish Life Network think tank, becoming a founding partner of birthright israel, a program that supplies young Jews with free trips to Israel and is widely regarded as the most successful Jewish philanthropic initiative in decades. He also invested in several other groundbreaking efforts, including philanthropic partnerships that have generated tens of millions of dollars to boost day-school education and make synagogues more appealing to marginal members and unaffiliated Jews.

But now Steinhardt, well-known for acerbic comments and ruffling feathers, is slamming his own record and promising major changes. Any major shift by Steinhardt could prove potentially momentous for the Jewish community's new philanthropic landscape, where individual donors and private foundations, rather than local Jewish charitable federations, lead the way on a host of issues.

Steinhardt told JTA that he will be narrowing his foundation's attention to three major areas: creating follow-up programs for birthright participants after they return home; building a $100-million Fund for the Jewish Future, also known as Areivim, to transform formal and informal Jewish education; and the Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative.

He voiced plans to end his financial support for at least 18 of the 100 or so initiatives that he funds, but opted not to discuss specifics on the record. In addition, Steinhardt said he will be stepping down as chair of the day-school initiative, the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE), but he will continue his commitment of $1.5 million over five years.

In recent months, according to sources close to him, Steinhardt had become increasingly pessimistic about the Jewish world and the impact of his investments. He articulated this disappointment publicly in May at a banquet for Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

"I ask myself, overall, is the Jewish world any better today than it was 13 years ago? Have things really improved? Are we reaching more people?" he asked. "I don't have positive answers. Outside of our self-congratulatory bubbles, things haven't changed much."

Shortly after that, Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg stepped down as the Jewish Life Network's top professional, a post from which he had served as Steinhardt's top adviser on Jewish initiatives since the organization was founded in 1995. The departure marked the end of a prominent and ideologically improbable partnership between Steinhardt, a self-described atheist, and Rabbi Greenberg, an Orthodox theologian.

In recent months, the overall staff at the Jewish Life Network (JLN) has been reduced from 12 to seven, according to sources at the organization. Rabbi David Gedzelman remains its executive director.

Steinhardt has tapped the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, Robert Aronson, to head the $100-million Areivim fund. The fund, which is co-chaired by Detroit billionaire William Davidson, will include 20 philanthropists who invest $5 million each. Steinhardt said 13 have signed on so far.

"I think Michael is taking a whole new look at JLN," Aronson told JTA. "It is a very good idea. I think it will energize him. He has had a tremendous impact on American Jewish philanthropy through his ideas and initiatives."

In total, Steinhardt has given an estimated $125 million to Jewish causes through the Judy and Michael Steinhardt Foundation and the Israel-based Steinhardt Family Foundation.

Steinhardt told JTA that while he will honour his previous financial commitments and maintain some level of support for many of the causes his foundations fund, he wants to focus in the future on crafting what he calls a "common Judaism" and developing programs that speak to the unaffiliated, as opposed to those who are already in some way connected to Judaism.

These have always been his objectives, he added, but the JLN occasionally has strayed from them.

He plans to step down as chair of the day-school partnership, a position he has held for 10 years.

"PEJE has been an outstanding organization," Steinhardt said. "It is exceptionally well run by Josh Elkin, its staff is terrific and I feel it has done unusually well in a variety of circumstances."

Still, Steinhardt said, while PEJE has helped build the Jewish day-school system, he wanted the organization to do more to help increase the number of non-Orthodox and unaffiliated Jews who attend day schools.

He challenged the claim in the National Jewish Population Survey of 2000-2001 that some 10 per cent to 15 per cent of non-Orthodox Jews attend day schools, saying the Steinhardt Social Research Institute at Brandeis University found that the number is closer to three per cent.

"You ask yourself, if PEJE didn't exist, what percentage of the non-Orthodox world would go to day schools?" he said. "Would it be much less than three per cent?"

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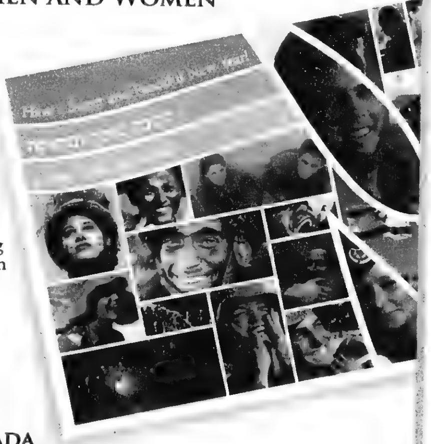

Israel rebuilds forests burned by Hezbollah

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

BIRIYA FOREST, Israel — "For us, every tree is precious," said Joseph Karni, a rangy Jewish National Fund park ranger whose words trickled out in a rivulet of pain, anguish and regret.

As he talked, Karni cast a rueful glance at a scorched hill in the Biriya Forest, a natural reserve of great beauty, near Safed, which was damaged by barrages of Hezbollah rockets during last summer's Second Lebanon War.

JNF ranger Joseph Karni

Hezbollah gunners, attempting to hit Israeli army bases in the Galilee, fired more than 500 Katyusha missiles into the forest – igniting hundreds of wildfires, incinerating 250,000 trees, mainly highly combustible Jerusalem pines, and touching off the worst forest fires in Israel's history.

By the time the war ended last August, during which 119 Israelis were killed in 34 days of combat, 200 hectares, or 10 per cent, of this enchanting man-made forest had been burned beyond recognition.

On adjacent Mount Meron, Israel's largest nature reserve, 1,000 of 100,000 hectares were obliterated.

These figures may not sound like much, but when you consider the fact that only four per cent of Israeli territory is covered by forests, the real meaning of the catastrophe sinks in.

Karni, a former kibbutznik and a JNF employee for the past 25 years, personally witnessed the destruction. "It was terrifying, believe me," he recalled with a shudder.

A charred hillside in the Biriya Forest [Sheldon Kirshner photos]

He added, "The rockets fell from morning to night. You never knew when the next one would come crashing down. We were running after fires. Ninety-seven per cent of our workers stayed to fight the fires, even though civilians were permitted to leave the region. They risked their lives. We were lucky that none were killed."

A year after a United Nations ceasefire ended the fighting, sparked by an unprovoked Hezbollah ambush of an Israeli army patrol inside Israel, the JNF has begun the awesome and inspiring task of rehabilitating the Biriya Forest, a bucolic haven for hikers and picnickers alike.

Further north, much closer to the once quiet Lebanese border, the JNF is replanting parts of the Ramot Naftali Forest, which also absorbed the brunt of Hezbollah aggression.

In both cases, park rangers say, the work of rebuilding the forest, which was suddenly subjected to an entirely unexpected environmental disaster, will require at least a generation of effort and expense.

"Whole hillsides were burned," noted Karni, saying that it will cost 20,000 shekels to clear each hectare of deadwood.

According to Karni, 20 per cent of the Biriya Forest has already been replanted, all by volunteers from Israel and around the world.

"We've been flooded by requests for help," he said, watching Israeli and foreign volunteers busily pruning the lower branches of existing trees in order to make them grow faster and more fire resistant.

The volunteers, ranging in age from 15 to 17, are in Israel on a special six-week summer program, said Daniel Bush, the 30-year-old leader of a group of American volunteers.

Karni, a man who clearly savours the wonders of the outdoors, said that one-third of the forest will not be replanted so that nature can take its course.

Otherwise, the forest, lovingly planted on bleak and barren hillsides shortly after the birth of Israel in 1948, will be replenished with native species – oaks, cedars, pistachio, wild pear, olive, carob and pomegranate – rather than with non-native pines.

"It was a mistake in the first place to plant pines," said Karni, explaining that while they are fast growing and require little water, they are are too susceptible to fires.

By contrast, the newer species can better withstand flames and disease and, just as importantly, will encourage native birds, rodents and such mammals as jackals, rabbits, boars and gazelles to return to their natural habitat.

Eliyahu Cohen, a JNF forester who works with volunteers, said the pine trees still dotting the forest will be permitted to die out after their 80-year life span, and will be replaced with native species.

In the meantime, to the din of buzz saws, JNF workers are methodically cutting down charred trees.

The wood is sold to contractors, who in turn sell it to manufacturers of pallets, benches and outdoor furniture. Unsellable wood is converted into mulch.

As these developments unfold, Eitan Lebel is glad to report that business is back to normal. Lebel, the owner of the Bat Yaar Ranch, a family-oriented retreat in the middle of the Biriya Forest, said that last year's war drove off customers. "The place was empty."

But since last autumn, the ranch has been humming, offering clients the usual assortment of horseback riding, jeep tours, rope bridge walking high up in the trees, outdoor bowling and, for the younger set, a petting zoo, pita baking and creative workshops.

At the Ramot Naftali Forest – which overlooks the development town of Kiryat Shmonah and offers hazy views of the Lebanese towns of Bint Jbail and Maroun al-Ras, where fierce fighting broke out – JNF ranger Avi Fibak remembered the war.

"Ten to 15 Katyushas could fall in a minute," he said, noting that the firing began a week into the war. "I didn't see a flash. I could only hear the whoosh of incoming rockets. When they landed, there was a plume of black smoke, followed by a curtain of white smoke."

He was frightened.

"I was in shock," he admitted, standing on the edge of a ridge with a panoramic view of Kiryat Shmonah. "I didn't know where the rockets would land. I was paralyzed with fear."

He said that Hezbollah began shelling the town only after the Israeli army moved men and equipment there.

As Fibak recalls, firefighters extinguished raging fires in Kiryat Shmonah and surrounding fields before tackling forest fires.

The inferno destroyed 700 out of 14,000 hectares and badly damaged the cable car, a tourist attraction.

In his judgment, there were not enough firefighters and fire trucks to deal with the situation.

A year later, with new green shoots emerging from the blackened earth, the forest has begun to heal itself naturally. Volunteers have so far planted some 75,000 saplings, all indigenous to the area.

"Within 15 years, these trees will cover the charred sections of the mountain," said Fibak, a smile on his face.

Israel will be green again.

Baycrest

Dr. Anthony R. Melman

Baycrest, one of the world's premier academic health sciences centres focused on aging and diseases of the brain, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Anthony R. Melman as Chair of the Baycrest Board of Directors.

Dr. Melman is currently the Chairman and CEO of Nevele Inc., and Special Advisor, Strategic Acquisitions to Onex Corporation.

He has been actively involved with Baycrest for 10 years serving as a member of the Baycrest Board of Directors and associated committees including Finance and Audit, and Strategic Planning. Since 2001, he has served as a member of the Baycrest Foundation Board of Directors.

Dr. Melman holds positions on a number of corporate and not-for-profit Boards including Director of Celestica Inc., Director of the University of Toronto Asset Management Corporation (UTAM), and Chair of the Childhood Cancer Charitable Council of Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO).

Dr. William E. Reichman

The Baycrest Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. William E. Reichman as President and Chief Executive Officer.

Dr. Reichman, an internationally-known expert in geriatric mental health and dementia, brings outstanding clinical, academic and executive leadership background to Baycrest.

Most recently, he was Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey, where he also served as Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and President of the Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Group. His academic activities have focused on the pharmacological treatment of Alzheimer's disease and its associated apathy and negative symptoms.

Dr. Reichman is a former President of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry and consultant to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice on dementia and mental health-care delivery within nursing homes.

Ronald Appleby, Q.C.

Baycrest proudly recognizes the continued leadership of Ronald Appleby, Q.C. as Chair of the Baycrest Foundation Board of Directors.

Mr. Appleby is the senior partner of Toronto law firm, Robins, Appleby & Taub LLP. He is an expert in tax and estate planning and a legal and business advisor. In 1982, he was appointed Queen's Counsel.

Mr. Appleby has a long association with Baycrest and other corporate and not-for-profit organizations. He is currently National President of the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and has served as President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto, and Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and Board of Governors of the Jewish Theological Seminary. He has chaired major fund-raising events for Mt. Sinai Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital, the Weizmann Institute, Reena Foundation, C.H.A.T., and the Jewish National Fund.

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KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman
and Hallel Newman

The Bell

Yankel plopped down on the dusty bench in back of the shul, exhausted from a long day of work. He wouldn't make it back to Chelm until the next day. Tonight he'd probably end up sleeping right here in the synagogue. That was no problem, he had done it many times before, but he was hungry. Yankel hadn't eaten all day. A man came over to him and extended his hand.

"Shalom aleichem."

"Aleichem shalom."

"You're passing through here?"

"Yes."

"Don't you have a place for the night?"

"Nope."

"Not to worry. You see that man in the front? That's Moses Krepnik. He's a textile merchant. Really wealthy. And really nice too. Make sure he sees you. He'll bring you home for dinner and let you stay overnight."

"Really?"

"And best of all, when you leave he'll give you a gift."

"A gift?"

"That's right."

"What kind of gift?"

"That's up to you."

"What do you mean?" asked Yankel, puzzled.

"You can choose any one thing from his house to bring home with you. That's what I mean. I recommend taking a golden cup or maybe one of those silver bowls. Oh, here he comes… good luck."

"Thank you!" Yankel called after him.

***

"Shalom aleichem, do you need a place for the night?"

"Yes, yes!"

"It would be my pleasure to host you."

Yankel delightedly followed his benefactor home, hardly believing his good fortune. *Wow, look at that house, what a mansion!*

And when they entered, Yankel's eyes opened even wider. The house shone with wealth, from the decorative golden vessels to the imported Persian rugs. The table, carved from a deep mahogany, was covered with a hand-embroidered tablecloth. The table was set with filigreed silverware, bone china plates and lead crystal goblets, just waiting to be filled. Near Moses rested a small, plain pewter bell. It looked strangely out of place in the midst of such elegance.

"Please sit down," invited Moses.

Yankel sank into a soft, plush armchair. *Wow. Maybe I'll take this chair with me.*

Moses took his seat and reached for the bell. He shook it and a dull ringing sound echoed through the room. Almost immediately, the double doors behind him swung open and liveried servants emerged bearing great silver trays piled with the most exotic delicacies imaginable. Yankel had never seen such a spread in all his life. The smell was so tempting, so sweet. He piled his plate high and dug in like someone who hadn't eaten in weeks, which in his case wasn't so far from the truth. When he had finished, Moses rang the bell again, and once more, servants entered, clearing away the empty plates, replacing them with clean ones and, of course, bringing out more delicious food. Moses patiently waited while Yankel stuffed himself, deriving genuine pleasure from giving this poor man a rare treat. Instead of bothering Yankel with questions, Moses let Yankel do what Yankel wanted to do – eat. When at last Yankel had had enough, Moses reached again for the bell.

"Wait!" burst out Yankel. "May I ring it?"

"Of course," laughed Moses, and handed the bell to his guest. Yankel looked at the heavy double doors. All was quiet and still. Slowly he rang the bell. And sure enough, the doors flew open and in came the servants bearing silver bowls of fragrant peaches, plums, grapes and sweet melons.

"As the Talmud says, there is always room for dessert," beamed Moses, taking a luscious cluster of grapes.

Yankel had made up his mind. As he blissfully chewed the soft honeydew, he knew what he would take home with him. No, not bowls of silver or gold, not soft velvety chairs. No, he would take the unassuming lamp whose genie showered such bounty — the bell itself!

And the next morning, after a delightful night's sleep, he knew just what to ask his host for. Moses seemed puzzled when Yankel asked for the bell, but happily gave it to him nonetheless. And after profusely thanking his host, Yankel made his way back to his family in Chelm.

***

"All right everyone, come here!" ordered Yankel, back home in his rundown shack. Proudly he placed the pewter bell on the creaking table. "Watch this," he whispered, reverently stroking the bell. He raised the bell and firmly shook it. It chimed. Everyone looked around. Nothing happened. *Hmm*, thought Yankel. *Maybe it takes them time to get here from Warsaw.* He waited for one hour, and then another. One by one, his children went outside to play. He rang the bell again and again. The solemn ringing echoed through his empty home.

This folktale from eastern Europe is a *mashal*, an allegory — which is a story with a moral lesson. What do you think is the lesson here?

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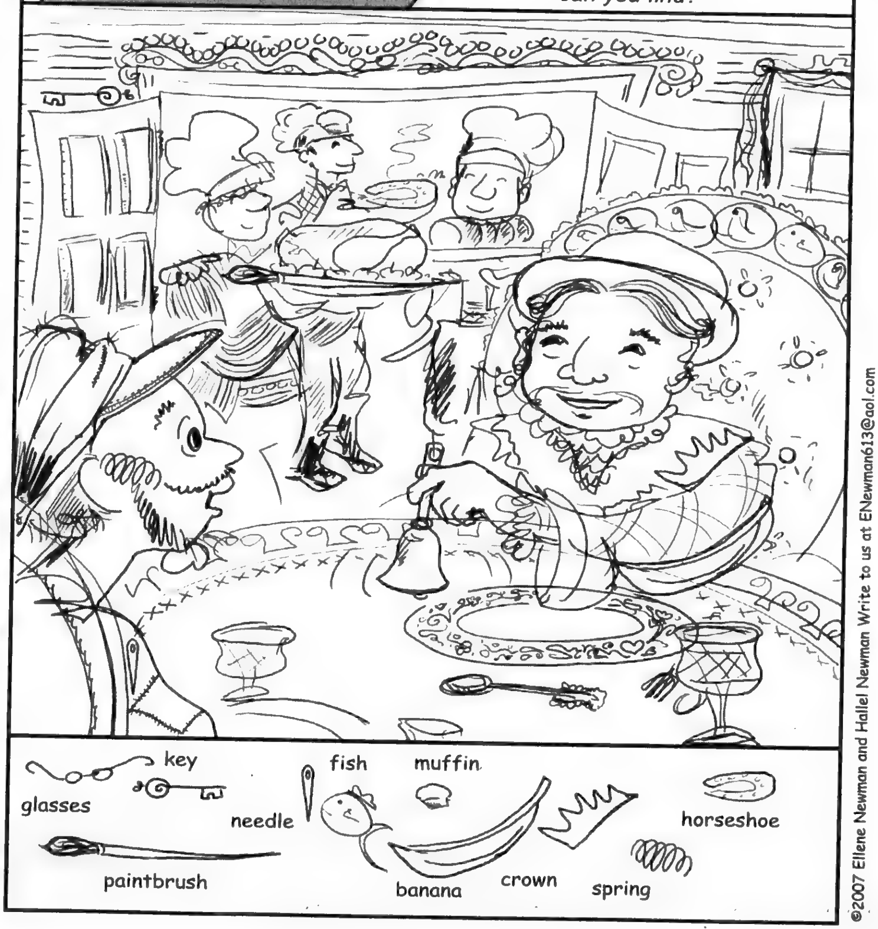
How many of the hidden objects can you find?



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SickKids doctors write child-care book

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

What's the first thing couples do when they find out they are going to have a baby?

Well, OK, first they tell their parents, best friends and hairdresser, and go out for a gourmet dinner. But then they head to the nearest bookstore for books on pregnancy and bringing up baby.

It used to be that Dr. Spock's *Baby and Child Care* was the unquestioned bible for nervous – and even not so nervous – couples. More recently other books have appeared, such as the series *What to Expect* (*When You're Expecting; The First Year* and *The Toddler Years*), by Arlene Eisenberg, Heidi Murkoff and Sandee Hathaway.

And now, Dr. Jeremy Friedman and the late Dr. Norman Saunders of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children have produced a new book that is sure to join the ranks of books you must have. It is *Canada's Baby Care Book: A Complete Guide from Birth to 12 Months Old* (co-published by the Hospital for Sick Children and Robert Rose).

This book is a gem. It is easy to read, has many helpful pictures and is thorough. It is also open-minded, which is rare in books of this type.

For instance, while clearly stating the advantages of breast-feeding, formula is also recognized as an alternative feeding method. The important thing, the author's state, is to use feeding as a time for the mother (or father) to bond with the baby.

Friedman, who heads the division of pediatric medicine at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, observed that since Dr. Spock published his first book, there has been a great deal of research into all aspects of infant care.

"Dr. Spock's book, and many others, were based on opinions and traditional ways of doing things. We tried to take the best of scientific evidence, and translate it into practical information for parents," Friedman said.

He and Saunders recognized that families have different comfort levels with approaches to child rearing.

"Take sleep, for instance," Friedman said. "One approach is to let the baby cry a bit. Another is to never let the baby cry [before settling to sleep]."

The aim of Friedman and Saunders was to give complete information on all the approaches, along with hints about how to implement them. "Once you have the knowledge, you do what you think best. In the 1940s, it was do as the doctor tells you," Friedman said.

He noted that unlike most books, which are mainly text, *Canada's Baby Care Book* is "bright and engaging. The pictures tell you something it would take pages of text to explain."

An example is the section on swaddling babies, which includes photos and a written description.

The babies in the book are mainly offspring of SickKids personnel, including hospital residents, people who contributed to the book and patients. The photographs were taken by hospital photographers, often in the baby's home.

Sometimes, said Friedman, a little explanation can save a lot of anxiety for new parents. "There is a wide range of normal, and we assume that something is normal until it is proven not to be – unlike those books that consider a child sick until he is proven normal."

The book recognizes that society has changed since Dr. Spock's time, especially since so many mothers are in the work force. It covers issues such as choosing a day care, separation anxiety on the part of mother and baby, and how a stay-at-home mom can maintain her physical and mental health.

There are many issues, such as circumcision, that should be addressed before the birth, said Friedman, when the couple has time and leisure to make the proper decisions.

Friedman mused that he and Saunders might have included homeopathic and naturopathic considerations along with conventional medicine, but then you have to save something for the next book.

And there will be a next book. Friedman said that he and other colleagues are already starting on a book that will cover children from two to five years of age.

Rabbi claims to have the key to a happy home

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Aryeh Pamensky wants to make an impact on the world in a grand way.

As a marriage and relationship expert, his vision is to stem the tide of divorce and help build stronger, happier families.

Born in South Africa and brought up in Toronto, Rabbi Pamensky, 42, has been married for 16 years and is the father of eight children. He is a sought-after speaker who has shared his tools for a happy marriage with sold-out crowds around the world.

It saddens him that couples often settle for mediocre relationships.

"It is a tragedy, because there is potential for great [ones] literally around the corner," he said.

"The media is not helpful, because the most we learn about love is about the chase. There is little about creating healthy, long-term relationships."

There are not many places to turn to for information, he said. "In school, students get sex education, but no relationship education. They learn only the mechanics."

As a result, people tend to "stagger blindly, guessing and experimenting, hoping to stumble upon success, because they just don't know any different."

His mission, he said, is to help people make their marriages work, and to encourage them to be role models for their children.

With that in mind, Rabbi Pamensky launched a website last year, www.ydivide.com, which he describes as a "relationship station, designed to give quick tips in four or five seconds.

"I give people free information so they can create a relationship in which they want to live. My tag line is that a great marriage is built on the sum total of daily connections."

About 95 per cent of marriage is mundane, he said.

"Partners have to figure out how to connect every day. It doesn't have to be a sweeping connection but something little such as being an ear or saying sorry. Marriages are built on small things like that."

Turning a relationship around does not have to entail jumping over a huge chasm. "Small steps make a big difference."

Believe it or not, he said, friction is an important part of a marriage.

"With passion comes heat and friction. If that's gone, you've given up. 'Fire' is a good thing."

He also has tips on how to have a "good" fight.

"Find a private place to vent, and bite your tongue. Don't allow yourself to get out of control. As well, you should never say 'You never,' or 'You always,'" he advised.

"Make an appointment to resolve issues and commit to working through them. The greatest thing you can give your partner is the assurance that you will always be there, so you may as well work things out."

Every relationship is measured by your marriage, he said.

"If you learn how to fulfil your spouse on all levels, then every other relationship is impacted. If we take our masks off with our spouses, we gain the confidence to take our masks off with everyone. The result is that we have a lot of real, confident people walking around."

Working on a marriage is good for the kids, he said. "If you have a happy marriage, half of the parenting is taken care of, because the kids feel secure."

Rabbi Pamensky is so passionate about marriages "because I am into human greatness. I believe in growth, and living up to one's potential. The price of becoming a great spouse is becoming a great human being."

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This should be one 'Fabuloso' play

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

What happens when two talented siblings combine on a theatre project? You get *Fabuloso*, a "domestic farce" focusing on a couple's stagnant marriage and what happens when an unbalanced old friend arrives to shake up their predictable world.

Linda and Daniel Kash, the progeny of late master violinist, Eugene Kash and famed soprano Maureen Forrester, star in and direct the play as part of Toronto's Summerworks Theatre Festival at the Tarragon Theatre Mainspace at 30 Bridgman Ave., starting Aug. 3.

The two have come together, along with fellow actors Jonathan Higgins, Angela Asher and multiple Gemini Award-winning actor, Nicholas Campbell, to put on a comedy by acclaimed playwright, John Kolvenbach, with Daniel directing and Linda playing a lead role.

With their pedigree, it's no surprise the Kashes have succeeded in the entertainment world.

Both are actors, though Daniel chose the more dramatic route, studying at the Drama Centre in London, England, whereas Linda followed her comedic bent, and is a veteran improvisational actor, having honed her chops with Second City in Toronto.

At a special rehearsal put on for *The CJN* last week, the Kashes, Higgins and producer Hayley Tyson, who is married to Daniel, unveiled a glimpse of what audiences can expect to see on opening night.

Seen is the cast of *Fabuloso*, from left, Angela Asher, Nicholas Campbell, Jonathan Higgins and Linda Kash. [Anand Maharaj photo]

If the five-minute preview was any indication, viewers will be grinning, smirking and laughing for the show's 65-minute duration.

Linda and Higgins, playing a husband and wife ground down by life's tedium, displayed spot-on comic timing as they executed Kolvenbach's rapid-fire lines in the opening scene, the characters tormenting and goading each other mercilessly.

Linda Kash
[Anand Maharaj photo]

"And we call this one of the 'slow' scenes," Daniel said.

Though many pop-culturists will remember Linda as The Lip Reader from a popular *Seinfeld* episode, her recurring role as the Philadelphia Cream Cheese Angel on the company's TV ads has made her instantly recognizable.

Higgins, who comes from a more dramatic acting background as well, praised Linda for her comedic abilities and said he was grateful to be able to work with "such a force. She really shakes things up on stage."

However, the Kashes initially felt some trepidation about working together on the project, fearing they'd push each other's buttons.

"You know how family can be," Daniel quipped.

"But it's working out fine," Linda interjected. "Not many people know me as well as Daniel… and I love having someone [directing] who cares so much about the play."

The Kashes kibbitzed continually throughout rehearsal, as only siblings can. But their laid-back relationship and easy back-and-forth feedback seemed to infuse the play with an added warmth that audiences should feel.

"I know Linda's giving it all she has every scene. And she's nailing it," Daniel said. "It's been great working with her."

Though both were born in Montreal, they call Toronto home and had their bar and bat mitzvahs at Holy Blossom Temple.

Fabuloso has a limited, five-night run. For more information, visit www.summerworks.ca

Manteca returns to stage and studio

By SHAYLA GUNTER-GOLDSTEIN
Special to The CJN

"Reunion concert" might make you think of a group of old guys attempting to recapture their glory, and when that group is a favourite from your university days – two decades ago – you also fear they won't live up to your memories from concerts that wowed you back then.

I'm ecstatic to say that this is not so with the Toronto-based, Latin jazz-influenced big band known as Manteca, who recently played their first concert in nine years and have released a new album – *Onward!* – their ninth album and first studio recording since 1993.

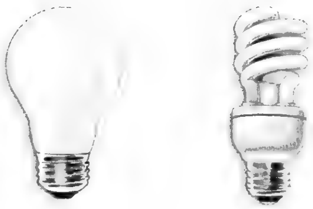
Opening the Toronto Jazz Festival on June 22, Manteca was welcomed onto the stage at Nathan Phillips Square by a mixture of diehard fans and newbies curious about the band. The band's first number was a classic track, *Extra Extra* from their 1990 album of the same name. Led on congas by the incredibly energetic Matt Zimbel and bass aficionado Henry Heilig (two nice Jewish boys), Manteca proved to the audience that indeed, you can come back.

Manteca is not your parents' big band, although jazz fans of all ages will most certainly enjoy the band's sound – imaginative arrangements and focus on percussion, including bongos, timbales and congas, and a wide variety of horns and woodwinds. Manteca's music, which is spiced with Latin, world beat and more than a bit of funk, has always been incredibly easy to listen to – sultry and spine-tingling; energetic with stunning instrumentals and seamless transitions.

Live, the band forms a playful yet relaxed relationship with the audience. It is obvious they are at home on stage. On the CD, the feeling is much the same; their music is soothing and serene one moment, captivating and brimming with excitement the next.

"There's a camaraderie that has existed for 28 years," said Zimbel, "and I think it is evident in our music." In concert, with each song performed enthusiastically, Manteca proved the group has not lost its edge or rhythm, despite losing a few of its original members. Both live and on the CD, rookie players Kelly Jefferson on saxophones and Mark Ferguson on trombone have melded with the veterans to continue creating the distinctive Manteca sound.

Continued on page 35



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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

FUGITIVE PIECES, EMOTIONAL ARITHMETIC FEATURED AT FILM FESTIVAL

Two new feature films related to the Holocaust, both adapted from novels by Canadian writers, have been selected to open and close the upcoming Toronto International Film Festival.

One of the world's most influential film festivals, Toronto's 32nd annual film fest opens Sept. 6 with a première screening of *Fugitive Pieces*, produced by **Robert Lantos** and based on the internationally bestselling novel by Toronto writer **Anne Michaels**. Directed by **Jeremy Podeswa**, the film tells the story of a Polish man haunted by his childhood experiences of the war, during which he was saved by a compassionate Greek archeologist.

Festival co-director **Noah Cowan** called it a "touching and powerful film."

"I'm truly overwhelmed to have this film in particular showcased in this way," said Podeswa. "I am equally pleased and excited for Anne Michaels, whose novel holds such a unique and special place in the hearts of those who live here and readers around the world."

Robyn Israel

The festival's closing film (on Sept.15) is also an adaptation of a Holocaust-related novel by a noted Canadian author. *Emotional Arithmetic* is based on the 1990 novel of the same name by the late Toronto writer **Matt Cohen**.

A drama, the film tells the story of the reunion of three Holocaust survivors and stars **Max von Sydow**, **Gabriel Byrne**, **Susan Sarandon** and **Christopher Plummer**. Two of the survivors, who had been held in an internment camp for Jews in France, discover the man who had protected them did not die at Auschwitz as previously thought, and arrange to meet him.

Emotional Arithmetic was shot last year in Quebec. It was directed by **Paolo Barzman**, who worked with **Jefferson Lewis** to adapt the novel. Cowan hailed both *Emotional Arithmetic* and *Fugitive Pieces* as "vibrant and high-profile Canadian films." A new **David Cronenberg** film is also slated to debut at the festival.

* * *

Casting Call: Encore Entertainment is holding cast auditions for a planned production of the **Neil Simon** play *Chapter Two*. Audition dates are Aug. 20 and 21 at Toronto Centre for the Arts. Please phone 416-733-0558 for an audition.

* * *

Book on Beth Am: Al and **Rosalyne Federman,** original members of Congregation Beth Am, have written an updated history of the congregation and the Beth Am Players. The history contains major events involving the synagogue from 1954 to 1978, when it merged with Beth David B'nai Israel. The section on Beth Am Players features colour photos, programs and insight information regarding the group that performed from 1957 to 1992.

To obtain a copy and receive an income tax receipt, send a donation of $25 or more to the Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, 55 Yeomans Rd., Toronto, Ont. M3H 3J7 and mark it Beth Am Archives Fund.

* * *

London Comedy: *Jewish Girls Don't Kayak... or Do They?* is a comedy about having the last name Israel, and addresses anti-Semitism, intermarriage and Canadian-Jewish identity. Written and performed by **Robyn Israel**, it continues at Fanshawe College Theatre, in the Galleria at King and Clarence streets, London, Ont., through Sunday, Aug. 5. $9.

* * *

At the Galleries

- "The Art of Jazz," an exhibition of works by **Sydney Press**, is at the North York Public Library, 5120 Yonge St., second floor, until Aug. 30. Opening reception, Thursday Aug. 2, 6 to 8:30 p.m.
- "A Light Unto the Nations" is an exhibition of works by eight photographers, four Muslims and four Jews. The images, mostly from the Middle East, are arranged around the theme of tolerance and the consequences of intolerance, and bear the underlying theme. "We can teach our children to love, or we can teach our children to hate." Miles Nadal JCC, Visual Arts Space, until Aug. 31.

* * *

Passages: Toronto's artistic community mourned the loss of **Bluma Appel**, activist, philanthropist and stalwart arts patron, who died of cancer on July 15, aged 87.

A pivotal supporter of the Canadian Stage Company for 25 years, Appel served on more than 40 boards and councils, including those of the St. Lawrence Centre, McMichael Gallery, National Gallery of Canada, Royal Ontario Museum, Canadian Opera Company, Saidye Bronfman Centre for the Arts and Telefilm Canada. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, where she long maintained a home, she supported the Shaw Festival and the Niagara Symphony.

Born and raised in Montreal, Appel was founder of the American Friends of Canada, which fostered significant new streams of funds and friends for cultural institutions such as the Art Gallery of Ontario, Willowbank School for the Restoration Arts and Stratford Festival. She also volunteered with and assisted numerous social and health-care organizations.

In 1983, the theatre in the St. Lawrence Centre was renamed the Bluma Appel Theatre after she funded its renovation. An officer of the Order of Canada, she was presented with an honorary Dora Mavor Moore Award in 2005. She received an honorary doctorate from University of Toronto in 2006 and another from Brock University this past spring.

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Toronto festival showcases up-and-coming musicians

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Aspiring singers and musicians who crave attention for their artistic efforts will get some badly needed exposure thanks to the Canadian Rock and Video Entertainment Festival – or CraveFest, for short.

The first-ever CraveFest will be held from Aug. 14 to 16 at the Revival Bar, 783 College St., and culminates with the CraveFest Awards Night on Aug. 17 at The Mod Club, 722 College St.

The non-profit international music video awards festival is the brainchild of Sal Riino, owner and founder of Gem-Sen, a wholesale company based in Markham. Riino has ties to the music industry because his company includes a car audio division.

The purpose is to provide musicians with an outlet to be seen and heard. Musicians, signed or unsigned, can submit their videos to www.cravefest.com.

"Each video is entered on to an online interactive voting competition where the public votes for their favourite videos. The top videos will be featured at the festival," explains Carolyn Mendlowitz, marketing director for both CraveFest and Gem-Sen.

The evenings at the Revival Bar will include the showing of participants' videos and performances by up-and-coming musicians who might not normally have many chances to play in front of a live audience. The awards night will include performances with yet-to-be announced headliners.

CraveFest judges include Canadian Idol judge and music industry mover and shaker Farley Flex; musician Tara Slone, a contestant on *Rockstar INXS* and the new host of *Inside Jam* on SunTV; Alan Cross, radio personality and program director for 102.1 The Edge, and Darrin Pfeiffer, drummer for the band Goldfinger.

"I've have been involved from the get-go in terms of coming up with the strategy," explains Mendlowitz. "My main objective here is to help promote the event and come up with a marketing plan behind it. We would like to see it benefit musicians, not the ones you see on MTV, and we want to provide others a chance to be seen.

"We are catering to three different genres – rock, hip hop and dance/electronic/world – differentiating by both genre and whether a band is signed or unsigned. It is a free service, so we are receiving a lot of response from both independent record labels who want the opportunity of new exposure for their artists, and we're receiving responses from unsigned, independent artists who want to connect with the community and be seen by record labels."

In addition to exposure for the winners on the CraveFest website, prizes will be awarded at the ceremony. Plans are to release a compilation DVD consisting of the top participants.

The CraveFest website also features entertainment industry news and spotlights established talent. A recent piece showcased American musician and actor Donny Wahlberg, formerly of New Kids on the Block.

Tickets to CraveFest at the Revival Bar cost $10, while tickets to the awards night are $25. For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.cravefest.com, www.ticketbreak.com or call 905-660-3110.

TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

ISRAEL MUSEUM BEGINS MASSIVE RENEWAL PROJECT

Although the Israel Museum of Jerusalem has launched a comprehensive $80-million (US) renewal project, it remains open throughout the construction period with a full schedule of exhibitions and public events.

The most comprehensive initiative undertaken since the museum opened in 1965, the multi-year project will create new entrance facilities, a relocated main entrance hall with access to all of the museum's curatorial wings, reorganized and expanded galleries, and newly centralized temporary exhibition space.

Some 80,000 square feet of new construction will be added, and 200,000 square feet of gallery space will be renewed and expanded, largely within the museum's existing 500,000-square-foot architectural envelope.

The museum is also working to renew the Bronfman Archaeology Wing, planned to provide a narrative timeline of the archeological history of the ancient Land of Israel. The construction is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

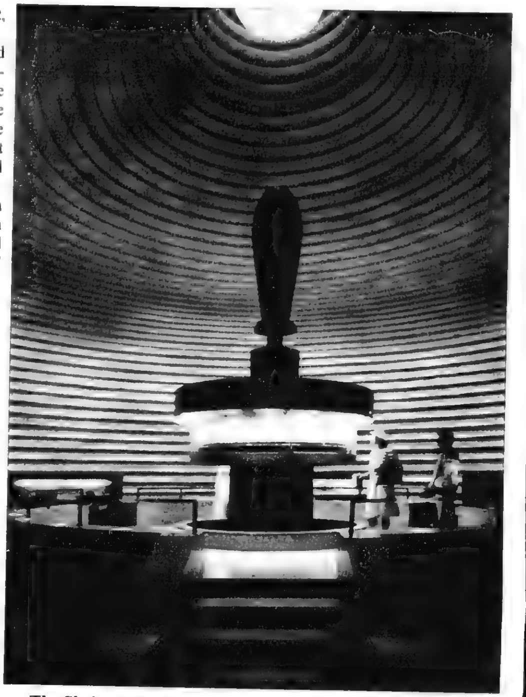
Meanwhile, ongoing and upcoming exhibitions include:

- "Surrealism and Beyond," on view through Aug. 15 in the Weisbord Exhibition Pavilion, showcasing 215 works by such artists as Salvador Dali, Marcel Duchamp, Max Ernst, René Magritte, Joan Miró and Man Ray.
- The Shrine of the Book and Model of Second Temple Period Jerusalem Complex presents an extremely rare Hebrew biblical manuscript from the seventh to eighth centuries CE, on display for the first time. A fragment of the Book of Exodus, the *Song of the Sea* manuscript comes from the "silent era," a period from which very few Hebrew biblical manuscripts survive.
- "Hidden Cities," a new exhibition by artist Yemima Ergas, is on view at the museum's Ticho House in downtown Jerusalem; and the exhibition "Beliefs and Believers: Ancient Art from the Israel Museum," showcases 34 treasures from the museum's archeology wing, and is on display at the Rockefeller Museum in east Jerusalem, which operates under the aegis of the Israel Museum.

* * *

Tel Aviv Art Museum Expanding: A major Tel Aviv cultural institution, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, is also undergoing major change with the recent commencement of construction of a $45-million (US) addition. Nearly 200,000 square feet in size, the Herta and Paul Amir Building will nearly double the museum's exhibition space and is expected to be completed in 2009, in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of Tel Aviv's founding.

* * *



The Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

El Al Winter Vacation Packages: El Al Israel Airlines is continuing its air and hotel specials to Israel for the upcoming winter season. From Sept. 1 to Dec.15, El Al's winter special features air and five nights free hotel, starting at a fare of $1,229 per person, based on double occupancy at the Dan Panorama hotels.

The airline is also offering a selection of land packages throughout Israel with flexible length of stays, allowing combinations of cities and hotels. Optional value-added services on offer include insurance with RBC, car rentals with Hertz Israel, and mobile phone rentals with Amigo. www.elal.co.il/

* * *

A Taste of Israel: Rosie Schwartz, well-known Toronto food authority and journalist, hosts a culinary trip to Israel filled with restaurant dining, cooking classes, wine tastings and meetings with winemakers, relaxing at spas, shopping at colourful markets and sightseeing.

The tour has been specially created by Schwartz, K. Walsh travel consultant Brian Stein, and Amiel Tours of Tel Aviv. Israeli wine experts Daniel Rogov and Jonathan Livny are on board as well. It is geared for both men and women, first-timers and repeat visitors to Israel, Christians and Jews alike. It commences in Israel on March 10, 2008. For more information, contact brian@kwtravel.com or call Brian at 416-929-5964, ext. 225, or 1-800-467-6209.

* * *

High Season for Tourists: Canadian tourist numbers to Israel are soaring, according to the Israel Government Tourist Office in Toronto. June, July and August are traditionally the busiest months of the year for tourism to Israel. Many hotels are running at nearly full capacity but hotel rooms may still be found.

Visitors are discovering that Israel offers other options for accommodation including B&Bs (bed and breakfasts), kibbutz guest houses, zimmer/country inns, hostels and even hospices. Travellers are urged to book as early as possible. For help in planning your visit to Israel, visit the website www.go-israel.com or phone 416-964-3784.

* * *

Jerusalem Rocks!: An extraordinary lineup of musical artists has been arranged for Jerusalem Rocks!, a non-profit international music festival set for Jerusalem's Teddy Kollek Stadium on Sept. 9. More than a concert, the event is being billed as a cultural extravaganza celebrating freedom of expression and promoting Jerusalem as a beacon of peace.

Headlining the event are the Black Eyed Peas, whose lead vocalist, Fergie, has sold millions of copies of her solo debut album, *The Dutchess*. The Grammy award-winning band Arrested Development is also on the bill, along with a mix of local and international acts. For more information, please visit the website, www. jerusalemrocks.com.

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Youth Orchestra conductor brings Israeli flair

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

The National Youth Orchestra of Canada is in the middle of its annual concert tour, under the baton of Israeli Yoav Talmi.

The orchestra annually holds auditions across the country for a four-week training camp and concert performance series, which runs this year from July 25 to Aug. 8. Each season, the orchestra hires a different guest conductor.

"These are young people with a lot of eagerness to do their best and to learn," said Talmi, conductor for the 2007 season.

"They have tremendous enthusiasm during the performance, to give, not 100, but 105 per cent of themselves. And so this compensates a lot for the lack of experience and for a bit of nervousness."

This year, the not-for-profit organization's orchestra is made up of 92 members, the youngest 15 years old and the oldest, 28.

Talmi said he is proud of the youths' performance at their opening concert in London, Ont., where they gave two encores.

"The level of playing was extremely high," he said, "all the sophistication, the soft places, the many nuances, the shades – all of these things that only highly professional orchestras are able to bring about."

Yoav Talmi, 2007 conductor of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada

The concert series has two different programs, and Talmi said this is a smart way to let youth tackle a large range of pieces.

Two of his favourites on the bill are Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloe*.

Talmi said he loves working with youth because of their capacity to learn and absorb. In the two weeks that he worked with the orchestra prior to the first show, he said, he noted their progress every day.

"With professionals, the progress is in inches. Here, it's by miles."

"They start, of course, at a much lower level, but then they are able to progress so much every day – it's very rewarding."

Talmi has served as artistic director and conductor of the Quebec Symphony Orchestra for the last eight years. He has conducted, guest conducted and recorded pieces worldwide, and worked with numerous orchestras, both professional and youth.

He divides his time between Quebec, guest conducting internationally and Israel, where he and his wife, Er'ella, live in Kfar Saba.

The two were born on kibbutzim in the north of Israel and met in the army, as both played for the Israel army band. Er'ella retired two years ago from her career as a flutist. The couple has two grown children, Gil and Dana.

"I never relinquished the feeling that Israel is [our] main home… We feel strongly that we will go to there and come from there."

The National Youth Orchestra of Canada's tour has three concert dates in Quebec on Aug. 4, 5 and 6, before a final concert at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall on Aug. 8.

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New Manteca album a musical journey

Continued from page 32

"It's awesome and invigorating to have new people in the band," Zimbel said. "Fan response has been great, and we are extremely proud of our show and our record. Our goal is to promote this project, tour locally for 18 months, build a fan base and then move on to another project."

Onward! is an exhilarating way to spend an hour. From the melodic energy and distinctive groove of *To a Tee* – my favourite track and the song with which I believe the album should have opened – to the hauntingly beautiful and gentle *Gabriel's Wish*, which showcases both the versatile Aaron Davis on keyboards, and John Johnson's sexy saxophone, *Onward!* is a musical journey on which I have been led willingly and repeatedly since the concert.

Talented composer and bassist Heilig has captured the soul of the city in the rhythmic and smooth *GO Train*, while *Deep Dish*, a homage to the pie at Toronto's Pilot Tavern, is full of sassy energy. With each listen, I discover more nuances in the music and continue to be amazed by the intensity and character of this album.

As for the band members, well, Zimbel doesn't have the curly black "big hair" he did in the '80s, nor does Heilig (thankfully) sport a mullet, but drummer Charlie Cooley and Latin percussionist Art Avolos – both heartthrobs in Manteca's heyday – don't seem to have aged.

Perhaps it is the energy and vitality of their music that has kept Manteca captivating and youthful or perhaps it is their own excitement in being back together, recording and performing again. Whatever it is, at the concert I felt transported back to my late teens when I was a "groupie," and I recalled some of my best memories of that time – spent with friends at concerts or listening to the band's albums on my Walkman.

Manteca's music always uplifted my spirit. Happily, *Onward!* continues that tradition.

The band's video can be viewed at www.myspace.com/mantecamusic.

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Dec. 20	Jan. 2/08	14	Family - Bar/Bat Mitzvah
Dec. 23	Jan. 02/08	11	Adult tour
Feb. 14	Feb. 24/08	11	Family - Bar/Bat Mitzvah
Mar. 6/08	Mar. 16/08	11	Family - Bar/Bat Mitzvah
Apr. 17/08	Apr. 27/08	12	Passover - Family

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CJN Profile

Filmmaker's documentaries make people feel less isolated

By SHERRY SMITHER
Special to The CJN

Mirror mirror on the wall, am I lovable at all? Why can't attractive, intelligent, single women meet Mr. Right and seal the deal?

These are questions Alan Zweig tries to answer in his recent documentary *Lovable* (2007), which he wrote and directed. He also appeared in it, as he did in his two previous films, using an angled mirror so that he could photograph and "interview" himself.

The offbeat filmmaker had no difficulty finding women to tell their tales for the movie, produced by Primitive Entertainment.

"Most people want to open up. I'm not expecting anything huge – I'm like their friend. When they tell their story, it can be powerful," said Zweig at an outdoor patio in Forest Hill Village.

Drawing from dating services and newsletters, the director, who is in his mid-50s, lined up his subjects.

While some he considered had little to say, those he chose had plenty. "Only the best made the cut," he said.

"Why is a nice, pretty, smart girl like you not married?" Zweig asks one eligible woman in the film.

Her answer: "Nobody asked me."

"Do you think you're doing something wrong?"

The attractive single in her 30s replies, "Maybe, but I don't know what that is. What is it? I need someone to tell me… Maybe I want it [marriage] too much."

Another woman tells Zweig she's amazed at what people say.

"What are you doing about [finding a husband]?" they ask.

Some friends offer advice: "You have to pretend not to care and as soon as you stop caring, you'll find Mr. Right."

Others say, "You've got to work the scene – get out there and sell yourself."

Zweig's subjects – women in their late 20s to 50s appear bewildered and frustrated.

Zweig, who is also baffled as to why he hasn't met his match, offers a male perspective.

Talking candidly to his mirror, which plays a role in all his documentaries, Zweig reflects on stories of his loves and losses.

When he considers, "Am I lovable… why am I single?" he finds there's no simple answer.

Some people tie the knot, he concludes. Others don't.

Zweig believes this film, like his others, serves a purpose: "They make people feel less alone, less strange and less isolated."

Asked about *Lovable*'s success – it aired on TVO and Showcase Television – Zweig attributes it to the film's universal theme.

But success hasn't always come easy.

At 19, he tried his hand at writing, filming and editing a flick his friend was shooting at Bathurst Street and Lawrence Avenue.

He enjoyed the experience so much that he decided to attend film school after finishing university.

"At Sheridan, I made a short, impressionistic film about driving cabs, and another, *The Boys*, about friends hanging out one night, who had no girlfriends."

Alan Zweig interviews himself in *Loveable*.

Much later, in 1994, he produced a feature drama, *The Darling Family*.

Unfortunately, it went nowhere.

After years of wondering how to succeed, Zweig discovered the key.

"A friend was making a film with a High 8 camera. I had never shot with a High 8 before, so I got one right away. It meant I could actually make a film."

Although he did not intend to be a documentary filmmaker, he fell into doc mode with *Vinyl* in 2000.

A compulsive record collector, Zweig sought and received a grant to make a narrative about himself and other record collectors. It was the turning point in his career.

"The success of *Vinyl* took a huge weight off my shoulders," he said.

The film also became the first in a trilogy of first-person documentaries that chronicle the filmmaker's journey of discovery.

In *Vinyl*, Zweig takes a candid look at people who compulsively collect things – like almost every record ever made, thousands upon thousands stacked to the ceiling or in boxes they trip over.

"Many collectors told me it was just about the records, but I'd say, 'Come on there has to be more to it.'

"If collecting meant it was only about the music, they might sound less eccentric, more like an art collector, give them a sense of authority and be admired. It bore analysis."

At first, the record buffs thought he was there to see their albums, Zweig said, but when he got to the heart of the matter, "some got upset, but no one threw me out!"

Those featured in *Vinyl* include award-winning filmmaker Atom Egoyan, Toronto *Star* arts and media critic Geoff Pevere, pop culture broadcaster Daniel Richler, actor/filmmaker Don McLellar and several musicians and writers.

In *Vinyl*, Zweig anticipates the theme of *Lovable* when he contemplates whether record collecting may fill a void in his life, since he doesn't have a wife and kids.

For others – who knows? One thing's for sure they're not alone.

Zweig's second film *I, Curmudgeon* (2004), which he also directed and wrote and was produced by Primitive, won a Silver Hugo at the Chicago Film Festival. It shines the spotlight on people, like Zweig, who speak their minds.

He worked on *I, Curmudgeon* without a script, he said, because he didn't want to limit himself.

"Filmmakers put restrictions on themselves and if they don't reach those points, it's harder to succeed."

Instead he chose to trust himself and his editor, Chris Donaldson, who works with him in close collaboration.

With no limit to his offbeat topics in *I, Curmudgeon*, Zweig said he ended up interviewing more men than women. "While women are more socialized, men are more overtly outspoken."

Infamous for mouthing off, *60 Minutes*' Andy Rooney, *Kids in the Hall*'s Scott Thompson, musician Mark Eitzel, filmmaker Bruce La Bruce, actress Cintra Wilson and author Fran Leibowitz head the lineup.

Zweig said he enjoyed interviewing people for *I, Curmudgeon*. "It was like meeting my brothers."

He feels comfortable around those who don't sugar-coat things but prefer to question life rather than mindlessly following the crowd, he said, attributing this to his Jewish upbringing "that doesn't celebrate things when it's not called for."

For example, he said, "When my mother would ask, 'How's the brisket?' My dad would reply, 'I'm eating it, aren't I?'"

That's the way the world is, he concluded. There's no need to say something is good each time.

Not revealing what his next film is about, Zweig did say it has nothing to do with his personal life, and he won't appear on camera.

Looks as if the mirror's showbiz days are over.

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A troubling look at postwar Poland

***Fear: Anti-Semitism in Poland After Auschwitz* by Jan T. Gross, Random House**

By NORMAN RAVVIN
Special to The CJN

It's been nearly two decades since the Soviet Union's postwar rule in Poland came to an end. Most visitors to Warsaw today find what they would call a normal country.

The outskirts of the city centre, where reconstruction after the war was slightest, are now dotted with sleek, postmodern skyscrapers. With its inclusion in the European Union, Poland, and Polish society, has been recognized as forward-looking, economically sound and western-oriented.

But for Jewish visitors, there are notable ironies inherent in this normality. On the fringes of what was the German-orchestrated Jewish Ghetto, one can sit in the breezy, high-ceilinged atrium of a Westin Hotel and look out at a street corner where sewer grates provided ghetto fighters with a last-moment escape route. The less lavish but still comfortable Holiday Inn on Zlota Street is a few steps from one of the few remnants of the Ghetto wall and the site of Janusz Korczak's wartime orphanage.

To add to the list of Varsovian paradoxes, across Zlota is a sparkling, many-tiered mall – designed by none other than Daniel Libeskind – that's filled with international retailers.

Poland's contemporary success – its apparent normality – is undercut by a recent book by historian Jan Gross entitled *Fear: Anti-Semitism in Poland After Auschwitz*. Gross is well known in both Poland and North America for his previous book, *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*.

Both a cause celebre and a source of scandal in Poland, the Jedwabne book describes the killing of 1,600 Jews by Poles in 1941. *Fear* provides this event with further context and interpretation, by setting it in the background of what Gross depicts as the overwhelmingly violent atmosphere that Jewish survivors found in postwar Poland.

With *Fear*, Gross provides his readers with what he calls an "essay in historical interpretation," which makes use of Communist Party documents and police records, alongside recent Polish historiography that has begun to confront the absence of attention to these themes, which existed well into the 1990s.

Fear, then, makes for grim but arresting reading. Its centrepiece is a detailed discussion of the events leading up to, including, and following the substantial pogrom that took place in Kielce in early July 1946. Like many anti-Jewish assaults after the war, the instigation of events in Kielce included a blood libel accusation. A child who had travelled without permission to his old home "because he liked the cherries grown by a farmer" there, was reported to have been assaulted by Jews.

His father's drunken appearance at the local police station included the accusation that Jews had made use of his son's blood. In Poland, after the war, the traditional libel included a newly imagined canard: survivors, it was said, returning from their incarceration in the camps, used the blood of Christian children for transfusions.

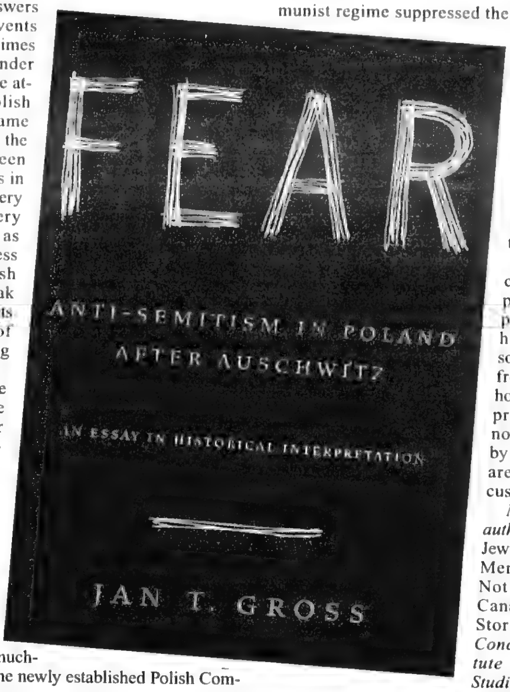
What followed was a days-long melee, in which police and security personnel aided the crowds in pulling Jewish men, women and children from their homes and from trains, killing them in the open street, on railway platforms and in the woods.

Gross effectively conveys how these events, though by far the worst to take place after the war, were in many ways emblematic of the dangers that awaited returning Jews.

But why? Gross finds the answer more difficult to outline than the grim details of assaults, incendiary actions by militia, and neglect, if not collusion by the nascent Polish Communist government.

Gross looks for answers at the heart of the events Poles witnessed, sometimes as accomplices, under German occupation. He attributes to postwar Polish society a sense of shame and guilt with regard to the massacres that had been carried out by Germans in all of their towns, on every main road, and in every major city. He points as well to the unwillingness of almost all Polish Catholic clergy to speak publicly against these acts and the involvement of Poles in plundering Jewish property.

Gross highlights the unusual actions of one man, Bishop Teodor Kubina of the key pilgrimage town, Czestochowa, who spoke unequivocally against the use of the blood libel in order to excuse complicity and looting (Kubina was later sanctioned by the Church hierarchy for his efforts).


FEAR
ANTI-SEMITISM IN POLAND AFTER AUSCHWITZ
AN ESSAY IN HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION
JAN T. GROSS

Fear also provides a much-needed account of how the newly established Polish Communist regime suppressed the necessary response and discussion of anti-Semitic abuses. The Communists, Gross argues, recognized the popular influence of anti-Semitic sentiments and did not see their own cause furthered by confronting views that were, in some circles, a rallying cry of Polish nationalism.

Gross aims to draw connections between the postwar years and present-day Poland, but his argument remains somewhat shadowy on this front. His book suggests, however indirectly, that the present post-Communist normality is haunted still by events and silences that are in need of honest discussion

Norman Ravvin is the author of A House of Words: Jewish Writing, Identity *and* Memory and the editor of Not Quite Mainstream: Canadian Jewish Short Stories. *He is chair of the Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.*

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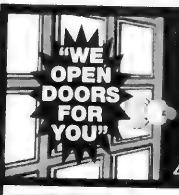
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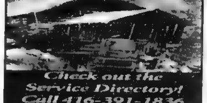

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Canada wins bronze in Jewish hockey World Cup

By PAUL SHINDMAN
Special to The CJN

METULLA — Team Canada beat France 4-1 to win the bronze medal at the first-ever World Cup of Jewish Hockey at the Canada Center on Israel's northern border.

Still jet-lagged and adjusting their game, Canada's national Jewish ice hockey team fell 2-1 to their Israeli hosts in a hard-fought game on the first day of the four-nation World Jewish Ice Hockey Tournament, which began July 15.

Two days later, the Americans beat Canada 7-5, but the team came back to soundly defeat France 10-4 to finish the preliminary round-robin with a 1-2 record.

Despite having had no exhibition games to prepare, Canadian coach Sherrie Bassin was blunt.

"There was no excuse. We got beat fair and square on the scoreboard," Bassin said.

The U.S. team took the gold medal by downing Israel 2-1 in the final.

Like the American team, Team Canada was made up of mostly top junior and college players.

Canada and Israel battle it out in the opening game of the Jewish World Cup of Hockey.
[Paul Shindman photo]

The tournament was put together by Montreal's Alan Maislin, who is chairman of the Ice Hockey Federation of Israel. Three years ago, Maislin brought in his close friend Jean Perron, who led the Montreal Canadiens to a Stanley Cup in 1985, to coach the Israeli team.

Perron's Israeli squad looked sharp all week, and it had the advantage of being both on home ice and being the only team that had played together before the tournament.

"The challenge was there for us. We had a great game, so people were happy, my players were happy and the fans were happy," Perron told *The CJN*. "I looked at the rosters from Canada and the U.S. and I knew on paper that the U.S. had the better club."

Perron said he was surprised that Canada only got the bronze. "I guess they were shocked in the first game when we beat them 2-1."

The tournament was covered in the Israeli media, with the sports TV channel sending a crew to do a special report.

"The publicity that Israeli hockey got was tremendous, and it's going to help hockey in Israel like you can't believe," Perron said.

Despite their depth of talent, the Canadians hadn't played together as a team before their opening game, and they faced the hot-handed veteran Evgeny Gusin between the pipes for the Israelis.

The game was almost called as heavy fog settled over the ice just before the scheduled 8 p.m. faceoff. At one point, you couldn't see from the blue line to the goal.

However, the fog cleared an hour later and play was intense from the outset. Israel's Alon Eizenman scored first in the second period, as both teams had chances. In the third, Canada was pressing on a power play when Israel's Itzik Levy blocked a slapshot from the point. The puck ricocheted down the ice and Levy put it past Canada's Andrew Braithwaite for a 2-0 lead.

With less than two minutes on the clock and Canada on the power play, Shane Urowitz finally notched a goal for Canada, who outshot Israel 37-30 for the game, but came up short on the scoreboard.

Canadian backup goalie Jessie Britstone from Toronto said it was his first time in Israel since his bar mitzvah in 1990.

Even though Metulla and the north were under rocket attack by Hezbollah last summer, he was excited to be there.

"My parents are so proud of me, it's fantastic. They're not worried. We're just here to play hockey, enjoy Israel and have some fun, and you can't be concerned about things you can't control. My parents couldn't be happier."

Other players were cheered on by family who came with them.

Honey and Milton Mandel from Toronto were on their 12th trip to Israel to watch their grandson, forward Daniel Mandel, and were accompanied by Daniel's brothers and parents.

Team France was a surprise, with a squad of talented players led by the Rozenthal brothers, who play for France's national squad, and coached by Canadian Dave Henderson, who also coaches the French national team.

The Americans also had a Canadian connection, with former Toronto Maple Leaf star John Anderson behind the bench.

Anderson coaches the AHL Chicago Wolves and jumped when asked to coach the American Jewish all-star team.

"I said, 'Sure, I'd love to come to Israel,' because it's a place that I think you should see," Anderson said. "Can you imagine that I have a chance to coach hockey and come over and visit a great country – you can't miss that opportunity."

Bassin, one of Canada's all-time top junior coaches, said it was his first time in Israel, where he also has relatives.

"As a matter of fact, I should have been here a long time ago," Bassin admitted. "We're not just Canadians, we're Jewish Canadians, and it's just like coming home here."

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Sometimes, change is good

Sandie Benitah
20Something

A friend of mine recently brought to my attention a book titled *Who Moved My Cheese* by Spencer Johnson. It talks about change and how we're all so darn afraid of it.

I don't know about you, but usually, I don't change anything in my life until I no longer have a choice, or until someone takes charge and changes it for me.

It's an awful way to live, but it's an awfully comfortable way to live. Now, I want to be the one who changes.

Changing a job, a career, a boyfriend or a girlfriend at this point in our lives – when the how-to book on being twentysomething says it's all supposed to be figured out by now – isn't an easy thing to do. But I'm sure no matter how hard it is to change, it will be even harder to do 10 years down the road, when life has become hardened by a decade of comfortable routine.

Change is particularly hard right now, because we are in the midst of making decisions that are supposed to be permanent fixtures in our future.

I have a friend who has been with her boyfriend for almost 10 years, but she's starting to doubt if he's the right person for her future.

"I'm 27. I can't be alone and start all over now!" she said when I asked her about the possibility of making a change.

"OK then," I said, raising my eyebrows.

But in truth, I totally get her.

These years are boxing us in into a cage of insecurity. Thirty is our deadline: we all want to get married and be settled by then, with a fabulous career and a clear path pointing us to where we are heading.

Each passing year means time is running out, which means now is certainly not a time for drastic changes.

But when is it ever a good time to risk something?

Recently, I've been thinking a lot about making a career change. I don't know what I want to do or how I'm going to do it, but I'd like to be brave enough to jump right into it without thinking twice.

Now might be a bad time to make a move. I don't know if I'll be good at something new and I really hate the fact that once again, I'll be starting at the bottom of the ladder of success after finally moving up a few rungs at my current job.

It's not as if I have a ton of savings to fall back on, either.

There's a lot to lose, that's for sure, but I can't help but think that if I don't maked the change, I'd be losing out on something much more precious – a life.

What is life about – and I think this applies at any age – if we don't test ourselves?

We often equal change with instability, but it shouldn't be that way.

If we look back at the times when change has been shoved down our throats against our will, what would we find?

Recently, I was told that Hashem doesn't throw anything our way that he knows we can't handle. I guess I believe that, but even more so, I'd like to think that change comes our way to make us realize what we're made of.

Don't fool yourself. Change can be ridiculously tough and even unbearable. But the remarkable thing is, we always find a way to make it work for us.

Sure, we can always choose the comfort of our routine and avoid the headache and heartache altogether, but for me, there's nothing more heartbreaking than living a life that you've simply settled for.

BEET & GOAT CHEESE SALAD W/PISTACHIOS

2 tins canned beets, sliced in 1/4's
1/4 cup oil
1/4 cup minced green onion
2 tblsp fresh lemon juice
3/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp black pepper
4 oz goat cheese
3 tblsp salted shelled WHITE pistachios coarsely chopped
4 cup Boston or other soft lettuce

Mix green onion, lemon juice, salt, and pepper in a small bowl; whisk in oil. Drizzle dressing on lettuce and toss to coat. Crumble goat cheese on top, then add beets. Scatter with pistachios.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

David and I have been married for six years. For the first few years of our marriage, we were both travelling and setting up our careers. Now that we are both established in that part of our lives, we are planning to expand our family. However, for us, that is easier said than done.

We have been trying unsuccessfully to have a baby for two years, and it's been a very difficult time for us. What makes it worse is when one of our friends or family members says something like, "Don't you think it's time for kids?" Our personal lives seem to be open for discussion by our in-laws, friends and extended family. No one seems to mind their own business. Each time one of them says something about us having kids, it opens up fresh wounds.

The stress is becoming incredibly hard to deal with, and I may end up blowing up at the next person who mentions it to me. Any suggestions?

Ready to Blow

Dear Ready to Blow

Infertility is a growing issue. When things don't go as planned, it's not only stressful, but you are treading in unfamiliar waters. There are many difficult emotions, questions, decisions, etc. Every month becomes a waiting game, and emotions and hopes peak and plunge over and over again. The last thing you need to deal with is outside stimuli from "well-meaning" friends and family. The most innocent question can cut like a knife. Whether you and David choose to share your situation is a very personal decision, but it's one you should discuss and decide on together.

If you decide to share your situation with others, it doesn't mean the questions will stop. They might simply change from, "When are you having kids?" to "So how's it going?"-type questions.

Either way, you have to learn to deal with it. You can't control what others say, but you can try to stop the comments. An answer such as, "When we decide to have a child, we'll be sure to let you know" may sound a little sarcastic, but it will do the job without a long painful explanation.

Whatever the two of you decide, be comfortable with it. Enjoy each other and follow your own plan of action. Together you will make the right decisions for your family.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Wounded Israelis soldier on

By RENA GODFREY
Special to The CJN

Guest Voice

Strumming on his guitar, singing his hit song *Boker Tel-Aviv*, Israeli, Haran Yaffe, 25, delighted the crowd with his passion and talent on a peaceful and joyous June evening that was one of many wonderful events recently sponsored by Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada.

One year ago, however, all was not well for Haran and the many Israeli soldiers who were fighting for their lives in Lebanon.

Haran was part of a delegation of 10 disabled Israeli war veterans who visited Toronto for two weeks in June. Every year for the past 29 years, members of the Toronto Jewish community have opened their hearts and homes to host these remarkable war heroes, each of whom has a story that is equally riveting and heart-wrenching.

Living in Toronto, removed from the horrible and immediate impact of war, we tend to focus on the fatalities of war and often forget the casualties of war, those soldiers or Israeli citizens who have actually survived terrorist bombings or combat. We assume that the survivors are rescued and on their way to recovery. Of course, it is another thing to listen first-hand to the personal stories of rescue and rehabilitation.

Although each story is often gruesome and gory, it's the concealed emotional damage that will pose the greatest challenge for these injured soldiers. After spending time chatting with many of these incredible young men, I soon realized that it's what you don't see that hurts the most.

Often, many people will say of the disabled war veterans, "Well, they don't even look injured".

Most, if not all of the vets who visited Toronto this year suffer from post-traumatic distress syndrome. It's heartbreaking to hear how their war experiences have affected them one year later, 10 years later or often for life.

Asaf Ashkenazy, 30, a gentle, soft-spoken Israeli, describes how a splatter of ketchup on his two-year-old son's face will send him back to Bet Lid in 1995, when at the age of 19, only four months into his army service, he had to collect bodies after a double suicide bombing. Asaf is still unable to work, but finds solace in working with stained glass at a local club run by Beit Halochem.

Yaffe, meanwhile is charming, witty and a talented musician, but underneath it all, he is trying to keep his head above water.

Yaffe was in critical condition for two months in Rambam Hospital after being trapped in a tank that was attacked in Lebanon last year. Haran is now waiting for a risky 15-hour surgery that will repair the muscles in his stomach. He jokes about looking pregnant, but coping with his new appearance and disabilities is inevitably difficult and trying.

Josef (Yossi) Haddad, an Arab Israeli Christian, volunteered for the Israeli army, because Israel is also "his country" and he felt it was the right thing to do.

He, too, was injured in Lebanon.

At first glance, when you meet Yossi, all you see is a bright, funny handsome guy who happens to have a scar running across his face.

Emotionally, however, Yossi is dealing with the loss of most of his unit, his "brothers" as he calls them.

For almost a year, he did not want to sleep alone. On this visit, Yossi fell asleep on a bus en route to Ottawa. While Yossi napped, he dreamed that he was back in Lebanon in combat. When he awoke, Yossi was so disturbed that the local paramedics needed to be called in to calm him down.

Unfortunately, there are too many such stories to retell. The situations may be different, but the emotional trauma for those that are injured is long-lasting.

The Beit Halochem centres in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and Nahariya, and one that's soon to be completed in Be'er Sheva, help men and women, young and old, cope with their injuries and provide support for a comprehensive healing process.

Rena Godfrey is a Toronto writer.

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Discover A New "Taste" at Krinos Taste Of The Danforth

Toronto's favourite festival offers fun for the whole family

Toronto's favourite street festival has a whole new way to celebrate the fun and flavours of Greece and summer in the city.

As last year's Krinos Taste of the Danforth festival came to a close, a poll released by Decima showed that 90 per cent of respondents identified Taste as their favorite GTA festival event — beating out the Toronto International Film Festival, Caribana and Pride Week from an audience perspective.

Everyone gets to be Greek for the day

"The seed for this festival was planted 14 years ago when local businesses were looking for a way to attract attention to the community; there were only a few tables of food and some local musicians," says Alex Alexakis, Krinos Vice President of Canadian Operations. "Now it's the largest Greek festival outside of Greece, attracting over one million visitors from around the world."

The GTA lays claim to more than 200,000 residents of Greek ancestry, the third largest Hellenic community outside Greece and between August 10 and 12, 2007, everyone who comes to the Danforth gets to be Greek for the day.

This year's Krinos Taste of the Danforth has loads of new features and activities to engage and entertain the entire family:

- The Celebrity Stage, presented by the Toronto Star, will include demonstrations by Citytv's CityLine chef and celebrity restaurateur, Michael Bonacini, PLUS a performance by Kevin Brauch, the hugely popular host of the shows "Thirsty Traveler" and "Iron Chef America," where he will perform stunts such as Sabretage — slashing open a bottle of champagne with a chef's saber *while blindfolded*.
- The Celebrity Stage at the new Taste will also offer a taste of Broadway — with live performances from the cast of We Will Rock You and Second City. In addition, visitors will be treated to live musical performances by Frank D'Angelo & The Steelback 2-4 —and much more.
- The Greek Stage will feature traditional Greek dancers (such as Troupe Naditu, Levendia X and Arabesque) and musicians (such as Exodos, Parea, Galaxy and the Yianis Kapoulas Band).
- The Sports Zone will include events created by each of Toronto's professional sports teams. There is a Maple Leafs' Slap Shot Machine, a Raptors' interactive basketball court, a Toronto FC kicking station and soccer zone where you can actually play a game, the Argos Football Toss, Toronto Blue Jays pitching and batting cages, a Toronto Rock lacrosse shooting game (plus meet your favourite Rock players), the Toronto Marlies goal-tending skills game, two volleyball courts (one for adults and one for children) – and much more. Lots more chances for people to test their skills and win fun prizes!
- The Olympiada, presented by the Toronto Star, will include Pythagoras' Chess Challenge (a life-size chess game), a climbing wall hosted by 'Outward Bound,' the Medusa area with a live reptile show, and Greek pottery hosted by 'The Clay Room' where children of all ages will have an opportunity to paint their own pottery using Greek themes.
- The D'Angelo Pavilion will feature the fantastic feats of The Zero Gravity Circus' Amazing Aerial Acrobats.
- And to cool off, visitors can bring their skates to the 'Blades of Glory,' an immense street-wide ice rink on the Danforth where they can skate and take in special appearances.

This year, the Greek Wine Pavilion featured at the Krinos Taste of the Danforth will be dramatically different from the past. It will be a sensual food and wine tasting garden, featuring the talent of local chefs, sommeliers and celebrities. Guests will be able to sit down, savour, learn about, and purchase the highlighted wines of Greece.

Food, drink, entertainment, sports, games and much more

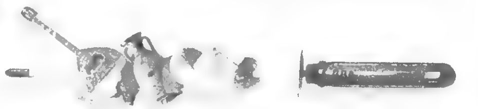
They will also be able to attend some fascinating seminars in the Greek Wine Garden, including:

- A Wine "Taste Off" – Greece vs. the World;
- A "Taste" Of The Food & Wine Regions of Greece;
- A "Taste" of Sommelier.

They will also have the opportunity to sample some culinary classics that are exclusive to the Danforth.

The 2006 Krinos Taste of the Danforth welcomed over million people and organizers are expecting record crowds again in 2007. Full details on this year's Krinos Taste of the Danforth can be found at **toronto.com/TasteOfTheDanforth**

WHAT'S ON



• OLYMPIADA by TORONTO STAR •

1. **BLADES OF GLORY** Bring skates and try the 900 sq.ft. skating rink compliments of Blades Of Glory.
2. **PYTHAGORAS' CHESS CHALLENGE** This challenge will welcome up to 20 guests to simultaneously test their chess skills against one of Toronto's chess masters from the Chess'n Math Association.
3. **THE MOUNT OLYMPUS CLIMBING WALL** Hosted by Outward Bound
4. **D'ANGELO'S PAVILION** Take in the fantastic feats of the Zero Gravity Circus' Amazing Aerial Acrobats.
5. **GREEK POTTERY** hosted by The Clay Room Paint your own pottery using Greek themes.
6. **BUILD THE ACROPOLIS OUT OF ...**
7. **WHO IS THE NEXT ADONIS/ATHENA?**
8. **LIVE REPTILE SHOW** "The Snakes of Medusa."
9. **THE FACES OF GREECE** Face painting with fascinating Greek symbols or images.
10. **DRESS AS AN ANCIENT GREEK RELAY** Wear a toga and compete in a fun relay.
11. **ON THE CLOUDS OF MOUNT OLYMPUS** Create Mount Olympus clouds.
12. **RING WRESTLING** The gods wrestle over the Olympic Ring.
13. **PICTURE YOURSELF AS A GREEK** Draw ancient Greek scenes on a fun Aqua Doodle Mat.
14. **BAKUGAN BATTLE TOUR** – Bakugan is the latest craze sweeping across Japan! From the Japanese words "Baku" meaning "sphere", and "Gan" meaning "to explode", Bakugan features a small sphere when activated transforms into a battle machine of immense power.

• SPORTS ZONE ACTIVITIES •

- **TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS** How good is your slap shot? Test it out on the Raptors' interactive b-ball court. Win great prizes!
- **TORONTO FC** Featuring an interactive soccer experience – a kicking station & soccer zone where you can play a game. Get your picture taken, win prizes and receive free samples.
- **TORONTO ARGOS** Join the Argos and test out your football throwing arm at the Argos Football Toss – win prizes!
- **TORONTO BLUE JAYS** Inflatable pitching and batting cages allow visitors to test their baseball skills. Prizes and giveaways will be awarded throughout the day to those in attendance based upon their participation.
- **TORONTO ROCK** Meet your favourite players and take some photos with the Hot Rocks. Enjoy the interactive 'Rock Road Show' and see how good your lacrosse shooting skills are. Lots of great prizes to be won!
- **TORONTO MARLIES** The goal is fun with the Marlies so try out your goal-tending and stick handling skills.
- **VOLLEYBALL COURTS** A court for adults and a court for kids. Bring your volleyball attire and play.

• CELEBRITY STAGE by TORONTO STAR •

- Special guests like Citytv's CityLine chef and celebrity restaurateur Michael Bonacini and Kevin Brauch, host of "Thirsty Traveler" and "Iron Chef America."
- Performances by the casts of We Will Rock You, Second City and also Frank D'Angelo & The Steelback 2-4.

• GREEK STAGE •

- Enjoy traditional Greek dancers (such as Troupe Naditu, Levendia X and Arabesque) and musicians (such as Exodos, Parea, Galaxy and the Yianis Kapoulas Band).

• DANFORTH STAGE •

- Enjoy local musicians and performers. For details visit www.toronto.com/tasteofthedanforth

• BEVERAGE GARDENS •

- **THE STEELBACK GARDENS** Cool off from the hot sun with a refreshing Steelback Beer.
- **GREEK WINE GARDEN** With seminars including:
  - A Wine "Taste Off" – Greece vs. the World.
  - A "Taste" Of The Food & Wine Regions of Greece.
  - A "Taste" of Sommelier.
- **BAILEY'S SHIVER ZONE** Enjoy a Bailey's Shiver.

• OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES •

- **KRINOS SAMPLING EXPERIENCE** Experience the incredible tastes of some of Krinos' amazing products
- **GILLETTE FUSION** Free samples, live shaving demonstrations, mini-putt challenges, and X-Box gaming.
- **TORONTO HYDRO TALK BOX** Leave a message on how to better conserve energy in homes on Toronto Hydro's Video Talk Box & receive a complimentary CFL (Compact Fluorescent Light).
- **TRIDENT SPLASH & REACTINE SAMPLING** Free samples will be handed out throughout the weekend.
- **CITY-TV SPEAKERS' CORNER** No need to go to Queen Street, it's at the Taste this year.
- **WIN A TRIP TO GREECE** from Toronto.com and the Krinos Taste Of The Danforth.

• A TASTE OF GREEK CUISINE •

- Dozens of tasty samplings outside of the Danforth's great restaurants.

• COMMUNITY BOOTHS & STATIONS •

For details visit www.toronto.com/tasteofthedanforth

• DANFORTH DASH •

- On Friday, August 10, celebrities, politicians, members of the media and corporations will be kicking up their heels with beds on wheels at the 3rd annual Danforth Dash bed race in support of Toronto East General Hospital (TEGH) Foundation.
- To date, this event has raised over $100,000 towards the purchase of new electric hospital beds for TEGH.
- This year, funds are being directed to the expansion of the Emergency Department at TEGH.
- Once again, the Danforth Dash will be held in conjunction with the launch of the Krinos Taste of the Danforth on Fri., August 10, from 1 pm to 3 pm.

HELPING TO SAVE LIVES

On an annual basis, the Toronto East General Hospital registers over 200,000 patient visits, delivers 3,200 babies and responds to over 60,000 emergency visits. Recently, TEGH became the fastest GTA adult hospital for transferring patients from ambulance to hospital emergency care.

In addition to supporting the Danforth Dash, the Krinos Taste of the Danforth has donated (to date) upwards of $850,000 to Toronto East General Hospital.

Check online for updates on performers and schedules at

www.toronto.com/tasteofthedanforth

Sun Valley more than brand names

If you value quality, hate spending hours schlepping through giant faceless supermarkets, and need more than the corner grocery store can offer, **Sun Valley Fine Foods** is tailor-made for you.

Larger than the typical neighbourhood European food store, yet small enough to navigate your way through quickly, Sun Valley is boutique food shopping at its very finest. Just about every sought-after brand name is here, from gourmet grocery items to breads, cakes and pastries. The produce is spectacular; the meat, fish and poultry are perfection itself.

But Sun Valley is more than just brand names and quality. It's about finding exactly what you need for your family and special occasion dining with efficient, friendly personal service.

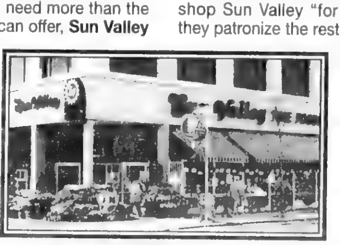
It's these attributes which keep customers coming back — not only the locals, but shoppers from North York, Thornhill, and even Richmond Hill, often armed with the temperature-controlled bags that have become standard equipment among shoppers willing to go the extra mile for the very best.

People come from outside GreekTown to shop Sun Valley "for the same reasons they patronize the restaurants," says partner Spiro Aravantinos: "quality, freshness, flavour, and value."

Ah yes, value. What Aravantinos doesn't mention — but what's obvious from a quick tour of Sun Valley — is that they've resisted "snob appeal". In true GreekTown spirit, they've kept their prices affordable even as their reputation has continued to grow.

The bottom line is that under this one roof you'll find exactly what you want in less time — yet at a more leisurely pace — than in the "big box" supermarkets. And, if you're a husband who'se been "commissioned" to bring home the groceries, your chances of getting a glowing report card on arrival are better here than just about anywhere else.

The reason is simple: Sun Valley just doesn't sell anything that won't get the spousal seal of approval — no matter how hard that may be to come by in your household.



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Home cooking lives at Kalyvia

Think of the best home-cooked meals you've ever tasted. Probably they were (or still are) your mother's. Maybe your grandmother's. Sitting down at that dinner table was one of the most pleasurable experiences you've ever had.

That's the kind of homemade taste you can expect at **Kalyvia**, served up in gargantuan portions worthy of any doting mother.

This is particularly true of the combination platters (poikilias) of seafood and meat, priced from $25.95, which are so big you need a road map just to get around them. Teeming with a variety of Greek specialties, these platters are more than just food ... they're a symbol of the bountiful GreekTown dining experience.

If you're a fish and seafood lover, you can cut your travel time to Greece by about 14 hours. Try the *garides* (shrimps sauteed in white wine sauce) or the salmon steaks topped with Kalyvia's own homemade lemon sauce, which also garnishes the broiled Red Snapper. Like everything else at Kalyvia, all the dips and sauces are made fresh daily from scratch.

How much better does this taste than prepared food? It's like comparing your mother's cooking to fast food: no comparison.

Founders Mike and Peter Tsafatinos are both from the Greek town of Kalyvia; when you name your restaurant after your home town, you've got a culinary legacy to live up to. These lofty standards for quality and freshness have earned Kalyvia a four-star rating from *Toronto by Night Journal*.

While Kalyvia's cuisine is authentically Greek, it's a family place that caters to appetites of all ages. Kalyvia's *Makaronada* (Greek-style spaghetti), available in a variety of entrées and as a side alternative to rice or potatoes, will appeal to the kids, and it's a fun way to introduce them to Greek cuisine.

The Tsafatinos' sons Jim and Jim, and a host of other family members, ensure that each and every dish emerges from the kitchen brimming with the homemade taste their customers expect.

Kalyvia's homemade goodness can be enjoyed on the premises, or in the privacy of your home or office. Large enough for substantial gatherings, but configured for intimacy, Kalyvia is ideal for birthday parties, Bar Mitzvah parties, and other special events.

Kalyvia is one of a very few places in Toronto where you can still enjoy the tastes and trappings of home in a family restaurant environment. It has "Mom" written all over it.

KALYVIA
420 DANFORTH AVE.
416 463-3333
WWW.KALYVIA.COM

For Astoria, the future of Greek dining is now

If there's one word that's synonymous with "**GreekTown On The Danforth**", it's "Astoria." For well over 30 years, this venerable "institution of higher dining" has come to symbolize the culinary qualities the Danforth is known for: great food, great quality, and great value.

Building on and enhancing the Astoria brand

Astoria's recent major renovation has seen it emerge brighter and roomier than ever, without losing any of its intimacy. If it shone before, now it positively sparkles. A nouveau rustic take on traditional Greek motifs unfurls in rich golds and maroons, with elegant tile underfoot and soaring sky blue overhead.

Company Director Peter Kerasiotis undertook the renovation with a view to embracing the needs and tastes of a new generation of diners while remaining mindful of Astoria's long-standing clientele. "Many of our original guests are still regulars three decades later," he notes. "They rely on us for their family outings and special occasions, and it's their loyalty that has allowed us to grow. We took our time renovating our original location and building our new location in Mississauga because we wanted to ensure a seamless transition. The idea was to build on and enhance the Astoria brand, not dilute it. That is something our customers would never have accepted. They expect satisfaction, and we intend to give it to them."

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, says Kerasiotis. The essentials — freshness, quality, and friendly personal service — are still unfailingly apparent at both locations. Astoria still imports staples such as feta cheese, olive oil and olives in small quantities directly from Greece. Their staggering portions still quell the most outrageous appetites.

Astoria's now-famous "souvlaki window", always a beehive of activity, is an indelible image of Danforth life. Judged **"Best of the City"** by *Toronto Life* and **"Best of Toronto"** by *Now*, Astoria's souvlaki helped make it a multiple winner of the **Toronto Sun's Readers' Choice Award** as Toronto's favourite Greek restaurant. Astoria was also rated "Best Greek International Restaurant" by *Where*.

Other jewels on the menu include hearty moussaka, exquisite grilled sea bass and salmon steaks — and Greek appetizers like grilled calamari and creamy homemade tzatziki, if you can keep your souvlaki craving at bay long enough to sample them.

"Best of the City"

Toronto Life

Location and atmosphere are other Astoria assets. For a big restaurant, it's remarkably cozy, due to its corner location and dual outdoor patios (still the Danforth's largest, and now among its brightest as well!)

It's no accident that the first signs of an upcurve in the popularity of Greek cuisine coincided with Astoria's opening, nor is it coincidental that its continued growth in popularity parallels that of the Astoria we know today.

Heading eastbound on Bloor, you know you're on the Danforth once you hit Broadview; but you don't really *feel* it until Astoria leaps joyously into view, bidding you "Welcome to GreekTown" in words that the food lover in you understands so well.

ASTORIA
shish kebob house
"The Future of Greek Dining"
390 Danforth Avenue
at Chester subway
416.463.2838

1970 Dundas St. East
Unit 1, Mississauga
905.615.1444

www.astoriashishkebobhouse.com

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Pan: as close as it gets to a sure thing

Question: Which restaurant combines old-world standards of culinary excellence in a quaint, boutique-like interior with an atmosphere intimate enough for candlelight dinners and the glow of a fireplace, yet casual enough for a quick bite? Big enough for your family events, yet small enough to cozy up in? Run by two generations with a passion for service that is GreekTown itself?

If you guessed **Pan On The Danforth,** then you either have excellent taste in Mediterranean food or you recognized Chris and Soula Christodolou (right) – probably both.

Judged "one of the city's best" Greek restaurants by no less an authority than *Toronto Life*, Pan doesn't just serve Mediterranean food; it brings it to life. Lamb isn't just lamb; beef isn't just beef. Poultry is off the charts. Case in point? The Jumbo Quail. There's no forsaking chicken – especially with Pan's acclaimed Santorini on the menu – but Pan's rendition of quail will expand your gastronomic horizons. Stuffed with mushroom and shallots, served with new mini potatoes and a vegetable medley, and finished with pearl onion in a dark roast chicken red wine reduction, it's one of a handful of signature dishes that have elevated Pan to the status of restaurant "Superstardom." Just don't mention that to Chris or Soula.

"We never try to be 'bigger' than anyone else," says Chris. "The moment you think you've got it made, that's when your service starts to slip." Despite a sterling reputation built on decades of experience, the Christodolous "come to work every day like it's our first day on the job. There is no other way. We never take anything for granted."

They may not, but you can. You can take it for granted that at Pan, your palate will be sensitized to the nuances of Mediterranean cuisine. You can take it for granted that you'll be served like family, *by* family. You can take it for granted that you'll be greeted with a smile that says "We love to cook for you."

There are no guarantees in life, but insofar as great dining experiences are concerned, Pan is as close as it gets to a sure thing.

PAN
Mediterranean Cuisine
516 Danforth Ave. 416-466-8158
www.panonthedanforth.com

"The greatest Greek Food Toronto has ever known" – *Globe & Mail*
"Freshness and textural detail of the essence" – *Toronto Life*

Pantheon: 10 years of excellence

In 10 short years, **Pantheon** has established an Olympian standard of excellence in GreekTown.

How does one carve a new culinary niche in an area already blessed with dozens of fine Greek restaurants? By serving food so fresh and brimming with flavour, you'd swear it was your own mother who'd cooked it. Just don't tell executive Chef Nick Paroussis; he never "fishes" for compliments. Just fish.

And what fish! So extensive is the selection – and so impeccable the preparation – that the name "Pantheon" has become synonymous with superb fish and seafood, not only in GreekTown but Toronto-wide.

Here, you'll find all the popular varieties you've come to expect in GreekTown – like red snapper, Atlantic salmon and sea bass – plus many other exotic selections you'd be hard-pressed to find elsewhere. Baby sea smelts and fresh anchovies are imported directly from Greece. Striped bass, orange roughy, black porgy, red mullet, sea smelts, and many others are music to a fish lover's ear. At Pantheon, you could dine on a different fresh fish every day for a fortnight without exhausting the possibilities.

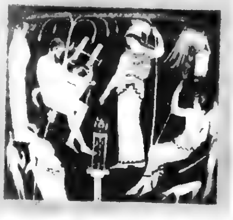
Paroussis' partner John Troupis and his son Bobby Troupis understand that food is not merely sustenance, but art and soul. In that spirit, they do their utmost to ensure that each customer's visit is a sensory experience. Attesting to their success is the ongoing popularity that has allowed Pantheon to double in size since it opened. It now offers two bright, spacious dining rooms. Semi-private dining with a comforting fireplace is available in the east room.

In a business where turnover is the norm, Pantheon's continuity stands out. The same head chef and most of the same wait staff present when it opened are still in place. Clearly, people like working here, they like the clientele, and the clientele likes them. Continuity breeds loyalty, and vice versa.

The Olympic Pantheon was blessed with the opportunity to taste the Ambrosia and Nectar of the Gods. The Olympics happen every four years, but at Pantheon, in the heart of GreekTown, you can indulge in those same taste sensations whenever the mood strikes you.

Mouthwatering homemade desserts, surprisingly low prices and the freshest fish this side of Greece. Our ship has come in.

PANTHEON

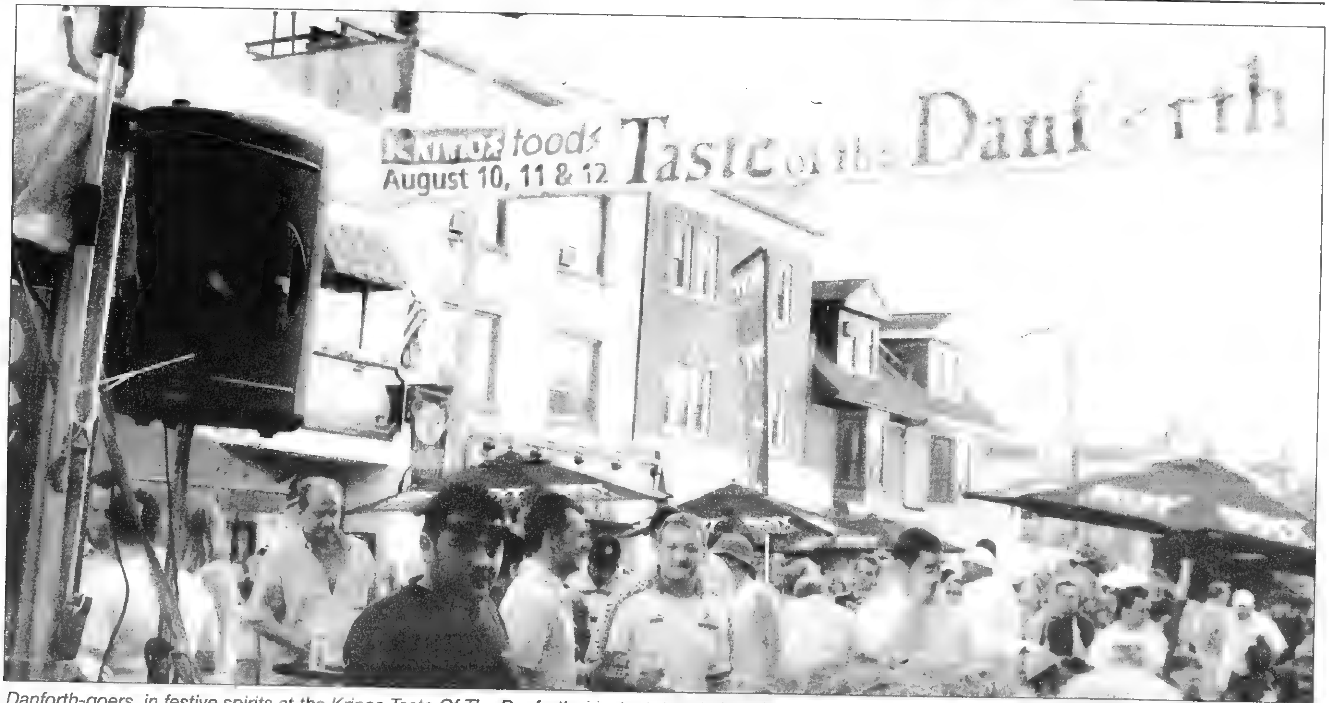


407 Danforth Avenue
ACROSS FROM CHESTER SUBWAY
416-778-1929
OPEN 11 AM – MIDNIGHT, 7 DAYS
www.pantheonrestaurant.com

" ... a winning charm ..."

"... fresh fish, care with good products and little razzmatazz nudges Pantheon ahead of most competitors ..."

"As golden and desirable as an Olympic medal"



Danforth-goers, in festive spirits at the Krinos Taste Of The Danforth, can look forward to more food, drink, fashion, entertainment and fun at this year's event

Thuna Herbals' past a beacon for future

It's a delightful anachronism reminiscent of an old English apothecary shop. Fifteen hundred glass jars, each filled with a different herb or root, stacked high in orderly rows. The original creaking hardwood floor. And a proprietor who's all about knowledge and caring.

Established in 1888 (how's that for history?), this family business is now run by Evelyn Dorfman, the granddaughter of founder Dr. Max Harriman Thuna, and a staff of qualified herbalists on the original turn-of-the-century premises at 298 Danforth Avenue.

Over the years, the Thuna family has seen the use of herbal remedies — once the *de facto* method of treatment for most medical problems — lose ground to the synthetic drugs that have flooded the marketplace.

More recently, however, the pendulum has slowly but surely begun to swing back, as more and more people seek alternatives to mainstream medicine. Thuna's doesn't diagnose problems presented to them; rather, they advise customers seeking a diagnosis to obtain it from their medical practitioners. Some come with the blessing of their GP, but many are referred by naturopathic practitioners. Typically, clients come in on their own initiative.

Drawing on their schooling, Dorfman and staff choose from some 2,000 herbs, berries, roots, and leaves the precise combination most likely to alleviate an ailment presented to them. To cite but one example, a formula for bladder infection, or even interstitial cystitis, might include uva-ursi leaves, buchu leaves, parsley leaves, marshmallow root, corn silk, and goldenseal leaves.

Dr. Thuna and his children, including son-in-law Saul Pasen, pictured above, helped pioneer herbalism in Canada.

The current premises stand as a rich reminder of Canadian history. Even if you have only a passing interest in herbalism, you owe it to yourself to visit this Toronto landmark. And who knows — by asking a few questions, you might become further enlightened on this ancient practice.

Saul Pasen helped pioneer herbalism in Canada

THUNA HERBALS
298 Danforth Avenue
416-465-3366

Crofter's Kosher organic fruit spreads are pure gold in a bottle

So simple, yet so refined. So sweet, yet so subtle. So much a part of growing up and, as we age, a timeless reminder of the simple pleasures of youth.

Among the foods ubiquitous in Western culture — crossing all age groups and ethnicities — jam ranks right up there with butter. Many of us were practically reared on peanut butter and jam sandwiches, both as a lunchtime staple and anytime snack. For some, toast without jam is unthinkable. Afternoon tea without fruit preserves to slather on our biscuits and scones? Unfathomable.

Enter **Crofter's**, a manufacturer with an old-world penchant for homemade goodness and a new-age commitment to health and the environment. In their state-of-the-art plant in Parry Sound, Ontario, Crofter's turns nature's fanciest, freshest hand-picked fruit into pure gold in a bottle.

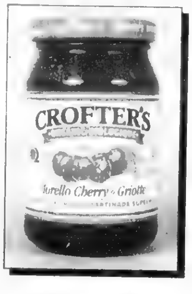
Even to call Crofter's a manufacturer, however, is to somehow diminish their boutiquey attention to detail and quality. One half expects to turn a corner and find Mom hard at work, hand-bottling each jar.

It takes all of two seconds to taste the Crofter's difference. Nothing in life is perfect, but in the realm of jam, jelly, or "fruit spreads", as Crofter's calls them, this is close. Not too tart, not too sweet, fairly bursting with flavour, they bring out the best in everything they cover — bread, crackers, and scones — even a dab on Bubie's sponge cake, when she's not looking. At holiday time, they'll elevate your already-famous hamantashen and sufganiot to legendary status.

There's a very practical reason for Crofter's superior taste and "fruit spread" moniker: ***more fruit***. While conventional manufacturers often label their products "more fruit", "double fruit", and so on, that simply means more than or double the fruit in their own or other conventional products, which often contain scads of refined sugar and very little actual fruit. When Crofter's says "Fruit spread", they mean *Fruit* Spread — in a bevy of mouthwatering flavours.

Add to this exquisite natural taste the double comfort zone of certified organic production and C.O.R. supervision, and you have a gem of a product. Yet Crofter's jams are generally priced *lower* than competitive organic brands and, in some cases, even lower than conventional, non-organic brands.

Sold at better health food stores like The Big Carrot and in the health food section of selected supermarkets and specialty food stores, Crofter's fruit spreads are pure gold in a bottle.



COR 398 **www.crofter'sorganic.com**

Big Carrot's major expansion means 40 percent more to love

When The Big Carrot expanded in 2002 by leasing space across the courtyard for its dispensary, customers smiled. When it grew again in 2004 by annexing an adjacent retail space, those same customers grinned even wider. Now they're positively giddy. Why? Because the latest expansion has seen The Big Carrot's floor space grow by a full 40%. Metropolitan Toronto's largest Canadian-owned purveyor of products for healthy living now offers you 40% more to enjoy.

Natural, Organic, GMO-free, Kosher-certified products

In practical terms, the expansion means larger produce and bulk departments featuring new, state-of-the-art dispensers; more cash desks; and three express lanes to ease congestion at the checkouts. The store entrance has wider automatic doors. There is a new separate nutritionist area for private consultation. The body-care department is spacious and sunny and offers an expanded variety of rejuvenating products. The vegetarian deli has more seating and the meat department has been upgraded. The fridge and freezer department have also been expanded to meet the ongoing demand for more frozen natural convenience foods. With the newly extended hours, you also have more time to enjoy the experience.

The Big Carrot has remained the leader in an increasingly crowded field by offering products that are as good for the environment as they are for its customers, and by providing a level of expertise and personal service unmatched in the industry. It has also demonstrated its environmental friendliness by heating its newly renovated juice bar entirely from solar panels.

Run as a worker owned co-op, The Big Carrot caters to a loyal clientele that embraces both its ethos and its products: minimally processed, organically grown, cruelty free, environmentally safe and, increasingly, GMO-free. Many of these products are also Kosher-certified.

The Big Carrot is really three stores in one: a health food store and market, a wholistic dispensary, and an organic juice, coffee and sandwich bar.

Health-conscious customers seek out The Big Carrot for its extensive organic fruit and vegetable department (over 100 varieties at peak season) and its unmatched selection of organic bulk foods, dairy products, frozen foods, and packaged goods. Its extensive body care department boasts Canada's widest selection of personal care products for the entire family, including baby.

The Big Carrot's well-versed staff can help you decide which products will suit your dietary needs and your palate. If it's wheat-free — if it's dairy-free — if it's simply *good for you*, The Big Carrot has it.

For natural and organic pastas, breads, buns, bagels, flatbreads, cookies, muffins, and other wholesome nosherie, no other store — or bakery, for that matter — even comes close. There are literally dozens of choices here, many of them wheat-free, dairy-free, Kosher-certified — or a combination thereof. The Big Carrot has by far Toronto's largest selection of soy milks and other non-dairy beverages, both fresh and tetra pack.

Among many others, the Kosher-certified products include Crofter's Organic Premium Fruit Spreads from Ontario; tomato products from Utopia, also Ontario-grown; Imagine Foods Tetra Pack Dairy-Free Soups (the ultimate in convenience); Nature's Path Organic Cereals; Organic Meadow Yogurts & Pressed Cheese; Cold Mountain Miso; Soy Delicious Non-Dairy Frozen Desserts; selected products from Eden Foods; Kemach Organic Spelt Matzah; Amy's soups, pizzas and frozen entrées; Sol Cuisine falafel patties; Healthy Times baby foods; and an immense variety of chips and other snack foods. If you're a Strub's pickle lover — who isn't? — their organic variety is out of this world.

The Big Carrot carries a tremendous variety of healthy desserts and sweets. Beit-Yitzhak jams are Kosher and made in Israel. Sunflower Kitchen dips, pesto and soups are popular mainstays, as are Bob's Red Mill packaged grains, cereals and baking goods; the Big Carrot stocks both in abundance.

The Deli counter offers more than 50 mouthwatering selections, both hot and cold. From the Organic Lentil Daal to the Organic Couscous Salad, every item is a taste and visual treat. It also offers a selection of sinfully delicious desserts without the sin, since they're free of refined ingredients.

Solar panels power 100% organic juice bar

The Big Carrot's juice bar is the only one in Toronto that's 100% organic. There are over 50 choices of juices, blender drinks, nutritional boosts, shakes, and fair-trade organic coffees, as well as sandwiches and other treats.

Among the sandwiches, try the Grilled Tempeh, lettuce, tomato, red onion & honey mustard mayo. Fresh, delicious and wholesome — just as Nature intended.

For a summer treat, enjoy Mapleton's organic ice cream, as well as Cool Hemp, a Kosher-certified, organic non-dairy dessert available in a cup or wholesome organic cone.

Through its ongoing expansion, The Big Carrot has retained the humility and friendliness of its early years. This is a store that's down to earth in every possible sense, and a real pleasure to visit. It's an oasis of calm amid the chaos of everyday life. A visit here isn't just grocery, supplement and cosmetics shopping; it's a balm to the spirit.

THE BIG CARROT
NATURAL FOOD MARKET

"Searching for Nature's Finest"

348 Danforth Ave.
416-466-2129
www.thebigcarrot.ca

Mon–Fri 9-9 • Saturday 9–8
Sunday 11–6

Wholistic Dispensary
416-466-8432

Springs of the world converge in rainbow of colours at The WaterShoppe

Photos courtesy of Michael Francis Photography

Water bar or fashion show? The Water Shoppe is both, bubbling over with 37 varieties from the world over — and counting

"Plashes and plays alone the
deserted pool;
As those, is free, who think
themselves unseen.
He rolls in his heap of fruit,
He slides his belly over
The melonrinds of water, curved
and smooth and green."

— *Lone Bather, by A.M. Klein*

Lisa Gnat and Tracy Robert may not have been reading Klein when they envisioned **The WaterShoppe**, but the array of colours and shapes they've assembled is, to the effusive joy and sensuous aura of water, a visual tribute worthy of Klein's poetic homage.

Lisa Gnat and Tracy Robert: when fashion and water meet, it's beautiful

Is it a glass works, with esoteric shapes in all colours of the rainbow — or is it a WaterShoppe bubbling over with the silvery sustenance of mountain springs the world over? It's both — and much more.

The idea was hatched three years ago, when Gnat — then and still the co-owner of Kick Maternity in Forest Hill, and Robert, her friend and partner in the WaterShoppe — saw a window of opportunity. A window with an ocean view.

"We both loved water, not only for drinking, but in all its forms and modes. It's mystical. It's magical. It's the life force, and it's an art form unto itself," says Gnat. Continues Robert, "We went out and bought every bottle of water we could lay our hands on. When we brought them home to sample them, we were blown away by the visual effect of the light reflecting off the different-coloured bottles."

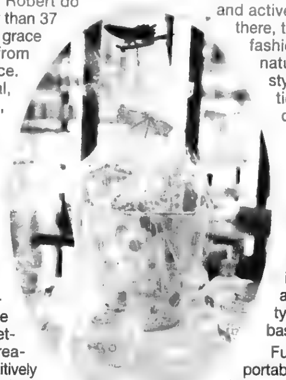
From childlike fascination came adult inspiration. "Restaurants, bars and cafés spend millions creating an environment that entices you to enjoy your meal or beverage. We decided to put water on the same pedestal. The fact that it's good for you isn't enough. It has to be sexy."

How sexy?

"As sexy as coffee," coos Robert. "Everyone loves to go for coffee and complain about their self-indulgence afterwards. Here you can have your cake and eat it too. Water's a natural high, and it's the best thing for your skin. Just ask any top model what she drinks."

Italian soda bar offers KSA Kosher syrups in 14 flavours

Row upon shimmering row of bottles regale you as you enter, some basking in the sunlight, others glimmering in the shade, all containing liquid beneficence from the four corners of the planet. Leading fashion stores boast of "shopping the world over" for their clients; Gnat and Robert do this for water. No fewer than 37 varieties (and counting) grace their shelves. Water from Italy. Water from Greece. Water from Portugal, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Germany, France, Belgium, Canada, and a host of other countries. Israel's on their "get list". Any country where pure, fresh water flows, it seems, is represented here, in bottles of bright, cheery, festive colours and shapes. Eighty percent of those bottles are glass, not just for aesthetics but also for health reasons. And priced competitively with conventional stores, though you won't find even half their variety elsewhere.



And if you think all bottled waters are created equal, think again. As Gnat and Robert quickly learned, the differences are manifold. Different pH levels. Different mineral content. Natural spring water vs. artesian water vs. glacial water. Large bubbles vs. small bubbles.

But man cannot live on water alone; he needs snow cones. Mindful of that, Gnat and Robert purchased a state-of-the-art machine to churn out a frozen base for 14 fabulously flavoured premium KSA Kosher liqueurs. Top up at the Italian soda bar with your favourite effervescent H_20, and you have a summer beverage that flat-out rocks.

Sequestered behind the bevy of bottles is a big-screen display showing movies themed on — you guessed it — water. *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea — The Adventures of Nemo* — if it's water-based, you'll catch it here. Kids love it, just as you'll love the lounge at the rear of the store where you can kick back and relax with some glacial runoff in a glass.

That's no mere play on words, by the way; The WaterShoppe sells 10 Thousand BC® glacier water which, according to the supplier's literature, "is not filtered through the ground where dissolved solids and underground pollutants can attach to each water molecule. This premium glacier water has a total dissolved solids (TDS) of 4 parts per million — naturally. A reading that makes it the world's purest natural bottled water." No less an authority than Dr. Charles Mayo of the Mayo Clinic noted that "The only minerals the body can utilize are organic. All other types of minerals are foreign substances to the body and must be eliminated."

After sampling these pristine waters, turning on my kitchen tap feels like walking down a dark alley.

For Gnat, whose late father Albert was a co-founder of the Ikea store in Netanya and active in philanthropic circles there, the segue from maternity fashion to water is perfectly natural. "Fashion is about style, colour, and presentation. Water is about style, colour, and health. When they meet, it's beautiful."

Gift baskets are a big item here, as are water-by-the-case sales. As you'd expect, the gift baskets are spectacular, and they're the kind you can rip open and dive into without worrying about the sugar intake typical of conventional gift baskets.

Future plans include portable water stations for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and other special events, allowing Gnat and Robert to take their water show on the road.

In the few short weeks since the store opened, the response has been incredible, says Robert — from public and trade alike. A leading supplier of water purification systems who happened by told her and Gnat how gratified he was to find someone who finally spoke his language.

We've all heard or read that drinking eight glasses of water a day promotes optimal health. The WaterShoppe's making a big splash by turning that duty into a pleasure.

The WaterShoppe
337 danforth avenue
Just W. of Chester subway
416.463.3767
416.463.drop
thewatershoppe@gmail.com

Avli: food as it was meant to taste

You long for a restaurant that serves food in its original, unaltered, pristine state. Chicken that tastes like chicken. Lamb that tastes like lamb. Beef that tastes like beef. Seasoned, to be sure; but in a delicate, understated manner that gently enhances its intrinsic flavour.

AVLI
restaurant
401 Danforth Avenue • 416-461-9577
www.avlirestaurant.com

The answer to your gustatory search is short and sweet: **Avli.**

Internationally renowned for his culinary exploits over a 35-year career, owner / chef Lambrinos Vassiliou nevertheless downplays his role in the magic that emanates from his kitchen.

"There are no big secrets", he grins. "We buy the best quality ingredients — no additives, no preservatives. No matter the season, no matter the cost. I don't "add" taste. It is already there, in the food. I just let it out."

Underscoring its commitment to this philosophy, Avli is one of the few, if not the only, Greek restaurants in Toronto to offer an organic chicken entrée. Served with potatoes and salad in two sizes, it's favourably priced even in comparison with conventional chicken entrées. Lambrinos shrugs. "I'm not an accountant. I serve the best food I can, and let my customers be the judge."

Avli's menu is dotted with gourmet twists on traditional Greek specialties. Among the salads, try the *Haloumi* (arugula, tomato, and grilled Haloumi cheese with a mint vinaigrette). Among the entrées, the *Kokoras Graviera* (chicken and Gruyère cheese) is the quintessential Cretan taste experience.

Avli's dips, world-famous for freshness and flavour, will engage you for a good long while until your entrée arrives, but the comfort zone of knowing it's being prepared from scratch justifies the wait.

If you're looking for a unique, GreekTown-defining dish, look no further than Avli's entrée pies. More than any other single item, these have forged Avli's reputation. Available in four varieties — Chicken Mushroom Rosemary, Seafood Feta Tomato, Rabbit and Pearl Onion, and Lamb, each is a work of art, served in a hand-made, olive oil crust. You're just as inclined to frame it as to eat it, but once you break its marvellously flaky crust, you'll experience a confluence of aroma, texture and taste that is indescribably compelling.

Spacious yet intimate, Avli is the ideal setting for family gatherings and special events. Above all, it's a natural destination for a long, relaxed, majestic meal.

"A delicious meal" – *New York Times* • "Food that is poetry" – *Sara Waxman, Toronto Sun*

"The exotic scent of Byzantium" – *Joanne Kates, Globe and Mail*

"Some of the best food on the Danforth — nongreasy, thoughtfully prepared, and carefully seasoned. The half chicken is exquisite, the meat moussaka the best around" – *Frommer's*

521 a winning # for chilling on Danforth

Too often in our fast-paced lives, we find ourselves racing to and from dinner. **521 Café & Bar** has taken a stand against that mindset by encouraging dinner-goers to warm up to dinner, or wind down after it, with a relaxing beverage.

Lambros (L) and Frank Babatsikos with bartender Emily

521 DANFORTH AVENUE
416.463.3968

Just because it entices you to stop and smell the roses, however, doesn't mean 521 is slow-paced. It's a high-energy environment, always busy and abuzz with animated conversation. A wide range of international music is paced according to the clientele's energy level and mood.

This L-shaped gem occupies one of the Danforth's choicest corner locations, at Fenwick just west of Carlaw. Two separate patios — the smaller in front, the larger, more private one at rear — usher you into 521's boldly elegant interior. Original canvases of charcoal and burnt orange adorn the steel-gray walls. Slate-gray leather bench seating with polished oak backing spans the café's entire length, facing the mirrored bar.

First-rate scotches, martinis and speciality mixed beverages are 521's stock in trade. In particular, the 3 oz. martinis put to shame those of many high-profile downtown haunts. The specialty coffees and frappés are also first rate. Spanish coffee, Irish coffee, Monte Cristo — 521 delivers all with full strength and flavour.

Though it's a café first and foremost, 521 also offers delicious light meals, and prices across the board are very reasonable. For example, you can enjoy a lovely mixed garden salad with a hot pressed grilled sandwich for only $5.95. Plentiful cheese platters served with fruit or meat are also specialties, and there's a variety of fresh desserts.

Brothers Lambros and Frank Babatsikos grew up in GreekTown and have been active in Danforth restaurants for most of their adult lives. In 521 they've succeeded in creating an environment distinctively different from any other in Toronto. "We'd like to make 521 as famous an address as Saul Korman has made 569," grins Lambros.

So if this finds you heading down to the Danforth for dinner, why not budget another hour or two and turn a relaxing dinner into a *very* relaxing evening? This hot spot will give you 521 good reasons to chill out.

Select Bakery evokes childhood memories

A bakery is not merely a place where bread is made. It's a symbol of sustenance that evokes treasured memories of still-warm goodies emerging from the oven with a maternal blessing and simultaneous admonishment not to overindulge.

Nowhere is this symbol better exemplified — and brought to life on a grand scale — than at **Select Bakery**. Huge (5,000 sq. ft.) yet intimate (GreekTown's only bakery with a dedicated seating area), its majestic array of baked bounty is to the palate, what surround sound is to the ear. Enhancing its seductiveness is the colour scheme (tan on caramel on chocolate) and a refinement of presentation worthy of the illustrious cafés of Europe after which it's modelled.

Select **BAKERY**
DELI • PATISSERIE • CAFE
405 Donlands Ave. 416.421.2400
info@selectbakery.ca

The Katsamakis family — father Emmanuel, sons Kosta and Nick, and daughter Areti — lead a cheery staff of skilled bakers and pastry chefs. A full range of traditional Greek, European and continental pastries (baklava, *galaktoboureko*, petits fours et al) is complemented by exceptional European breads, specialty cakes of the highest order, and sublime specialty coffees.

Exquisite wedding and other special occasion cakes

For weddings and other events, Select's special occasion cakes score a 10 out of 10 for artistic merit. If a cake could be said to belong in the Louvre, it was likely conceived in their oven.

Further distinguishing Select is its prepared foods. No time to cook? Moussaka, *pastitsio*, and many other entrées — plus the full gamut of Greek dips and sauces — are prepared fresh daily for your dining pleasure. Many entrées are available fresh or frozen, and most are suitable for freezing. Need to entertain on short notice? Select is a one-stop destination for party trays, rolls, and related comestibles. And its ultraconvenient location on Donlands just south of O'Connor has ample, inexpensive meter parking at the front door.

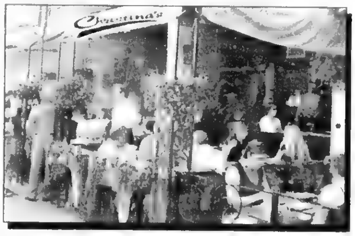
But we digress from the baked temptations. Among the highlights at Select are:

- European Village Bread: crusty on the outside, buttery soft on the inside;
- Kalamata Olive Bread: as good as it sounds. Buy two;
- Chocolate-covered baklava: a hybrid pioneered by Select, it picks up where "to die for" leaves off;
- Mille feuilles: Select's version makes a good run at the proverbial thousand sheets, each one shatteringly good.

Bakeries are the stuff of childhood longing; each is measured against our favourites of yesteryear. This bakery belongs in that Select group.

Christina's: star quality on every level

For truly authentic, upscale Greek cuisine, live entertainment and star quality, no restaurant shines as brightly as the effervescent **Christina's**. Though it continues to move with the times, with its sprightly updated decor, sparkling new menu, and year-round heated patio, Christina's has remained the hub of GreekTown activity by relying on a time-honoured formula: fresh, homemade Greek recipes, prepared lovingly, one meal at a time.



Christina's
On The Danforth
492 Danforth at Logan
416-463-4418 christinas.ca

Two other things that haven't changed are Christina's friendly service and its magnetic appeal to the silver screen set. If that really *is* Robert De Niro seated next to you — or Bette Midler, or Jim Carey — it doesn't necessarily mean that you're on camera. It simply means that they share your good taste in Greek cuisine.

The portions are spectacular, the preparation refined. There's a difference between being full and being *fully satisfied*; Christina's chefs grasp this distinction across the full spectrum of the menu, hence Christina's continuing popularity among young and old alike.

Christina's is ideally suited for intimate private functions such as Bar / Bat Mitzvah parties, graduations, birthdays, and sweet 16s, and does a brisk business in special event catering.

If you're a lamb lover, Christina's leg of lamb, rack of lamb, and lamb chops are legendary. Other delights include Stuffed Chicken Breast, Mediterranean Seafood Platter, Moussaka (both traditional and vegetarian), and tender Kalamari, both grilled and fried. Hearty combination platters featuring your favourite dips, meat, and seafood items go down smoothly with a glass of ouzo or wine from Christina's vast Greek and international selection. Fish and seafood are delivered fresh daily, so ask for the catch of the day when you're reviewing the menu.

With Christina's increasingly popular weekend continental brunch, you can experience GreekTown at a slower, more relaxed pace.

Live entertainment on weekends includes belly dancing and a two-piece (bouzouki and guitar) Greek band playing a blend of old and modern Greek tunes. There's nothing like a rendering of *Never On Sunday* or *Zorba The Greek* to tug at your heartstrings and whet your Greek appetite.

And just wait until De Niro gets home and tells his family that *he* was sitting right next to *you*...

"a cheery place ... great respect for the food they serve ... Christina's has fulfilled its promise"
— Sara Waxman, The Toronto Sun

"Best Greek Restaurant"
— Where Toronto

If you serve them, they will c

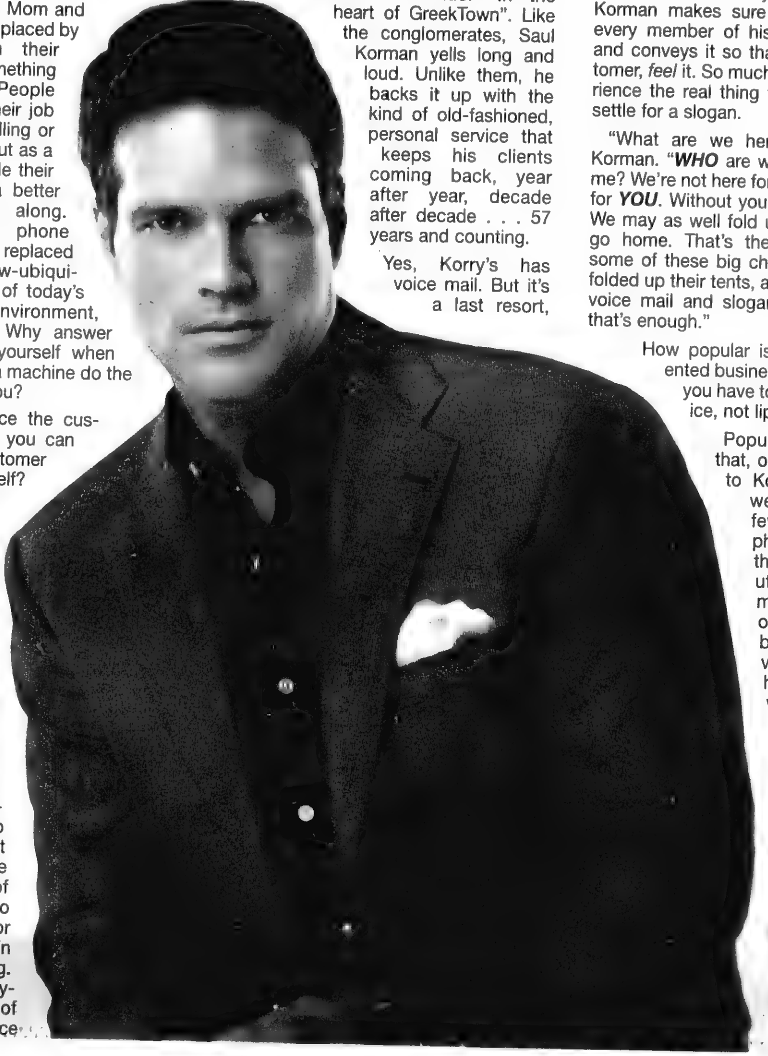
Service.

It's the most overworked word in today's business lexicon — and the most *under*worked act.

Back in the day — before e-mail, before *voice* mail — service wasn't talked about much, because you didn't *need* to talk about it. It was a given, inextricably woven into the fabric of daily business. And not only in the small stores; even the department stores greeted you with a personal touch.

Slowly but surely — almost imperceptibly, over decades — service began to erode. As Mom and Pop shops gave way to conglomerates, Mom and Pop were replaced by people on their way to something "better". People who saw their job not as a calling or *parnosse*, but as a place to bide their time until a better gig came along. Personable phone service was replaced by the now-ubiquitous staple of today's business environment, voice mail. Why answer the phone yourself when you can let a machine do the talking for you?

Why service the customer when you can have the customer service himself?



But customers aren't stupid. As they began to rebel against this impersonal treatment, the marketing geniuses who drive many of today's business strategies came up with a brilliant idea: promote the *idea* of service to make up for the shortfall in the real thing. Remind everybody, 24/7, of the great service they're getting. On websites, on brochures, on company letterhead. Service, service, service. Commitment to our customers, commitment to our customers, commitment to our customers.

Real service or lip service?

Only one problem. Marketing campaigns are supposed to *promote* service, not *replace* it.

Amid this decline and fall, however, we are happy to report that ***real*** service is alive and well and living at 569 Danforth Avenue. "In the heart of GreekTown". Like the conglomerates, Saul Korman yells long and loud. Unlike them, he backs it up with the kind of old-fashioned, personal service that keeps his clients coming back, year after year, decade after decade . . . 57 years and counting.

Yes, Korry's has voice mail. But it's a last resort, not a first option. If you call Korry's and no one picks up the phone, it's either because all hands are on deck serving customers or because the store is closed. No other reason. And when your call is answered, you're greeted with a cheery "Thank you for calling Korry's" — spoken by someone who really means it.

"You'd damn well ***better*** mean it," barks Korman. The dean of GreekTown and the patriarch of Korry's, Korman not only talks the talk, he walks the walk. Because when you genuinely want to serve — when your heart is really in it — you'll be right there for your clients. Here, the customer really *is* King, and Korman makes sure that each and every member of his staff knows it and conveys it so that you, the customer, *feel* it. So much better to experience the real thing than to have to settle for a slogan.

"What are we here for?" snaps Korman. "***WHO*** are we here for? For me? We're not here for me, we're here for ***YOU***. Without you, we're nothing. We may as well fold up our tent and go home. That's the problem with some of these big chains: they *have* folded up their tents, and left you with voice mail and slogans. They figure that's enough."

How popular is a service-oriented business that believes you have to give real service, not lip service?

Popular enough that, on a recent visit to Korman's office, we counted no fewer than 23 phones calls in the first 10 minutes. While many business owners hide behind their voice mail — hell, some wouldn't be caught within miles of a phone — Korman scrambles to personally answer every call, deferring to an employee only when the mile-a-minute barrage becomes too much to handle.

Fashion
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SAUL KO

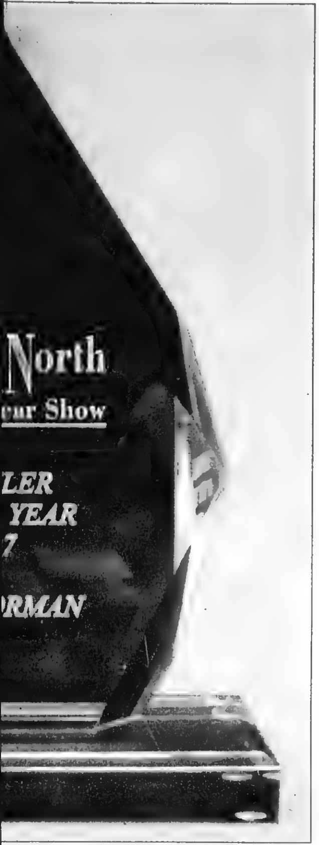
A growing and thriving business is a just reward for 57 years of dedicated service, but in February of this year, Fashion North, Canada's national menswear trade show, went one better by presenting Korman with the inaugural Retailer Of The Year Award. Said Joseph Nunziati, President of Fashion North, "The board felt it was important to recognize the contribution of a retailer who not only was respected by his peers in the industry, but had gone to extraordinary lengths to become the voice of our industry to Canadians. After polling retailers and designers in

"Why are v
Who are we

KOR

569 Danfort
416-463
www.korr

come...as will the accolades



Canada, the board overwhelmingly voted Saul Korman as the Canadian Retailer of The Year."

**ve here?
here for?"**

That the award was voted on by his peers speaks volumes about Korman's reputation in the menswear industry. Those he's worked with, kibbitzed with and sparred with rose as one to acknowledge the man of the hour, recognizing not only a lifetime of hard work and dedication to his craft, but his tireless promotion of the menswear trade in general. One percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration? It sounds corny, but it's true.

RY'S
h Avenue
-1115
ys.com

In accepting the honour, Korman was his usual gracious self. Among many others, he thanked Kevin Frankish of CITY-TV for "finally wearing a jacket."

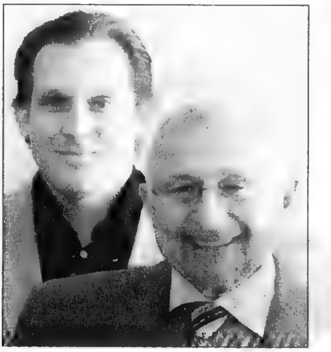
Here is a brief sampling of the tributes paid to Korman (names have been omitted to protect the guilty):

- "You are the heartbeat of our industry."
- "Saul once said to me...I would give you a purchase order if you were better looking and I wasn't drunk."
- "Saul has been in love with the same woman for 50 years. If Myrna [his wife] finds out who that woman is, she'll kill him."

In an era when it's often hard to find a salesperson to talk to, Korman gives you an earful — even when you don't ask. Tune in to virtually any radio station in the GTA, and he's there, telling you what's new at 569 Danforth. The *Boss*, the *Canali*, the *restaurants*, the *cafés*, the *ambience*...all in the heart of GreekTown. He's all talk ***and*** all action. Just ask his staff. If you're on your game — greeting customers with a smile, servicing them with your heart, he's your best friend. If you're not — if you're looking to string together a few coffee breaks and call it a workday — he's your worst nightmare.

It's a formula that clearly works, for, 57 years after hanging up his shingle, Korry's is not only still going strong, it's *growing*. "Business has never been better," he crows. His 18 handpicked employees ("my Chai crew", he winks) service you to the nth degree. How can you *not* come back?

"*Why are we here*?" reiterates Korman. "It all comes back to that. If you have to chase after someone to give them your money, why bother? *Be there* for your customer, before the sale, during the sale, and after the sale. *Be there* for him when he needs you."



"If you have to chase after someone, why bother?"

The whole world, it seems, has congregated on the sales floor of Korry's, at this moment fairly bursting at the seams with customers, tradespeople, and staff, all looking for a piece of the action. Korman, tack-sharp and on his game, is loving every minute of it. Come Taste Of The Danforth, that whole world will grow and multiply, filling GreekTown with revelry. Will you eat more souvlaki and drink more ouzo than you should? Maybe. Will there be an Elvis sighting? Probably. Will he be updating his wardrobe at Korry's? Definitely. Because, in the King's inimitable words, "There's a whole lotta *service* goin' on" at 569 Danforth Avenue.

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Toronto's finest sushi experience

How does Toronto's best sushi experience get even better? Via a major renovation that's turned its already pleasant interior into a visual feast.

The new look is a cutting-edge collage of milky white tones on steely black and gray, interspersed with yellow gold. The east wall is flanked by a long bench with facing table seating, the west wall by sumptuous booths. Sculpted wall ornamentation adds depth and dimension on both sides. At rear, set off from the main dining area, is a small grouping of tables for quieter, more intimate dining – though at no time can Sushi Delight be described as "noisy". It's a quiet, restful, peaceful place.

Sushi Delight may sport a new look, but there's no mistaking the exquisite taste that has redefined Toronto's sushi landscape. How they manage to offer so much for so little – all the while spending a considerable sum in beautifying the premises – is nothing short of amazing. Nowhere else in Toronto can you get such variety and presentation at such reasonable prices. So extensive is the menu, in fact – 207 selections *plus* party trays – that you'd have to take a year off to read it cover to cover. Failing that, here are a few highlights:

- Salmon Love Boat: 20 pc. for $15.55 or 30 pc. for $18.55;
- All-day combos in bento box, from the exquisitely detailed Vegetarian Box for the ridiculously low price of $7.50 to the gargantuan Fuji Box for $13.95;
- Beautifully presented cold and hot Party Trays from $33.95 to $57.95.

Though a handful of Sushi restaurants now dot the Danforth, Sushi Delight was the first to open in the heart of GreekTown, where others feared to tread. Several have followed, but none have duplicated the combination of great taste, superb selection, and impeccable service that have made this wonderfully intimate spot a haven for Toronto sushi lovers from Day 1.

www.sushidelight.ca

JAPANESE RESTAURANT
• NO MSG •

SPECIAL SET COURSES *11 DELICIOUS COURSES TO CHOOSE FROM*
Lunch 5.90 to 8.95, Dinner 6.95 to 10.95

461 Danforth Avenue 416•406•0288 Sun. – Thurs. 11:30 am – 11 pm
Fri. & Sat. 11:30 am – 12 midnight

Heavenly home cooking at Zorba's

More and more, we seem to measure restaurants by their ability to simulate "home cooking", and a big part of GreekTown's appeal is that so many of its dining establishments achieve this goal. But if ever a restaurant could be said to welcome you into its home and sit you down at its kitchen table, that restaurant is **Zorba's**.

Your first clue is that the decor, while cheerful, is neither trendy nor obtrusive. Tastewise, however, Zorba's *katsarola* (Greek for "pot", a metaphor for home cooking) will spoil you as few restaurants can. Always off the menu and priced from $8.50 to $12.00 for a mammoth portion complete with potatoes, rice and vegetables, *katsarola* makes it doubly easy to forget you're "eating out".

Each day, owner and chef Kosta Carasoulos slaves over three to five of these specialties and spoons them into the steam vessels at front. And, just as you'd expect in a home environment, what he cooks depends entirely on his whims of the day. Typically roasted or stewed, these dishes won't just remind you of home; they *are* home.

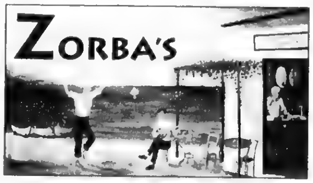
That's the good news. The bad news is that once they're gone, they're gone, and with an eager clientele weaned on home cooking, you're advised to arrive early for best selection.

Remember your Mom's or your Bubbie's chicken fricassee? Zorba's lamb fricassee will melt in your mouth just as hers did. Lamb with *oriso*, a rice-like pasta, is equally heavenly, as is the beef stew. These preparations generally feature green beans, cauliflower, zucchini, or okra, often in combination, gently oven-simmered in a light tomato sauce. Vegetarian specialties include roasted *gigantes* (lima beans), a local favourite.

Zorba's mainstream menu tends toward casual, and many entrées are offered in three sizes (small, regular and large). The medium Greek salad could easily pass for a large; the large is off the charts. As with the *katsarola*, the prices are exceptionally modest. For example, the Lamb Souvlaki is offered as a sandwich for $4.75, with fries for $6.25 or with salad for $7.45.

Since Zorba's defines itself by its home cooking, it's only fitting that multiple family members be present. Try seven. At any given time, you'll find Kosta, wife Christine, sons Bobby, Anesty and Spiro, and daughters Demetra and Maria minding the store. The attitude is warm and friendly, the affection genuine, both between family members and with customers. Says Bobby, "We don't really know where home life ends and the business begins; they've become one and the same."

If you've never had the pleasure of dining in a Greek home, a visit to Zorba's will quickly fill that void in your life experience.



681 Danforth Ave. at Pape
416-406-1212

Danforth Jewish Circle: building community values

Some eight years ago, a handful of interested parents met in Debbie Plested's living room and decided to start a Jewish studies program in the Riverdale area.

They were all members of the newly formed **Danforth Jewish Circle** (DJC), a grassroots, liberal egalitarian congregation in Toronto's east end, established in 1996 and then chaired by Marlee Wyman.

Giving children a sense of community

At the time, Plested, co-chair of the DJC education committee, said children's education was a priority for many DJC members.

"We were really a community," she recently said. "We wanted our kids to learn and study within our community and feel a part of the community."

Plested said the group recognized the necessity of setting up a program that could meet the diverse educational needs of the children.

At that time, the local Hebrew heritage program, a school board program that had been operating in the neighbourhood for some 15 years, could only offer a basic introduction to Jewish studies, she said.

"The program was instrumental in creating a sense of Jewish identity and a sense of community," she said. "But [it] had trouble developing as a curriculum because it had to cater to a wide age group. What was happening was that our families had no choice but to look outside the community to further their child's Jewish education."

The group of parents met many times in the course of the year to establish a community-based supplementary school. They had to develop a curriculum, hire teachers and publicize the program to attract students, find funding and find a space to hold classes, Plested said.

Now in its 11th year, the DJC Children's Jewish Studies program runs weekly classes for elementary school students out of a local school. Through discussion, debate, music, drama and art, the children study Hebrew, Torah, Jewish history and current events, Jewish holidays and rituals, Plested said.

"Our program values Judaism as a dynamic, living religion. Our students learn to understand what it means to be a Jew and how being Jewish affects our values, beliefs and behaviour."

While the exploration of Jewish identity is a key component of the curriculum, Plested said that given the high proportion of interfaith families, there is also an emphasis on "respect for the broad spectrum of multiculturalism which exists within Judaism and in the neighbourhood."

The goal of the Hebrew language program is to help the children learn to read Hebrew, recite the basic prayers and gain familiarity with Hebrew songs, she said.

"We want the children to be able to decode Hebrew so that they'll be able to prepare for their Bat or Bar Mitzvah…If they have more of an interest in conversational Hebrew, we encourage and assist them [with] supplementing their studies by connecting them with a tutor."

B'Nai Mitzvah program: building and bonding

In addition to the school, the DJC offers a B'nai Mitzvah program, which is run by parents and not funded by any group. "This group is the beginning of a connection to the community for the future because the kids are building friendships and bonding as a group," Wyman said.

Wyman said she marvels at the growth of the community education program. "It shows you what a group of dedicated volunteers can accomplish. They're incredibly motivated. That's the whole thing about volunteerism: action is taken because we want to see results."

Persons interested in learning more about the Danforth Jewish Circle may do so by calling 416-825-7431.

DANFORTH JEWISH CIRCLE

416-825-7431
www.djctoronto.com

Sher-E-Punjab: new flavour frontiers

Those who enjoy the pleasures of Northern Indian cuisine know Sher-E-Punjab not only a haven of culinary pleasure, but as a salve to the soul.

It's indisputably Toronto's pre-eminent restaurant in its class, yet it's so much more than food. You may be stressed. You may be rushed. You may have places to go and things to do. But the moment you enter this enclave of tranquility, your troubles fade away. You can literally feel the weight of the world slipping from your shoulders — and you haven't even opened the menu yet.

SHER-E-PUNJAB RESTAURANT
351 Danforth Avenue
West of Chester subway
416-465-2125

Earth shades of Indian slate tile — reddish brown, copper, a hint of gold — set a peaceful tone. Magnificent tapestries, hand-woven in Rajastan, adorn butternut-yellow walls. You're greeted with quiet dignity by Amar, Malkit or Jaspal Singh, or by a member of their courteous wait staff.

There's no running here. No shouting. Just *Shalom*.

If you enjoy bread with your meal, you'll have to resist the temptation to over-order. Sher-E's Naan is the standard by which others are measured. Hand-made on the premises, it's baked fresh on demand — every 15 minutes or so at busy times — in a huge Tandoori clay oven.

For mainstream tastes, the Tandoori chicken is first-rate, but there are many other options worth exploring. A few suggestions:

- **Chicken Tikka Masala**. Boneless chicken is marinated and barbequed with green peppers and onions in a delicious aromatic curry;
- **Lamb Saag**. A distinctively different way to enjoy lamb in GreekTown. Mild chunks of boneless lamb are gently simmered in a spinach purée;
- **Shahi Kofta**. Vegetable balls in a mild sauce. Sounds deceptively simple; tastes divine.

Sher-E-Punjab, in fact, has long been a preferred destination of vegetarians. Even something as simple as cauliflower and potatoes (Aloo Gobi) takes on unexpected subtlety in Sher-E-Punjab's kitchen.

And, of course, there's the timeless favourite — lentil soup. If you're party to the ongoing debate as to who serves the best lentil soup in Toronto, one visit to 351 Danforth Avenue will settle it once and for all. *Case closed*.

Lentil soup debate?
What debate?

After 34 years, the Sher-E-Punjab experience is as fresh and uplifting as the hand-blended spices that flavour its dishes.

Historical flavours come alive at Messini

When visiting most websites, you're tempted to "Skip Intro" as prompted. You want to get to the heart of the matter ASAP.

Visit Messini's website, however, and you'll find yourself engrossed in the historical introduction; at Messini, history *is* at the heart of the matter.

A sequence of richly-textured, sepia-toned photographs of the southern Greek village of Messini, circa 1930, set the historical stage for the taste treat you'll experience at 445 Danforth.

After 23 years of restauranteuring in Europe, owner Marinos Dafnas opened Messini with the singular goal of elevating gyros preparation to the lofty level it enjoys in Greece. If you know gyros only as meat on a pita, Messini will open your eyes — and your taste buds — to an exciting new dining experience.

MESSINI
AUTHENTIC
GYROS
445 DANFORTH
416-778-4861
WWW.MESSINI.CA

So how does the Messini version of gyros rise above the rest?

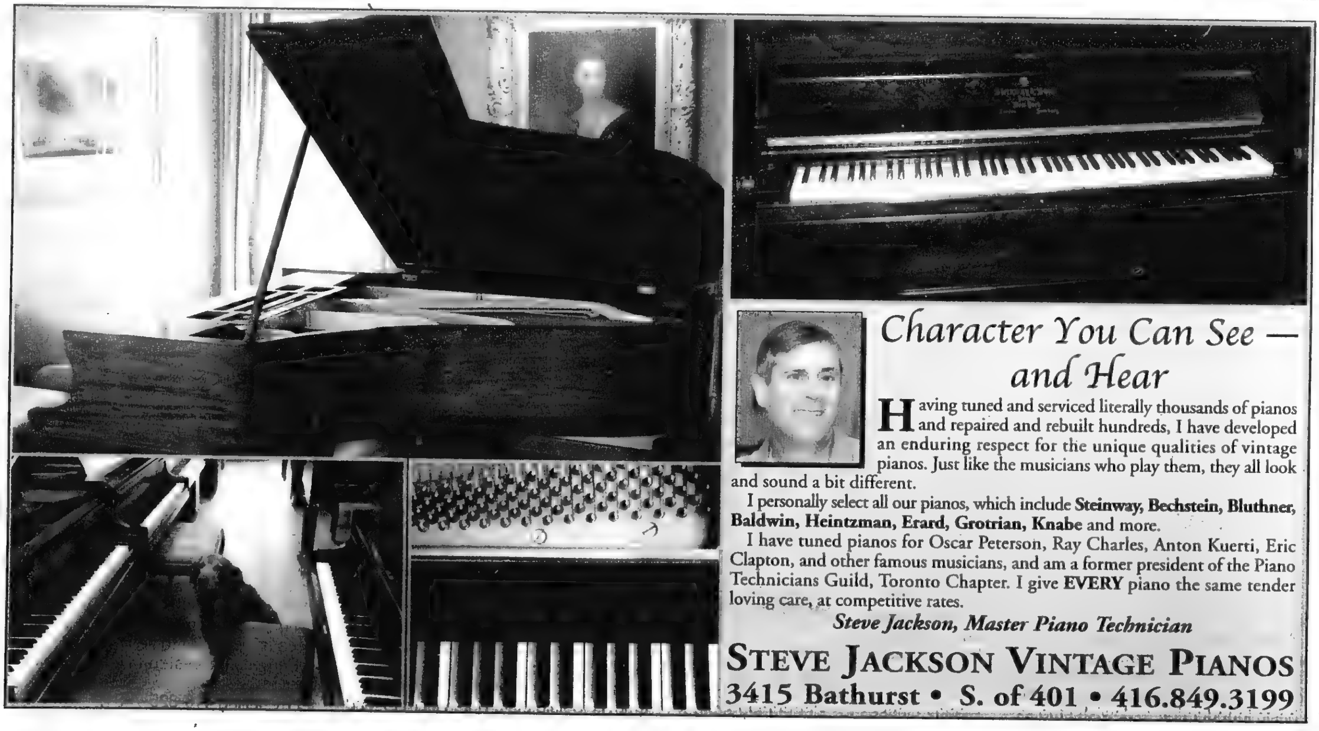
- **Meticulous preparation.** Roasted to perfection on a spit, the gyros (pronounced *yee' ros*, from Modern Green *guros*, "turning") combines the finest marinated cuts of moist and dry meat to ensure that it retains its juiciness and tenderness throughout the cooking process. Unlike your typical fast-food gyros, Messini's are prepared fresh from scratch: no freezing, no precooking;
- **Quality and freshness of trimmings.** The tzatziki, red onions, parsely, spices, and French fries (as per Greek tradition), like the meat, are all up-to-the-minute fresh;
- **Pita made fresh daily on the premises.** As with any fresh homemade bread vs. mass-produced, there's simply no comparison.
- **Variety.** Messini caters to a wide range of palates and dietary preferences by offering chicken and vegetarian gyros in addition to the traditional meat.

The result: a whole that's greater than the sum of its parts — a sandwich that melts in your mouth with a rich blend of subtly interwoven flavours.

The prices are more than reasonable, with gyros dinner entrées starting from $8.25, lunch specials from $6.50. The menu also includes mainstream Greek selections, but you'll do yourself a disservice if you don't at least try the gyros.

Messini's immaculate interior flanks an open kitchen. Pleasant brown and cream tones — gleaming ceramic tile floor, rich wood trim and comfortable seating — create an aura of casual dining elegance.

The beaches of Peloponessos may seem far away, but at Messini, some of southern Greece's best tradition and culture is right here for the sampling.



Character You Can See — and Hear

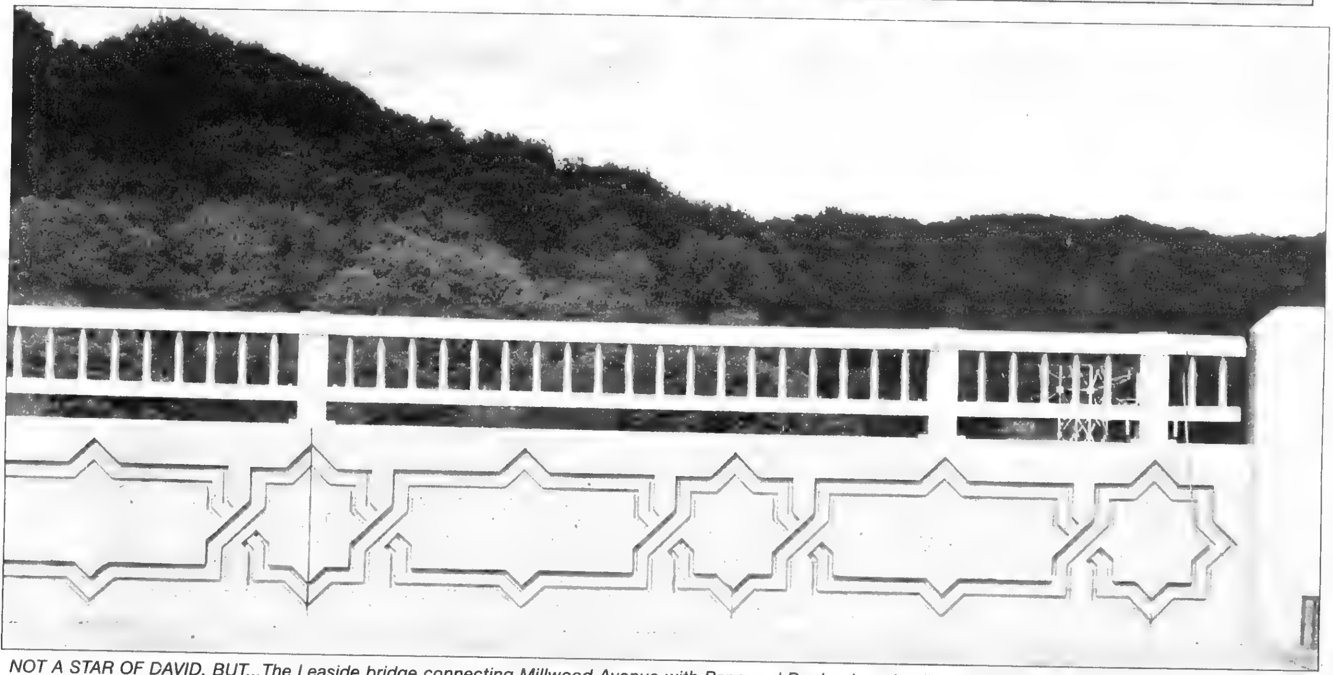
Having tuned and serviced literally thousands of pianos and repaired and rebuilt hundreds, I have developed an enduring respect for the unique qualities of vintage pianos. Just like the musicians who play them, they all look and sound a bit different.

I personally select all our pianos, which include **Steinway, Bechstein, Bluthner, Baldwin, Heintzman, Erard, Grotrian, Knabe** and more.

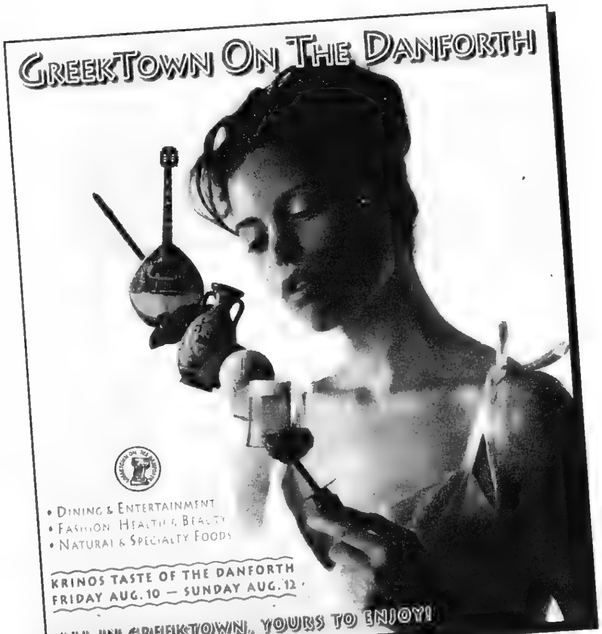
I have tuned pianos for Oscar Peterson, Ray Charles, Anton Kuerti, Eric Clapton, and other famous musicians, and am a former president of the Piano Technicians Guild, Toronto Chapter. I give **EVERY** piano the same tender loving care, at competitive rates.

Steve Jackson, Master Piano Technician

STEVE JACKSON VINTAGE PIANOS
3415 Bathurst • S. of 401 • 416.849.3199



NOT A STAR OF DAVID, BUT...The Leaside bridge connecting Millwood Avenue with Pape and Donlands — leading directly into GreekTown On The Danforth — recently underwent major repairs and reconstruction, complete with new parapets. Purely by coincidence, the motif embossed on the parapets, designed to resemble the original tile pattern dating back to 1927 when the bridge first opened, is pleasingly reminiscent of a Magen David.



GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

- DINING & ENTERTAINMENT
- FASHION HEALTH & BEAUTY
- NATURAL & SPECIALTY FOODS

KRINOS TASTE OF THE DANFORTH
FRIDAY AUG. 10 — SUNDAY AUG. 12

ALL IN GREEKTOWN, YOURS TO ENJOY!

The Canadian Jewish news

Mislaid your GreekTown supplement?
Your children "borrowed" it?
Your dog ate it?

RELAX —
IT'S AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Enjoy this GreekTown On The Danforth supplement and other special CJN supplements online in their entirety at

www.cjnews.com

Discover a new taste at The Taste!

People's most precious possession is *time*. With shrinking amounts of leisure time available and increased options, we know that we have to keep the Krinos Taste Of The Danforth Festival "fresh".

The Krinos "Taste" is already Toronto's most popular festival, according to a Decima Research poll, so the challenge is a daunting one. Our theme this year is "Discover A New Taste". For our new "Taste" we have introduced more family-friendly programming, as well as expanding on our entertainment alternatives.

One thing that hasn't changed about the Taste is the charitable aspect. The dollars you spend at the Taste help to save lives through the Toronto East General Hospital Foundation. It always feels good to enjoy oneself, but when you can help others at the same time, it feels so much better.

If you're an athlete, we have a skating rink — yes, an actual ice skating rink in the middle of August — as well as kids' and adults' volleyball courts.

If you're a sports enthusiast, we have challenges and prizes from every one of Toronto's professional sports teams. We also have an Olympiada, featuring a Climb Mount Olympus Climbing Wall, as well as Pythagoras' Chess Challenge, which will be played on a life-size chess board, among other activities.

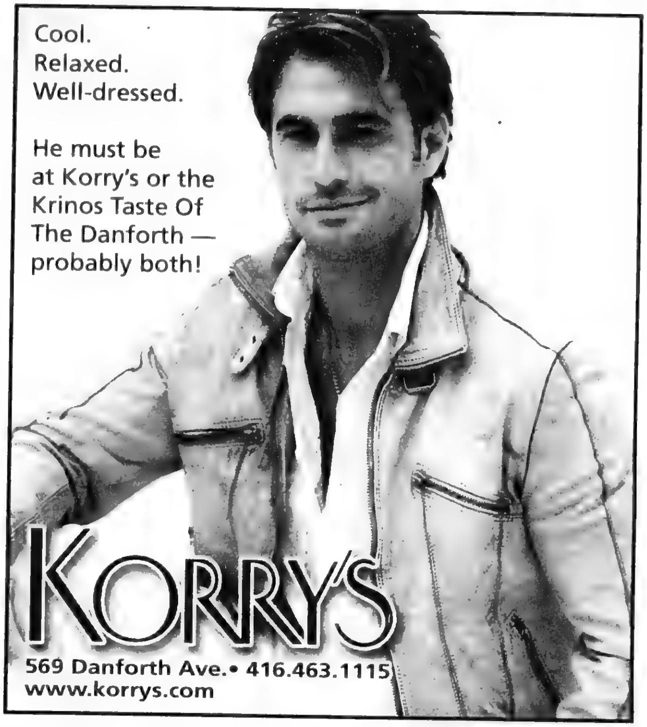
If you have a love of entertainment, we have the cast of "We Will Rock You", Second City, as well as D'Angelo's Pavilion, featuring the Zero Gravity Circus.

If you're someone who loves great food and drink, we have the Steelback Beer Gardens, the Bailey's Shiver Zone, and a Greek Wine Garden featuring some fascinating seminars.

We also have Michael Bonacini, the City-Line celebrity chef, as well as Kevin Brauch, host of "The Thirsty Traveler" and "Iron Chef America".

As for food, there is always amazing food from the Danforth restaurants, as well as the Festival's special tasting stations. We hope that you will join us to "Discover A New Taste".

Howard Lichtman
President, Lightning Group
Marketing & Sponsorship Consultant,
Krinos Taste Of The Danforth



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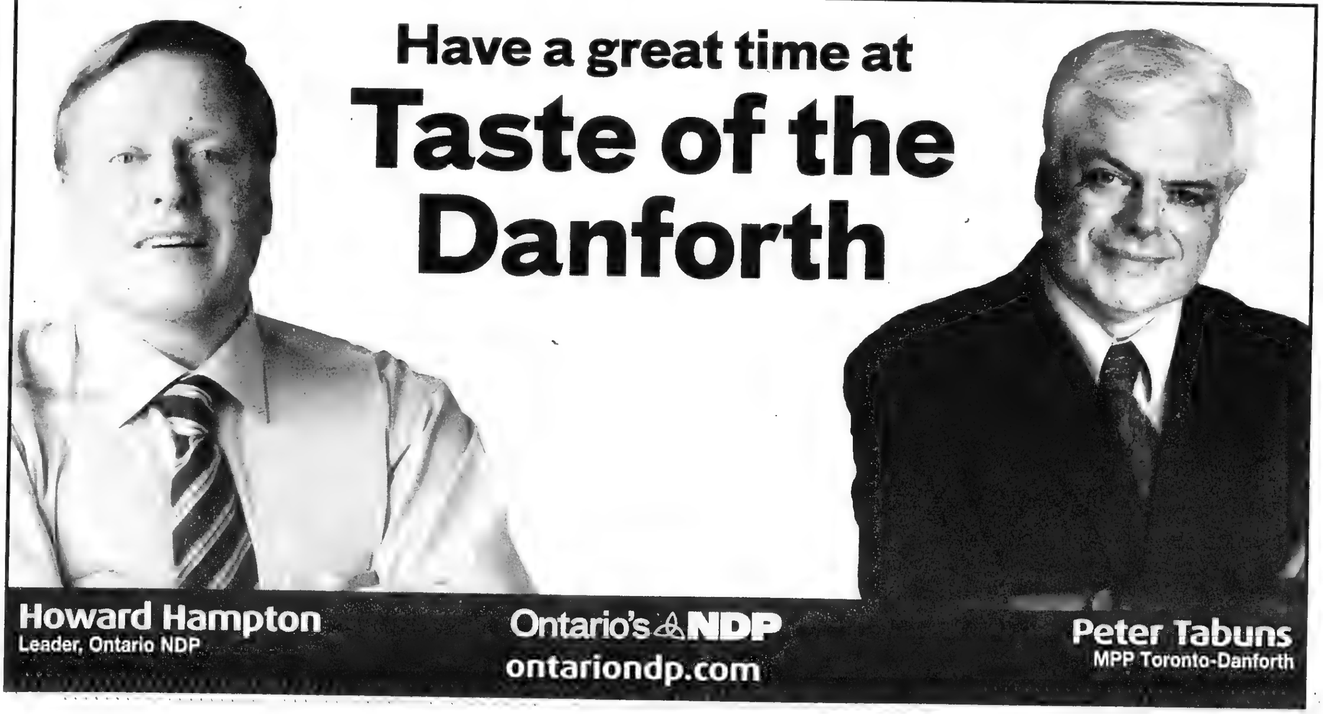

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GreekTown on the Danforth: Canadian heritage in the making

Alexander The Great Parkette at Danforth and Logan: a popular spot to pause, relax, and reflect

More than a tourist area, GreekTown on the Danforth is a community. In the summer, when the trees reach their full green and Toronto's restauranteurs put out their patio tables, GreekTown puts on its Mediterranean face.

Plenty to woo your senses

Here, when friends and acquaintances greet, you are as likely to hear *"Kall' imera! Ti kanis?"* as "Hi! How are you?" In the restaurants and cafés, you hear patrons converse in every language of the world.

While the music of Greek polysyllables will appeal to your ears, the most important thing is not the language, but the fact that people do greet each other. Bustling and busy as the community is, everyone — not just tourists, but everyone who lives and works here — is as liable to stroll as to hurry.

There is plenty on the Danforth to woo your senses, and make you want to slow your steps: bright color and exotic decor; the sounds of the bouzouki; the aroma of lamb souvlaki wafting from a grill; and the tastes of exotic foods. It is the restaurants above all — and the atmosphere they help create, at once lively and relaxed — which draw people from all over the city and beyond.

Many restaurants capture, in their decor, the pleasing colours and terraced style associated with the Greek islands and mountainsides. And while souvlaki is everywhere on the Danforth, its dining establishments take pride in offering the full range and flavours of Greek and other Mediterranean cuisines.

But the Danforth boasts many other fine ethnic restaurants as well. To name but a few, Japanese, Italian, and East Indian cuisine are well represented. And its cafés and dessert houses are unparalleled, both in number and quality.

GreekTown is also home to Toronto's finest natural and specialty food stores and many alternative health practitioners. And it's become a leading fashion destination, with a host of fine specialty boutiques for men, women, and children, as well as European-quality beauty salons and spas.

A solid community with solid values

There is plenty of live entertainment here. At many establishments, audience participation is the rule, though after a fine, full meal, you may feel disinclined to dance on a tabletop.

There are a few other Toronto streets which are wider in actual metres, but the Danforth has an expansive feel about it which you don't find anywhere else. Majestic trees shade well-kept homes; here and there are streetside parks, where you can sit and rest your feet.

If you look closely, you see there is a solid community here. You see not only the tourists, but also the elderly and the children, as they shop, stroll or sit and chat in the cafés and parks. In the restaurants, waiters and bartenders offer everyone prompt, friendly service; there are plenty of regular guests whom they greet by name.

Nor is it just staff who do this. You will see the owners showing guests to their tables, greeting them warmly; in GreekTown, customers are family.

Also here are the institutions that belong in any healthy city neighborhood: schools, houses of worship, clubs, and community centres. People not only work here, they *live* here; and it is in great part because they keep GreekTown pleasant to live in, that it is pleasant to visit.

If you really want to get to know the community, chat a little with the staffs of different restaurants; you'll find that everyone knows everyone else. There is plenty of competition here, but it is friendly. To thrive, a restauranteur has to cherish the firm conviction that his or her establishment is the best; but in GreekTown, they do so without knocking the competition. If anything, the reverse is true.

It is from this wealth of restaurants that the "Taste of the Danforth" festival was born. This annual event has become so popular that GreekTown is closed to traffic for its duration. It's a great opportunity to sample the Danforth's culinary delights while enjoying its ambience, all in support of worthy charities like the Toronto East General Hospital Foundation.

While the Danforth is a community, it has never been a closed enclave. Saul Korman of Korry's Clothiers, an active member of the Jewish community, is also an enthusiastic promoter of GreekTown. Having been there for half a century — Korry's is now celebrating its 50th anniversary — Korman knows the people of this community, many of whom started as dishwashers and short-order cooks in the '50's and '60's, then opened the first modest Greek restaurants in the '70's. Many of them came here seeking both prosperity and freedom; the late Andreas Papandreou (a recent Prime Minister of Greece) lived in Canada from 1969 to 1974.

Korman shares with the people who live and work on the Danforth their joy in the prosperity and freedom of Canada. If you come to GreekTown, you are breathing, hearing and tasting Canadian heritage — not in a museum, but as contemporary history in the making.

Dine like royalty...

There are many fine Greek restaurants, but there's only one **PALACE**.

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Ask them how they enjoyed our Hot Mezze Platter (Kalamari, Grilled Octopus, Loukaniko, and Bifteki). Perhaps they'll tell you they were so captivated by it, they forgot it was "just" an appetizer.

Ask them if the the Avgolemono soup was delicate enough, or the Greek salad crisp enough.

Ask them if the Lamb Kleftiko's divine combination of lamb, feta, sweet bell peppers, onions and mushrooms wasn't simply the most exquisite thing they'd ever tasted...

... until the Red Snapper arrived at their table. (Ask them if they enjoyed the salt spray on our boat that morning. After all, fresh-caught *means* fresh-caught).

Ask them if the assortment of homemade desserts they inhaled was truly the crowning glory.

And don't forget to ask them about the incredible birthday party they threw for Moishe in our private party room.

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...here, you are.

Ouzeri: Danforth's most relaxed dining

A splash of vibrant colour, sweeping sky-blue awnings, and a festive patio beckon you inside. It's as if you stepped straight off the sidewalk onto the beach. **Ouzeri** has the unique ability to relax you in seconds — a valuable asset when you consider that the enjoyment of any meal hinges first and foremost on the absence of stress. This is the one GreekTown restaurant that feels like one giant patio. Even when you're seated inside, the open, airy ambience gives you a sense of freedom, of letting go.

500A Danforth Ave. 416.778.0500
www.ouzeri.com

Like their pride and joy, brothers Chris and Alex Trahiotis are bright, cheery, welcoming people whose love of the restaurant business comes naturally, since they grew up in the business.

Marrying European fine dining with Greek cuisine, Ouzeri's eclectic menu is focused on quality, not volume. The kind of quality that will stir your fondest memories of home cooking. Sacrilegious though it sounds, Ouzeri's Avgolemono Soup will have you drawing favourable comparisons with your Bubie's chicken soup — high praise indeed.

Famed for their appetizers, Ouzeri also offers a number of intriguing entrées. *Strydia Ouzeri* is topped with spinach, tomato, kaseri cheese and Ouzeri's special sauce, then baked to perfection. Lamb rosemary pie, offered in your choice of lamb shank and feta or chicken with a rosemary and mushroom sauce enveloped in filo, is warmly recommended. The moussaka — both meat and vegetarian — is as good as it gets in GreekTown, and the seafood richly deserves the"authentically Greek" label you'll encounter everywhere on the Danforth. Fresh fish is available daily, and may feature Red Snapper, Sea Bass, Salmon, or whatever catch happens to be freshest on the day you visit.

Ouzeri's extensive Greek wine list has a selection that will perfectly complement any of the entrées, or stand on its own as an after-work or after-dinner libation.

The service is friendly and extremely thorough, with ample wait staff to keep pace with your needs. Like the awnings, they're dressed in an extremely comforting shade of blue.

Whether you're looking for a quick bite or a long, pleasurable meal, Ouzeri's three levels of dining all convey the same gentle message: Relax. Relax. *Relax*.

"One of my favourite summer patios" — *Saul Korman*

Family planning

In GreekTown, you needn't go far to find family. *It finds you.* Walk into any restaurant, café, or shop, and odds are you'll find yourself in a family business. The old-fashioned kind: not just owned by family, but *worked* by it. Family out front, greeting the customers. Family serving. Family in the kitchen.

In GreekTown the family business finds you so often, in fact, that you wonder how there's any other kind.

Read or listen to the business news, and you'll learn about the latest corporate takeovers. About the big getting bigger — either on their own steam, or by swallowing up their competition. Or via a merger (a business euphemism for *loveless marriage*). But who needs love? Who needs a crush on each other when together, you can crush the competition?

But the folks in GreekTown just don't get it. They're stuck in a time warp of love, caring, and customer service. Get bigger? Hell, they're having way too much fun being small.

It gets worse. They're more interested in *supporting* their neighbours than competing with them. The owners of restaurant A have dinner at restaurant B. Corporate takeovers? They haven't a clue. Loveless marriage? Ditto. *Their* marriage — their family business union — is so full of love, the whole family feels compelled to share.

Of the businesses featured in this section, virtually all are family businesses, generally run by multiple family members. Father-son. Mother-daughter. Husband-wife. Brother-sister. Uncle-nephew. Aunt-niece. Cousins. In-laws? Elsewhere, pariahs; in GreekTown, family, or *oikogeneia* (pronounced ee-ko-***yen***-ya). Everyone pulls the oars together, and the only fish that get swallowed up are the mussels.

This family dynamic works so well, you'd assume it was meticulously planned. And perhaps, in some instances, it is.

In the majority of cases, however, this perfect harmony — plates sailing from kitchen to table like baton passes — just happens. *It comes naturally.* It comes from younger generations seeing and hearing and feeling the resonance between their elders, and wanting to be part of it.

Nor does it stop there. Because when you work in GreekTown, even when you're not family, you're *oikogeneia*. When your chef of 25 years dies at age 63 of prostate cancer — the man you worked side by side with every day for a quarter century, *not including* the time you worked together in Athens before you crossed the pond — when he dies, does it hurt any less that he's not your "flesh and blood"?

Oikogeneia.

It's customary to thank your host for a great meal, your shopkeeper for great service. The merchants of GreekTown, however, are due another thank you. Thank You for putting the ***family*** in family business. For showing us that when you're family, everything goes according to plan — even when there isn't a plan. For reminding us that family isn't just the most important thing we've got.

It's *all* we've got.

— *Sholom Wargon*

Demetre's hits right note for Streisand

It's the kind of endorsement money can't buy.

During Barbra Streisand's 2006 concert tour at the Air Canada Centre, on both Oct. 17 and 20, the illustrious singer told audiences that she loved the ice cream she'd had at the original Caffé Demetre on the Danforth. Owners Themy and Alex couldn't have been happier if she'd sung for them personally.

Caffé Demetre

400 Danforth Ave. at Chester
416.778.6654
CDdanforth@rogers.com

Clearly, she of the mellifluous voice has good taste in ice cream. The original Caffé Demetre's hand-made variety goes down as smoothly and sweetly as a Streisand melody. Maintaining this kind of quality doesn't come easily, however. Here, even fresh daily doesn't cut it. At Demetre's, the ice cream is made virtually *on demand*, so that it always arrives at your table freshly-made. So if you find Themy or Alex short of breath, it's because they've been running downstairs to churn out another fresh batch, then galloping upstairs with the booty.

Since opening in 1989, Caffé Demetre has adhered rigorously to its original home-made ice cream recipe; it's difficult to improve on perfection. But Demetre's is much more than an ice cream parlour. Their crêpes and Belgian waffles are made according to the same exacting standards and with the same premium fresh ingredients, as are the sauces drizzled irresistibly over desserts too numerous to name, one more mouthwatering than the next. Bowls, cones, splits, sundaes, cake-and-ice-cream combos — this is not a place for self-restraint. The good news is, the quality and freshness of the ingredients is such that you can overindulge a little without experiencing the annoying, cloyingly sweet aftertaste so common with conventional ice cream desserts. The coffees — both conventional and specialty — are all top-drawer.

Of Demetre's many popular ice cream flavours, White Chocolate is an all-time favourite. Among the 17 varieties of crêpes and Belgian waffles, Moo La La has made major inroads into the nosh consciousness of Demetre's clientele. Apparently, Nutello Crunch Iced Cream drizzled with Nutella® Sauce and garnished with Sliced Bananas and Roasted Hazelnuts will do that to you.

At Caffé Demetre, even a casual dessert becomes an event, making it a natural for parties and impromptu celebrations.

Despite Demetre's soaring popularity — off the charts since Streisand sang its praises — Themy and Alex are adamant about remaining well-grounded. "You're only as good as your last batch of ice cream," says Alex. "You can taste the difference quality makes, and we will never compromise that — *ever*."

Sweet music to an ice cream lover's ears.

Minto's "green" technologies garner major award, raise bar for urban development

Canadian Urban Institute acknowledges builder's contribution with 2007 Leadership Award for City Livability

Artist's concept

mintoSkyy features stunning architecture, spectacular suite layouts, sweeping balconies, breathtaking views, quality finishes and energy saving, cost reducing green initiatives

In an era when environmental concerns are front of mind, one builder has stepped up to the plate with environmentally-friendly innovations that demonstrate a commitment to energy saving and, in turn, a higher and healthier standard of living for you, the home buyer.

MintoUrban Communities is among the recipients of the 2007 Leadership Awards presented by the Canadian Urban Institute. Minto, a real estate development construction and management company dedicated to sustainable development and healthy environments, was presented with the City Livability Award. This award honours outstanding individuals and corporations that have made meaningful contributions to the quality of urban life by creating more livable spaces in Toronto.

"We put our customers and the environment first"
— Alan Greenberg

Minto's winning submission demonstrated leadership in improving city livability by addressing five major urban environmental issues: Natural Resource Conservation; Air Quality; Waste Diversion; Education; and Market Transformation.

Minto continues to set new standards for buildings that are sustainable and energy efficient. In 2005, Minto committed to designing and building all of its high-rise communities as LEED® Canada (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rated buildings. LEED® is a third party verification standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. In 2005 Minto's new development Radiance@MintoGardens, located in North York, was the first and is still the only LEED®-Canada Silver certified condominium in the country.

"Minto's approach is to put our customers and the environment first. That's why our goal is to build all our future apartments and condominiums to the LEED® standard of design and construction," says Alan Greenberg, President, MintoUrban Communities Inc.

"Through healthy-living building practices, LEED® buildings provide better air quality and a more comfortable and healthy indoor environment for residents, as well they realize substantial cost savings on their utilities," says Andrew Pride, Vice-President of Minto Energy Management.

Minto has also been selected among the very best in the country to construct an environmentally friendly home as part of the CMHC Equilibrium Housing Initiative. Inspiration™ The Minto Eco-Home is currently under construction in Manotick, Ontario and will deliver on the goal of the CMHC Initiative to create healthy, energy-efficient housing that produces as much energy as it consumes on a yearly basis.

Minto energy innovations are unique and extensive, reducing overall consumption by over 35% compared to code. The Minto-inspired HRV (heat recovery ventilation) delivers fresh, filtered air to each suite and circulates healthy air throughout for improved ventilation and living comfort. The energy saving "All off Switch" turns off all ceiling lights and exhaust fans with the flick of one switch.

Other environmental features in new Minto developments include renewable passive solar energy; rainwater harvesting; low flow showerheads and dual flush toilets; energy efficient appliances; motion sensor controls on common area lighting; compact fluorescent lighting; ease of use of public transit by being located close to the subway line; the installation of multi-stream waste systems; green power through renewable energy certificates.

"Substantial cost savings on your utilities"
— Andrew Pride

Minto has seen results that are clear and measurable: waste diversion rates exceed 70% due to innovative and convenient multi-stream waste systems, and over 50% less water consumption has been tracked over a typical new building (saving 30,000,000 litres of water annually).

As an industry leader, Minto has been recognized with:

- 2007 Minto Roehampton Tree Planting Ceremony with Mayor Miller to celebrate Canada's newest and greenest rental building;
- 2007 Minto is asked to be part of the CMHC Equilibrium Housing Initiative and begins plans to build Inspiration™ The Minto EcoHome;
- 2005 & 2006 City of Toronto, Green Toronto Award of Excellence;
- 2006 Globe Award of Excellence in Urban Sustainability, Finalist;
- 2005 Natural Resources Canada Energy Efficiency Award;
- 2004 Environmental Building of the Year for MintoYorkville from the Urban Development Institute.

Among its many awards, the 2007 City Livability Award underscores Minto's commitment to environmental leadership that will improve the quality of life for its residents while playing an integral part in creating a healthier, more livable Toronto.

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This Week

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Cemetery restoration project helps Polish-Jewish ties. *Page 17*

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Paralympic athlete masters second sport. *Page 42*

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Rice advances U.S. peace plan

By DAN BARON
JTA

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice confers with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in Jerusalem last week. *[Israel Sun photo]*

JERUSALEM — Condoleezza Rice was back in the Middle East last Wednesday, her efforts to promote Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation seemingly buoyed by regional concerns over Hamas' recent takeover of the Gaza Strip.

The U.S. secretary of state arrived in Israel bearing a potentially groundbreaking pledge by Saudi Arabia – a major Islamist power broker and client of Washington – to participate in a comprehensive peace conference.

"This is a time to seize opportunities – and it is a time to proceed in a prepared and careful way, as one does not want to miss opportunities because of a lack of preparation – but it is nonetheless a time when we have to take advantage of what is before us," Rice said after meeting her Israeli counterpart, Tzipi Livni.

Rice also met with Israeli President Shimon Peres, Defence Minister Ehud Barak and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Last Thursday, on the final leg of her Middle East tour, Rice visited Ramallah for talks with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Salam Fayyad, the western-backed reformist he appointed prime minister after firing the previous Hamas-led cabinet. Rice was bidding to energize talks between the moderate Abbas and Israel as part of a peace push outlined by U.S. President George W. Bush in a July 16 speech.

"We do have in the Palestinian territories a government that is devoted to the international principles, the foundational principles for peace,

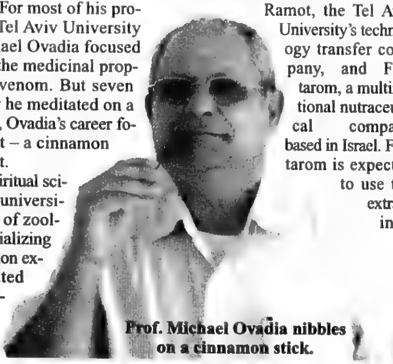
Continued on page 27

Bible holds clue to anti-viral extract

By KARIN KLOOSTERMAN
Special to The CJN

TEL AVIV — For most of his professional life, Tel Aviv University professor Michael Ovadia focused on snakes and the medicinal properties of their venom. But seven years ago, after he meditated on a biblical passage, Ovadia's career focus took a twist – a cinnamon twist to be exact.

Today, the spiritual scientist from the university's department of zoology is commercializing a unique cinnamon extract that is touted to fight viral infections from HIV to avian flu.



Prof. Michael Ovadia nibbles on a cinnamon stick.

A research and licence deal on Ovadia's patent-pending cinnamon extract was signed last week between Ramot, the Tel Aviv University's technology transfer company, and Frutarom, a multinational nutraceutical company based in Israel. Frutarom is expected to use the extract in a whole host of applications, from a spray to disinfect the air against avian flu in airports to a daily supplement that protects people against the common flu.

Those doing research in the field of natural medicine know that snake venom, especially the notorious, poisonous kind, has unique anti-viral and analgesic properties that can help fight human illness and disease. For the past 40 years, Ovadia had been working with natural antidotes and found that certain kinds of venom can deactivate the parainfluenza (Sendai) virus – a virus similar to the human flu.

Work was going well. Papers were published, patents had been developed, and his reputation in the field was established. But Ovadia was still waiting for the breakthrough that every scientist dreams about.

That breakthrough would come to him one morning in the synagogue while listening to a reading from the Old Testament.

"There is a passage that explains how the high priests – the kohanim – would prepare a holy oil used on their bodies before they made a ritual animal sacrifice," Ovadia recalls. "I had a hunch that this oil, which was prepared with cinnamon and other spices, played a role in preventing the spread of infectious agents to people."

Ovadia took his hunch to the laboratory, and his initial experiments proved to be true: his savoury cinnamon extract was able to quickly and effectively immunize chicken

Continued on page 28

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MKs petition Olmert to let Sudanese refugees stay — see page 28

The News in Brief

CANADA

$5 Million Raised

CALGARY — The Alberta leg of a national fundraising campaign for the yet-to-be-built Canadian Museum for Human Rights kicked off last week with the announcement of $5 million in donations from the oil-rich province. That leaves $150 million to be raised for the $350-million, Winnipeg-based museum, for which construction is slated to start in 2008, CanWest News reported. The museum is also receiving funding from all three levels of government and is slated to open in 2011.

Harper, Olmert Talk

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert discussed security issues and prospects for Mideast peace in a 15-minute phone call last week. A spokesperson for Harper said the two men spoke about Israeli relations with the Palestinian Authority and on U.S efforts to arrange a Mideast peace conference. Harper also briefed Olmert on last month's visit to Ottawa by Jordan's King Abdullah, Canadian Press reported.

WORLD

Reporter Threatened

MOSCOW — A Jewish journalist was threatened at gunpoint by a Russian police officer in an anti-Semitic incident. An officer in the city of Angarsk, in Irkutsk region, pointed a gun at Anna Gritsevich, a local TV journalist, then cursed at her and made anti-Semitic remarks, the website Jewish.ru reported. The incident is being probed.

Academics Sign Petition Against Boycott

NEW YORK — More than 10,000 academics have signed a petition demanding a halt to the campaign by Britian's academic union to boycott Israel.

The petition, organized by the U.S.-based Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, was signed by 32 Nobel laureates and 53 university and foundation presidents. The group will deliver it to the University College Union as "an expression of outrage" against the proposed boycott.

"We are academics, scholars, researchers and professionals of differing religious and political perspectives. We all agree that singling out Israelis for an academic boycott is wrong," the statement says. "To show our solidarity with our Israeli academics, we… declare ourselves to be Israeli academics for the purposes of any academic boycott."

The signatories pledged to decline to participate in any activity from which Israeli academics are excluded.

Scholars for Peace in the Middle East is an independent, non-profit community of scholars with more than 18,000 academics and professional members from more than 400 campuses worldwide.

Karaite Conversions

SAN JOSE — A fringe Jewish sect that rejects post-biblical rabbinic law accepted its first converts in 500 years last week. The Karaite Jews of America, which has 1,000 members, gathered in a northern California synagogue for the event, *j. the Jewish news weekly of Northern California* reported. After a year of study, 10 adults and four minors from as far afield as the Czech Republic, Australia and Canada converted to Karaite Judaism. Karaites trace their origins to eighth-century Persia and are estimated at 35,000 worldwide. A decision 15 years ago by the Karaite Council of Sages in Israel reversed a ban on accepting converts. The rejection of rabbinic law has led to odd customs, such as mixing of milk and poultry, but Karaites don't use lights on Shabbat.

Mossad Offers Help

SOFIA — The Mossad helped free the medical team sentenced to death in Libya, Bulgaria's intelligence chief said July 30. Gen. Kirtcho Kirov told the *24-Tchassa* daily that Israel's spy agency was one of 20 security services that were active in trying to release a Palestinian doctor and five Bulgarian nurses convicted in Libya for infecting children with AIDS. The six were allowed to return to their countries last week. Besides the Mossad and western spy agencies, some Arab countries, including Egypt, Algeria and Morocco, provided helpful information, Kirov said.

Jews Donate Coats

SAO PAULO — Sao Paulo's Jewish community donated 10,000 winter coats to a government-run campaign. Representatives from the Sao Paulo State Jewish Federation presented last month's donation to First Lady Monica Serra, who heads the annual Coats Campaign, which collects coats, blankets and pillows for the poor. Sao Paulo is home to half of Brazil's 120,000 Jews.

The Canadian Jewish news

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New hechsher intended as alternative to COR

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Six food establishments in the Greater Toronto Area are now being supervised by Mehadrin Kosher, a new kashrut supervisory body led by Rabbi Moshe Levy, spiritual leader of Nachal Yisrael, a small synagogue and beit midrash on Bathurst Street south of Wilson Avenue.

Rabbi Levy, who received his smichah in France and has been here for about 28 years, said his goal is to strictly adhere to all kashrut laws, "through knowledgeable, dedicated and experienced kashrut professionals."

He took over the hechsher earlier this year after being associated with a New York-based rabbi who had been supervising a local restaurant.

Rabbi Levy said he himself was subsequently contacted by several other restaurant owners and caterers who wanted to become or remain kosher, but had experienced difficulties with the Toronto-based Kashruth Council of Canada, which supervises more than 900 facilities in Canada and has its COR symbol on more than 45,000 products.

"My idea is that if I open the door for more kosher supervision, more people will eat kosher," Rabbi Levy said.

He stressed that his decision had nothing to do with making money, but rather that he wants to make it easier for people to run a kosher establishment.

"I make sure that they run a 100 per cent kosher business. I am there for every catering event from beginning to end, and ensure that all retail stores are strictly supervised," he said

Other than the Kashruth Council, Mehadrin Kosher is the only supervisory body offering hechshers to Toronto-area restaurants and caterers, although the Los Angeles-based KSA hechsher supervises a number of local food manufacturers, such as Ozery's Pita Break Inc., and supervises a Krispy Kreme donut shop in Mississauga.

Michelle and Malcolm Nefsky, owners of Bagel Haven, a dairy restaurant located at Bathurst and Steeles Avenue – the only Mehadrin-supervised retail proprietor willing to talk to *The CJN* or be named in an article about the new hechsher – have been supervised by Rabbi Levy since February, the couple said.

"We have owned the restaurant since October 1996, and we have always wanted to be kosher. Our home is strictly kosher, and we wanted our restaurant to be an extension of who we are," Malcolm Nefsky said.

They approached the Kashruth Council, Michelle said, but were told that to have COR supervision, they would need a shomer Shabbat partner. "Malcolm grew up in a Reform household, and in my family they are secular Jews from Israel. We are a Jewish family with strong Jewish traditions," she said.

Rabbi Levy's approach, she said, was to be inclusive and embracing. "He accepted us for who we are, and he asked how he could help make our dream of running a kosher restaurant a reality."

When he met with their staff, she said, he was kind and respectful. "He taught them about ritual hand washing, and about not bringing any food into the restaurant. They now understand how careful they have to be in all aspects of the business."

Representatives from the Kashruth Council were not available to speak to *The CJN*, but Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, president of the Toronto Vaad Harabonim, said he is concerned about having a second kashrut supervisory body in the city.

"The history of COR is not the history of a business, but rather of a communal organization. Years ago, kashrut in our city was supervised by individual rabbis, and it was not in the community's best interest. The best scenario is to have all rabbis working together. Community supervision needs to be standard."

Rabbi Tradburks said that in the past six months, COR has changed its policy about proprietors having a shomer Shabbat partner. "If a mashgiach is present in the facility full time, then it is not necessary."

Part of the frustration with having a non-COR hechsher in the community, he said, is that consumers might not be familiar with the supervisor. "When they walk into an establishment, they may not know anything about the kashrut supervision. What are they supposed to do?"

It disturbs him, he said, that most proprietors being supervised by Mehadrin do not want to be named in the newspaper. "That is the crux right there. There is no transparency."

His assessment, he said, is that kosher supervision is like any other contract. "It requires a lot of professionalism. It has to be thorough and reliable."

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A vital question

From the editor's desk

Noted legal scholar and Harvard University professor Noah Feldman triggered an emotional and intellectual firestorm in the Jewish, and especially the Orthodox, community with his cri de coeur, *Orthodox Paradox*, which appeared in the Sunday *New York Times Magazine on* July 22. *(Please see the submission by Rabbi J. Immanuel Schochet on page 43.)*

Feldman describes the pain and hurt he feels at having been shunned by much of his childhood community because he married someone who is not Jewish. The alumni association of his yeshiva day school in Boston even cropped him and his wife out of a class reunion photo.

The tone of the essay is serious and full of ache. But it is less soul-searching than it is smugly supercilious. At times, it is even disingenuous, as when the author, who is renowned for his intellectual acuity, expresses surprise at the halachic-based decision-making, cultural mores and social framework of the world in which he was raised, and in particular, of the high school that, however imperfectly, tried to perpetuate that way of life.

Toward the end of the article, it is not unreasonable to conclude that the true purpose of the article may have been to exhale bad fumes about modern Orthodoxy's need to draw precise lines and boundaries around the community. Feldman cites the cases of Yigal Amir, the assassin of prime minister Yizhak Rabin, and Baruch Goldstein, the murderer of some 30 Arabs in a Hebron mosque more than a decade ago, presumably as extreme examples of the "evil" that can result when the protectionist line is drawn too tightly.

But why cite these examples at all? The two men and their behaviour were aberrations, gross exceptions to the rule. Their actions proved nothing about the broader societies that reared them. And certainly, the issues underpinning their cases were entirely irrelevant to the issue underpinning Feldman's own case, namely, how should we, as individuals and as a community, relate to and respond to intermarried couples?

The responses to Feldman came quickly and covered the range from sympathetic and understanding to stern and uncompromising.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, the American talk-show host celebrity, who knows Feldman from Oxford University days, takes a conciliatory approach.

"I am well aware of the fact that intermarriage is a direct threat to the very continuity of the Jewish People. But that does not change the fact that those who have chosen to marry out are still Jewish, should still be encouraged to go to synagogue, should still be encouraged to put on tfillin and keep Shabbat, should still have mezuzot on their doors, and should still be encouraged to devote their lives and resources to the welfare of the Jewish people and the security of the State of Israel.

"And as far as their non-Jewish spouses are concerned, do we really believe that by showing the most unfriendly behaviour, we are living up to our biblically mandated role of serving as a light unto the nations? Is there any possibility that a non-Jew who is married to a Jew would look favourably at the possibility of becoming halachically Jewish if they witness Orthodox Jews treating their husband or wife as pariahs?"

Rabbi Avi Shafran, the director of public affairs for Agudath Israel of America is less accommodating to Feldman and his predicament.

"If one begins with the premise that intermarriage is dangerous to the Jewish people and the Jewish mission, the intermarried cannot enjoy public acceptance. There may be quibbles about the means by which we express our rejection of their choice. But the absence of any communal expression of reproach is nothing less than an invitation to intermarriage."

Gary Rosenblatt, the veteran, wise editor and publisher of the *Jewish Week* in New York aptly summarized the dilemma tugging at the heart of Feldman's story.

"What Feldman has done, consciously or not, is raise some important issues, less about his old yeshiva and modern Orthodoxy per se than about dealing with Jews who do not see marrying out as leaving the fold.

"Conversion is the most obvious and desired solution, but for those who eschew that option, we need to explore ways to encourage their positive exposure to Jewish life."

Although Rosenblatt also found much for which to criticize Feldman in his problematic portraiture of modern Orthodoxy, he preferred to conclude by honing in on the incontrovertibly pressing issue confronting world Jewry. He referred to the article as, in part, a "wake-up call" about "learning how to deal more sensitively with those on the outside who may be calling out – in anger and loneliness – for a way back in."

And as Rosenblatt also pointed out, the discussion is an important one. He quotes Prof. Jonathan Sarna of Brandeis University, who estimates that 1.7 million non-Jews currently live in American Jewish households. "To put it another way, about 23 per cent of those living in Jewish households [in the United States] are not Jewish."

The question calls to us all.

As individuals and as an organized – though-stratified-into-different-streams – community, we must search our minds as well as our hearts and our consciences. When fellow Jews reach out to us, do we help our people by not reaching back? Are we not our brother's keeper?

–MBD

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CANADIAN OLIM TOUCH DOWN

Shaun Hoffman and Jennifer Mendelsohn from Toronto arrived in Israel last week on the second chartered aliyah flight of the summer sponsored by Nefesh B'Nefesh, a group that promotes aliyah from North America. Some 200 olim from the United States and Canada were on the flight, and Nefesh B'Nefesh expects to bring a total of 2,200 North American olim to Israel this summer.

JEWISH POVERTY: LIVING LIFE ON THE FRINGE

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When Janine (not her real name) arrived in Toronto via Israel from her native Balarus, she thought she had finally made it.

Trained as a laboratory technician, the single mother of an eight-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter fully expected to find an apartment, upgrade her English skills and find a job in her field.

Five years later, however, Janine, 38, is one of Toronto's working poor. As a senior's companion, she struggles to feed her children and pay the rent on her two-bedroom apartment at Bathurst Street and Steeles Avenue. And her ex-husband is not in the picture.

Yet she's luckier than others she knows, she said, because during the week – she works from noon to 5 p.m. – she eats an early dinner with her employer, and on Shabbat the family is often invited out, "so I'm able to save money on my food bill."

There is no room for anything extra in her budget and she is always having to say "no" to her son and daughter. "I feel badly that they can't go to movies with their friends or go out for ice cream," she said.

"After I pay my rent, I have $1,200 to buy food, toiletries, clothing for my children, pay off the computer they need to do their school work, and buy gas for my 12-year-old car that I need to get to work. Anything extra, and I have to rely on my overdraft. After that, nothing. The money is gone. Sometimes it's gone before the month is up."

"I'm grateful, though, that my landlord is good-natured. If I'm late with my rent, he waits patiently. I also get a subsidy to send my children to Hebrew day school, and this past Passover, I received a food basket that got us through most of the week."

Regardless, there is no peace for her, she said. "I live day by day, worrying that I'll lose my job or have an emergency expense."

According to the *2001 Census Analysis Series on Immigration and Language in the Toronto Jewish Community*, prepared by UIA Federations Canada demographers Charles Shahar and Tina Rosenbaum in 2005, immigrants such as Janine are especially vulnerable financially.

The report states that immigrants face a window of economic vulnerability that lasts for at least a decade, and is especially stark in the five years immediately following their arrival here.

At 31 per cent, it says, poverty among recent immigrants is among the highest of any segment of the Jewish community.

Janis Roth, executive director of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, Toronto, and Richard Cummings, executive director of Jewish Family and Child (formerly Jewish Family and Child Service), are co-chairs of the Jewish Action Poverty Group, which is trying to confront this problem, as well as the wider issue of poverty in the Jewish community.

The seeds for the action group were planted about two years ago, Roth said, after representatives from a number of local social service agencies attended a conference in Ottawa on poverty in the Jewish community that was sponsored by the Canadian branch of the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies.

A keynote speaker at the conference was David Bornstein, author of *How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas*, "and he talked about people who had the will and drive to change situations," she said.

"He motivated us enough to start thinking about attacking the problem of poverty differently – how we could make sustainable changes that would have a huge impact on the community."

The Jewish anti-poverty group is made up of representatives from agencies such as Reena, Jewish Family and Child, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, JIAS, Jewish Vocational Service and Kehilla Residential Program, "but they don't participate with their agency hat. They're here as individuals concerned about finding a solution," Roth said.

Their main focus, she said, is the working poor, "because as a group, they're on the fringe. They're not eligible for financial assistance, yet they don't have enough funds to live in a dignified way."

> ***'After I pay my rent, I have $1,200 to buy food, toiletries, clothing for my children, pay off the computer they need to do their school work, and buy gas for my 12-year-old car that I need to get to work. Anything extra, and I have to rely on my overdraft. After that, nothing. The money is gone. Sometimes it's gone before the month is up.'***

Rather than merely helping them out by giving them subsidies to summer camp, Chanukah presents or Passover food baskets, "we want to look at ways to help them move out of poverty," Roth added.

"The kids are sent to camp, but then they return to the same hard living conditions. We have to do better than that. All these things help people maintain a certain level, but it's not changing the family experience. If we don't do something different, we'll have to raise more money just to sustain people."

Poverty Status by Large Special Interest Geographic Areas
Jewish Population

District	Total Jewish Population	Total Jewish Poor	% Poor	Total Poor (Jews & Non-Jews)	% Jews of Total Poor
Downtown Jewish Community	19,955	2,550	12.8	153,445	1.7
Central Jewish Community	90,450	12,360	13.7	204,320	6.0
Northern Jewish Community	59,320	4,015	6.8	72,565	5.5
North York	65,060	10,245	15.7	143,715	7.1
Bathurst Corridor	119,195	15,075	12.6	102,280	14.7
Toronto (City of)	113,645	15,390	13.5	552,525	2.8

She stressed that she is not criticizing fundraising efforts in the Jewish community, "but what we do now is falling short of moving people out of poverty. What we have to do is elevate them."

Cummings agreed that although providing financial assistance and helping clients live Jewishly by sending almost 400 children to summer camps, providing food at holiday time, and helping them celebrate the holidays is a significant part of his agency's work in addressing poverty, "we need to do much more. We need to step up to the plate in recognizing our responsibility to a vulnerable group who could be forgotten."

He said his agency is working with Mount Sinai Hospital to develop psychological support for people who are living in poverty due to mental health issues, with the aim of removing barriers to possible employment.

The people most in need, Roth said, are the most invisible. "These are the people who go to work every day, and who struggle to pay for housing and food, let alone their Jewish connectedness."

One way to help, she said, is to look at people's job skills. "Many of them are stuck in survival jobs, so we're planning to have a number of adults reassessed for free. The idea is to get them into jobs that pay enough to support their families.

"By helping them find full-time employment, we could raise the income power of the family."

Her agency also looks at the transitional poverty of newcomers. "Many are skilled, but it takes at least nine months to get a job, and they can use up a lot of savings during that time," Roth said.

"We have found that if we help them quickly, they won't need assistance for an extended period of time."

JIAS, she said, has introduced the Jump Start program, which matches immigrants with jobs that utilize their skills. "Through this program clients have been finding good employment quicker."

As for housing, said Roth, "families are moved out of poverty when they live in a clean, safe, well-furnished house for which they pay no more than 32 per cent of their salary. Most poor people, however, pay up to 72 per cent."

To address this problem, the Kehilla Residential Program, a UJA Federation-affiliated agency whose mandate is to identify and champion affordable housing initiatives, has created the Jewish Community Affordable Rental program.

Nancy Singer, executive director of Kehilla and a member of the Jewish Action Poverty Group, said the federation initiative, co-ordinated by Kehilla, was started so people could afford to live in the Jewish community along the Bathurst Street corridor.

"Landlords who participate in the program, in return for providing a few apartment units per building at more affordable rent levels, are guaranteed assured rental income for five years, and thus reduced vacancies and stable cash flow."

The program guarantees any arrears – since the program started in 2004 there has been only one case of arrears – and it also negotiates the rent based on a client's budget, as well as prescreens all clients and assists in resolving any landlord-tenant issues that may arise, Singer said.

"There is a premium to live in the Jewish community, and through this program we've been able to bring some people back."

As well, she said, people who have had their income stretched as far as it can go have a few more dollars at the end of the month.

Another initiative, said Singer, is the community residential building, set to be erected on the new Joseph & Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus being built in York Region.

The building is a proposed 62-unit affordable supportive housing project that will provide both housing and support services for a mix of special needs populations in the community.

Along with Kehilla as the development consultant and Reena as the lead sponsor agency, partner agencies that will provide support services to residents include Chai Tikvah, Circle of Care and Jewish Family and Child.

Singer said Kehilla is also exploring the potential for an affordable home ownership program. "The challenge of this exercise is to overcome the gap between the costs of building new homes and the price most of the target group can afford."

It is imperative, she said, that agencies collaborate and put their expertise on the table.

"Poverty, unfortunately, is the link between all of them."

Poverty by Special Interest Geographic Area. Please see chart, page 16.

Netanyahu faces major challenge in Likud race

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Likud leader and former Israeli prime minister Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu will have a real fight on his hands when he faces Moshe Feiglin at the party's leadership primaries on Aug. 14 in Israel, claims Feiglin's spokesperson, Shmuel Sackett.

"Moshe Feiglin has an excellent chance to win," said Sackett, the cofounder, with Feiglin, of the Manhigut Yehudit (Jewish leadership) faction in the Likud party.

In Toronto last month to speak to local supporters, Sackett said Manhigut Yehudit is on a roll.

In an interview, he declared, "Winning can mean either an outright victory in these primaries or a large percentage of the vote, which would result in tremendous political power."

He added, "In either case, victory is inevitable because Manhigut Yehudit has the right message. Bibi Netanyahu does not represent what the Likud stands for. The only candidate here who is true to his platform and his word is Moshe Feiglin."

Moshe Feiglin

Sackett, Manhigut Yehudit's international director, said that this month's leadership battle has boiled down to a race between Netanyahu and Feiglin now that top-flight candidate and former foreign minister Silvan Shalom has dropped out.

"The leading newspapers and all sides of the political spectrum in Israel agree that Moshe Feiglin is a serious candidate who could win the election," Sackett said, adding that Feiglin's popularity as choice for Likud leader has climbed from three per cent to 14 per cent since the last two primaries.

Ardent adversaries of territorial compromise, Feiglin and Sackett cofounded Manhigut Yehudit after establishing Zo Artzeinu (This is our Land) in 1993 to protest Israel's signing of the Oslo accords with the Palestinians.

Due to his non-violent activities during this period, Feiglin, a yeshiva graduate who was a captain in the Israeli army, served a six-month sentence for civil disobedience.

Sackett said Feiglin – a resident of the Karnei Shomron settlement in the West Bank – wants to restore Jewish pride inside Israel.

"Our platform is one of a return to Jewish values, and consists of five major points: return to family values, traditional Jewish education for all Jewish children, security without the Oslo illusion, electoral reform in the court system and zero tolerance for Arab rebellion."

Manhigut Yehudit is not promoting Iranian-style theocracy in Israel, he said.

"We are 100 per cent against any religious coercion and are not working toward a theocracy. Our Israel could not and would never be like Iran, God forbid."

Saying that Feiglin embodies the aspirations of many Israelis, Sackett commented, "Most of the country is behind him in wanting Jewish values and a strong Jewish identity."

Sackett said that Manhigut Yehudit supporters range from secular to religious Israelis.

"Feiglin's support base continues to grow as more and more Israelis realize that there is hope on the horizon, and that just because they have been led to a cliff, it doesn't mean that they have to jump off."

Sackett said Israel's political system is in dire need of reform.

As he put it, "Israel has clearly ceased to be a true democracy. Moishe Feiglin will promote legislation to ensure that Supreme Court justices are elected by the Knesset, the representatives of the people, and not by the current method in which the justices elect their cronies."

Claiming that Netanyahu has deviated from Likud dogma, Sackett said that, while Netanyahu opposes a unilateral withdrawal from the West Bank, he does not really oppose the concept of a negotiated pullout.

"You will not catch Netanyahu opposing the very idea of a withdrawal from Judea and Samaria, nor will you catch him ever ruling out the destruction of communities and the expulsion of Jews in these lands from which he is prepared to withdraw."

Sackett said Netanyahu is ready to make serious territorial compromises to reach an agreement with the Arabs.

In an indirect reference to the West Bank, Sackett said, "There will be no Palestinian state inside Israel. Israeli forces will remain inside all parts of Israel protecting all of its citizens."

Regarding the current power struggle between Fatah and Hamas, Sackett said Manhigut Yehudit does not distinguish between "moderate" and "other" terrorists.

Asked how Israel can stop Palestinian militants from firing Qassam rockets into Israel, he said, "The army will not hew to 'turn-the-other-cheek' limitations when it comes to stopping the Qassams."

Sackett said that Israel should never relinquish the Golan Heights.

"There will be no negotiating land-for-peace with Syria or any other Arab nation. The land of Israel was given to us by the Almighty and is not negotiable."

Continued on page 12

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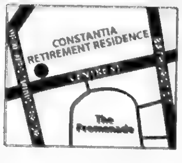

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One Family Fund brings young Israelis to Ont.

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Twenty-one young Israelis flew to Toronto recently to sightsee in southern Ontario and to spend about three weeks up north at Camp Timberlane.

The group, aged 12 to 15, are typical of any other: they are boisterous, playful and excited. But they all share a darkness in their past, to which most North American young people cannot relate.

Young Israelis visited southern Ontario this summer.

These Israelis all have some connection to terrorism. Many have family members who have been injured or killed in terrorist attacks.

The Canadian branch of the One Family Fund organized the trip, along with other sponsors, including Camp Timberlane, in the Haliburton Highlands. The camp is letting the kids, who arrived in Toronto on July 22 with two young One Family Fund staff members, stay at the camp free.

"I hope that they are able to change their focus from feeling their pain and suffering every day to finding a positive focus, to be able to move forward, learning about new interests, feeling less stressed or anxious… and just having a break from the trauma that they live with every day," said One Family Fund's Canadian executive director Pam Albert.

The organization was established in Israel after the first intifadah to raise money and provide emotional support for victims of terror. This is the second year that the Canadian branch organized the group trip.

After their arrival, the young people were hosted in small groups by Toronto families and enjoyed a variety of sightseeing activities, including a day trip to Niagara Falls, a tour of the Air Canada Centre, breakfast at United Bakers Dairy Restaurant and shopping at Yorkdale Mall. They left for Camp Timberlane on July 25, where they'll stay until Aug. 16.

Timberlane is not an exclusively Jewish summer camp. "We're trying to make a connection with our kids for the Israeli kids and with the Israeli kids for our kids," said camp director Corey Mandell. "There is a common bond with the Jewish kids immediately."

Bernie Little is a Timberlane alumni, and after visiting the camp last year when the first group of Israelis were there, he wanted to get involved and expand the project. This year, he and his friend Reuben Lerner helped raise more than $65,000 for the trip, including money from a previous sponsor, the Spin Master toy company, and many Timberlane alumni.

"I decided I would take it upon myself to approach a lot of alumni, tell them what was going on and see if they would help sponsor these kids. I was successful in that there were more kids this year," said Little, who is general manager of Nortown Air.

"I'm very emotionally attached to Israel. It gives me a chance to do something and contribute in a tangible way that I can see. I'm also emotionally involved with Camp Timberlane."

Albert said she's "proud of our community for finding a way to do this and providing support, and an opportunity for other kids to be exposed to this."

Mayan Lalazri is a 15-year-old Israeli visiting Canada for the first time. She is bubbly and warm, eager to share her story and frustrated when her English fails her mid-train of thought. She dresses like a typical trendy North American teen, in a bejeweled white hoodie and white flats, and her azul blue eyeliner rims dark, expressive brown eyes.

"It's so, so, so amazing," she gushed about the trip, the day before she was set to leave for Timberlane.

"Everyone is here for one reason, everyone has a big story behind them, and a sad story."

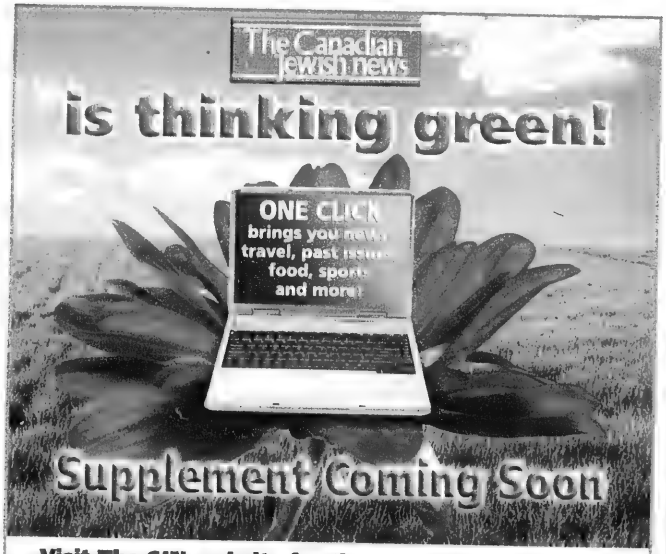
Five years ago, Mayan's father, Naftali, was at the end of his shift, driving a bus near the Gaza Strip, when he came across a chaotic scene. A bomb had exploded on another bus, and the injured passengers were trapped inside with the suicide bomber, alive with gun in hand. Naftali approached the bus, and the passengers screamed for him to open the door and take them to the hospital. The suicide bomber pointed the gun and shot at the bulletproof door, straight at Naftali's face. He ducked down and opened the door.

Naftali managed to shepherd the injured passengers onto his bus and successfully transported them to the hospital. Before that happened, the bomber shot at Naftali once more, and a police officer, a friend, shielded Naftali from the bullet with his own body.

"Since then, my father can't sleep, he can't listen to music – it's not easy for him and I can understand," said Mayan. She first learned about the incident when she saw her father interviewed on television that day.

"I was so worried I started to cry," she remembered.

The day she was leaving for Timberlane, she was excited and grateful to her host family and the One Family Fund.



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The UN and Darfur: not quite enough

No one should believe that the resolution passed by the United Nations Security Council last week will stop the slaughter in Darfur. Security Council Resolution 1769 authorized the deployment of up to 26,000 troops and police in the western Sudan region known as Darfur, where since 2003, some quarter million human beings have been murdered and more than 2.5 million displaced from their homes. But these troops will not save too many Darfurians who are running for their lives.

When it is put into place, the new UN force will join the ineffectual 7,000 troops from the African Union already in Darfur. It will be called UNAMID, an acronym for United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur. The resolution that created UNAMID was significantly eviscerated of true peacekeeping mettle to enable it to pass by China, the protective patron of the duplicitous Sudanese government.

UNAMID forces are not empowered to seize illegal weaponry, disarm militias or arrest suspected war criminals. They can only monitor their movement and operate only "without prejudice to the responsibility of the government of Sudan" – that is, essentially only with the permission of the rogue government in Khartoum. The force will be permitted to fire in self defence and to protect civilians in flight. But it will have neither the legal nor military authorization necessary to stop the fighting, establish and then maintain peace, all of which are the prerequisites to saving the lives of the poor suffering Darfurians.

Moreover, the cost of dispatching these soldiers is a considerable $2 billion per year. Thus, the first UNAMID soldier might not so soon step foot on west Sudanese soil.

But the Security Council decision is not to be totally derided. The 26,000-strong armed force, after all, is the largest-ever Security Council deployment and is indicative, even if only in small increments, of the hardening attitude in the West to a conflict that must be resolved.

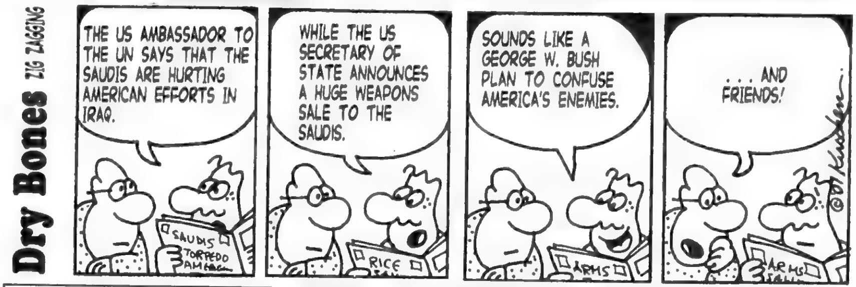
In his first visit to the United Nations as British prime minister, Gordon Brown told the Security Council "If any party blocks progress and the killings continue, I and others will redouble our efforts to impose further sanctions." Brown's allusion to "any party who blocks progress" was a transparent reference to the governments in Khartoum and in Beijing.

Two days after Resolution 1769 passed, Canada announced that it will increase its aid contribution to try to help alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Darfur by some $48 million. Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay pegged Canada's total contribution to Darfur over the last three years at $441 million. The money will be disbursed through the Canadian International Development Agency and will be allocated primarily to the delivery of food and other humanitarian aid. Canada is to be commended for its generosity in the cause of saving lives. But none of us should be deceived into believing that the tangled twine of rape, looting, murder, harassment, persecution, prevarication, corruption and deceit on the part of the cynical oppressors of the people in Darfur will be soon straightened out.

Prime Minister Brown said "it was time for a change in Darfur." But little will change until the Security Council sends troops there who will not only fight to save their own lives but who will have the power to fight to prevent the murderers from taking lives.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

International attacks on Israel escalated in the wake of the Lebanon war. Palestinian supporters at a UNESCO conference as well as at a women's conference at Concordia University in Montreal charged Israel with using Nazi-like tactics and genocide. In Paris, a terror attack on a Jewish restaurant and adjacent shul killed at least six and injured dozens.


Dry Bones ZIG ZAGGING
THE US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN SAYS THAT THE SAUDIS ARE HURTING AMERICAN EFFORTS IN IRAQ.
SAUDIS TORPEDO AM...
WHILE THE US SECRETARY OF STATE ANNOUNCES A HUGE WEAPONS SALE TO THE SAUDIS.
RICE
SOUNDS LIKE A GEORGE W. BUSH PLAN TO CONFUSE AMERICA'S ENEMIES.
ARMS
. . . AND FRIENDS!
ARMS
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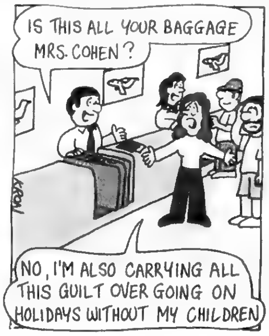
Tory's plan for faith-based schools only

As the Oct. 10 Ontario provincial election approaches, Progressive Conservative leader John Tory's plan to end discrimination against Ontario non-Catholics by bringing non-Catholic faith-based schools into the public school system is sure to be in the news. While it is gratifying to see your ongoing coverage of this issue, it is crucial that your readers receive an accurate account of the PC proposal.

Contrary to last week's story, Tory does not propose to "integrate private and faith-based schools into the public system" but only the latter ("Tory fleshes out school funding pledge," *CJN*, Aug. 2). True, in his response to Tory, Premier Dalton McGuinty wilfully distorted the PC proposal in that direction. This fabrication, however, speaks not to the facts of the plan but to McGuinty's ongoing disreputable efforts to exploit the Tory proposal and children in non-Catholic faith-based schools for cheap electoral gain.

Eric Lawee
Thornhill, Ont.


IS THIS ALL YOUR BAGGAGE MRS. COHEN?
NO, I'M ALSO CARRYING ALL THIS GUILT OVER GOING ON HOLIDAYS WITHOUT MY CHILDREN
KROW

* * *

Shakespeare was a money lender

For generations, Jews have been scorned and humiliated by being called "Shylocks," because of the character created by William Shakespeare ("Bold steps by this *Merchant*," *CJN*, From the editor's desk, July 16). So I found it ironic and at the same time comforting to read the following passage in *Shakespeare: The Biography*, by Peter Ackroyd: "He [Shakespeare's father, John] also lent money at an illegal rate of interest to his neighbours, a trade which passed under the unhappy name of 'usury.' The legal rate was 10 per cent but John Shakespeare lent 100 British pounds to a business colleague at interest of 20 per cent and a further 80 British pounds to another contemporary at the same rate. He charged the excess because it had become standard practice. He could get away with it, in other words. Money-lending was itself widely accepted, in a period where there were no banks or credit facilities, and it was even one in which his son engaged from time to time."

Brian Gans
Montreal

* * *

Olive oil

I enjoyed Alex Gropper's column "The olive and olive oil," *CJN*, June 21) and would certainly be interested in hearing more about the planned conference on olive oil in the Mediterranean. I would also recommend Mort Rosenblum's *Olives: The Life and Lore of a Noble Fruit*, a wonderful book on the subject.

Mark Smilovitch
Montreal

* * *

Missionary propaganda

Many Montreal Jews received a DVD in English and in Hebrew with the title *Days of Moshiach*. This sleek piece of propaganda, picturing a Jew in a prayer shawl blowing a ram's horn, was mailed by a Brooklyn missionary organization whose aim is to convert Jews to their religion. One must examine carefully their website to understand that Jewish themes and Hebrew language are only used to fool and bait Jews. While each individual is free to believe in any religion, it is dishonest to trick people and to harass Jews with this mass mailing. It is also disturbing that such a group managed to acquire a huge list of Jews and their home addresses.

Claude David Chomski
Montreal

* * *

Scientists are modern-day Jeremiahs

Tisha b'Av, which we commemorated this year on July 24, reminds us that more than 2,000 years ago, Jews failed to heed the warnings of the prophet Jeremiah, which resulted in the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem.

Now the entire world, not just Jerusalem, faces destruction according to many climate scientists and environmentalists – modern-day "Jeremiahs." Some noted climate experts, including James Hansen of NASA, are warning that global warming could reach a tipping point and spin out of control within a decade, with catastrophic consequences, unless major changes are soon made.

Israel is endangered, since global climate change could reduce the rainfall that Israel is so dependent on and could cause the Mediterranean Sea to rise, threatening the 60 per cent of Israelis who live on its coastal plain.

Israel also has other major environmental problems. More Israelis die from air pollution than from terrorism and automobile accidents combined, and Israeli rivers are badly polluted.

The Jewish people must make tikkun olam a major focus of Jewish life today and consider personal and societal changes that will start to move our precious, but imperilled, planet to a sustainable path. By doing this, we would be performing a great kiddush HaShem.

Richard H. Schwartz
Staten Island, N.Y.

LET THEM GO...

Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Ehud Goldwasser, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz, Eldad Regev, Gilad Shalit

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Palestinians not the only refugees after 1948

The following are excerpts from written testimony sent July 20 by MP Irwin Cotler to the U.S. Congressional Human Rights Caucus in Washington, D.C. The caucus was addressing the issue of Jewish and other refugees left homeless after their mass displacement from Arab countries following World War II.

In 1987, I had occasion, with the late justice Arthur Goldberg of the Supreme Court of the United States, who was then the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, to co-chair a tribunal on justice for Jews from Arab lands.

One of the witnesses who came before us lamented why this was happening 40 years later. Now, 20 years after that tribunal, 60 years after the fact, that lament appears to be more pronounced. Yet there are a number of compelling, indeed urgent considerations that have converged to give this congressional briefing the moral and juridical compellability that it warrants.

The first is the willingness that you are seeing here today – witnesses coming forward to begin to tell their story. The very establishment of a group called Justice for Jews in Arab Countries has, in a sense, four years later, acknowledged and validated the principle of *zachor*, of remembrance, for people to give their testimony and have it acknowledged and respected, and have their experience recognized and understood.

The second are the massive human rights violations that this briefing will address, exposing the state-sanctioned character of these violations, something that has not been properly appreciated, including Nuremberg-type laws that resulted in forced expulsions.

The third is an evolution in international human rights and humanitarian law that has taken place in the last 10 years. More has happened in the last 10 years than in the previous 60 years. The principles that underpin this briefing and bring us here today – (1) the right to memory, *zachor*; (2) the right to truth; (3) the pursuit of justice; (4) the right of redress; (5) the obligation to remember and make redress – these are not just normative principles, they are now principles of international human rights and humanitarian law.

The fourth reason is that the whole question of refugees and refugee claims is at the forefront of the peace process, and is integral to the "road map" peace plan – indeed the Quartet (United States, Russia, European Union and United Nations) is meeting to-day in Lisbon – and that gives the issue of refugees a compellability in regard to the peace process.

May I share with you a number of principles that must underpin this briefing and allow for an appreciation of the compellability of the issues.

The first principle addresses the whole question of the pursuit of truth and the duty of remembrance. We are speaking here not just about "a forgotten exodus," as it has been called, but behind the statistics are the lives of human beings. We're talking about universes. You had, in 1948, close to 900,000 Jews in Arab lands. Today, there are fewer than 8,000 remaining in some 10 Arab countries. This is astonishing. And, as I say, we're not talking about just statistics; we're talking in human terms – 97 per cent of Jews from Arab countries having left their countries of origin, where Jews were living for over 2,500 years.

We're not talking about "a forgotten exodus," but about the forced expulsion of these Jews. This forced expulsion was the result of state-orchestrated, state-sanctioned patterns of oppression, which included beatings; which included persecutions; which included pogroms described in a report I co-authored in 2003 titled *Jewish Refugees: The Case for Rights and Redress.*

Most important, the report detailed the enactment in the Arab countries of Nuremberg-type laws which decreed, for example, that Jews were the enemies of the state in which they lived, that Jews were to be denied or forfeit their citizenship, that their property was to be sequestered, that their assets were to be seized, which effectively destroyed their livelihood as well as the lives of complete communities. This Nuremberg-type dimension has not been sufficiently known, let alone appreciated.

What has emerged from this report is that these massive human rights violations – there is no other term to describe them – were not simply events that occurred coincidentally or haphazardly, or as a result of state sanctions or repression. There was a concerted effort here that suggests a criminal intention that in effect robbed the Jews of their livelihood, if not also their lives and communities.

The principles of the rights to justice ensure under international human rights and humanitarian law that victims of such massive human rights violations have a right to redress for those human rights violations.

Those responsible for such violations have a duty to make redress. This principle is set forth in international human rights and humanitarian law. There is even the related principle of unjust enrichment. Not only were properties forcibly sequestered, assets seized and bank accounts blocked, but the Arab countries, in effect, have had the benefit from this type of illegal action for all these years. So there is a case to be made of continuing unjust enrichment that needs to be redressed.

The principle of reconciliation must also be addressed. As has been shown in every country in which the pursuit of truth and the right to justice and redress have been examined, these are prerequisites to reconciliation between people as well as between states. The integrity of a peace process requires the acknowledgment of the truth and the justice that underpin the conflict, and this is something that has not properly been addressed.

Children newly arrived from Arab lands at their temporary homes in Beit Lid in Israel in 1950. [Keren Hayesod photos]

There is also the principle of prevention. Not only do you have the matter of truth and justice, but reconciliation will allow for the prevention of such conflict in the future.

Having regard to these principles of truth and justice and reconciliation and state responsibility for massive human rights violations, the time has come to rectify this historical injustice.

Any narrative on the Middle East that does not include justice for Jewish refugees is a case study in Middle East revisionism. It is an assault on truth and memory and justice. Rights for Jewish refugees from Arab countries have to be part of any peace process if that peace process is going to have integrity.

The United Nations bears express responsibility for this distorted narrative, for this case study in Mideast revisionism. Since 1947, there have been some 687 resolutions of the UN General Assembly which have dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict. Of these, 101 have dealt only with Palestinian refugees. Not one resolution, not one of these 101 resolutions of the General Assembly, dealt with Jewish refugees from Arab countries.

I am not saying that the UN should not have dealt with the issue of Palestinian refugees. That is part of the issue of truth, justice and reconciliation. But to have dealt only with the issue of Palestinian refugees and not to have addressed, in any of the resolutions, the issue of Jewish refugees, and for that matter, Christian refugees as well, is not only a matter of a distorted narrative, but is contributing to the injustice.

If one studies the UN's involvement in the singling out of Israel for differential and discriminatory treatment in the international arena, serious questions are raised about the appropriateness of the United Nations' having a role in the Quartet.

Unless the UN assumes its responsibility in the pursuit of justice, in the proper duties of remembrance and in the right of redress, we are speaking here of a misrepresentation and distortion of the narrative by that body. It is inconceivable and unjust for any narrative of the Mideast not to include the story of Jewish refugees from Arab countries and their rights to redress.

A Middle East narrative that would be founded on the principles of truth and justice and that would lead to reconciliation would have to acknowledge a situation where refugees – both Palestinian Arab refugees and Jewish refugees from Arab lands – are both the joint victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict. I would say the joint victims of the Arab war against Israel in 1947 and 1948.

You can sum up the historical pattern of the Israeli-Palestinian Arab conflict under the rubric of double rejectionism. By double rejectionism, I mean that the Arab leadership and the Palestinian leadership, were prepared to forgo the establishment of a Palestinian state, if that meant countenancing a Jewish state.

That was true, in effect, in relation to the UN Partition Resolution of 1947. For, if partition had been accepted by Arab leaders at the time, there would have been no refugees – either Arab or Jewish refugees. Fast forward to Camp David and Taba – the same situation.

But if you look at the historical narrative in terms of truth and justice and reconciliation, one cannot ignore the fact that you have this double rejectionism which was also related to a double aggression. Not only was there a rejection of a Palestinian state if it meant accepting an Israeli state, but war was launched against Israel to eclipse the nascent state in 1947.

On a second front, reprisals were launched against the Jews in their own countries as part of this pattern of repression, both internationally and domestically.

To conclude, what we are dealing with here is a foundational principle, not only on a normative level, but foundational principles now enshrined in international human rights and humanitarian law. Not only are the rights of memory, *zachor*, a central idiom of the Jewish tradition, but there is a duty of remembrance under international law, namely, the duty of respecting the narrative of victims of human rights violations.

Only in this fashion, can we move from truth, to justice – to reconciliation between and among all peoples in the region.

Please see related story on page 29

It's not easy being free

Paradox or cliché, the bumper sticker gave me pause. It's a truism that nothing is free – ironically, not even freedom. I was fascinated by the many ways in which freedom is not free (and the many ways we take so precious an item for granted).

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

People living in a free society are not free to do as they please. We're compelled to follow the rules. We can't drive on the wrong side of the road. We can't steal or murder. We must pay taxes. All societies have rules. Some are established to promote freedom, while others are not. Discerning the difference is a challenge and history is replete with controversies surrounding the debate. Nonetheless, even in a free society, we are not really free to act in any way we wish.

So why is freedom cherished?

Freedom grants citizens freedom of choice and protection of significant rights.

Freedom of choice is a key to democratic social and political structures. Voting is crucial to this configuration, yet it took many years for western civilizations to recognize that women and some minorities deserved this choice. The debate over free choice continues in other areas, such as choice in lifestyles and choice in birth. Some of our choices are protected, others are contested. Remarkably, our notions and principles of freedom are still being developed. And that is costly, too. It's not easy being free.

Free societies must protect human or civil rights. We have certain rights as individuals, as well as communal rights. Balancing and maintaining these is a costly affair. Sometimes we go to war to protect them, proving again the appropriateness of the bumper sticker.

The attraction of living with these rights and freedoms has caused frequent population relocations. Jews have repeatedly immigrated to places that welcomed them and protected their communal life.

Freedom of religion is one of these decisive motivations. We in Canada are free to practise religion. What does that mean? It means we are free from coercive religion. No one can force us to participate in any system. (Though they can legislate language.) Freedom of religion confers on us the right to practise our own brand of religion. We can't coerce others, nor interfere with them. But we can believe in our own way. We are free. Keeping that alive is crucial.

Significantly, free societies rely on the responsibilities of their citizenry. It's our job to be vigilant, to exercise our freedoms and take on the responsibilities that good citizenship requires. Freedom of speech doesn't permit hateful or damaging speech. It's a responsibility that requires caution and guardianship.

All our precious freedoms are double-edged, risky and worthy rights.

Freedom is priceless, yet fragile, a great blessing that requires costly maintenance.

Remembering our friends

Last month, I meditated on tombs and the attempt we make to memorialize past heroes and ancestors. I had no inkling that only a couple of weeks after the column appeared, I would experience first hand how some people remember friends.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

It happened like this. Along with other women of our community, I volunteer weekly at a Downtown Eastside drop-in shelter and safe house for women. These are women often afflicted with drug and alcohol addictions, and they pay for their habits – as well as the bread they eat – by prostitution. They are frequently homeless, often beaten and abused by boyfriends, pimps, clients. Their lives are far beyond our usual daily life experiences, but somehow they carry on. They are daughters, sisters, mothers, and our safe house gives them dignity, a warm meal and a few hours of respite from the cruel street. They come to our centre hungry, thirsty and bruised in body and spirit.

Since I have been with the centre, many women I saw weekly have died. Their memorial evenings sometimes take place at the centre, and their photographs are posted to notify others that they have gone. There was Peggy, who had been clean and sober and working, who died quietly in her sleep; another who died after a battle with AIDS; and others, too many others, dead long before their time. (All names are changed, of course.)

One of the women – I will call her Bella – has been a participant since I began volunteering. She always had a smile. I never saw her angry or desperate, even though she struggled with addiction.

Last week, I found her picture on the wall: dead of cancer before her 50th birthday. And then a shock - Bella had been buried at the Jewish cemetery. I had known she was Jewish, but she seemed not to want to be approached about it, so I respected her wishes. If I had known she was ill – but these events are usually known only to staff and the women's close friends. Had I known, I would certainly have visited her.

A small memorial service was held that evening at the centre, and I went to hear how her friends would remember her. There would be a second memorial held the next night with tapes of her singing and someone reading her poems.

But this evening was for the centre women. They lit candles and talked about Bella. How one of the women had first taken her in when she found Bella beaten and bleeding on the street. How Bella was always eager to show her poetry and have it published in the centre newsletter put together by the women; how she always had a smile. How beautiful her voice was when she sang. How she, in turn, had given comfort and care to a woman who was regularly beaten by her "husband."

There were darker stories. Bella had been brusquely warned off when she tried to play with a child in the local park. She had fought off the cancer once, only to have it return and claim her life.

How will we remember Bella? There will not be a great memorial for her. I can add her to the list of graves I visit twice a year at the cemetery. This year, when we recite *Yizkor* at Yom Kippur (in my own mind I call it the "*Great Yizkor*"), I can add Bella to the dialogue I have with friends and family now dead, a short memorial to Bella. It might go something like this:

"Bella, we tried not to fail you, but maybe we did. Your Jewish soul will not go without those to mourn you. I hope your family is remembering you from better times. I saw you in the bad times, but you always had a smile and, I know now, a song and a poem to keep you company. And you had friends who will miss you. You will not be forgotten."

* * *

On a different note: I know that King David's putative tomb is not on the Mount of Olives, as I wrote last column. The shrine is located on Har Zion. So I correct myself and apologize.

Religion in the news

In a previous article, I wrote about the pervasiveness of religion as a dominant theme in the modern public affairs agenda. Recently, I decided to survey the print media to determine how much of a role religion plays in the major issues facing the public today. Arbitrarily choosing July 24, I examined the stories reported in the *Globe and Mail* and the *National Post*, our two so-called secular "national newspapers."

Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

The *National Post* published an article concerning the Vision TV broadcasting of lectures by a fundamentalist from Pakistan who advocated a global jihad that would include the "extermination" of Jews.

One column focused on the training of Afghan police by Canadians as part of our mission in that country and, in that context, discussed the aggressive threats and actions of the Taliban, the fundamentalist sect of Sunni Muslims fomenting violence and oppression in Afghanistan. A different article dealt with the death of 35 Islamic insurgents in Pakistan.

Another story described the secular status of the political dynamics in Turkey in light of the recent elections. It reported that the "victory means fewer religious restrictions in public life, such as the ban on headscarves at university… and the separation of mosque and state."

There was a widely reported story about the government of Canada's restoration of monetary aid to the Palestinians. Because of the religious underpinning of Mideast politics, these issues do not involve international politics only.

And in the "Ideas" section, there was a large article dealing with the historical influence of preacher Aimee Semple McPherson.

The last page of the news section featured three significant stories: one from Bahrain on the *abaya* or traditional covering for women required by Islamic teachings; another from the Balkans on the possibility that "resolving Kosovo's status could inflame the ethnic and religious passions in the most unstable corner of Europe"; and yet another from Riyadh concerning how some Saudis are investing in a Saudi prince's company despite religious edicts warning that this could violate the Islamic ban on usury and liquor.

The *National Post* also contained an editorial on the Vision TV broadcasts, as well as five letters to the editor related to such topics as the Taliban, atheism, Vision TV and a response to an earlier letter concerning original sin and the Bible.

The *Globe and Mail* covered some of the same stories that day, but also carried articles on a number of additional issues. There was a story about the Ontario plan to fund so-called faith-based schools.

There was also an article about U.S. casualties incurred in fighting against the Taliban in Afghanistan. Similarly, in another report concerning gunmen in Iraq and the war between the United States and Iraqi troops, there was mention of the "Shiite-dominated parliament" of Iraq.

There was a story from Islamabad about the reopening of the Red Mosque after more than 100 persons died in fighting between Islamic militants and security forces. And another article described how the "fashion police" in Tehran arrest men with western haircuts as well as women who dress "inappropriately." There was also an editorial concerning the recent Turkish election and its effect on both secular and Islamic elements in that country.

On a lighter note, the lead entertainment story related to the singer Prince and his mastery of "God and sex."

What does all this tell us? Although we live in a secular world, religious issues influence local, national and international events – and not always for the better. Organized religion should be a source of harmony, well-being and peace. Religion should promote and protect human rights rather than being used as an excuse to foment hate and attack those not sharing a particular ideology. There has been too much suffering in the name of God.

At the same time, the possibility that religion can unite people, bring out our best instincts and lead to a better world is a hope and a promise yet to be fulfilled. Only then will religion occupy the world's attention in the positive light that it deserves.

This was a not a scientific study, but I hope the above survey will increase readers' awareness of the prominence of religious-based stories in our media and the impact of religion on all aspects of life.

The Kirshner File

Arab-Israeli conflict has preoccupied Washington

As I was saying last week in the first part of my review of Michael Oren's superb work of popular history, *Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East 1776 to the Present* (W.W. Norton), the role of the United States in that volatile region has undergone a sea change since the 19th century. For a long time, the Middle East was on the back burner of U.S. foreign policy concerns, but the Ottoman massacre of Armenians in World War I and the allure of Arab oil markedly altered Washington's perceptions.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The United States sat back as the main colonial powers, France and Britain, formed League of Nations mandates in Palestine, Iraq and Jordan after the end of World War I in 1918. But Washington was not so passive as the scramble for oil got under way.

Intent on breaking Europe's stranglehold over Mideast oil, the United States, in 1921, corralled the seven major American petroleum companies into a consortium.

After striking it rich in Bahrain, the Americans sought, and received, a royal concession to prospect for oil in Saudi Arabia, a development that Oren describes as "a turning point in America's relations with Arabia." By 1939, Saudi wells had become indispensable.

The conflict in Palestine would soon engage American presidents, starting with the president, Woodrow Wilson. In May 1917, six months before the Balfour Declaration was issued, he expressed his admiration for a "legally secured homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine."

The secretary of state, Robert Lansing, however, was opposed to that pronouncement.

During the 1930s, when isolationism was in vogue, the United States clung to neutrality as the crisis in Palestine escalated. To the Americans, Palestine was a British problem.

In May 1942, American Zionists, for the first time, explicitly endorsed Jewish statehood rather than autonomy. To most Americans, the Mideast was still terra incognita, Hollywood films such as *Casablanca* and *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* notwithstanding.

At the height of the Holocaust, King Saud of Saudi Arabia sent president Franklin Roosevelt a memorandum denouncing Zionism. In response, Roosevelt pledged that the United States would take no position on Palestine without first consulting the Arabs. He repeated that promise after conferring with King Saud aboard the cruiser Quincy in the Great Bitter Lake in Egypt.

Roosevelt's successor, Harry Truman, was caught on the horns of a dilemma. Should he listen to the State Department and the Pentagon and reject the idea of a Jewish state? Or should he trust in American idealism and endorse it?

Diplomats and generals had told Truman that Jewish statehood would sow instability, increase Soviet influence and jeopardize oil supplies. But the plight of Holocaust survivors languishing in Europe and in camps in Cyprus, combined with the persuasive rhetoric of Zionist lobbyists, gave him pause.

Truman placed his administration behind the United Nations 1947 partition plan, but then, to the shock and outrage of Zionists, voiced support for a trusteeship for Palestine. In a startling volte face reflective of divisions in Washington, Truman shifted his position yet again and finally backed partition.

The United States recognized Israel, and Ralph Bunche – the first African-American to earn a Harvard PhD – facilitated armistice agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Surveying the political landscape in the wake of Israel's War of Independence, Oren says that the United States faced "agonizing choices."

On the one hand, it could continue supporting Israel and face the wrath of the Arabs. On the other, it could stand with Britain and France to stave off Soviet encroachments and coddle Arab nationalists. Adopting a middle-of-the-road position, Washington initiated a dialogue with Egypt's new military regime – which would soon be headed by Gamal Abdel Nasser – but played a role in overthrowing Iran's leftist Mossadegh government and replacing it with the pro-western Pahlavi monarchy, which lasted until 1979.

Oren is critical of the Eisenhower administration for siding with Egypt and its ally, the Soviet Union, during the 1956 Suez war.

Claiming that this policy backfired, he argues that the United States earned contempt from the Soviets, acrimony from the French and British, and antagonism from many Arab quarters.

Oren's analysis of the policies pursued by Eisenhower's successors is instructive.

Thanks, in part, to the support of the Jewish community, John Kennedy – the first Catholic president – squeaked out a victory. Kennedy was openly friendly toward Israel and sold the Israelis Hawk ground-to-ground missiles, thereby setting a precedent for U.S. arms sales to the Jewish state.

But in private, he rejected the claim by the prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, that Israel was developing nuclear power for merely peaceful purposes and urged him to settle the festering Palestinian refugee issue.

Henry Kissinger, the U.S. secretary of state, second from left, and Kenneth Keating, American ambassador to Israel, second from right, confer with Israel's leadership during a round of shuttle diplomacy in 1975. From left are Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister; Yigal Allon, foreign minister; and Shimon Peres, the defence minister.

Lyndon Johnson's support of Israel "scarcely wavered," particularly after the Six Day War. Oren notes that Israel's triumph persuaded even skeptics in his administration that Israel was a useful Cold War ally.

Johnson sold the Israelis 150 Skyhawk and Phantom jets and completed the historic process of replacing France as Israel's principal arms supplier.

Richard Nixon's support of Israel stemmed from Washington's rivalry with Moscow. He and his second secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, believed that if Israel felt secure, it would take greater risks for peace.

In fact, the hawkish Israeli prime minister, Golda Meir, missed a golden opportunity in 1971 to make peace with Egypt. Oren's examination of Nixon's policy during and after the Yom Kippur War is incisive.

The Gerald Ford interregnum was notable for the separation-of-forces agreements that Kissinger hammered out between Israel, Syria and Egypt.

But there was also a crisis in Washington's bilateral relations with Israel. When the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, initially refused to withdraw from the Abu Rodeis oilfields in the Sinai Peninsula, Ford grimly announced a "reassessment" of American policy in the region.

Oren's tone in describing the Jimmy Carter era is somewhat snarky. To give Carter his due, he worked tirelessly to promote the 1978 Camp David accords and Israel's 1979 peace treaty with Egypt. He was also ahead of the curve in recognizing the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians and pledging to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization once it accepted United Nations Resolution 242.

Ronald Reagan's relationship with Israel was complex, says Oren. He "revered" Israel but regarded oil as a paramount interest.

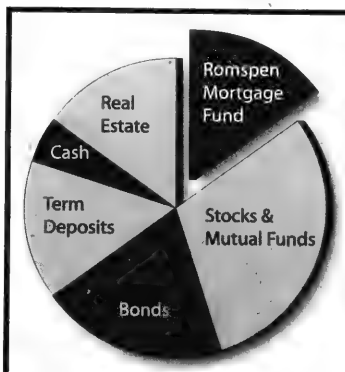
George Bush, the father of the current president, supported Iraq to contain Iran, but then attacked Iraq and convinced Israel to stay out of the Gulf War.

Bill Clinton strove mightily to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute through the Palestinian and Syrian tracks, but failed.

In closing, Oren lists American achievements and setbacks in the Mideast and foresees huge "collisions" pitting the West against Islamic radicals and the U.S. against Iran.

Despite these "cataclysms," he adds, the U.S. will not shy away from the Middle East and will try to preserve its dominant position there.

In other words, one should expect still more interesting times in the Middle East, a region of importance to the United States.



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Greater Toronto Area

Israeli medical fellows, residents meet in Toronto

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

The Canadian chapter of the Israel Medical Association recently welcomed Israeli medical fellows and residents to Toronto with a barbecue.

"Our main goal is to make them feel welcome, to know that as physicians here they can turn to someone," said association president Rose Geist.

The Israel Medical Association (IMA) is a professional organization for physicians with 39 international chapters.

The barbecue, on July 26 at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, allowed residents and fellows to meet not only one another but also their families and children.

Zulma Tovar-Spinoza is in the middle of her second year of a fellowship. Last year, she completed a year of neurosurgery at the Hospital for Sick Children; this year she is focusing on epilepsy.

She said that with the help of the IMA, the fellows and residents feel connected. They mainly live in the Bathurst Street and Eglinton Avenue area, which, she said, they call "the kibbutz."

"We share more than our professional lives, we share daily lives. We play in the playground."

Tovar-Spinoza moved to Toronto from Petah Tikvah with her husband Yosef, mother Julia and three young sons, Ari, Hai and Eitan.

She said she and her family love Canada. "Even in winter," she said. She does not know where they will live once her fellowship is over.

Tovar-Spinoza said it is important for the whole Jewish community to be aware of the medical fellows and residents who uproot themselves to come to Canada because they need a lot of support, not only economically but socially as well.

Her husband, Yosef, works as an agronomist for a Canadian company. But Tovar-Spinoza said that many spouses of medical fellows and residents don't work and can often be very lonely.

The barbecue was her first event with the IMA, and she plans to get more involved in the future.

"I think it's a big effort – it's such a good idea to let the Israeli fellows know [about each other]. It's such a big step coming here."

The Canadian chapter of the IMA has 220 members, all physicians. It organizes events and lectures throughout the year, and also has some scholarships and grants to promote medical study in Canada and Israel.

"The goal is to encourage the collaborative spirit between Israeli and Canadian physicians and foster opportunities for students of medicine to go back and forth," said Geist, who is the director of the child and adolescent medical psychiatry department at the Hospital for Sick Children.

The next IMA event is a dinner lecture on Oct. 11 about postpartum depression and major depressive illness.

NEPTUNE KNITTERS: The Two Neptune Greenery Group of Knitters display their plaque from Jewish Family and Child, given to them for the knitted goods they have donated. Five years ago, the group also created a greenery room full of plants and an attractive roof garden for the benefit of the residents. [Monty Mazin

Sackett favours action against Iran

Continued from page 6

Speaking of Iran's nuclear ambitions and its president's threats to destroy Israel, Sackett observed, "Israel cannot afford even a single nuclear attack. Therefore, we will have to act to deter the possibility of a nuclear attack. We can only rely on ourselves."

He said that Israel has a choice: it can try to knock out Iran's nuclear installations militarily or attempt to destabilize the Iranian government.

"In any case, we will not ignore the threat."

In closing, Sackett said Israel has strayed from the path of righteousness.

"We have been on the wrong road map for a long time. Suicidal concessions [and] appeasement of terrorists all lead to death and destruction. Only a leader who has Jewish values can change [Israel's] direction. With God's help, Manhigut Yehudit will win, and once again Israel will be a light unto to the nations."

JTS student receives fellowship in pastoral care

Deborah Miller
[Frances Kraft photo]

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Deborah Miller, a rabbinical student at the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, spent three summers as a volunteer at Baycrest doing "a lot of friendly visiting."

This summer, she was back at the long-term care facility two mornings a week as part of a 400-hour clinical pastoral education (CPE) program that ran from April 30 to July 20. Now she is completing an additional two weeks at Jewish Family and Child's hospice program doing home visits.

The program also includes students doing master's degrees in divinity at the University of Toronto. Some of the other rabbinical students in Miller's JTS class – all of whom must take, at minimum, a basic pastoral skills class – are doing similar programs in other cities, including Vancouver. Their time is divided between visiting patients and talking about what they are learning.

Miller – a 26-year-old Toronto native who attended Associated Hebrew Schools and William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute before receiving her bachelor's degree in public affairs and policy management from Carleton University – was chosen to receive this year's Harold Wolfe and Phyllis Flatt Families Fellowship.

The fellowship – a partnership with JTS, the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care and the Toronto Institute for Pastoral Education – is in its second year of funding a JTS rabbinical student who is Canadian or has strong ties to Canada, to complete the pastoral care program. Last year it was given to Montrealer Jarrod Grover.

Miller has a family affiliation with Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, a traditional Conservative congregation whose rabbis have been completely supportive of her decision, she said.

Although she had no major lifestyle change to adjust to for her future career – she grew up keeping kosher and Shabbat – she had to learn synagogue skills that are used only by men at Beth Emeth.

Miller's decision to become a rabbi was sudden but deeply felt. She was in Israel as part of the leadership program Otzma and was "literally having a conversation crossing the street" when she was struck by "the need for female spiritual leadership."

In addition to spending time at Baycrest with the palliative care unit, Miller is also part of the "spiritual care team" at Toronto Western Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital and Toronto General Hospital. She serves patients from a wide variety of faiths – not just Jewish – and has been with some of them at the moment of death.

Sharing intense and meaningful moments with patients is "pretty huge," she said. "It definitely reinforced that I want chaplaincy to be a part of whatever rabbinate I end up with.

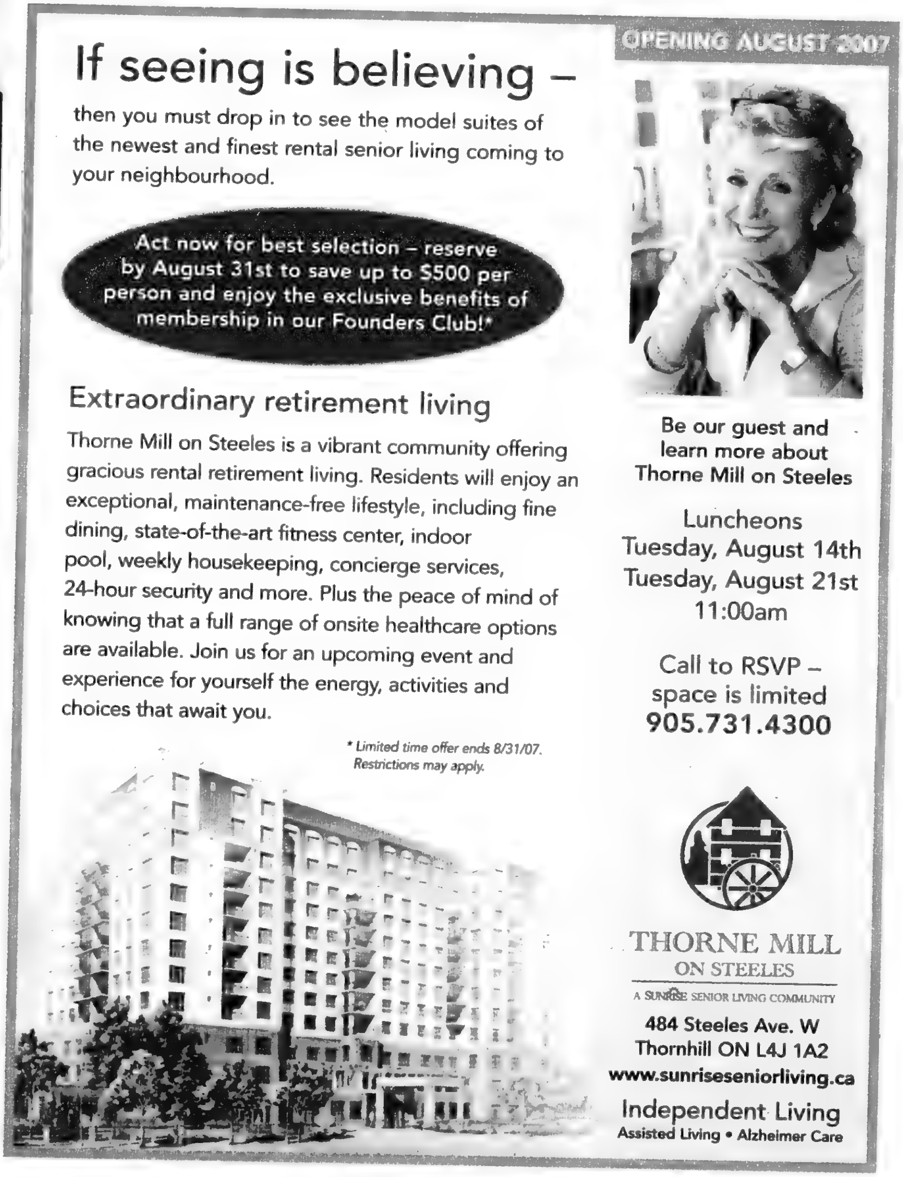
"It's really incredible to be with people in times when they're really struggling, or in times of great joy, or reaching some level of peace or security."

However, she noted, because of the intensity of the experience, she has to be "prepared to be open with myself" and to explore what it is going to evoke in her.

To avoid burnout, she finds that prayer is "super-important." As well, she works out several times a week and keeps a journal that has become an important part of her life.

Often, she finds, patients just want someone to talk to, particularly before surgery or at the end of their life. In other instances, she might recite psalms or "spontaneous prayers." A translation of the *Misheberach*, the Jewish prayer for healing, offers "a lot of what people are looking for," she has found.

For patients seeking answers to tough questions, Miller said she is "pretty honest about not having answers. A lot of times I can be the opportunity for them to have the conversation. A lot is the emotion behind it."



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Jewish Life

A contemporary parable

By RABBI AVRAHAM E. PLOTKIN

Rabbinic Reflections

I recently received an e-mail from a good friend of mine encouraging me to watch a video clip on You Tube filmed in Kruger National Park in South Africa.

It's one of those amazing moments captured on film by some amateur photographers. A baby water buffalo taking a stroll with his family is attacked by a group of hungry lions that chase away the older water buffaloes and keep their prize, the baby. After a tug-of-war with some menacing crocodiles in a water hole, the lions finally sit down for their feast. To their surprise, however, the water buffaloes return with their family and friends. The buffaloes surround the lions with amazing symmetry, and after a dramatic fight, they succeed in saving their baby through teamwork and unity.

When I saw this film clip, I found myself intuitively cheering on the buffaloes and identifying with them – not only because they were the underdogs and we as Jews can relate to that, but because I was impressed by their strong sense of family and community, which I learned exists even among animals.

The buffaloes did not give up and abandon their child but came back with their entire community to save him. This amazing commitment to their child against all odds resonated within me very deeply.

I believe that we have a lot to learn from the animal kingdom. This story has an amazing message for the Jewish community in the 21st century.

The single greatest challenge that the community faces today comes from the vicious forces of assimilation. Like hungry lions, they are preying on our youth with great zest. The forces of assimilation are actually made up of many diverse sub-categories (crocodiles) that are tirelessly eating away and robbing us of our most precious commodity… our children. Missionaries, cults, intermarriage, ignorance and anti-Semitism are just a few of the "crocodiles" that are preying on our children on campuses around the world, in the streets and in the workplaces. In fact, according to most recent statistics, forces of assimilation are unfortunately succeeding in robbing us of our children in staggering numbers!

How do we counter such formidable forces that threaten the very future of our people?

First of all, like the water buffalo, we must never give up on our children. No child must be left behind to be devoured by the "lions and crocodiles" of assimilation. Then, like the buffalo, we must pool together all of our community resources to save our children.

What does this mean in practical terms? Basically, we cannot rely anymore on the efforts of individuals and outreach groups alone to change the tide of assimilation. While the valiant and heroic efforts of individual people and groups are praiseworthy and extremely successful, they are still falling short of averting the looming spiritual catastrophe threatening the very future of our people.

Only through the collective efforts of absolutely every member of the entire community will we succeed. We must draft every single Jew who cares about the future of our people in order to succeed in saving the Jewish people.

As the Lubavitcher Rebbe once said: "Every Jew who knows the Hebrew letter 'aleph' has the responsibility to teach 'aleph.'" Only when we all become outreach workers will we succeed. Like the buffalo, we must go back and call our friends, every one of them, to join in our efforts to save our children now!

Rabbi Avraham E. Plotkin is the spiritual leader and executive director of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham.

Shivah 101

IDEAS ON IDENTITY

By Rabbi Elyse Goldstein

As a rabbi, I've obviously made many shivah calls. I go as a "professional," and I was taught the formulas to say. But I have also been a mourner myself and have been the "support system" for my husband when he was a mourner, and in those personal experiences, I've had a chance to watch the way others pay a shivah call.

Here's what I've learned: it's a special skill to comfort the bereaved. Unfortunately, we are mostly uncomfortable and awkward. Some of us avoid the whole thing. We let our own baggage get in the way – our fears, old hurts and resentments (did they pay a shivah call to me?), our own losses and the painful memories that paying a shivah call to someone else bring out. The skill needed to make a shivah call is to let go of ourselves and simply support someone else.

Here then is "Shivah 101" drawn from my own experiences of loss and the wonderful ways in which people supported us:

Go, even if you didn't know the deceased or aren't a close friend or family of the mourner. If you are a colleague from work or the shul, or a next-door neighbour, go, even if just for a short visit. The mourners want to know that they are still alive and that they still matter, and that "the community" cares – not just their own small circle.

Go during the second half of shivah. "Everyone" will go in the first few days, and the crowds thin out later in the week. If you went to the first big minyan, the mourner may not have even seen you, and you didn't get a chance to talk. Go again at the end.

Go during the day. Days are long and lonely. Kids may be in school, and other relatives back at work. It's during the day that the quiet is felt more keenly.

If there is a morning minyan, go then. It's harder to rouse people for a visit at 7 a.m. than at 7 p.m.

Sponsor a meal. Lunches are a wonderful time to serve the mourners yourself and lend a listening ear while they reminisce or just feel blue or overwhelmed.

Ask about the deceased. The mourners don't have to make conversation or may not feel like talking, but chances are they will want to speak about the person they just lost more than about work or the latest gossip or the news.

Don't "send condolences" through another person. Pick up the phone or send a card yourself. Are we really so busy that we can't take five minutes for a quick call?

Obviously, a tragic death is harder than an expected one or than dying at a ripe old age. In the case of a tragic or sudden death, don't ask the mourners, "How are you?" They feel terrible, but they also feel pressured to tell you they are just fine. Ask instead what you can do to help, or sit and hold their hand in silence and let them cry.

Is there ever a "good time" to lose someone you love? Is life ever really long enough? There is always one more simchah, one more seder their loved ones wanted them to attend. It's comforting to the mourners to hear that they were blessed to have this person for so long, but we should never intimate that it was "long enough."

Judaism is a religion of skill, and people get nervous about performing a mitzvah if they think they don't know how. But paying a shivah call goes beyond knowing the Hebrew formulas. It goes to the heart of being a friend and a member of a caring community.

Rolling the dice

Money Matters

By Rabbi Jay Kelman CA

The accusations against a National Basketball Association official in a recent gambling scandal have highlighted the potential problems gambling may present to the integrity of professional sports.

Judaism has always looked askance at gambling. It is viewed as an activity that does not contribute to society's welfare. Nothing is produced except for an artificial transfer of wealth. While Jewish law disqualifies only professional gamblers from testifying in a court of law – as by dint of their profession, they "are not involved in the settling of the world" (Sanhedrin 24b) – all forms of gambling are frowned upon.

Gambling should not, however, be confused with risk-taking. While investing in the stock market may be a "gamble," the market itself serves a crucial economic function, and participating in it presents few ethical pitfalls, even though one is "betting" on which way the market will move.

In today's complex economy and with different modes of fundraising, the issue of gambling has become much more nuanced. Ontario and Nevada have legalized gambling on which thousands of jobs depend and which raises millions of dollars for government coffers. While one could advance many arguments against the legalization of gambling, most of them – such as potential addiction, loss of one's capital, family stress, criminal elements - are not intrinsic to gambling per se, and while important, do not necessarily render recreational gambling prohibited.

While the activities inside the casinos may be of little merit, one cannot honestly argue that they serve no useful function, at least after they have been established. Perhaps one can now argue that for recreational purposes, one would be allowed to visit such a casino. Is a night at the slot machines much different from spending money on a sporting event? Both spectator sports and gambling contribute little from a moral perspective, but in addition to generating important economic activity, they provide an evening of relaxation and fun, something which (in moderation) is most necessary and worthy from a religious perspective.

Even less problematic is participation in the myriads of government-sanctioned lotteries. While some rabbinic authorities have prohibited them as a form of inappropriate gambling, the generally accepted view is to allow people to purchase a lottery ticket. This is due to the fact that most of the monies go to support all kinds of permissible and even laudatory activities, be they educational or recreational initiatives.

It is hard to find a Jewish institution worth its weight that does not have some kind of fundraising lottery. In addition to the benefit for the sponsoring organization, most people who purchase such tickets do so more to support the institution than in the hope of winning – thus rendering it more like a donation and less like gambling.

Religious organizations must, however, also be concerned with the type of message they may be sending when they raise money. Thus a halachic authority, Rav Moshe Feinstein, in attempting to find a balance between raising funds and the appropriate role of a synagogue, ruled that a bingo fundraiser could be sanctioned if it was not held on synagogue premises.

Jewish law demands that for an agreement to be binding, there must be full consent. As all understand that games of chance are just that, there is an acceptance that one can easily lose, and therefore, such consent is present. Thus, regardless of the moral implications, such gambling losses are legally enforceable. However when you rely on skill, i.e. betting that I will beat you at chess, that consent may very well be missing, since you are only betting because you "know" you will win. Thus collecting such winning may run afoul of the prohibition of theft.

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Jewish genealogy – Pt. 2

The Jewish Highway

Last time we looked at the multi-faceted website JewishGen: The Home of Jewish Genealogy, the place to go online when you are starting to research your Jewish roots. **[jewishgen.org]** As good as JewishGen is, it can't do the genealogy job alone. Today, the best of the rest.

Your first stop should be at the website of Winnipeg's Louis Kessler, whose love of genealogy began as he puts it, "Fairly abruptly. At my cousin Edith's house in 1974, with an out-of-town relative there from Los Angeles, a few of the cousins started piecing together a small chart of how the family was related. The nine Braunstein brothers and sisters (that included my grandfather) were scrawled onto a napkin. That was it! I was hooked." Along the way, Kessler has learned a great deal and lucky for us, shares his knowledge on his website. **[lkessler.com]**

Kessler's Jewish Genealogy Links may not be the most exhaustive list you'll find on the web. But what makes it an invaluable resource is that he has annotated his links with helpful comments. As well, he cleverly codes sites into categories such as News, How to, Tool, Data, Files and Links. Elsewhere on his site, he provides mini-reviews of the best commercial genealogical software available, as well as information and a trial download of his own genealogy software program, titled Behold. **[lkessler.com/gplinks.shtml]**

In hindsight I shouldn't have been surprised, but I have never seen as fastidious a bunch of website creators as genealogists. And for sheer tenacity, I have to give full marks to Ted Margulis and his Jewish Web Index. His genealogy page has practically every bit of information you could look for – and more. Just be forewarned – when I decided to make a hard copy of his offering, my printer was still working on overdrive 100 pages later! **[jewishwebindex.com/genealogy.htm]**

On the other end of the scale, Avotaynu.com offers what it calls the Five Minute Guide to Jewish Genealogy Research. That's where neophytes can get a crash course on the basics. **[tinyurl.com/yrgd3a]**

With branches around the world, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies is the governing body. **[iajgs.org]** Founded in 1988, it organizes an annual get-together (recently in Salt Lake City, next year in Chicago); a Jewish genealogy month – the next one is in Cheshvan (October-November 2008); and puts out the annual Jewish Genealogy Yearbook. You can download the latest one free to find out who's who and what's what in the world of genealogical research. **[tinyurl.com/276hkz]**

As well, the association publishes a code of ethics that addresses sensitive genealogical issues such as the right to know versus the right to privacy. Its recommendation: data more than 75 years old should be available without restriction. "More recent data should be evaluated in the light of sensitivities of the living versus the importance of disseminating information." As well, you'll find the Ten Commandments in Genealogy. Here are three:

- You should not claim expertise without appropriate training and accreditation.
- Family traditions must be interpreted with caution and only used as clues.
- Claims to exalt a family for increased status must be verified. **[iajgs.org/ethics.html]**

As for more specialized sites, at Sephardim.com, A Research Tool for Sephardic Genealogy, you'll find helpful links as well as other unexpected features such as a dictionary of almost 2,000 Sephardi names and a list of Sephardi family crests. **[sephardim.com]** Hebrew speakers shouldn't miss Genwiki, a rich resource at more than 500 pages. **[genewiki.golan-law.co.il]** And interestingly, the Israel Genealogical Society website is almost entirely in English. **[isragen.org.il]**

Closer to home, you can learn more about Jewish genealogy at local chapters in Toronto **[jgstoronto.ca]**, Montreal **[jgs-montreal.org]**, Ottawa **[jgso.org]**, Hamilton **[jgsh.org]**, Winnipeg **[jhcwc.org]**, southern Alberta **[tinyurl.com/27o56q]** and British Columbia **[tinyurl.com/27gsgy]**.

Happy hunting.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Jewish Poverty: Life on the fringe

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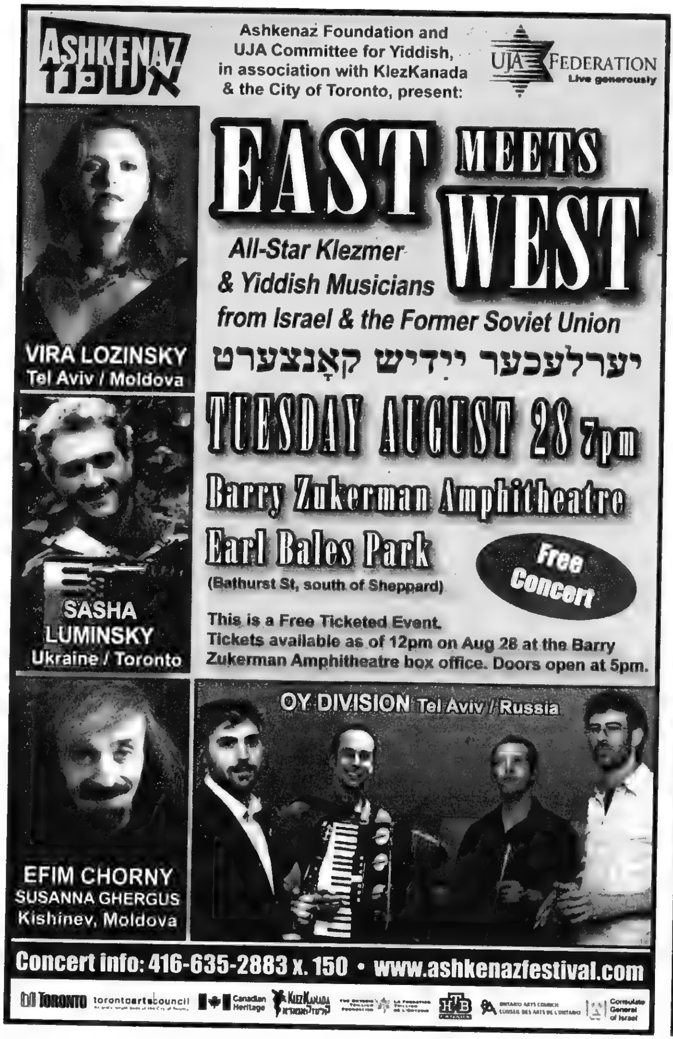
District	Total Jewish Population	Total Jewish Poor	% Poor	Total Poor (Jews & Non-Jews)
Annex / Bloor W. / Yorkville	2,875	280	9.7	4,800
High Park / Junction	1,935	320	16.5	30,220
Forest Hill / Cedarvale	16,000	1,200	7.5	5,855
Bathurst Manor	5,525	900	16.3	2,410
Bathurst Corridor- Sheppard/Steeles	24,105	5,550	23.0	17,805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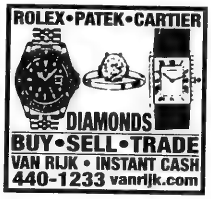
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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

דער 12טער אויגוסט — אַ טראַגישע דאַטע

פֿון שׂמחה סימכאָוויטש

פֿאַרגעדענקט למען־השם די דאַטע:
נײַנצן צוויי און פֿופֿציק, צוועלפֿטער אויגוסט.
און נאָך אַמאָל: פֿאַרקריצט אײַער זכּרון
נײַנצן צוויי און פֿופֿציק, צוועלפֿטער אויגוסט.
ווער עס ווייסט ניט פֿון דער דאַטע — זאָגט אים.
ווער עס האָט פֿאַרגעסן זי — דערמאָנט אים.

זיאַמע טעלעסין: „די דאַטע"

וועלן מיר טאַקע אויספֿאָלגן דעם געבאָט פֿון די פֿריִערדיקע שורות און דערמאָנען זיך און דערמאָנען אַלע די, וואָס האָבן שוין, אָדער ווילן שוין פֿאַרגעסן אָט די דאָזיקע דאַטע — אַ דאַטע, וואָס האָט זיך אַרײַנגעשניטן אין ייִדישן פֿאָלקישן גוף ווי אַ וווּנד, וועלכע פֿאַרהיילט זיך ניט — אויגוסט 12, 1952.

55 יאָר זײַנען פֿאַרבײַ זינט עס איז אויסגעפֿירט געוואָרן, אויפֿן באַפֿעל פֿון סטאַלינען און זײַנע געהילפֿן, דער מאָרד איבער די 13 מיטגלידער פֿון ייִדישן אַנטי־פֿאַשיסטישן קאָמיטעט אין מאָסקווע. אָט דער קאָמיטעט איז געשאַפֿן געוואָרן דורך די סאָוועטישע אינסטאַנצן אין מערץ 1942 און האָט אין משך פֿון זעקס יאָר געפֿירט אַ ברייטע אויפֿקלערונג־אַרבעט אין לאַנד און אין אויסלאַנד לטובת דעם סאָוועטן־פֿאַרבאַנד און זײַן קאַמף קעגן די היטלערישע אָנפֿאַלער.

בראש פֿון דעם קאָמיטעט איז געשטאַנען דער פֿאָלקס־אַרטיסט שלמה מיכאָעלס און אין זײַן פּרעזידיום זײַנען אַרײַן די סאַמע פּראָמינענטע ייִדיש־סאָוועטישע שרײַבער: דוד בערגעלסאָן, פּרץ מאַרקיש, דוד האָפֿשטיין, איציק פֿעפֿער, לייב קוויטקאָ, און דער אַרטיסט בנימין זוסקין. אויסער זיי האָבן אין קאָמיטעט פֿיגורירט אַ צאָל אָנגעזעענע געלערנטע, פּאַרטיי־פֿירער און זשורנאַליסטן.

ווי די אַנדערע אַנטיפֿאַשיסטישע קאָמיטעטן (פֿאַר פֿרויען, סטודענטן א.אַנד.) איז אויך דער ייִדישער קאָמיטעט געווען אונטער דער השגחה פֿון סאָלאָמאָן לאָזאָווסקי, דער ייִדישער הויפּט פֿון סאָוועטישן אינפֿאָרמאַציע־ביוראָ און פֿאַרטרעטער פֿון אויסערן מיניסטער מאָלאָטאָוו.

דער ייִדישער אַנטיפֿאַשיסטישער קאָמיטעט האָט אינפֿאָרמירט די וועלט וועגן די דײַטשישע רציחות און שחיטות אין די פֿאַרנומענע געביטן און געהאָלפֿן שאַפֿן באַדײַטנדיקע פֿאָנדן פֿאַר דער סאָוועטישער רעגירונג און אַרמיי. אין צוזאַמענהאַנג מיט דעם האָבן שלמה מיכאָעלס און איציק פֿעפֿער באַזוכט אַמעריקע, קאַנאַדע און אַ צאָל לענדער אין אייראָפּע. זיי זײַנען זייער גוט אויפֿגענומען געוואָרן בײַ אונדז אין טאָראָנטאָ, וווּ אַ גרויסער עולם איז געקומען זיי הערן.

דער אַנטיפֿאַשיסטישער קאָמיטעט איז אויך געוואָרן מיט דער צײַט אַ צענטראַלער אַדרעס פֿאַר רוסישע ייִדן. ער האָט געזאָרגט פֿאַר די עוואַקויִרטע ייִדישע פּליטים און אינטערווענירט לטובת די צוריקגעקומענע ייִדן אין די באַפֿרייטע טעריטאָריעס דורך דער רויטער אַרמיי.

אָט די ספּעציפֿיש־ייִדישע טעטיקייט האָט, ווײַזט אויס, נישט נושׂא־חן געווען בײַ סטאַלינען און זײַנע פּאָליט־ביוראָ מיטגלידער, וואָס האָבן פֿאַרדעכטיקט די אַרבעט פֿון קאָמיטעט ווי נאַציאָנאַל־ייִדיש. באַזונדערס האָט זיך זייער פֿאָראורטייל פֿאַרשטאַרקט נאָך דער עטאַבלירונג פֿון מדינת ישׂראל אין 1948 און נאָך דער גרויסער פּראָ־ישׂראל דעמאָנסטראַציע לכּבוד גאָלדע מאיר אין דער מאָסקווער סינאַגאָגע ראש השנה און יום כּיפּור דעם זעלבן יאָר.

(סוף אין קומענדיקן „ווינקל")

Breaking bread with Joel Hecker

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Joel Hecker, who for more than a decade has been an associate professor at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in the Philadelphia area, visited his hometown of Toronto recently to lecture on his book, *Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals: Eating and Embodiment in Medieval Kabbalah*, an erudite study published by Wayne State University Press of Detroit in 2005.

Hecker spoke to congregants of the Lodzer Centre in the Sheppard Avenue-Bathurst Street area recently during a Shabbaton convened in his honour. The next day he also spoke with *The CJN* at a local kosher restaurant – which seemed fitting, since his book, a revision of his doctoral thesis that took him five years to write, focuses on the meaning of food and the act of eating in medieval Kabbalah.

The kabbalists of 13th-century Spain "were interested in having contact with divinity," Hecker explained, "and they saw the commandments and rituals of Jewish law as providing media for living contact with God."

The kabbalists "had a mystical understanding that the Torah is not just dictated by God but is rather, from God's own being," he continued. "To use an example that might get me into trouble, it's almost as though, with the kabbalists, God was on the [psychoanalytical] couch for 40 years and what Moshe scribbled down was not just narratives and laws, but the very substance of divine life itself."

The Zohar, the central work of kabbalistic mysticism attributed to Shimon bar Yochai or Moses de Leon, "attempts to decode the Torah as well as rabbinical midrashim, as a means to decode what's going on in God's inner life," Hecker said.

"What that means is that there's a completely different attitude towards the Torah, which is seen not only as a book that tells us stuff but also as a manifestation of divinity."

All of the familiar rituals of Shabbat – lighting candles, making kiddush with an upraised kiddish cup, holding two challah loaves together, putting salt on the bread – were invested by the kabbalists with special meaning that drew them closer to God's holiness, he said. "Each one of these rituals is more than just following divine law or rabbinical law – each one now becomes an interaction with holiness and divinity itself."

Every element of the Shabbos table, right down to the white tablecloth, is laden with deep symbolic meaning that is meant to invoke God's holiness and bring it down to earth. The kabbalists associated elements of these rituals with various of the 10 *sefirot* that are said to be aspects of the inner workings of God, Hecker said as he explained each of the following elements in turn.

Lighting Shabbos candles: "The two candles correspond to *zachor* and *shamor*, which in turn correspond to *tiferet* and *shechinah*, which are the masculine and feminine aspects of God."

Washing the hands: "When we raise up our fingers for the blessing of the washing of hands, we are directing the 10 potencies that are within us towards the 10 sefirot."

The two challah loaves: "They are the representation of *tiferet* and *shechinah*. So when we bring them together, we are the *shadchanim*, the matchmakers for God, and we are bringing love – bringing together masculine and feminine, and in erotic terms, that's love – into the cosmos."

The white tablecloth: "We have a white tablecloth because the table is a symbol for the *shechinah* and this is her wedding. That's the theme of the Shabbos song *Lecha Dodi*. But it's not just *tiferet* or the masculine aspect of divinity that is marrying her, but the male kabbalists as well. The very physical approach of this white tablecloth, and sitting at this table, is an act of union with the *shechinah*."

The table as altar: "The table serving as an altar is an idea that's already instituted by the rabbis of the Talmud. The idea is to imitate and replicate Temple practices in the home. That's why salt is put on the bread and hands are washed for the *Ha-moitsee*. Even before the temple was destroyed, the Pharisees had instituted some of these practices. But once the Temple was destroyed, they took on more significance and there was a movement to create the home as a Temple in miniature."

Hecker readily acknowledged the similarity between some of these Jewish practices and what might be regarded as their counterparts within Christianity.

"If you're going to say the challah is the *shechinah*, and then you're going to eat it – I would say there are similarities [with Christianity]," he said.

"The main difference is that the kabbalists didn't have to deal with a God who is actually incarnate. There was never a tradition or belief that God had actually walked on this earth; their relationship to the symbolism was never entirely literal… In Judaism there is no doctrine of transubstantiation."

Naturally, the *Birkat Hamazon*, or blessings over the meal, is also infused with kabbalistic meaning, Hecker said. "It's composed of four blessings that correspond to the four letters of the Tetragrammaton. The point is that one is trying to draw God's blessing down. We're sending our prayers up and trying to draw God's blessing down into our world."

Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals: Eating and Embodiment in Medieval Kabbalah is available through Jewish bookstores or via the website http://wsupress.wayne.edu.

Cemetery rehab project furthers Polish-Jewish relations

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

A few months after Moishe Gold got involved with restoring Jewish cemeteries in Poland, he found himself in his parent's birthplace – the Polish town of Ozarow – where a very symbolic discovery was made.

Unearthed from the layers of debris in the last vestiges of the former shtetl's Jewish cemetery was a headstone that bore the name of Gold's grandfather, for whom he is named.

"They cleaned it up and it looked brand new," recalled the Hamilton, Ont., resident.

"It's become somewhat of a famous story in Poland."

The initiative that brought Gold to Ozarow is the Poland Jewish Cemeteries Restoration Project (PJCRP).

Since 2001, the not-for-profit organization has successfully restored more than 15 cemeteries across Poland, with another 30 in the works.

Today, the group's most immediate goal is petitioning the German government to pay its "fair share" of the cost of restoring and maintaining the 1,200 to 1,400 Jewish cemeteries throughout Poland, which were largely destroyed by the Nazis.

The petition also seeks payment for fencing and memorializing the thousands of mass graves created by German forces during the Holocaust.

"The petition asks for the German government to take responsibility and pay their fair share of the costs, estimated at upwards of $200 million (US)," said Norman Weinberg, executive co-ordinator of the PJCRP.

"We're not asking the German government to pay it all, and I believe what their fair share is will be argued out at some point."

Many Jewish and Polish organizations – including the Jewish National Fund, B'nai Brith Canada, the Zionist Organization of Sao Paolo, Brazil, the city of Lodz, Poland, and the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists – have signed the petition.

Weinberg, who launched the initiative in 2001, is seeking to meet with the Polish American Congress shortly and then present the petition to the German government.

In addition to restoring the cemeteries, – which involves everything from rebuilding walls and monuments to restoring headstones – the PJCRP is also deeply committed to Holocaust education, as well as reconciliation between Poles and Jews.

For instance, in concert with each restoration, project donors also fund programs in local Polish high schools, where students write about such topics as Jewish history in their town, the Holocaust and Polish-Jewish relations.

"They begin to appreciate and understand this former population in their town which they have never known," Weinberg said.

"Over 3,000 essays have been written so far across Poland, with prizes awarded for many essays."

Another project launched in conjunction with PJRCP is Voices.

This Holocaust education endeavour involves students creating a book of "voices" that are intended to speak for the voices silenced by the Holocaust.

When Weinberg, Gold and 25 fellow Ozarower descendants went to the Ozarow cemetery for a dedication ceremony in 2001, they were greeted by more than 500 Poles, including local clergy and the mayor.

"Can you imagine what it was like to be driven by a full escort to the cemetery and have more than 500 Poles there welcoming us with flowers?" Gold asked.

"It was amazing, and they made us feel very welcome."

A documentary about the event, titled *Return to Ozarow: Mending a Broken Link*, made its world premiere at the Warsaw Jewish Film Festival in April 2004.

To find out more about the petition and the PJCRP, visit www.pjcrp.org or contact Weinberg, at nweinberg@pjcrp.com.

LINKS LIONS: BBYO recently held its 13th annual golf tournament at Nobleton Lakes Golf Club. Part of the money raised will go to the National Colorectal Cancer Campaign in memory of alumnus Steve Glickman. Pictured, from left, are BBYO golf chair Jeff Wagman with winners Stuart Levinsky, Brian Stepak, Richard Watson and Jay Bacher.

Israeli beit midrash brings new approach to study of Gemarah

By **FRANCES KRAFT**
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Mendy Blank had been teaching Gemarah for more than a dozen years, but he says his heart wasn't in it until he began studying with Rabbi Tzuriel Weiner three years ago.

Rabbi Blank now teaches at Beit Midrash Ra'ava, the Jerusalem learning centre Rabbi Weiner founded in 2004. Rabbi Weiner's teaching methodology is unique, says Rabbi Blank. "It bridges the gap between the human being and the text."

A 44-year-old New Yorker who made aliyah 20 years ago, Rabbi Blank was in Toronto recently on behalf of the beit midrash, along with Tzvi Fisher, a 31-year-old former Torontonian and student at the beit midrash who is now its vice-director of development.

The language of Gemarah – the Torah commentary that is also known as "oral law" – is "very archaic, very technical… These things get in the way of understanding the deeper meaning," said Rabbi Blank, a former director of the overseas program at the hesder yeshiva in Shiloh and an alumnus of Yeshivat Sha'alvim. He has also taught at Israeli yeshivot, as well as at the high school level.

Rabbi Blank believes the issues surrounding the teaching of Gemarah are symptomatic of a "crisis" in religious Jewish education, which is based on Gemarah after about Grade 5. "Our whole educational focus is on Gemarah and kids don't see the relevance any more, and refuse to co-operate. How do the teachers manage these kids? This constant tension is a crisis."

Fisher, a father of two who has taught high school and post-secondary girls' classes, said, "Kids are frustrated [by Gemarah]… A lot of kids don't want to participate."

What Fisher does differently now in his approach to Gemarah is to "try and clear my mind of my past studies and past judgments and try and hear what the Talmud is coming to tell me, to listen to what is being said here. That's the first step."

Listening is key at the beit midrash, and it spills over from text study into life, says the rabbi.

In fact, the study of a chapter in Baba Batra that dealt with digging a hole next to a neighbour's well led to a discussion on ecology, a visit to a guest speaker on permaculture, and changes at the Beit Midrash itself. "We now compost, we don't use disposable plates. These things are real."

While Gemarah is the focus at the institute, it's part of a "pyramid" including Bible and Mishnah, he added.

Beit Midrash Ra'ava, which receives a small amount of funding from the Israeli government and the rest from private donors, operates out of the main synagogue of Givat Hamiftar, an area near Ramat Eshkol in Jerusalem.

The name "ra'ava" is the Aramaic word for "will," as in the words spoken before the ark is opened in synagogue: "Let it be Your will that we open our hearts to the Torah."

The institute caters to older students - age 23 and up – some of whom have recently finished their army service. The majority of the 30 full-time, advanced yeshiva students are Israeli, according to Fisher, an alumnus of Yeshivat Or Chaim and Sir Sandford Fleming Secondary School who categorizes himself as a "mixture" of different elements of Orthodoxy and "very chassidic, very Zionistic." Fisher's father was a cantor in Kitchener-Waterloo before moving back to Israel.

"Before studying this way, [the text] didn't touch me," said Fisher.

The institute, which also offers evening classes for the public, recently introduced a three-year, advanced teacher-training program accredited by the ministry of education in Israel, and is starting a satellite Gemarah study program in France.

Albert and Ruth Edelstein display their antique light fixtures. **[Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf photo]**

Wanted: Jewish home for antique artifacts

By **ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF**
Staff Reporter

Albert Edelstein possesses four Jewish-themed electric light fixtures that he believes are antiques.

And he wants to help them find a new home.

The 81-year-old retired Toronto businessman and his wife, Ruth, came across one of the artifacts about 20 years ago, when they were shopping at an antique shop in the city.

About three years ago, Edelstein discovered the others through his own searches of local Jewish institutions.

The light fixtures, which are 33.54 by 13.34 centimetres, have a bronze or brass-looking appearance, and are made of intricate metal scrollwork with three golden Magen Davids across the front of each.

Though well-worn, the pieces all have an old-world look to them and are well preserved.

Edelstein has conducted numerous searches over the years in an effort to determine their origin, but to little avail.

"My [searches] initially led me to the old Ostrovitzker shul on Cecil Street," Edelstein told *The CJN*, as he brought out the fixtures for display at his home.

The Ostrovitzker congregation existed in the 1920s, eventually moving north to become the Shaarei Tefillah Congregation.

According to Edelstein, Shaarei Tefillah representatives could not determine where or when his objects were made, either.

Though he's never had them appraised, Edelstein believes the pieces may be quite old and perhaps valuable, but all he's concerned about is that they find a new home, preferably in a synagogue.

He wouldn't venture a guess as to the fixtures' value, saying instead that he could only attribute sentimental value to the artifacts, having kept them in his home for years.

"I'd like to hear from someone if they can confirm [their] origins," he said. "Ideally, I'd like to donate them to a synagogue so they could be on display as a reminder of old-world symbols."

To help this along, Edelstein is investing some time and effort in seeing the pieces rewired to conform to modern electrical standards, and to having them restored back up to a nice sheen.

To date, all his efforts to contribute the heirlooms to local synagogues have been rebuffed.

"Everyone's response so far has been similar. 'They're lovely, but we don't have a place for them right now,'" Edelstein said.

Still, he hopes talk of his "finds" will spark an interest in synagogues and Jewish organizations, so that these precious pieces of Judaica can once again find their rightful place in full public view for the community.

For more information, contact abiruth@rogers.com.

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Klein misrepresents her own argument on Israel

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Naomi Klein (*CJN*, letter to editor, Aug. 2) would have a valid complaint about what was written in this column on July 5, "Klein's thesis on Israel is 'total rubbish,'" *if* she had accurately presented the facts of her case. But she did not.

In her letter, Klein badly distorts both her original argument and what was written about it here.

In her original article, she pointed to only one factor to account for the boom in Israel's economy since 9/11: "selling fences to an apartheid planet." By "fences" she meant "Israel's huge and expanding [arms] export business" – and especially its homeland security products.

"Israel has learned to turn endless war into a brand asset, pitching its uprooting and containment of the Palestinian people as a half-century head start in the 'global war on terror,'" Klein wrote. She argued that Israel is using the growth in its homeland security products "to lock in its occupied territories," to create "open-air prisons" in Gaza and the West Bank, even using the Palestinians there as "guinea pigs" – a way of field-testing devices of oppression for export to other "security states."

Klein painted Israel as a uniformly cruel militaristic state bent on wanton, sadistic torment of the Palestinians for profit, and strongly implied support for the boycott of Israeli academics, since "the country's universities [have been turned] into incubators for security and weapons start-ups."

Her thesis in that article couldn't be clearer: Israel's security/arms export businesses account for the recent growth in Israel's economy. She mentioned no other factors. For this reason, Jim Lederman, an expert on Israel's economy, said that Klein's thesis is "total rubbish." Among other things, he clarified that in 2006, the growth in the economy was primarily the product of a rise in imports, investment in fixed assets, and consumer spending. The lead in export growth was not taken by arms/security sales, but by civilian products, most notably pharmaceuticals, which grew by no less than 30 per cent, or $2 billion (US).

In addition, and contrary to Klein's argument, Lederman pointed out that the vast majority of high-tech start-ups are not related to Israel's defence/security sector.

Even the *Economist* magazine ("Israel's economy: Vigorous but vulnerable" July 28), while noting that Israel's defence industry has done well since 9/11, first mentions tax cuts and deregulation as being the driving factors behind its economic growth.

Anyone reading Klein's letter would have no understanding of what this column's complaint was all about concerning her article. In her letter, she blatantly distorts her article's own thesis, just as she distorted the truth there about the source of the growth in Israel's economy.

In her Aug. 2 letter, she writes: "I do not claim that defence and homeland security make up the majority of Israel's gross domestic product."

That was not what she argued in her article, nor what this column on July 5 objected to.

She continues: "I do demonstrate that they are *some* [emphasis added] of the fastest growing sectors in the Israeli economy." Again, this was not her argument in her article. In her original piece, she did not identify even one other sector of the Israeli economy as being responsible for the boom.

Klein may take exception to the way her original harangue was characterized in this column, but she should at least have had enough integrity to deal truthfully with what she actually wrote.

(In order to judge for themselves, readers may be interested in comparing Klein's Aug. 2 letter with her original article that appeared in the *Georgia Straight* on June 21. It can be found at www.straight.com/article-96202/israel-thrives-gaza-suffers. The original According to Reports column can be found at www.cicweb.ca.)

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Doctor prescribes living your dream

By **ABIGAIL BIMMAN**
CJN Intern

Dr. Samuel Gerstein says he has yet to meet a person who is unable to find out what he or she loves to do and pursue it as a career.

The emergency room physician and psychotherapist just published his first book, *Live Your Dreams: Doctor's Orders*.

The book focuses on the tales of 40 individuals who love their job despite what Gerstein labels the pervasive societal "myths" that stood in their way, such as being too old or not having enough money to do what they want to do.

Gerstein comments on each person's story to help readers draw lessons for their own lives.

"They've got to do the work," Gerstein told The CJN at his book's June 21 launch. "I'm not here to say, 'Here's your dream – next!' because they've got to find their own treasures."

After seeing the same patients return to the emergency room at the Humber River Regional Hospital time and again with different symptoms, Gerstein was motivated to look into the symptoms' causes.

He researched the correlation between physical illness and stress at work, which can lead to anything from chronic neck pain to asthma to heart problems.

"Our whole model is focused on how people get sick, and I said, 'That's not good enough.' I want to see how people get better," Gerstein said.

After realizing he was under stress at work himself, he put himself on a new path and focused on doing what he loved.

Part of that included taking classes, from adult education courses at the University of Toronto to public speaking with Toastmasters to improv lessons at Second City.

He also reduced his hours in the emergency room and opened a psychotherapy clinic. Today, he runs seminars about how to grasp your dreams and make them a reality.

Once he began to love his own work, Gerstein was determined to find other people who do as well.

After a long search, his first success story was Doug Sole.

Sole overcame stage fright and intense feelings of inadequacy to become a drum circle facilitator and professional speaker.

Sole, who owns Soul Drums, a North York percussion store, said he wants people to learn from his story in Gerstein's book.

"I hope they see through the obvious challenges that I went through that it's not something that you're going to get away from," Sole said at the launch.

"You are always your own worst enemy, but you can do whatever you want to if you focus, and spend the time."

Gerstein interviewed more than 100 people for his book, using a "dream career test" that he designed as a screening tool. The 40 stories he selected for publication were based on as wide a sampling of careers and people as he could find.

Gerstein's system focuses on four steps to self-improvement that he labels "possibility, possibility, probability and reality."

The first two steps are realized through the book – first, that it is possible to realize your dreams and explore them, and then that it's possible for you to do so.

Gerstein says that by reading his book, and through his practice, seminars or other work, people should be able to make their dreams a reality.

Gerstein is already working on a sequel to the book, what he calls a home study kit.

"I don't feel work-stressed now, and I love helping people, young and old, discover the truth of themselves," he said.

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Israeli diplomat heads home for new posting

By **DIANE KOVEN**
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — At the end of this month, Israeli diplomat Ofir Gendelman will be leaving Ottawa after four years in what originally had been an unexpected posting.

Gendelman, the second secretary at the Israeli Embassy, was headed to Toronto and had completed his pre-posting orientation for a Toronto placement when suddenly, two days before he was to leave Israel, he was told he was going to Ottawa instead.

"I had never been to Ottawa and had not prepared myself for a posting here, but after arriving here and finding how interesting the city is and how fascinating the federal political scene is… I was very happy," said Gendelman.

"The work here is more political than it would have been in Toronto and politics is what I love – by training I am a political officer."

There have been three prime ministers in Ottawa during Gendelman's time here. He arrived when Jean Chrétien was in office, then Paul Martin succeeded him, and now Stephen Harper holds the job.

Gendelman said Israel is grateful for the current Tory government's strong backing of the Jewish state.

"Of course, we are very appreciative of Prime Minister Harper's support," he said. "I am very privileged to have witnessed the positive change that we have experienced here, that I was able to play a part in strengthening the relationship between our two countries."

Gendelman noted the embassy was busy last summer when Canada played a major role in assisting Canadians who were stranded in Lebanon during Israel's war with Hezbollah.

"The war last summer definitely was a unique experience in that it gave me the opportunity to represent my country in a time of crisis, in a country that was also involved in the war through its expats in Lebanon," he said. "It was both a challenge and an achievement because people here were so interested in what was going on. There was a huge Canadian angle. We were working day and night with [Foreign] Affairs to help."

He added that the war "helped show Canada's commitment to peace in the Middle East and commitment to a fellow democracy that was attacked. [Israeli] Prime Minister [Ehud Olmert] was very, very appreciative of the friendship and support shown by Prime Minister Harper."

Gendelman has been working with the media and has increased the use of "new media" (Internet, e-mail, etc.) to get Israel's message out to a broader audience. The embassy now puts out two weekly publications – one political, one information/cultural – that are are available online.

"We encourage people to check these out and send them on to their friends and lists of contacts," he said. "We are using the Internet to expand our reach, to get people interested in what is happening in Israel behind the headlines while also updating them about political developments."

The website to access is www.embassyofisrael.ca.

Gendelman will be returning to his home in Herzliya with his wife and two young sons (one of whom was born in Canada), but he'll be commuting daily to his new position in Jerusalem, where he will become deputy director of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Arab media division. He will serve as Israel's spokesperson to Arab media outlets.

"I will always consider Ottawa as my second home. I made a lot of friends here," he said.

Book helps survivor process memories

By **CYNTHIA GASNER**
Special to The CJN

Many children who survived the Holocaust have never had the opportunity to piece together the fragments of their horrific memories.

Their loved ones tried to shelter them, feeling that children were too young to understand what they experienced. As a result, they carried with them painful, unanswered questions.

"When I was seven years old, my world came tumbling down, and throughout my life, the smallest thing triggers my anxiety and depression and leaves me helpless and paralyzed with fear," said 71-year-old, Hungarian-born Olga Verrall.

Her 244-page book, *Missing Pieces: My Life as a Child Survivor of the Holocaust*, was published recently by the University of Calgary Press' Legacies Shared series.

Her suppressed memories of the loss of her home, the loss of her most loved possession, the loss of her confidence that her parents could protect her, the vicious rape of her mother by a high-ranking SS officer, the suicide of her Jewish friend's family, and her transfer of fear from the Nazis to the Communists, all deeply affected her life in Canada.

Despite the love that she found in this country, the ghosts of Verrall's childhood manifested themselves in bouts of psychiatric depression and hospitalization.

Missing Pieces is her search for validation. She describes the pain she experienced here, as well as her courage to try to understand the source of her emptiness juxtaposed with feelings of joy and optimism.

Olga Verrall
Missing Pieces
My Life as a Child Survivor of the Holocaust

Verrall was born in 1936 in the small town of Szarvas, the fourth child after three boys, to Laszlo and Mariska Berger. Her father was a successful grain merchant, and her early years were idyllic and free of anti-Semitism.

"In 1944, we heard from people who escaped the Nazis what was happening, but for some time, my parents, grandparents and others could not believe it was happening," she said.

The day the Nazis came to remove the Bergers from their home was a pivotal experience in Verrall's life, and it shook her so badly that it still haunts her to this day, she said.

"I remember clearly that the German soldiers were waiting for us at the gate of our house. We could take only one possession, and I was carrying my doll Pani, who was always with me. I believe that my mother told me to go back to the house to get a jacket, as it was getting cold and I wanted to get something to cover my Pani," Verrall said.

"I placed Pani on a table at the gate and when I returned, Pani was gone and the soldiers were laughing. I broke down crying and screaming and said I wanted to die. At the age of eight, it was a most significant loss which affected my entire life."

Her family was taken to a ghetto in the spring of 1944. They were interned in the Auspitz labour camp.

"Our lives were saved when an acquaintance of my grandfather whispered into his ear that if the Germans asked if anyone had any skills, he should raise his hand," Verrall said. "My grandfather obeyed this man's instructions and subsequently, this definitely prolonged the lives of my family."

Her grandfather later died of starvation.

After they were liberated on April 13, 1945, the Berger family returned to Szarvas and later moved to Budapest. Under Communist rule, the family changed its name to Barsony to deflect attention from the fact they were Jews. She describes this part of her life as another time of persecution.

In 1957, she immigrated to Winnipeg, where other members of her family had already settled. Soon after, she met and married Orland Verrall, the cantor at Rosh Pina Synagogue. She said it was love at first sight.

Being the wife of a clergyman, the birth of their two daughters, Judy and Lesley, and an active communal life brought some contentment and security, but deep inside, insecurity and emptiness would erupt from time to time.

When her husband retired from the synagogue, the Verralls moved to Toronto. In 1992, her husband died and Olga again faced emotional trauma and felt a need to search for meaning and an understanding of her troubled childhood.

She took courses, organized a widows' and widowers' group at Beth Tzedec Congregation, and began doing volunteer work at Baycrest that she has continued.

Her search for understanding took her back to Hungary three times. On her third visit, she decided to begin documenting her childhood memories and their effect on her life.

For six years, Verrall painstakingly wrote the book by hand, chapter by chapter, as she looked for the missing pieces of her childhood.

She told *The CJN* that her early years have given her a deep sensitivity for children who suffer. "I have committed all the money collected from the sale of my book *Missing Pieces* to the Autism Spectrum Disorders Society of Ontario," she added.

From the smile on her face, it's hard to believe that Verrall lived a life of anguish.

"My life purpose is to smile. It makes people smile back. And I have learned that life is the greatest miracle."

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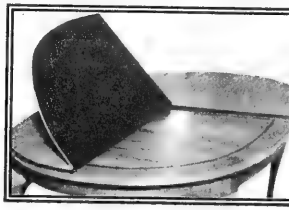

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Rabbi back in Manitoba capital after 20 years

By **MYRON LOVE**
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — After 20 years in Ontario, Rabbi Larry Lander is coming home.

As of Aug. 15, Rabbi Lander will be the new spiritual leader of Congregation Etz Chayim, replacing the departed Rabbi Henry Balser, who has moved to a pulpit in Boca Raton, Fla.

Both Rabbi Lander and his predecessor had previous stints in Winnipeg.

In the early 1990s, Rabbi Balser was the rabbi at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue in south Winnipeg, the city's largest and oldest congregation. He left there for a position in Chicago. He came back in 2001 to lead the Rosh Pina Synagogue in north Winnipeg.

The Rosh Pina was Winnipeg's second oldest congregation and second largest, but membership had been declining. In 2002, the Rosh Pina merged with the two other Conservative north Winnipeg synagogues (the Bnay Abraham and the Beth Israel) to form Congregation Etz Chayim.

Rabbi Balser's departure was by mutual consent, said Etz Chayim president Howard Kideckel (who is originally from Toronto).

He added that the decision not to renew the rabbi's contract came early in the year.

"It only took five months for us to find a new rabbi," Kideckel said, giving praise to the congregation's search committee. "Several members of our search committee have fond memories of Rabbi Lander when he served here 20 years ago."

For the incoming rabbi, coming back to Etz Chayim closes a circle. His first rabbinical position in 1986 was as junior rabbi at the Rosh Pina under the popular Rabbi Sholom Rappaport, who enjoyed a long tenure here.

Rabbi Lander said he always wanted to be a rabbi.

"As a boy, I loved sitting in shul listening to the words of the rabbi," he recalled. "I always wanted to be able to bring people closer to Torah."

Rabbi Lander's parents, Ralph and Marjorie, were originally from Winnipeg, but moved to southern Alberta after they got married. The future rabbi grew up in that part of the country, but noted that he has still has a lot of family in Winnipeg. He also earned his bachelor of social work at the University of Manitoba.

Rabbi Lander is a graduate of Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.

He joined the Conservative movement nine years ago.

After Winnipeg, Rabbi Lander served congregations in Brampton, Ont., (for six years) and London, Ont. (for 11 years). For the past year, he had been working as a social worker for the Children's Aid Society of Toronto.

"I am looking forward to coming to Etz Chayim," Rabbi Lander said.

"The congregation has a great cantorial soloist in Tracy Kasner Greaves and fine staff. I am looking forward to bringing the congregation closer to Torah."

Kideckel said the board hopes the new rabbi can also attract more young people and younger families to services.

Rabbi Lander is also getting married next month. His bride is Arlene Davis of Toronto.

"We will be coming to Winnipeg right after the wedding," he said. "We will have our honeymoon here."

Aish HaTorah closes in Winnipeg

By **MYRON LOVE**
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Aish HaTorah has quietly folded its tent in Winnipeg and departed after a seven-year run here, leaving ghostly reminders of times past on websites promoting rabbis who are no longer here and programs that are no longer being offered.

The Orthodox movement was established here by Rabbi Shimon Lesserson and his wife, Sarah.

Rabbi Lesserson, originally from New York, exhibited a real gift for promotion, marketing and networking. He established a "lunch and learn" program with sessions held in different law office boardrooms downtown. He also organized successful seminars and Shabbatons in Gimli, Man., and he built a loyal following of two to three dozen young families who would gather at the Lesserson home in Tuxedo on Saturday mornings for learning, prayer and a Shabbat lunch.

The couple left here reluctantly in June 2006, because their youngest child – still a baby at the time – had health problems. The family moved to Los Angeles, where Sarah's parents live, for access to specialized medical treatment.

Rabbi Daniel and Yaffa Klatzkow came to Winnipeg in January 2005, to assist the Lessersons. When the latter left, the former became the Aish HaTorah representatives in Winnipeg.

Rabbi Klatzkow kept a much lower profile, although he did have a regular study group composed of university students and he organized a trip to London, England, last December over the holidays for some of the students. He and Yaffa also organized a Shabbaton in Gimli in April.

And then they were gone. No one who was associated with the movement in Winnipeg seems to know why the Klatzkows left (reportedly for Boston) and whether there are any plans to have a new Aish HaTorah rabbi come here.

In response to an e-mail query, Aish representative Eric Coopersmith in Jerusalem said that "Rabbi Klatzkow had to unfortunately leave for personal reasons,which led to the closing of the Aish branch there [in Winnipeg]."

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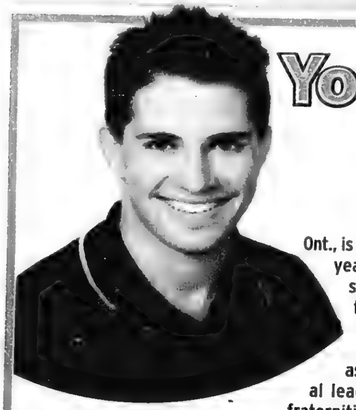

Young entrepreneur motivating youth around the world

By SHLOMIT KRIGER
Special to The CJN

The room packed with hundreds of high school students grew silent as the baby-faced 5-foot-4 male stepped onto the stage. Sporting a T-shirt, jeans and his trademark Motivate Yourself bracelet, he held up a $20 bill and in a booming voice asked, "Who wants this?"

The audience cheered in unison.

He then crumpled the bill, threw it on the floor and began stomping on it. "I hate you! You're a failure! You'll never amount to anything!" Regaining his composure, he held up the bill again and asked who still wanted it. The students cheered even more loudly.

"Lesson number 1," said 26-year-old David Major. "No matter what I did to this bill, you still wanted it, because it still has the exact same value. As you go through your lives, people are going to stomp on you, tell you that you're not good enough, that you can't make it. But that doesn't mean you can't... You have to always remember to listen to the big voice up here [points to his head] that tells you that you can."

Major, a resident of Thornhill, Ont., is currently in his seventh year as a motivational speaker. He has performed across Canada, the United States and China, at high school assemblies, international leadership conferences, fraternities and sororities, and award banquets, entertaining and motivating more than 50,000 youths.

The youngest of two children, Major grew up in a Conservative Jewish home, with regular Shabbat dinners and community involvement. He feels his Jewish upbringing had some influence on his business. "With Judaism comes a sense of community and compassion, and that has influenced the way I conduct business," he said.

Major is also passionate about promoting tolerance among all people, and one of his speeches deals specifically with the issue of equality and inequality. "The anti-Semitism, racism and discrimination that I've observed in many capacities over the years has made me interested in discussing diversity issues and being as equal as possible when it comes to everything," he said.

"I think it's hard to find jobs like this where at the end of the day you feel like you have moved the world a step forward," said Major. "You're not just spinning your wheels doing a mundane job that needs to get done. You're actually making a positive impact on people. I always say in my speech, 'Be the change you want to see in the world,' and I think that's what I'm accomplishing."

Major isn't your average motivational speaker. He uses sound effects, monologues, rants and comedic messages in his speeches, always ensuring he engages with the audience. In former speeches, he performed the tune to ***Baa Baa Black Sheep*** with his armpits.

His schedule changes from week to week. Some months he's out on the road, hitting various speaking engagements, while others he spends most of his days in front of his computer at home, corresponding with students, educators and other business contacts.

Major also produces ***Student Leadership Activities Magazine (SLAM!)***, an online publication written by and for students. He aims to use the magazine as a medium to help create an online community through which students can share leadership ideas and learn from each other. He is also planning on writing a book on leadership.

Getting about 6 ½ hours of sleep a night, he tries his best to squeeze in quality time with his girlfriend, friends and family.

Major's first motivational speaking gig ensued by fluke when he was a Grade 12 student at Thornhill's Westmount Collegiate Institute. He and a few other students planned the first annual leadership conference at the school and wanted to bring in a motivational speaker. Unable to afford a professional, Major and his friend decided to give a mini-speech.

About a month later, another high school requested that Major and his friend present a speech for pay at a leadership conference. Surprised but flattered, Major and his friend jumped on the opportunity, and they garnered a standing ovation. Realizing they might have found a niche, they continued making speeches at various events.

After about a year, Major began doing motivational speaking on his own, part time, while studying political science and history at the University of Western Ontario.

"It's a really fulfilling job," said Major. "I love the e-mails I get from students after I make a speech, and it's great when I walk out of a school and about a dozen people are giving me compliments and thanking me for the speech. Some say I helped them see things in a different way or I really made an impact on them."

Eager to touch more lives in a positive way, Major planned to pursue his business as a motivational speaker full time following his graduation from university. But a few months after his return to Thornhill, he landed a job as special assistant for community outreach for Thornhill member of Parliament Susan Kadis after volunteering to help her run in a federal election.

So he eagerly took on that opportunity, but continued the motivational speaking work part time. Soon he was working 17 hours a day, seven days a week.

Last fall, realizing he had more passion for his work as a motivator than as an assistant for Kadis, Major decided to leave the political field and pursue his business full time. But he said working for Kadis was "the best thing that could have happened" to him. He learned a lot of the skills that he now better understands are crucial to running a successful business, including promotion and maintaining contacts.

Major said he also learned a lot throughout his high school experience that helped to shape who he is today. "I had changed so much every year in high school. In Grade 9, I hardly talked to anybody, was very shy and didn't have many friends. I loved to get up in front of a crowd and perform, but in social situations I felt awkward."

Major said that over the years, he gained confidence in himself and what he was doing. "I think it also helped me to see all sides of high school. That's one thing I want to add to my speech. When many teens see me now, they think I'm confident and an accomplished public speaker, but that wasn't always the case."

For others thinking of pursuing a career as motivational speakers, Major said it's important they enjoy the job, are willing to put in the hours needed to succeed, including travelling, and are okay with facing rejection. "You get rejected a lot more times in this job than you get accepted. You have to get a little bit of thick skin with it."

- For more on David Major, visit www.motivateyourself.net.

Start your summer meal with a cold soup

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

Cold fruit or vegetable soups served as a starter to take the edge off a long, hot day have become the hottest must-try items in restaurants these days.

Cooking instructions for cold summer soups usually have no more than three or four steps – super simple. Fruits or vegetables are cooked to a soft consistency and left as they are or blended into a light purée. This purée is combined with a liquid, and sometimes the soup is thickened with flour, cornstarch or potato flour, or with beaten egg yolk added at the end. With the availability of non-dairy sour cream and yogurt substitutes, and "fake" chicken broths, most cold fruit and/or vegetable soups can be made to suit any meal.

You can use most fruits or vegetables for soup. Fruits like strawberries, raspberries, cherries, plums, gooseberries, apricots, blackberries and rhubarb work extremely well combined with water or a mixture of water, apple juice and a fruity white wine, a little lemon, some sugar, and flavouring like cinnamon, lemon peel or vanilla. You can mix and match flavours to create a delicious start to your summer meal.

Vegetable choices can include, among other possibilities, broccoli, cucumber, spinach and tomato. Combined with broth, seasoning and herbs, they are scrumptious, and perfect for anyone who prefers a savoury start to a meal.

Quick note: I always like to use slightly over-ripe fruit when I make these soups. The softer, slightly sweeter consistency lets me add less sugar.

COLD CHERRY SOUP

2 lb. fresh red cherries
2½ cups white wine
3 to 4 tbsp. sugar or to taste
½ tsp. cinnamon (optional)
juice of 2 lemons
zest of 1 lemon (optional)
6 tbsp. cherry wine
1 cup sour cream, yogurt or non-dairy sour cream substitute

Remove the stems and pits and put the cherries in a saucepan with the wine, sugar, cinnamon, lemon juice and zest (because the flavouring depends on the taste of the cherries and the wine, use less sugar and lemon to start with and add more if necessary towards the end). Simmer for 15 to 20 minutes until the cherries are soft. Add the cherry wine and chill. Beat in the sour cream just before serving, or you can pass the sour cream and let everyone help themselves. Serves 6.

COLD BROCCOLI BISQUE

1¼ to 1½ lb. fresh broccoli or 2 10-oz. packages frozen, chopped broccoli
3½ cups vegetable, imitation or regular chicken broth
1 medium onion, quartered
2 tbsp. butter or margarine
1 tsp. salt
1 to 2 tsp. curry powder
dash pepper
2 tbsp. lime juice
8 lemon slices
½ cup sour cream, yogurt or non-dairy sour cream substitute
1tbsp. snipped chives

Put the broccoli in a pot. Add the broth, onion, butter, salt, curry powder and pepper. Bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, 8 to 12 minutes or until the broccoli is just tender. Place ½ broccoli and broth mixture in a food processor or blender. Cover and blend until smooth. Repeat with the other ½ of the broccoli and broth. Pour all the soup into a large bowl. Stir in the lime juice. Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours. Pour the soup into bowls and top with lemon slices, then add spoon of sour cream and top with the chives. You can blend the sour cream in with the soup if you want a creamed soup. Serves 6.

COLD CUCUMBER SOUP

The buttermilk gives this soup a great tangy flavour.

2 medium cucumbers
1 quart buttermilk
¼ cup finely chopped fresh parsley
2 tbsp. chopped onion
1 tbsp. chopped fresh dill
salt and pepper to taste
chow mein noodles or rice noodles

Peel and seed and coarsely chop the cucumbers. Place them in a processor and process until smooth, then put the cucumber purée into a bowl. Add the buttermilk, onion, ½ the parsley and ½ the dill. Mix to combine. Cover and chill for several hours. Before serving, stir to combine. Divide the soup between 6 bowls and garnish with the remaining parsley or dill and chow mein or rice noodles. Serves 6.

COLD ZUCCHINI SOUP

3 onions, chopped
2 tbsp. butter
2 lb. zucchini, chopped
3 cups vegetable or chicken stock
2 cups half and half or milk or non-dairy substitute
¼ tsp. nutmeg
fresh or dried parsley for garnish
salt and pepper to taste

In large pot, saute the onions in the butter. Add the chopped zucchini and onions. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes and then add the stock. Cook until the zucchini is tender. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Purée the mixture in a food processor or blender. Add the nutmeg and mix to combine. Place the mixture in a large bowl and cool for at least 30 minutes. Add half and half or milk and mix to combine. Add salt to taste. Cover and chill thoroughly. Divide the mixture between 6 bowls. Garnish with parsley and serve. Serves 6.

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel tov to Beatrice & Jack Kuretzky on your 65th anniversary. Much happiness, love and good health always! Love from your children and grandchildren.

Happy 86th birthday on July 15 to our mother Mollie Finewax. From Pinchus, Frimmet, Rouchel and Moishe. Mazel tov.

Lily & Bernie Gilbert and Karen Goldstein are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children Lindsay & Adam. A June 2008 wedding is planned.

Lorraine & Aaron Lampert celebrate their 50th anniversary. With love from Glenda & Jeff, Ari, Eitan and Doron, Monica, Hartley and Rebecca.

Happy 10th birthday to Hailey Madison Foreman. With lots of love from your parents Melanie & Mitchell, and brother Josh.

Happy first birthday to Sammy Goldberg. Love, Mommy, Daddy and big brother Jonah.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

**Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return.
Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments,
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or email: cblackman@cjnews.com**

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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This week's What's New was done by Carolyn Blackman. What's New deadlines: Monday, Aug. 13, is the deadline for the Aug. 23 issue and Monday, Aug. 20, is the deadline for the Aug. 30 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Aug. 9

SUMMER FUN FEST

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am invites everyone to its Summer Fun Fest, 5:30-8 p.m. rain or shine. Barbecue, snow cones, bouncy castles, dunk tank, magician, relay races, inflatable twister and more. Adults $12, youth $7.

Sunday, Aug. 12

LADIES KARAOKE NIGHT

Routes Learning Centre/Westmount Shul presents its second annual Ladies Karaoke Night, 8 p.m., 34 Burbank Dr., Thornhill. Bring your girlfriends. $10 includes refreshments. RSVP, 905-482-9488.

GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE

Temple Kol Ami and Advocates for Humanity are holding a gigantic garage sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., with proceeds to pay for medicine for the people of Darfur. Leo Baeck Day School parking lot. For information: marleine@rogers.com or 905-763-1136.

SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Join Walk and Talk Etc., a walking group for Jewish singles (50+), for a mini hike of the Bruce Trail at the Belfountain Conservation Area. (There is a minimal seniors entrance fee.) Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot, Mississauga Rd. and Forks of the Credit Rd. For information and directions, e-mail walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

Monday, Aug. 13

BROSH'S LAST LECTURE

"An examination of the Ideologies in the Arab/ Muslim world, Israeli-Arab/ Muslim relations, and Canada's role in the Middle East Peace Process" is the subject of Israeli Consul General Ya'acov Brosh's last Canadian lecture. Holy Blossom, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 14

SUMMER FESTIVAL

Family fun summer festival at Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park features Renée Barda and Friends, 7 p.m. Pre-event activities including crafts, jumping castles and sporting skills begin at 5:30 p.m. No charge.

KABBALAH CLASS

The Lodzer Centre Congregation continues with the second of its three-week introductory Kabbalah course with **Rabbi Matthew Kaufman,** using the classic Kabbalah text, *The Gates of Light (Shaarei Ora*) by **Rabbi Joseph Gikatilla**, 7:30-9 p.m. For information and to register, call 416-636-6665.

Wednesday, Aug. 15

GOLF DAY

Join Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada for its 10th annual golf day at the Angus Glen north course. For information and to register as a golfer or foursome, call 905-695-0611. Funds raised support ongoing programs and go toward purchasing equipment for centres in Israel.

Thursday, Aug. 16

SUMMER SERENADES

Beth Tikvah Synagogue presents an evening of diverse musical styles, including jazz, opera and Broadway, featuring **Jennifer Finestone**, **Jodie Katz** and **Andrea Wiltzius.** They are accompanied by **Bruce Harvey**. Tickets, $8 members, $10 non-members.

Other News

CARING FOR LOVED ONE

The Caring for Your Loved One support group for those caring for an elderly parent with dementia starts this fall at Baycrest, Wednes-

Continued on page 25

Jackie Mason
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Monday, August 20 at 10AM
www.hummingbirdcentre.com

Continued from page 24

day evenings 6-7:30 p.m. To register, call 416-785-2500, ext. 3587 (**Nira**) or ext. 2998 (**Elaine**).

BRAIN HEALTH

View the documentary film *The Art of Aging: The Limitless Potential of the Brain*, a film that explores how to live a fuller and healthier lifestyle as we age. It introduces a number of seniors who lead healthy lives at nearly 100 years old. Through them, it searches for the keys to living a healthy and vital life regardless of age. Following the film, there is a discussion with **Ellen Cohen**, Baycrest physiotherapist in the Brain Health centre, Stroke and Cognition Clinic. Aug. 23, 1:30-3 p.m. Register at 416-785-2500, ext. 3374.

AM SHALOM SYNAGOGUE

First annual Am Shalom Synagogue bazaar, silent auction, bake sale and BBQ, Aug. 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. If you have items to donate, contact **Jean Trainor**, 705-739-9834. Portion of proceeds will be donated to Gilda's Club, 767 Huronia Rd. Barrie. Call 705-792-3949, e-mail amshalom congregation@bellnet.ca.

ADULT MINI SCHOOL

The Florence Melton Adult Mini School is taking registration for the fall term. Classes meet once a week for two hours, for 30 weeks. A project of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Choice of either morning or evening classes. Call 416-789-7400 for details and to obtain a registration form.

HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute is accepting registration for the fall session of Hebrew-language classes for adults, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 13 sessions. Classes are taught in the morning and evening on Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning the week of Sept. 4. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. To register, call **Joseph Klinger**, 416-787-0197.

SUNDAY HIGH SCHOOL

Downtown Jewish Community School new Sunday discussion group for students entering grades 8-10 meets once a month starting September. Exciting topics to be developed by group leader **Marsha Slavens** in consultation with the group. For more information, contact **Joan Schoenfeld**, principal DJCS, 416-924-6211, ext. 112, or joan@djcs.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Kosher Meals on Wheels team leaders needed to offer clerical and administrative support once a week, 7:45-10:15 a.m. Training provided. Call **Gaye Duncan** 416-635-2860, ext. 462.

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living is seeking volunteers to assist in the computer lab. General computer knowledge required to assist teacher with Windows, Excel and Internet applications. Two hour per week commitment for the 10-week session. Weekdays and evenings available.

Meals on Wheels volunteers, one hour a week at lunchtime, to deliver hot meals to seniors in the local area. Choose the day of the week, length of commitment flexible. Mileage is reimbursed.

Call **Naomi Ziegler**, volunteer co-ordinator, 416-225-2112, ext. 127.

Jewish Family & Child needs volunteers for one-to-one visits with seniors in nursing homes and hospitals in Toronto and suburbs. Flexible hours. Call **Laila Friedman**, 416-638-7800, ext. 287.

Volunteers needed for the palliative care unit at Baycrest. Good English skills necessary. Other languages needed are Hungarian, Hebrew, Portuguese, Spanish. Training and supervision provided. Training starts mid-October 2007. If you have not previously volunteered at Baycrest, you must attend an orientation prior to training. For information, call 416-785-2500, ext. 3005.

FOR SENIORS

Seniors Mixed Bowling: Enjoy two games of 10-pin bowling every Tuesday afternoon 1 p.m. at Playtime Bowl, 33 Samor Rd. All welcome.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park: Casino Niagara, Thursday, Aug. 23. Activities include mah-jong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; duplicate bridge, Wednesdays, 12-3 p.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m. For information, call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 416-395-7881.

Association for Jewish Seniors: Come and meet political candidates for upcoming election, Thursday, Aug. 16, 9:30 a.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Members free, non-members $2. For reservations, call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Torah study group meets every Sunday, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Classroom C. For information, call **Monica**, ext. 2297.

Old Time Jazz Band: **George Grossman** and his trio perform Thursday, Aug. 9, 3-4 p.m.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www. mnjcc.org.

Hebrew grammar intensive course: Learn the Hebrew verb system – structures (*binyan*), types (*shoresh*); how to conjugate verbs in all tenses (present, past, future, imperative and more) – and pronouns in just four short intensive days. Aug.13,14,15,16, 10:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m. Contact Randi Sokolsky, ext. 154, or randis@mnjcc.org.

MNjcc full-day adventure camp: New experiences, friendship, trips, nurturing staff and loads of fun for ages 4 and 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., week of Aug.13 and 20. MNjcc Members $200 per week, non-members $280.00 per week. Extended care fee, $8 per day, before and after camp. Contact **Alisha Sandy**, ext. 128; e-mail alishas@mnjcc.org.

Jewish meditation, Sundays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Connecting the practice of meditation to our tradition with instructor **Michelle Katz**. Drop in $15, series 10 for $125.

Bathurst JCC and Miles Nadal JCC present 55+ tours to Ottawa and 1000 Islands, Oct. 23-25. Includes two nights' accommodation, tours, food and entertainment. $385, $435 single. For information and registration, contact **Teme Kernerman**, 416-636-1880, ext. 364, or bjcc55plus@bjcc.ca, or **Randi Sokolsky**, 416-924-6211, ext. 154, or randis@mnjcc.org.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca

Thursday evenings, join Conversation Café, a joint program with JIAS offering newcomers a chance to practise their English in a social environment.

Sign up for the Summer Arts Party, a fun-filled weeklong program of music, dance, painting, drawing, pottery and swimming. Monday, Aug, 27, through Friday, Aug. 31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost $350 inclusive.

Share in the BJCC's block of tickets with premier seating to *Cirque du Soleil*,Wednesday, Aug. 15, 8 p.m. at Port Lands, on Cherry St. Tickets can be purchased by calling ext. 271. A tax receipt will be issued for the maximum allowable amount.

Registration is continuing for September 2007 for BJCC morning school for Tic Tac Two, nursery and junior kindergarten. The program includes music, Hebrew, fun centre time, gym time and swimming. Call ext. 248 for information and to book a tour of the school.

Register now for September programs and classes for birth to six years old at the Family Place at the Jewish Discovery Museum. A wide array of classes, including music, Hebrew, nature and cooking. Call ext. 235.

Seniors online computer Internet courses made easy for adults 55+. Personalized attention, low student-to-teacher ratio. Open lab, walk-in basis, $1 per hour, Room 216, Monday and Wednesday noon-1 p.m. Getting started, four sessions, $22 members, $28 non-members; second time or more $15 members, $20, non-members. Both begin Aug. 20. To register, #235 or #0.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registrations for all fall classes in piano, violin, cello, guitar, Suzuki violin, babies and preschool music, children's choir, kids' band, adult band, rock band for teens and adults, African drumming, Brazilian samba and digital music. For information and registration, call ext. 228.

SCHOOLS HONOUR THEIR LEADERS: Yeshivat Bnei Akiva Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot Girls' School held a Yom Yerushalayim celebration honouring, from left, Saul Koschitzky, Henry Koschitzky, Kurt Rothschild, Jack Weinbaum, Phil Schwartz and Aron Frankel for their contribution and leadership of the schools since their inception more than 34 years ago. Chief Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, of Efrat, Israel, was the guest speaker.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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Obituaries

and Related Notices

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Sarah Kerzner	Jul 20/07	645 Castlefield Avenue
Bernard Fluxgold	Jul 21/07	3560 Bathurst Street
Edith Swartz	Jul 24/07	3560 Bathurst Street
Rachel Stern	Jul 24/07	8 Covington Road
Charles Stark	Jul 25/07	773 York Hill Blvd
Jack Stolero	Jul 26/07	205 Cummer Avenue
Dorothy Cass	Jul 27/07	200 Dawes Road
Murray Cornish	Jul 27/07	12 Alexandra Wood
Mannie Leder	Jul 26/07	2 Covington Rd
Sylvia Lampert	Jul 28/07	218 Hillhurst Blvd.

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Louis Tureck	Jul 23/07	3560 Bathurst Street (Apotex)
Ruth Burke	Jul 29/07	666 Mortimer Dr, Cambridge

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MARILYN (ROSENBERG) JACOBS ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 26th at 11:30 a.m.
Woodlawn Memorial Park
762 Woolwich St., Guelph
enter via entrance across from Marilyn Drive

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

CYLA & JACOB GOLDLUST ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 12th at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst south of Steeles – Lodzer Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

FRANCES HALPERN (née Forgang) ז"ל

Beloved Mother, Mother-in-law and Grandmother

will take place

Sunday, August 19 at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section Phase V, Row B, Plot 11

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling.

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The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

EMANUEL MOSKOVITS ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 12th, 11:00 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Section 15

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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On Campus

Cantorial student to lead New Orleans service

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

He may not be physically rebuilding the hurricane-ravaged city, but Jeremy Burko's upcoming trip to New Orleans will certainly be a mitzvah: he'll be leading High Holy Day services at an Orthodox shul near the city's historic Garden District.

The 25-year-old is heading into his third year of the five-year cantorial studies program at the Jewish Theological Seminary's Miller Cantorial School in New York.

During last March break, Burko toured New Orleans and performed with Pizmon, a Jewish a capella group comprising students from Bernard College and Columbia University, as well as JTS.

"It's not the same as getting into the rebuilding project ourselves, but we felt that, like entertaining the troops, it's part of the whole project," Burko said.

Jeremy Burko prepares to lead High Holy Day services in New Orleans.

One of the places Pizmon performed was the Anshe Sfard synagogue.

Afterward, shul president Lonnie Schaffer asked Burko, the only cantorial student in the group, to return to the Big Easy in the fall to lead High Holy Day services.

Burko has extensive musical experience as a singer, composer and even conductor, but he has no experience leading High Holy Day services. His program only starts teaching how to lead prayers on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur in the third year of study.

"I was shocked to say the least, but also intrigued," Burko said in a phone interview, his rich, full voice resonating.

"It's something that I can do personally for them. I'm not a rabbi, I'm a musician, and it's what I have to give."

Burko is excited about the upcoming challenge and has started working through High Holy Day liturgy. He also plans to study with a tutor.

Born in California, Burko grew up in Toronto and was in the middle of pursuing an engineering degree at the University of Toronto when he switched to music and Jewish studies.

He was actively involved with music all through his undergraduate years, writing and conducting full orchestral arrangements for the Alexander Singers, a community theatre group, and founding the U of T Varsity Jews comedy a capella group in 2001. He directed the group for five years.

Burko decided to pursue cantorial studies on the advice of a vocal teacher, who is Catholic.

He said that during his New Orleans performance with Pizmon, he performed one cantorial solo that he wrote himself.

The synagogue became aware of his cantorial background from his introduction at the start of the show, he added.

"[I'm looking forward to] being able to contribute something of my own for the effort," Burko said of his upcoming volunteer job.

"There's so much that needs to be done, and it's only something small, but it is the best way that I can contribute."

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Olmert welcomes idea of peace conference

Continued from page 1

and this is an opportunity that should not be missed," Rice told reporters before meeting Abbas.

Abbas' aides said he told Rice he was ready to draft with Israel a "declaration of principles" for final peace negotiations that would lead to the foundation of a Palestinian state. But Abbas' authority is effectively limited to the West Bank, after rival Hamas Islamists took over the Gaza Strip in a June coup.

Abbas burnished his reputation as a pragmatist by vociferously breaking with Hamas after the coup.

Olmert, his popularity hard hit by the setbacks of last year's Lebanon war, has advanced cautiously, approving moves to build up Fatah forces in the West Bank, while balking at the idea of binding negotiations on ultimate Palestinian statehood at this stage.

"Sometimes it is not wise to put the most sensitive issues first," Livni said at a news conference when asked about Abbas' desire to discuss final-status issues of borders, the rival national claims on Jerusalem and the fate of Palestinian refugees.

But Livni added that "Israel is not going to miss this opportunity. We are not going to miss the opportunity to promote dialogue with Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian government."

Faced with a weakened Abbas in the West Bank and the diehard hostility of Gaza under Hamas, Olmert has sought broader peace initiatives, invoking a Saudi proposal for comprehensive Arab recognition of Israel in exchange for its withdrawal from all territory captured in the 1967 Six Day War.

Though Olmert has frustrated the Arab world by voicing misgivings at the idea of a full pullout, the Saudis told Rice in Riyadh that they would be willing to attend an as-yet unscheduled peace conference that Bush wants to host in the fall.

"When we get an invitation from the minister to attend, when this takes place, we will discuss it and we will make sure that we attend," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said, referring to Rice. State Department officials said invitations had yet to be issued.

But the Saudi prince also said Israel must be willing to respond to "pressures" from the Arab world to make concessions in terms of territory and resolving the Palestinian refugee issue.

Olmert, who met Rice for dinner, welcomed the idea of the conference.

"This meeting can grant an umbrella for the bilateral talks between Israel and the Palestinians," his office said in a statement.

The sudden co-operativeness by Saudi Arabia may have come in response to Washington's decision to sell it billions of dollars worth of advanced weaponry as a bulwark against an ascendant Iran. Though details of a sale have not been released, it is estimated to be worth about $20 billion.

That deal, as well as boosted U.S. defence aid to Egypt, has stirred concern in Israel, but Rice made clear that the Bush administration remained committed to preserving the Jewish state's military superiority in the region. The Bush proposal also includes $30 billion (US) in defence aid to Israel over the next 10 years.

In what could be his last Israeli-Palestinian peace initiative as president, much remains before Bush can announce a place and time for the fall conference.

Tony Blair, the new envoy for the Quartet of major mediators - the United States, European Union, United Nations and Russia – in September will put together an assessment on the state of the peace process and recommendations for taking it forward. The assessment will be debated by the Quartet heads later that month.

What happens next could also be coloured by Israeli domestic politics. A commission of inquiry into the Lebanon war is expected to issue a final report by October that could call for Olmert's resignation, though he has vowed to stay on.

Israelis debate over textbook

By MATTHEW WAGNER
JTA

JERUSALEM — The Israeli Education Ministry's decision last week to approve a textbook for state-run Arab schools that uses the Arabic word for "catastrophe" to describe Israel's victory in its 1948 War of Independence has sparked intense debate.

The Arabic version of *Living Together in Israel: Textbook for Homeland, Society and Citizenship* will be used this school year by about 20,000 Arab Israeli third-graders.

The book attempts to weave together Jewish and Arab perspectives on the Zionist enterprise. Two pages of text devoted to the War of Independence briefly explain why the Jews came to Israel, why they wanted a state, how the Arabs reacted and how the war started with the refusal of the Arab side to accept the UN partition plan and the invasion of five Arab armies.

The controversial line reads: "The Arabs call the war '*nakba*,' a war of disaster and loss, while the Jews call it 'The War of Independence.'" It is the only mention of the word "*nakba*," meaning "catastrophe," in any Israeli Arab primary-school textbook, experts say.

The book also states, "Some of the Arab residents were forced to leave their homes and some were expelled, and they became refugees in the neighbouring Arab countries." It continues: "Some of them became refugees and were forced to move to other Arab communities in the State of Israel, because their villages were destroyed during and after the war."

The intense debate in Israel sparked by the decision to adopt the controversial textbook underscores the ideological divide in a nation still struggling with the tension between being a Jewish state and the state of all its seven million citizens, including more than 1.3 million Arabs.

After last week's decision, politicians lined up along predictable left-right ideological lines to sound off on what many consider to be one of the most important challenges facing Israel: how to maintain national cohesion between a Jewish majority that generally identifies with the Zionist enterprise and an Arab minority that generally does not.

As the divisions between Israel's Arabs and Jews appear to deepen, the question is: does the teaching of two separate historical narratives – one for Jews and one for Arabs – foster national unity or undermine it?

Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu said the language dilutes Zionist values.

"I can't remember a greater absurdity than this in a decision made by an education minister in the State of Israel," Netanyahu told reporters.

Education Minister Yuli Tamir, who approved the textbook for the Arab school curriculum, defended her decision in an interview with Israel Radio.

"There are two populations in Israel, Jewish and Arab, and the Arab public deserves to be allowed to express its feelings," said Tamir, a member of the Labor party and one of the founders of Peace Now, an organization that advocates the dismantling of Israeli settlements and an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

"The book offers the Arab pupils a balanced picture, so that they may put into proper context what they are exposed to in their home environment," Tamir said.

National Religious party leader Zevulun Orlev took issue with the decision.

"Tamir is giving the Arabs the legitimacy not to recognize the State of Israel as the state of the Jewish people," Orlev, a former director general of the Education Ministry, told reporters. "The day the education minister made the decision is the '*nakba*' day of the Israeli education system."

Avigdor Lieberman, strategic affairs minister and leader of the Yisrael Beiteinu party, said Tamir's decision reflects the "political masochism" of the Israeli left wing.

"The political left is constantly looking for ways to justify the other side when we have nothing to apologize for," he said.

Nabeh Abu Saleh, chairman of a committee that has been lobbying the Education Ministry to include a Palestinian perspective in the Israeli Arab school curriculum, praised Tamir's decision.

"So far, only one narrative has been taught in our schools, the Israeli narrative," Abu Saleh told JTA. "The Palestinian narrative has been totally ignored, as if there was no *nakba*."

Abu Saleh said that while teachers in Arab schools try to remain loyal to the official state school curriculum, sometimes in a classroom setting it is difficult to ignore students' feeling of alienation from the Zionist state.

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Israel Briefs

Israel ups survivor grants

Israel will increase its payments to Holocaust survivors. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced last week that survivors over 70 will get a special supplement to their pensions and welfare allowances totaling some $28 million (US) in 2008. The sum will rise to $56 million in 2009 and about $70 million by 2011. That will translate into an additional $20 per month per survivor in 2008 for some 120,000 Holocaust survivors older than 70 living in Israel. In addition to the monthly grant, paid through the National Insurance Institute, millions of shekels will be allocated to agencies such as the Holocaust Survivors' Welfare Fund, which pays for the medical treatment of survivors. "We are correcting a 60-year-old blight," Olmert said. "The neglect of successive governments will not continue. It is important to see to it that Holocaust survivors receive these supplements and are able to live honourably."

EU signs academic pact

Israel has signed an agreement with the European Union that thwarts efforts to impose a British academic boycott of Israel. The agreement will allow Israeli universities to take part in a new six-year research program called the Seventh Research Framework, or FP7. Israel is the only nation outside the European Union that will take part in the major public-private research partnership to develop green air transport, which will be funded under the FP7 program. The deal effectively thwarts efforts by Britain's University and College Union to impose an academic boycott of Israel in Britain, having voted at its recent annual congress to campaign for "a moratorium on research and cultural collaborations with Israel via EU and European Science Foundation" as part of its Israeli boycott policy.

250-year-old Torah arrives

A 250-year-old Torah scroll from Krakow was brought to Israel by a new immigrant from New York. Kevin Schreiber, one of the 200 immigrants on an aliyah flight organized by Nefesh B'Nefesh, brought the Torah with him last week. Schreiber said the scroll was hidden during World War II in an old synagogue. The scroll was found in the synagogue's library by a relative of Schreiber who visited Krakow in 1998 and brought it to the United States. Nefesh B'nefesh estimates that more than 3,200 olim from North America will arrive in Israel this year.

Peres raps Ahmadinejad

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's denials of the Holocaust and calls for elimination of the Jewish state underscore the threat posed by Iran's nuclear program, the Israeli president said in an interview broadcast last week on National Public Radio in the United States. "Ahmadinejad is an unbelievable joke," Shimon Peres told NPR. "He claims he's religious. My impression is that, in his eyes, the nuclear bomb is higher than Allah. He's worshiping the bomb more than he's worshiping the God in heaven."

Golan ours forever: Bibi

Israel will keep the Golan Heights forever, Benjamin Netanyahu said. The Israeli opposition leader made his prediction during a prerecorded address broadcast at 30th anniversary celebrations for Katzrin, a major Golan town. "I remember the Golan Heights without Katzrin, and suddenly we see a thriving city in the land of Israel, which having been a gem of the Second Temple era has been revived anew," said Netanyahu, who opinion polls predict could win the next general elections. "This place will remain part of the State of Israel forever, but it will be much bigger and will continue to be beautiful." The Likud Party leader's comment appeared to be directed, at least in part, at Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, given widespread speculation he could enter peace talks with Syria in which Damascus would demand a return of the Golan. *– JTA*

'Technology is capable of neutralizing viruses very fast'

Continued from page 1

embryos against the Newcastle disease virus, which costs the poultry industry in the United States millions of dollars a year.

Further studies on avian flu H9, Sendai virus, the HIV virus and herpes simplex 1 also produced positive results. Not only was the extract able to neutralize the viruses, it also showed it has the potential to immunize against selected other viruses as well.

Now, before people start putting cinnamon sticks in their hot chocolate and sprinkling it all over their lattes, they should note that the cinnamon extract developed by Ovadia has special properties that won't be found at coffee shops or in the kitchen cupboard. First of all, it comes from a special variety of cinnamon – coumarin and cinnamon aldehyde, which are by-products of cinnamon "juice." These are actually damaging to the liver in high quantities.

"You cannot take high doses from the natural form of cinnamon," Ovadia told ISRAEL21c. "If you used it several times a day to protect you from the flu, it would be toxic."

During seasonal epidemics, about 10 to 20 per cent of the world is infected with the influenza virus, with the elderly and the young particularly at risk. In America alone, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 35 million to 50 million Americans are infected with the flu every season. Despite the use of vaccines, the influenza virus is still associated with significant mortality worldwide, especially now that people travel regularly and work together in offices and closed spaces.

Moreover, the global circulation of the deadly bird flu H5 (with a more than 50 per cent mortality rate in infected humans) may cause a sudden worldwide pandemic within two to three months. Until a vaccine is invented, antivirals will be the only medical intervention for use in such a pandemic, Ovadia says.

"What we know is that this technology is capable of neutralizing viruses very fast, and that it is applicable to various applications," says Dr. Nissim Chen, the business development manager of Ramot, who managed the commercialization process that ended with the licensing to Frutarom. "For example, it can be used in air conditioning systems in hospitals, and prevent infections spreading from one person to the other in closed spaces."

There is a growing tendency for researchers and clinicians to explore natural compounds against disease, Chen says, adding that Ovadia is well-known for his work on natural inhibitors of snake venom.

"This work with cinnamon is really an extension of his research. And at Tel Aviv University in general, there are several groups working on biological and chemicals structure of natural inhibitors," Chen says.

Besides the human application, Ovadia says that cinnamon fills an important niche in the agriculture industry, where chicks need to be immunized by hand against the deadly Newcastle disease virus.

"If someone needs to immunize 1,000 chicks through drops in the chicks' eyes, then we know they are not doing this accurately. It is also an issue of animal welfare," Ovadia says.

Instead, he believes that "we will be able to administer this cinnamon extract through a tiny pinprick in the shell before the chick hatches." This kind of immunization gives the chickens protection against the Newcastle virus, Ovadia says.

Applying this research to the global scale could be done only with the help of a large company – which is where Frutarom comes in. In the last 10 to 15 years, the Israeli-based flavour and food additive company's revenues have grown from $10 million a year to a projected $350 million by the end of 2007.

"We're going to take this knowhow from a food supplement to protect people from illness… It can also be used in agriculture against bird flu. Certainly, it represents a very diversified product line," says Frutarom's CEO, Ori Yehudai.

According to the company, Ovadia will continue to lead research into the development of the extract, and Frutarom estimates that the new cinnamon product will be launched in about a year – hopefully just before flu season.

Karin Kloosterman is a freelance writer for ISRAEL21c, a media organization focusing on 21st century Israel.

MKs oppose deporting Darfur refugees

By MIJAL GRINBERG

© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Dozens of Israeli legislators from across the political spectrum have urged the government to refrain from deporting to Egypt Sudanese refugees who enter Israel through the Sinai Peninsula.

Channel 10 TV news reported last week that Israeli soldiers said they had witnessed Egyptian security officers executing several refugees.

"The refugees need protection and sanctuary, and the Jewish people's history, as well as the values of democracy and humanity, pose a moral imperative for us to give them that shelter," the MKs said in a petition.

The document has been signed by 63 MKs, including Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, Labor's Amir Peretz, Hadash's Dov Khenin and the National Religious Party's Effi Eitam. The legislators propose to keep the refugees in Israel until they are transferred to a safe haven abroad. MKs who signed the petition added suggestions such as building a high fence along the Egyptian border and stipulating quotas for the absorption of refugees.

The petition was further validated last week when Channel 10 produced testimonies from Israeli soldiers serving near the Egyptian border who said they had recently witnessed three refugees being killed as they tried to cross the border into Israel.

As documented by IDF security cameras, Egyptian soldiers rushed to the scene and shot several asylum-seekers dead. One of them jumped on the wire fence in an attempt to make it over to the Israeli side, but was reportedly dragged back and bludgeoned to death by the Egyptians.

The petition against deporting Sudanese asylum-seekers back to Egypt is the initiative of a group of students from Jerusalem and Ben Gurion University in Be'er Sheva. Many of the students first encountered the refugees up close in the capital. The Sudanese refugees were housed there in tents after they had entered Israel through Egypt, after escaping the genocide in the Western Sudan region of Darfur.

In conversations with refugees, the students became convinced that deportation to Egypt was tantamount to a death sentence.

"Our student group was concerned with raising the public's awareness to the refugees' plight," activist Na'ama Katz said. "When they arrived in Wohl Rose Park in Jerusalem, we got a chance to actually see what shape they were in. We began gathering testimonies and interviewing them. They told us they had been persecuted in Egypt, and we understood what going back there meant for them."

Many of the refugees told the students that they had suffered persecution and physical abuse in Egypt, Katz said.

One of them, who wished to remain anonymous, told *Ha'aretz* that at some point during his stay in Egypt, he and his family were afraid to leave home for fear of being beaten.

"After Sudanese refugees took to demonstrating in Egypt in 2005, it was no longer safe for us to go out on the street. We couldn't go to the police because they were part of it. The Egyptian police joined in on harassing us refugees," he said.

According to an inter-ministerial committee on refugees crossing into Israel from Sinai, about 1,400 such illegal immigrants are currently in Israel. The committee was headed by Interior Minister Roni Bar-On.

In talks last month on the African refugees, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said that any refugee caught crossing into Israel from Egypt would be returned to that country through an official crossing. Olmert said the matter had been finalized in discussions with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Upper Galilee college makes a comeback

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

It's been one year since the Lebanon War and Sagi Melamed, vice-president of development for Tel Hai Academic College in Israel's Upper Galilee, insists it will take more than bombs and war to shut his institution down.

On a summer tour of North America, Melamed recently stopped in Toronto to drum up financial support for the 10-year-old northern college and talk about how it continues to survive and thrive in one of Israel's more hostile environments.

Sagi Melamed

The college, which receives funding from the Israeli government, private philanthropists and Jewish organizations worldwide, including UIA Federations Canada and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, was shelled during the war and its campus was evacuated and forced to close for the duration of the attacks.

Despite this, Melamed said, the school's administration managed to carry on, securing facilities at the University of Tel Aviv in order for students to finish their final exams.

Similarly, many Tel Hai students stayed in the Galilee to help out in bomb shelters and with refugees.

Not surprisingly, according to Melamed, as one of Tel Hai's main tenets is to foster a spirit of community service among its staff and students.

Aside from providing high-level studies to its 3,500-member student body, the college is also a mission unto itself, Melamed said.

"If we were in Tel Aviv, it would just be another great academic institution," Melamed told *The CJN*. "But a mile away from Lebanon, we feel our mission and duty to strengthen the community in the Galil."

Along those lines, the college, located just north of Kiryat Shmonah is building new infrastructure to house its ever-increasing student body and is on a campaign to raise $80 million over the next decade to continue cementing itself as both a cultural and economic buttress against negative migration trends.

Attracting students to Tel Hai is easy, but convincing them to put down roots in the region is a challenge, Melamed admitted.

"I have four children and live in the Galil. I put them in bomb shelters and it was a traumatic experience for me," he said. "My wife made aliyah from the [United States] and it was the first war she had to go through."

Melamed, who has lived in the area for more than eight years and also owns and runs a karate school in the area, believes in sticking it out.

"What keeps me going is the belief that this attack on us only makes our mission more important," he said. "Despite and because of these attacks, we will continue what we would be doing, but better and stronger."

In a renewed bid to maintain the growth of the college, Tel Hai has secured scholarships for students who suffered during the war and to encourage new students to enrol.

"We awarded every new student between half and full tuition to come [to Tel Hai]," Melamed said. "Every first-year student this year received either half or full tuition to come to the Galil."

The college has also formed partnerships with two major businesses in the area, the Migal Galilee Technology Centre and the Meytav Technological Incubator, all of which share personnel and resources.

"Their researchers are our professors," Melamed said. "We want to make the Galil stronger… and create the conditions for people to come and stay there."

So far, Tel Hai seems to be succeeding.

Despite its "dangerous" location near the Lebanon border, the college's enrolment has increased an average of 13 per cent each year for the last 10 years and has managed to increase 10 per cent in the year since the Lebanon War, Melamed said.

Tel Hai's academic reputation in Israel has grown in leaps and bounds since its founding.

Specializing in the fields of social work, biotechnology and nutrition, the college has also added courses in winemaking and olive-oil making.

According to Melamed, Tel Hai is also a leader in fostering Arab-Israeli dialogue through its Centre for Peace and Democracy, which offers courses designed to break cultural stereotypes.

The college is also the region's leading economic force, employing close to 700 people to serve its student body.

Tel Hai students lounge on campus. [Photo courtesy of Tel Hai College]

"Every student brings about $7,000 of economic activity. If you multiply that by thousands of students… you see how important that is," he said.

But everywhere he goes, Melamed always gets asked the same question: how can you encourage people to come study in such a high-risk territory?

"I say to them, you know, if 60 years ago Ben-Gurion, before he declared the State of Israel, said 'Oh, you know, maybe we don't have the army ready. Maybe we should wait another few years until we're in better shape'… we would never have the State of Israel," Melamed argued.

"This has been the case ever since. There are always conditions, we're always under attack, whether it's the Galil or in Sderot… tomorrow it could be Tel Aviv."

Next year, Tel Hai will offer its first master's degrees and begin an exchange program with Jewish students from Toronto.

Cotler advocates for Jews from Arab lands

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON — Liberal MP and former justice minister Irwin Cotler sent written testimony to a special bipartisan U.S. congressional briefing committee on July 20, detailing his determination to see justice done for Jews expelled from Arab lands after the formation of Israel.

Cotler was originally scheduled to testify in person before a human rights caucus in Washington last month, but instead submitted written comments in order to impress upon the committee – co-chaired by congressmen Tom Lantos, a California Democrat, and Frank Wolf, a Republican from Virginia – the importance of linking any claims by Palestinian refugees to those of Jewish refugees who were expelled from their lands after the birth of the Jewish state.

Both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have resolutions before them on this issue. They were introduced in February and ask President George W. Bush to instruct his representative to the United Nations and all other U.S. representatives in "bilateral and multilateral fora to… use the voice of the United States to ensure that any resolution relating to… Middle East refugees… must also include a similarly explicit reference to the resolution of Jewish, Christian and other refugees from Arab countries."

The resolutions also instruct that any future Arab-Israeli peace plan also address the issue of Jewish refugees.

Writing as honorary chair of Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC), a New York-based coalition of Jewish groups operating under the auspices of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the American Sephardi Federation, Cotler implored the panel to acknowledge the "truth and duty of remembrance" for those disenfranchised Jews.

Stanley Urman addresses a congressional panel in Washington last month. [Carrie Devorah photo]

Cotler, a noted human rights advocate and McGill University law professor, has been advocating on this issue for more than 40 years.

"In 1967, UN resolution 242 had as one of its basic components, a 'just resolution' to the refugee question," he told *The CJN* last week. "I took the interpretation then… that refugees must include both Jewish and Palestinian refugees. Otherwise, we will have a distorted narrative with respect to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Reading Cotler's statement aloud, Stanley Urman, executive director of JJAC, hammered home JJAC's conviction that "Palestinians are not the Middle East's only refugees."

Using Cotler's words, Urman talked about the "forgotten exodus" of Jews from Arab lands.

"We're talking about the forced expulsion of these Jews," Urman read. "More importantly… the enactment in the Arab countries of Nuremberg type laws which decreed, for example, that Jews were the enemies of the state in which they lived… were to be denied or forfeit their citizenship… their property was to be sequestered… destroying their livelihood [and] the lives of complete communities."

According to JJAC statistics, in 1948, the total Jewish population in Arab countries such as Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Yemen, Syria and Egypt, among others, totalled around 856,000. By 1976, that number had dwindled to approximately 32,000, and by 2005, there were less than 5,200 Jews left in Arab lands.

"Our objective is very simple: to ensure that in every context, if there's ever an explicit reference to Palestinian refugees, we believe there should be an explicit reference to Jewish refugees," Urman told *The CJN*. "When the world talks about refugees in the context of the Middle East, everybody speaks about Palestinians – for good reason, their plight is compelling. But their continuing suffering doesn't negate the fact that up to one million Jews in Arab countries… have [also] been displaced, and were victims of the struggle between the Arab world and the state of Israel."

Urman added that his organization, founded in 2002, worked closely with various U.S. senators and congressmen on the resolutions as part of JJAC's continuing mission to secure international rights and redress for Jewish refugees.

"Our objective is to get these resolutions passed by the end of the year," he said.

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Advertising Feature

Transition Squad helping to move aging parents

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

When an aging parent dies or moves to a retirement or nursing home, the adult children may not have the time or be emotionally ready to deal with their parent's home and property. During this time of transition, the family can turn to the Transition Squad. (www.transitionsquad.com or 416-249-4049 #303).

The company lifts the burden of looking after the property from the seniors and / or their children during these times of change and maximizes the equity of the property, says Viraf Baliwalla, president of Transition Squad. "We'll take things that have value to auction or we'll hold an estate or contents sale.

"The intention is to bring maximum value to the family by helping to dispose of the aging parents' property and maximizing the financial return of the sale of the property.

"Typically the children have to decide on what to do with the home and its contents. We manage that process for them."

Baliwalla says sometimes the adult children can't contend with property matters because don't have enough time, they're emotionally drained or they live out of town.

"We're working with someone who lives in Spain, an only child whose mother just went into a nursing home. He had to come back to Toronto to start putting her affairs in order, but managing her affairs is a nightmare and he had to go back to Spain."

He contacted Transition Squad to oversee the clean-up and sale of his mother's house, says Baliwalla. "First and foremost, the task is cleaning up the entire property. It's been years since anything has been done.

"We're managing every thing from the clean up and disposal of unneeded belongings to getting the house ready for sale and then managing the actual sale of the property. We work with real estate agents."

The clients pays Transition Squad a flat fee for these services, he explains. "We act as project managers. We coordinate and manage the whole process and contract out with professionals."

In the case of the man from Spain, the company has updated the electrical. wiring, and plumbing, replaced the kitchen counter, removed old wallpaper and applied a fresh coat of paint, says Baliwalla. "The goal is not to do a major renovation, but to spruce the place up to maximize the sale price."

He says one house the company fixed up was originally appraised at $425, 000 and after the work of Transition Squad it received four offers in the $470,000 range.

"A couple of thousand dollars in quick and easy upgrades brought in an-additional $50,000."

He says sometimes his company partially finances some of the work and collects the balance from the proceeds of the sale of the house. "This relieves the burden to the family of paying the renovation costs up front."

Sometimes the company works directly with seniors to help them down-size, he says

"We charge a flat fee for project management and contract with various professionals to get the work done. The cost gets passed on to the clients. We make sure that all the workers are insured, reliable and reputable."

When Transition Squad meets with a client, they give them a "Transition Action Plan," which shows the cost of doing the renovation, says Baliwalla. "We say, 'Here are the things we're going to do – renovations, home staging and we itemize and assign the cost for things like painting, landscaping, plumbing and electrical work."

The company charges a fee of $200 to $300 for a home-staging report, he explains. "It's a small investment for a big return. We can raise the selling price from the initial appraisal.

"We have a pretty good idea of the amount of our time needed to oversee the project to make sure it's done right. We typically charge $75 an hour. We give a discount for seniors. They pay $10 less or about 15 percent less [per hour]."

"Part of our agreement with real estate agents is to sell the house on the MLS and we will market the house on outside channels. If we find the buyer the client does not need to pay the real estate fees.

We charge a flat fee of $2500. If the agent finds the buyer, the agent will refund the client our marketing and reselling fee."

Advertising Feature

Visit Salon Matté for the younger look

Salon Matté is an exciting, up-to-date hair salon and day spa for people who want the younger look. For eight years, proprietor Matthew Odisho has been building a satisfied clientele.

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"You wear your hair every day," Odisho continues. "It tells a story about you, and provides an opportunity to constantly re-invent yourself, to express yourself creatively and enhance your personal image."

Salon Matté takes pride in providing a complete beauty service, to give your whole body the treatment it deserves, head to toe: hair colouring, extensions that make hair longer or thicker, facial, manicure, waxing and pedicure. They also carry beauty products for you to take home.

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These styles are highly popular with younger people. Odisho's clients are mainly women, but Salon Matté is unisex. Boyfriends and husbands are welcome.

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You'll find Salon Matté at 3852 Bathurst St., just north of Wilson. They're open seven days a week, Mon.-Fri. 9 to 6, Sat. 8 to 5, and Sun. 9 to 4. Call 416-398-5228; or visit them online at www.salonmatte.com.

Advt.

Advt.

We Must Be Doing Something Right

(A Recent Interview With Bernie Rabinovitch; Adath Israel's Executive Director)

Reporter: Can you please give our readers a little background about the history of the Adath Israel Congregation.

Rabinovitch: The Adath Israel Congregation is over 100 years old and is the only local synagogue that made the transition from downtown to midtown without having to merge with another congregation. What started as a downtown shul catering to the Roumanishe Jewish community is now a very cosmopolitan midtown traditional conservative congregation with a diverse demographic, geographic, ethnic and social membership. This is a tribute to the vision and hard work of Adath Israel's clergy and lay leadership over the generations.

Reporter: Why do you think that having a diverse membership is important?

Rabinovitch: Our broad based appeal is a strength that we need to cherish and continue to develop. We are a member of the United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism and we pride ourselves on being the voice of the mainstream Jewish community. In today's world of endless choices, particularly with the number of synagogue options available in the Greater Toronto Area, it is comforting for the mainstream Jewish person to know that we can help them fulfill their innate need to belong and to identify with a "haimish" community of people who share basic Jewish values and to a community of people they can count on and feel deeply connected to.

Reporter: How can a congregation of 1,800 families adequately serve its membership?

Rabinovitch: As Adath Israel is the 2nd largest conservative congregation in the country and in the top 10 in North America, its members are properly served with highly regarded clergy, extensive programs, a congregational school, a truly magnificent sanctuary and beautiful social halls. Basically, we have the resources in place to serve our members' needs for spiritual, educational and social growth. Also, included in Adath Israel's wonderful membership are numerous leaders in the world of community service, education, medicine, law, accounting, business, property development as well as many people who are well versed in our traditions and can lead our services. These are the people who volunteer their time that truly makes Adath Israel the warm, inviting and exciting congregation that it is.

Reporter: Why should an unaffiliated member of the Jewish community join a synagogue when they have some many other options in the GTA to display their Jewishness?

Rabinovitch: People can do without virtually anything except for other people. What better way to invest in your Jewish identity than to join a group of mainstream fellow Jewish people and clergy who:

- Support each other in a quest to uphold our Jewish family values
- Understand the issues our families face everyday in our open and secular society
- Are striving to enhance our own Judaism and preserve our wonderful traditions for future generations

Reporter (laughing): Where can I sign up?

Rabinovitch: Your question is very timely as we are offering a 50% reduction of our annual contribution for new members for the first year. All you have to do is contact the synagogue office and we will be delighted to welcome you into our Adath Israel family and help you establish new friendships that hopefully will last from generation to generation.

Adath Israel Congregation ... 37 Southbourne Avenue, Toronto, ON M3H 1A4
Tel: (416) 635-5340.....info@adathisrael.com.....www.adathisrael.com

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You are Cordially Invited to Commemorate

Rabbi Schild's 60th Anniversary

as the Rabbi and Rabbi Emeritus of Adath Israel Congregation

Tuesday, October 2nd, 2007

Dessert Reception at 7:30 p.m.

Special Recognition for 60-Year Member Families

Rabbi Schild was called to the pulpit of the First Roumanian Hebrew Congregation Adath Israel on the first of September 1947.

Under Rabbi Schild's leadership, Adath Israel Congregation developed into a thriving community of more than 1800 families.

In 1989 Rabbi Schild retired and was appointed Rabbi Emeritus of Adath Israel.

- The Jewish Theological Seminary of America has conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.
- Rabbi Schild received the Human Relations Award of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews in 1981.
- In 1992 Rabbi Schild published a collection of sermons and addresses under the title "World through My Window".
- In 2001 Rabbi Schild launched "The Very Narrow Bridge - A Memoir of an Uncertain Passage", an autobiography covering the years from his birth to his entrance into the rabbinate in 1947.
- Canada honoured Rabbi Schild by his appointment in 2001 to the Order of Canada, an honour of which he is especially proud.
- In 2000 the Federal Republic of Germany awarded to him the "Order of Merit - Officer's Class".
- Rabbi Schild received an Honourary Doctorate of Philosophy from the German University of Osnabruck, in 2000.

Please RSVP to the synagogue office at 416.635.5340.

37 Southbourne Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M3H 1A4   www.adathisrael.com   info@adathisrael.com

Comic first novel published after 35 years

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

English teacher Sam Schichter worked on his first novel, *…and then along came Rudy!*, for 35 years; this year he finally celebrated its publication.

The book tells the tale of 21-year-old wannabe novelist Rudy Petinsky living in Brooklyn.

The story tracks the comic misfortunes he endures on his quest to become the next great American author, including a "making it" attempt in Hollywood, relationship rollercoasters and run-ins with dysfunctional family members.

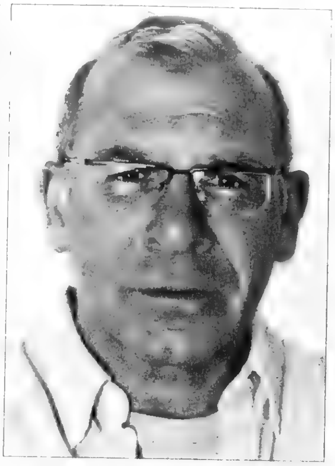
Though many parallels can be drawn between Rudy's story and Schichter's life, the Waterloo, Ont.-based author said the book is not autobiographical.

"This is really not me. I've used highlights from my life while writing my book," he said.

These highlights include a year-long backpacking and writing sojourn in Europe, an ill-fated tinsel-town adventure and growing up with Holocaust-survivor parents.

The book drives home the message of never letting go of a dream. This is a motto Schichter is well acquainted with, since *Rudy* originated 35 years ago as an assignment for a creative writing class.

Schichter was told to open a grocery story rather than be an author when his application for a graduate program in creative writing at Concordia University was rejected. He later reapplied, and an earlier form of the book was the thesis for his master's degree, which he received in 1986. But Schichter faced rejection after rejection from publishers, until the book was finally accepted by the Waterloo-based Loon in Balloon.



Sam Schichter is the author of *…and then along came Rudy!*

The novel is "about believing in yourself and never giving up," Schichter said.

"Everyone likes to laugh," he said. "I've been told that people laugh out loud while reading the book, and that's rare."

Rudy's misadventures are humorous, and the first-person narrative and snappy banter allows the reader to easily slip into his world and, by the end of the story, root for his success.

Invariably, however, these "successes" turn out to be failures, and the book moves slowly as the protagonist hits one roadblock after another. Each turn is unpredictable as Rudy becomes involved in one odd mishap after another, from moving into a Hollywood seniors apartment building to punching out his brother-in-law.

A frustrating aspect of the novel is Schichter's use of cookie-cutter stereotypes in portraying Rudy's parents, Esther and Morris. Esther is an overbearing Jewish mother, and Morris is a passive but well-meaning and wise father.

Esther's stereotypical Jewish mother qualities are stretched too far for her to be taken seriously as a character. ("Today you overslept, yesterday you watched TV. What's on the menu for tomorrow?" she nags at her son.) She becomes annoying and predictable, and Morris does not add to the tale's development.

By the end of the book, the reader is left satisfied that Rudy has gained some wisdom in the lengthy process of growing up.

Schichter is currently working on a second novel and has just finished writing the screenplay for *…and then along came Rudy!*

"I've always wanted to write and direct," Schichter said. "Visually, it would be very appealing onscreen – it's one scene after another with all his misadventures."

The book is available online through www.chapter.indigo.ca or from Loon in Balloon at www.looninballon.com

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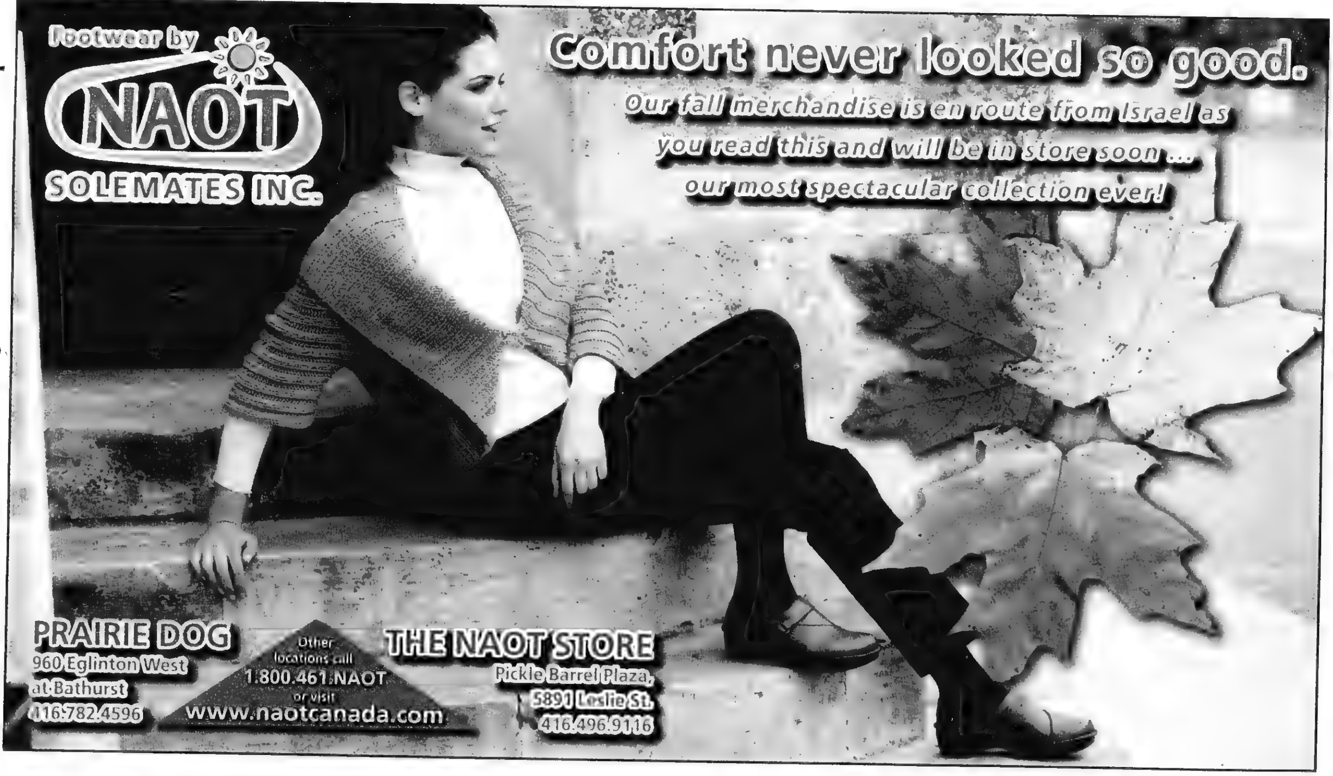


RBC Seniors' Jubilee showcases a variety of artists

By **ADAM SEGAL**
Special to The CJN

Ask Gloria Valentine how old she is, and with a charming chuckle, she quips, "sextysomething."

The entertainer's humorous response is likely the prevailing view of the more than 1,300 performers who will be on stage with her at the 19th annual RBC Seniors' Jubilee.

Showcasing their singing, dancing and comedic savvy are performers in their 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s, who will put on a wide array of shows at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall Aug. 13 to 17.

"It's an amazing show," enthuses Valentine, who will sing in Yiddish and English at the Jubilee. "We may be over 50, but that doesn't mean we aren't better than ever."

Five different performances are held during the production, boasting everything from concert bands and cabaret to tango dancers and vaudeville acts.

One of the most inspiring acts is an 87-year-old tap dancer.

Gloria Valentine

"People who come to the show go away feeling that it's great to be older," Valentine says. "The audience identifies with the free spirit and the vitality of the performers."

A singer and actor, Valentine has made many appearance on film, stage and television, including in *Kojak* and six years at Second City.

She performs an ongoing cabaret show at the Free Times Café in Toronto, and her latest role as a witch at the 2007 Fringe Festival earned wide acclaim.

She learned to speak Yiddish as a child and is a co-founder of the Friends of Yiddish organization.

"I just love Yiddish," she says, noting she's done Yiddish concerts and comedy acts across North America and in Israel. "It comes from a place that's very deep inside me."

Launched in 1989 with 400 performers, the Jubilee has more than tripled in size over the years, attracting marquee performers and routinely filling up Roy Thompson Hall.

This year's cast features a variety of new acts, including award-winning jazz and gospel singer Billy Newton-Davis; the one man unicyclist and juggler Johnny Toronto; Australian-born singer and guitarist Peter Shaw; the swing, jazz and country quintet Moo'd Swing; and the celebrated male quartet, Claidhmor.

Also highlighted at this year's event are award ceremonies, including the Pauline McGibbon Life Achievement in the Arts Award, which will be awarded to author/singer Kelly Walker, and the Forever Young Award of Distinction, which will go to Noura, a dynamic belly dancer and instructor.

For more information about the RBC Seniors Jubilee, visit www.roythomson.com. Single tickets can be purchased by calling 416-872-4255. For group rates, phone 416-593-4822, ext. 225.

ROM sound installation features Mitch Smolkin

By **SHERRY SMITHER**
Special to The CJN

Combine the vision of acoustic architect John Oswald with the zest of choral director Laurel MacDonald and mix in technical co-ordinator Phillip Strong. Then top that off with tenor Mitch Smolkin's Hebrew adaptation of a Latin hymn and, bam, you've got *Qui* (pronounced kwee).

Qui is a choral composition that brings together 29 singers and 29 languages. The work is part of *A Time to Hear For Here*, Oswald's sound installation at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) Spirit House, in the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal.

When Smolkin, 29, who is known for singing heartfelt Yiddish tunes, was approached by the ROM to contribute to *Qui*, it was music to his ears.

Mitch Smolkin

"I'm very interested in transformations. Since *A Time to Hear for Here* was connected to the new transformation at the ROM, it was an amazing opportunity," he said.

"Knowing John Oswald's track record, *Qui* would become a part of history, and it's an off-the-wall idea."

It's off the wall all right!

Sounds interact with ROM's architectural space, designed by Daniel Libeskind, through five tiers of speakers.

The first contributor to *Qui* (Latin for "who"), Smolkin sang the hymn, also called *Qui*, about God as a protector, in Hebrew.

"It's surprising that in synagogue, cantors or even great composers of liturgy will take a popular tune and put *Adon Olam* to it," he said.

"For *Qui*, I took the Hebrew text and made it fit what was originally written in Latin."

After recording the hymn, he was asked to say hello and goodbye in English, Hebrew, Yiddish and French, whistle and hum, and then sing a favourite tune. That is included in the recording of human voices visitors to the Spirit House may hear, depending on the day and time they are there.

The Spirit House, an irregular-shaped atrium, is an artifact-free meditative space and was designed as a secular cathedral.

While some sounds, such as the voices in *Qui*, are controlled by a central computer, others are random.

No two sound experiences are alike.

Smolkin's part can be heard in various forms throughout the day, including at a time when only male voices are played, but the entire *Qui* culminates with the 26 parts played at 5:17 p.m. every day.

Smolkin, a former artistic director for the Ashkenaz Festival, said that "Qui is always changing. It comes from many angles, which is reflective of life and who I am, like my contribution from the angle of Hebrew."

Recently at a ROM media event, he met with other *Qui* singers.

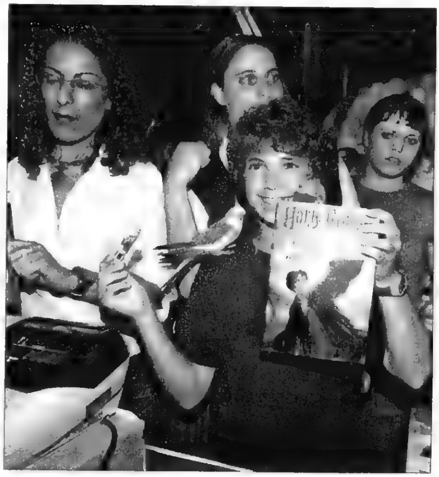
"Being there with people who take risks and stretch the envelope is a neat feeling, but it takes two to do this – it took the ROM to go out on a limb and dedicate the space to this kind of idea," he said.

For Smolkin, a key moment of the event was when *Qui*, a permanent ROM installation, was played and the vocalists walked around listening for their voices.

"It was a great creative force that came together," he said.

Another project of Smolkin's is the album, *A Nign*, which he's recording with Klezmer en Buenos Aires. The group will be performing with Smolkin at a concert to be held at the Al Green Theatre on Oct. 6. Listeners should expect the unexpected – the music includes a mix of folk, tango and jazz. The album will be released in fall 2008.

For more information about Mitch Smolkin, visit www.mitchsmolkin.com.


ACCIO BOOK SEVEN: People line up at the Old Tel Aviv Port to be the first to buy the latest Harry Potter book at 2:01 a.m. on July 21. Special booths were set up to cope with the several thousand Israelis who had ordered the book in English. The Hebrew translation will not be available until December. There was a threat by the Interior Ministry to impose fines on stores that opened on Shabbat to sell the latest book, but it seems to have fallen on deaf ears and thousands of Israelis around the country could not wait to get their hands on the final adventure of the boy wizard.

[Isranet photo]

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF ED MIRVISH'S LIFE SET FOR AUG. 12

A public celebration of the life of Honest **Ed Mirvish**, who died on July 11, is set to occur on Sunday, Aug. 12, outside Honest Ed's emporium at Bloor and Bathurst streets.

Ceremonies begin at 11:30 a.m. in the presence of **Mayor David Miller**, who is slated to proclaim the day as "Ed Mirvish Day" in the City of Toronto. The public is invited to a free eight-hour-long celebration on Bloor Street, which will be closed between Bathurst and Markham streets. Continuous live entertainment and surprises have been arranged until 7 p.m.

* * *

Summer Arts Party: The Koffler Centre of the Arts presents its first annual Summer Arts Party, a program for young people from six to 16. Professional artists and instructors teach a weeklong program of music, dance, painting, drawing and pottery, to help young people get their creative juices flowing. The cost is $350. Aug. 27 through 31, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To register, call Elyse Goody, 416-636-1880, ext. 222.

The Koffler Center has also scheduled two special events for evenings during the week.

The Big Draw, for ages 12 to 16, features an evening of art-based games and contests animated by MC **Misha Glouberman**. During this great occasion to stretch creative muscles, participants will be challenged to create spontaneous and collaborative drawings in a variety of media. Tuesday, Aug. 28, 7 to 9 p.m. $10.

Battle of The Dancers, for ages 10 to 16, is a cool night of dancing. Participants watch demos and learn impressive steps and routines such as professional hip hop and break dancing. The night ends with a team competition for the ultimate title. Thursday, Aug. 30, 7 to 10 p.m. $10. 416-636-1880, ext. 222. www.kofflerarts.org

* * *

History Channel Docs: Two documentaries by Toronto television producer **Alan Mendelsohn** are being shown on the History Television Network this month.

A multiple Gemini Award winner, Mendelsohn wrote and directed *The Road to Partition*, about the fateful partitioning of the Indian subcontinent 60 years ago into mainly Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan. After two centuries of dominating India, the British were being forced out. For them, partition seemed the path of least resistance. But inadequate planning and lack of support resulted in the slaughter of one million, a carnage that has been called "one of the great tragedies of South Asia in the last century."

The Road to Partition airs Wednesday, Aug. 15, 9 p.m., on History Television's Turning Points of History series.

Part of the same series, Mendelsohn's documentary *High Water Blues* reveals the tragic parallels between the Mississippi flood of 1927 and hurricane Katrina, which struck Louisiana two years ago to the day. *High Water Blues* airs Wednesday, Aug. 29, 9 p.m.

* * *

Casting Call: Teatron Toronto Jewish Theatre, now in its fifth season, seeks actors for the plays *Conversations With My Father*, a dramatic comedy by **Herb Gardner**, and *Chaim's Love Song*, a "rich, affecting drama" (*New York Times*) by **Marvin Chernoff**. Both are to be performed at the Leah Posluns Theatre. To book an interview, please contact Ari Weisberg, 416-781-5527 or teatron@sympatico.ca

* * *

Seniors' Jubilee: The RBC Seniors' Jubilee brings all the glitz and glamour of a Broadway extravaganza to Roy Thomson Hall as more than 1,300 talented performers in their 50s, 60s, 70s and beyond take centre stage. The fare includes Italian arias, reggae rhythms, Middle Eastern belly dance, Scottish highland dancing and more. $39.50-$18.50. Aug. 13 to 17. 416-872-4255, www.roythomson.com

Canadian clarinetist hailed as one of the world's greatest

By **BARBARA SILVERSTEIN**
Special to The CJN

The legendary big band leader Benny Goodman's only student is a Canadian who has been hailed as one of the world's greatest living clarinettists.

Soloist and chamber musician Julian Milkis says that while he is not one to brag, his celebrity status in his native Russia is quite a contrast to his low profile in Canada.

On Aug. 13, Milkis will be appearing with his wife, pianist Nina Kogan and their son, Daniel, a violinist, at the Niagara International Chamber Music Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Daniel, 14, is a featured performer in the Showcase for Young Virtuosos to be held at noon. At 2 p.m., Milkis and Kogan will be playing Igor Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale*, a collaborative performance with musicians and actors.

Milkis and the Russian-born Kogan both come from prominent musical families. Milkis immigrated to Toronto in 1975 with his parents, pianist Marianna Milkis and violinist Yascha Milkis, formerly the associate concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and principal second violinist of the Leningrad Philharmonic.

Kogan is the daughter of the internationally acclaimed violinists Elizaveta Gilels and the late Leonid Kogan. "He was one of the legendary violinists of the 20th century," says Milkis in a recent telephone interview from his parents' Toronto home.

A proud father, he notes that Daniel is the youngest person in 30 years to be accepted as a student by the renowned teacher Maya Glezacova. "He [Glezacova] has played for [Russian President Vladmir] Putin many times."

Milkis, who grew up in St. Petersburg (then Leningrad), says that unlike Daniel he was far from being a child prodigy. At age 11, his parents switched him from piano to the clarinet because he only got a B+ on his piano exams. "That was my punishment."

However, he says he instantly took to the clarinet. "I was not a big star. I won some small local competitions."

He praises the music instruction he received at Toronto's Northview Heights Secondary School, where he was in the school band. He went on to study music in New York City, first at the Manhattan School of Music and later as a graduate student at the Juilliard School of Music. He also has an MA in English from Norwich University in Vermont.

While at Juilliard, he won a competition that landed him a debut concert at Carnegie Hall. It was the spring of 1983 and Milkis says he had just a few months to prepare for the recital. He chose the piece *Contrasts*, a challenging work by Hungarian composer Bela Bartok, which Goodman had originally commissioned in 1938.

Julian Milkis, centre, will be appearing in Niagara on the Lake on Aug. 13 with his wife, pianist Nina Kogan and son Daniel.

Milkis says he decided to ask the great clarinettist to help him with the piece and he agreed. "He had a very unique sound."

The two remained close, he says, until Goodman's death in 1986.

A film about Goodman's 1962 tour of Russia will feature Milkis playing with the six surviving members of Goodman's big band in a restaging of the tour.

He says he hopes the film, by Toronto producer Felix Golubev, a childhood friend from Russia, will give him more prominence in Canada, a country for which he feels a great affinity.

He says despite growing up in Russia, he always felt a strong bond with Canada because his grandmother's family settled here in the 1920s. "My great-grandparents are buried here."

He adds that during the first Canada/ Russia hockey series in 1972, he even rooted for Canada, which, in retrospect, he muses, was a risky stance to take in Russia.

So was standing up for being Jewish, he recalls. "I was in fights a lot because of anti-Semitism. I had my nose broken twice because I'm hotblooded.

"I couldn't stand the name-calling. I couldn't stand to hear them say 'dirty Jew.'"

For more information about the Niagara International Chamber Music Festival, call 1-800-511-7429.

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Crypto-Jews inspire book about Conversos

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

While attending a Friday night Shabbat service in San Antonio, Tx., several years ago, Vera Propp met some congregants with a rather intriguing history.

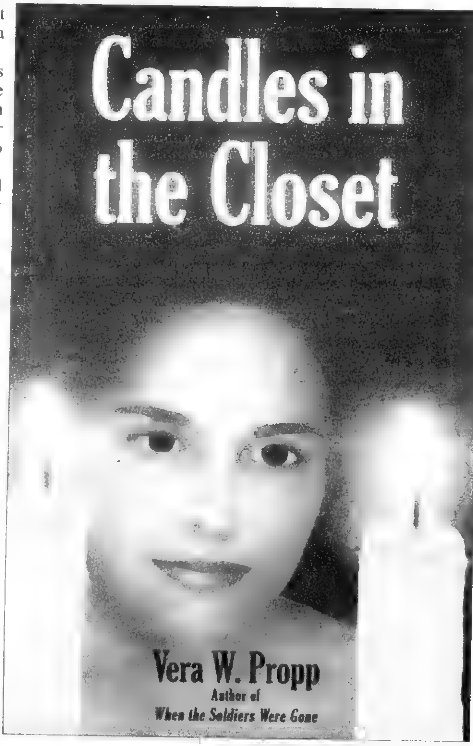
Though brought up as Catholics, the couple she met practised Jewish rituals, the reasons for which were unknown to them.

Eventually, they would come to discover they were descendants of Conversos – Jews who converted to Catholicism, most likely under duress, during the period of the Spanish Inquisition in the late 1400s, but secretly kept the faith, to some degree.

"I was in the middle of writing my first book at the time," recalls Propp.

"But when I met this couple, I thought in the back of my mind that I'd like to write about the topic."

Thus, this story about Crypto-Jews would provide the inspiration for Propp's recently published novel, *Candles in the Closet*.



The book, written in simple prose and geared to female readers of 12 or 13 years, is a fictional historical odyssey that touches on important social themes, such as religious intolerance, gender roles and ultimately, religious freedom.

It begins with 12-year-old Bonnie Lopez, who is curious to discover the roots of a secret family custom she witnesses her grandmother engage in – lighting candles on Friday night and reciting a prayer in a mysterious language.

Bonnie embarks on a mission to understand what these seemingly foreign customs are all about, eventually realizing they are not foreign at all but in fact part of who she is.

"I am happy to not have to worry about keeping things secret anymore," says Bonnie's relative, Margarita.

"I'm looking forward to learning about the Jewish religion, especially if it meant so much to our ancestors that they held on to its beliefs when they could have all been killed because of it."

The book doesn't shy away from the stark reality Jews of the Inquisition faced and keenly illustrates the need for secrecy in order to preserve Jewish practices and beliefs.

For instance, at one point in the novel, a Madonna statue shatters into pieces and littered among the broken shards is a silver box that contains Jewish scriptures hidden inside.

"This box contains a parchment scroll with the *Shema* prayer written on it in Hebrew letters… We touch it whenever we pass it, even when it is hidden in a Madonna's foot."

Other facets of the time period, such as women marrying at extremely young ages, the jailing of Jews and the adventures to the New World, are all written about in a believable style and tone.

Propp referred to scholarly research on Conversos to inform her narrative.

Though their precise numbers are not known, there continue to be descendants of Conversos in North America and elsewhere who were brought up as Catholics but practise a number of Jewish rituals.

The author of the children's Holocaust-era book *When the Soldiers Were Gone*, Propp formerly spent 25 years working as reading teacher in Albany, N.Y.

Getting her latest novel published has been quite a challenge for her. Propp, the grandmother of two, suffers from multiple sclerosis and is also a survivor of a debilitating stroke.

Through sheer will, determination and support, she was able to weave together a compelling narrative.

"With both books, I believe I had a really good idea that I was motivated by," she says.

"I think it's helpful to work with a writing group where you get to read each other's work. You also have to really care about what you're writing about and take it page by page."

For more information about *Candles in the Closet*, visit http://candlesinthecloset.com.

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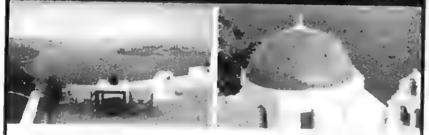

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Al Qaeda has adapted and changed

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The transnational terrorist organization Al Qaeda has cut a swath of death and destruction across the United States, Europe, Asia and Africa in an attempt to destabilize the West, topple moderate Arab governments and harm Israel.

In the face of these periodic attacks, Western armies and intelligence agencies have marshalled immense resources to eradicate it, but Al Qaeda and its far-flung affiliates have, nevertheless, grown bolder and stronger.

Since Al Qaeda will doubtless haunt us for many more years to come, there is a need for a deeper understanding of its philosophy and methods.

Few analysts better understand it than Abdel Bari Atwan, editor-in-chief of the London-based Arabic newspaper *al-Quds al-Arabi.* A close observer of this violent Islamic fundamentalist group, he spent several days with its founding father, Osama bin Laden, in 1996 in the remote, craggy mountains of Afghanistan. Since then, Atwan's publication has been the vehicle of choice for the release of Al Qaeda's electronic communiques.

Now, in *The Secret History of Al Qaeda* (University of California Press), he takes a closer look at it and its leading figure. Describing his arduous trip to bin Laden's lair in Tora Bora as "the strangest assignment I have ever undertaken in a career spanning more than 30 years," Atwan likens it to a journey into the unknown.

He met bin Laden in a cave high in a snow-clad mountain range. Several years ago, U.S. forces attacked this area in a bid to capture the arch-terrorist.

When Atwan was introduced to bin Laden, he sat cross-legged on a carpet, a Kalashnikov assault rifle in his lap. He was polite, soft-spoken, smiling and gentle, his guards deferential and hanging on his every word. He did not come across as a person who has blood on his hands.

A Saudi of Yemenite descent whose father was a multi-millionaire building contractor and whose five wives have given birth to 24 children, bin Laden has harboured an absolutely "malicious hatred" of the United States since 1990, when U.S. troops were dispatched to Saudi Arabia after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Bin Laden regarded the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia as nothing less than an occupation. Although the United States pulled its troops out of Saudi Arabia in 2003, bin Laden never forgave the Saudi government for having had the temerity to invite an "infidel" power to stain its holy soil.

Nor has he forgiven the United States for its support of what he deems as corrupt and oppressive Arab regimes and its unstinting backing of Israel.

Osama bin Laden

Though bin Laden is Al Qaeda's undisputed leader, his second in command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian medical doctor from a similarly wealthy background, is extremely influential as its main theoretician. It was he who formulated Al Qaeda's strategy of creating an Islamic state in Afghanistan to serve as a base from which Muslims could regain the caliphate and their "lost glory."

Like all extremists, al-Zawahiri has tunnel vision. Atwan quotes him as saying: "The West, led by the U.S., which is under the influence of the Jews, does not know the language of ethics, morality and legitimate rights. They only know the language of brute military force."

In fact, Al Qaeda jihadists revere violence, as Atwan conclusively demonstrates in a chapter titled "Human Bombs and the Concept of Martyrdom."

"What people in the West simply don't understand is that we love death even more than they love life," he quotes bin Laden as saying in 1996.

Suicide attacks, from the events of Sept. 11, 2001, in the United States to the Madrid train station bombing in March 2004, are Al Qaeda's stock in trade. Atwan says that while such attacks are not historically or uniquely a Muslim tactic, Muslims have had the longest and most sustained record of using them in conflicts with western powers.

Suicide bombers are chosen on the basis of their religious zeal, courage and mental stability. They must also have a clean criminal record and be at least 18 and single. The bombers do not believe that they will die, but that they will ascend to a better life in paradise, attended to by 72 nubile virgins.

Atwan rates Sept. 11 as the day Al Qaeda morphed into a global force and bin Laden became a symbol of radical Islam. Since that terrible moment, Al Qaeda has evolved into "a network of loosely affiliated franchises operating more or less independently of a leadership on the run."

Atwan points out that the vast majority of Al Qaeda's membership has been and remains Saudi. The Saudi regime encouraged about 45,000 Saudi men to join the *mujahedeen* to expel the Soviet army from Afghanistan. They, in turn, proved to be apt recruiters for a new generation of jihadis.

He cites a survey, taken shortly after Sept. 11, in which 95 per cent of educated Saudis, aged 21 to 41, voiced support for Al Qaeda. He also notes that bin Laden fully embraces Wahhabism, Saudi Arabia's austere brand of Islam.

In Atwan's view, the Saudi royal family has unwittingly played into Al Qaeda's hands. The kingdom's 6,000 princes and their 24,000 children and relatives enjoy ostentatious wealth, replete with palaces, private jets and ocean liners. Yet in Saudi Arabia, per capita income has fallen and poverty is endemic.

The Saudi branch of Al Qaeda has been on the offensive since May 2003, when it blew up three compounds housing foreign workers in Riyadh, killing 34 people and wounding 200.

It has since attacked oil fields, the lifeblood of the Saudi economy, government offices and the American consulate in Jeddah. King Abdullah recently vowed to crush such terrorism.

Al Qaeda has also recruited jihadis in Europe, Atwan says, citing arrests in Italy, Spain and Britain.

He agrees with the assessment that the 2003 allied invasion of Iraq has been of great benefit to Al Qaeda. Iraq has become a safe haven and a training ground for its fighters. Or as he bluntly puts it, "American foreign policy is the best recruitment officer Al Qaeda has ever had."

The Internet has also been a key element in Al Qaeda's success.

"Some commentators have gone so far as to declare that Al Qaeda is the first Web-directed guerrilla network," he writes, adding that there are now more than 4,500 overtly jihadi websites, all of which help bring together like-minded people.

Not surprisingly, thousands of Al Qaeda supporters and sympathizers are currently studying computer science as a way to support the cause. "Nowadays, jihadi groups require four essential ingredients: members, a leader, a religious guide and information technology specialists," according to Atwan.

The late leader of Al Qaeda's Iraqi branch, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was gunned down by American troops last year, was in part so effective due to his mastery of the Internet.

In concluding his useful survey, Atwan says that Al Qaeda – the first radical organization with a significant global constituency – should not be underestimated, given its ability to adapt to changing circumstances.

Al Qaeda is also exceedingly dangerous because it has the potential to mobilize thousands, perhaps millions, of the world's 1.3 billion Muslims.

Clearly, Al Qaeda can only be underestimated at great peril.

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$5-million AIDS lab unveiled at Montreal hospital

By **DAVID LAZARUS**
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — A new $5-million biocontainment HIV/AIDS research laboratory was recently unveiled at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH).

The lab will use the latest cutting-edge equipment and top researchers in the field to cultivate and analyze the virus, develop drugs and secure new funding to keep the work going, its director said.

"The new lab is now on par with any lab in the world in growing HIV," said Mark Wainberg, director of research at the JGH.

The new facility is on the third floor of the JGH's Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research and is several times larger than the previous one there. The first AIDS lab at the hospital was launched by Wainberg in 1984, as the AIDS epidemic began to take hold. The latest one is its fourth.

"We used to be the size of one garage," Wainberg, 62, said. "Now we're the size of six."

Actually, probably more.

The new lab has 10 rooms and is physically sealed off from the rest of the hospital. It also has several fail-safe mechanisms to prevent contamination from entering or leaving. Entry doors are automatic and double-air-locked – one door doesn't open until the other closes. Anything hinting of taint goes into 130-degree Celsius autoclaves similar to the devices used to sterilize surgical instruments. All workers wear masks and gowns, and even the ventilated air is hepa-filtered several times before going back into the atmosphere.

Wainberg said the level of safety is, "in many ways, overkill," since the AIDS virus has never been known to be transmitted through the air. "But the government said these are the rules, and they are very stringent."

It was noted that the lab is only one of two in Quebec authorized to genotype – that is, examine the genetic sequencing of – the virus, and one of only a few in Canada rated as a Level 3 facility in terms of its stringent Health Canada safety standards. This allows the lab, as of July 3, to store and reproduce the virus on site and in quantity, and to test tissue samples.

Wainberg, who is an internationally reputed AIDS researcher, said while the old facility still adhered to Canadian safety guidelines, it was "outmoded" and perhaps a year away from breaching standards.

"It was the small details," he said. "Not enough room in an old lab, not big enough to accommodate employees or bring in new equipment."

The new facility, by comparison, will accommodate 25 employees at a time, and Wainberg said 82 people working in seven JGH hospital labs are trained to work there.

At a press conference prior to a tour of the new facility, Wainberg said one of the main research tasks in the lab will be to examine the process by which one subtype of the virus (there are 10 discovered so far) becomes drug resistant, compared to another type. More specifically, researchers will compare Subtype B, the predominant strain of HIV infecting 65,000 Canadians, with Subtype C, which is infecting 11 million in South Africa and has been seen in Quebec.

Mark Wainberg, director of research at the Jewish General Hospital, is seen in the hospital's new HIV/AIDS lab.
[Jean Marcotte photo]

AIDS, he said, remains an elusive foe. Wainberg has been credited with the 1989 development of 3TC, an anti-retroviral drug, but such drugs, he pointed out, inevitably grow resistant over time because the virus mutates. That's why the search is always on for new ones, he said, even though a future vaccine is still the "holy grail."

Wainberg noted that in Quebec, half of the new AIDS cases are coming from newly infected people who don't yet know they have it, because there is a three-month lag between getting infected and showing HIV antibodies in the blood.

Even if someone is tested during this crucial three-month period, he said, nothing would show. He said part of the lab's work will be focused on seeking faster methods to see the antibodies.

Wainberg said of the $5-million cost of the new lab, which is also affiliated with the McGill AIDS Centre, $2.2 million came from the federally and provincially funded Canadian Foundation for Innovation, and another $2.8 million came from the JGH Foundation. The lab also has an annual operating budget of $1.3 million through a mixture of public and private funding.

Wainberg said he planned to send a grant application to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation by August, as well as to others such as the Clinton Foundation, to help fund continuing research.

Believing in yourself

Life Coach Corner

Judy Siblin-Librach

There's a beautiful song from the show *The Wiz*, sung by the character Glenda, called *Believe in Yourself*. The lyrics from that song represent the most important aspect of life coaching.

Before we can have dreams and goals and wishes, we have to begin with the belief that they can be achieved. Then we simply take that belief and turn our dream into a reality. It's often as simple as that, but we tend to make it more complicated. Sometimes we feel the belief deep down inside, and it's only a matter of reminding ourselves that it's there so that we can propel ourselves forward.

Other people have to borrow the inspirational attitude of Anne Frank. Anne, in her famous diary, said that "everyone has inside of him a piece of good news." The good news is that you don't know how great you can be – how much you can love, what you can accomplish and what your potential is.

People often ask the questions, "How do I believe in myself, what will unlock the key to my true happiness?" The answer is, begin by believing in your potential and in your ability to do what it is you dream of. Then you can make a game plan and begin the hard work necessary to put your plan into action. There is no question that it takes hard work.

I know someone who worked on Bay Street as a lawyer for 20 years, with incredible discipline and drive, so that he could retire by age 50 and pursue all of the things he has always dreamed of. He is now living on a farm with an incredible vineyard and is truly living his bliss.

I know a girl who has an extraordinary singing voice and spends her time doing community theatre and school plays (even though she could really be a professional musical theatre performer) and she often gets the lead role. She is supremely talented, but she also believes in herself. Then she backs up her talent with incredible discipline and hard work, and the result is a stunning achievement every time.

We all want our children to believe in themselves and so we remind them of all of their beautiful qualities and strengths. It is so important that we do that often so belief in themselves becomes a part of them.

My column today was inspired by a friend whom I talked with recently about sending her son to camp. I said to her, "Well, at least your son is going away to camp with a close friend and he can hold on to that."

And then my friend replied, "But that's not how I want to look at it. I want him to be okay inside, on his own, and not rely on his friend, but rely on himself." Beautifully said.

I love the quote by Vincent van Gogh that says, " If you hear a voice within you say you cannot paint, then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced."

Confidence also comes from preparation, from research, from good, honest hard work, and from believing in the cans, not the can'ts.

Thomas Edison said, "If we did all the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves."

So take out a pen and paper and write down a list of 10 things you would love to accomplish, beginning with the most incredible and fantastic dreams, goals or wishes, and whichever one calls to you the most is the place to begin.

I would love to hear what you have to say about believing in yourself and about your greatest wish.

And remember, as the song *Believe in Yourself* goes, "Believe there's a reason to be. Believe you can make time stand still. And know from the moment you try. If you believe, I know you will."

Judy Siblin-Librach is an Adler-trained life coach. Her website address is www.findingyourbliss.com; her e-mail address is judyelle@ican.net.

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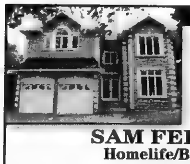

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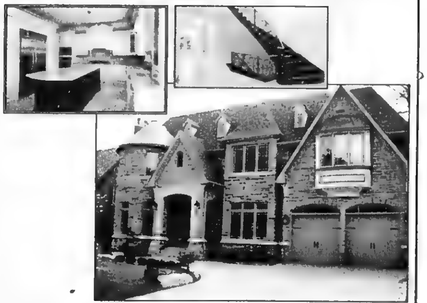

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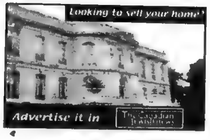

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Foundation nurtures and promotes Israeli artists

By WENDY ELLIMAN
IPS

Actor Chaim Topol, violinist Itzhak Perlman and designer Gideon Oberson are international beacons, each of whom attract more goodwill for Israel than a hundred press conferences. But are they all that Israel has to offer the world of culture?

Far from it, according to Rachel Marani, founder and director of the Israel Cultural Excellence Foundation (IcExcellence), an organization that nurtures and promotes cultural excellence in Israel.

While serving in Washington, D.C., as Israel's cultural attaché, Marani organized 360 events in prestigious venues around the city – from classical and ethnic Israeli music concerts to Israeli film galas and writing festivals – to mark Israel's 50th anniversary.

"Many in our U.S. audiences were exposed to Israeli culture for the first time, including the critics," says Marani. "Over and again I was asked: 'Why aren't these wonderful artistes internationally known?'"

In 2001, on returning to Israel, Marani established IcExcellence to help launch Israeli artists into the global cultural arena. She organized a volunteer artistic advisory committee of 35 leading Israeli artists and pundits (among them six Israel Prize laureates) and started to raise funds from businesses, foundations and private individuals worldwide.

Two years later, IcExcellence and Rachel Marani were honoured for their promotion of constructive change in Israeli society with the 2003 Leadership Formation Award, given by the Israeli alumni associations of Harvard University and Wharton-Penn Harvard Business School.

This award and the success of the artists selected by the foundation suggest it has found the right path. But just how is excellence nurtured and promoted? By a fundamental switch in mentality, according to Marani. "Artistes mustn't sit and wait for fame to find them," she says. "They must go out and get it."

Hard work is emphasized, says Marani. "After all, we're not a 'fairy godmother' foundation. We don't give grants or money. Although great artistic talent is a prerequisite, talent in itself is not sufficient to develop a prominent local and/or international career. Our artistes also need the tools which will help them succeed in the long run, not provide momentarily relief."

To this end, IcExcellence gives its artists three things: an individual, custom-made artistic program, career-building skills and membership in a small but growing all-star community of Israelis pursuing cultural excellence.

"As an essential part of our vision, IcExcellence-chosen artists are also committed to give back to the community," says Marani. "Their volunteer programs are varied and include concerts at centres for disabled adults, helping at preschools for autistic children, inviting disadvantaged women or newcomers to performances, working with gifted children in the periphery."

Choreographer and dancer Emanuel Gat performs at the Uzes Festival in France.
[IPS photo by Cathy Peilan]

All under 40, the 28 artists chosen to date by the foundation come from the fields of visual arts, jazz, classical and Israeli music, dance, theatre and cinema, product design, visual communication, fashion design and writing. They are all extraordinary artistic talents, highly motivated and determined.

Most of the foundation's artistic programs include learning from global greats and being paired with world-renowned cultural and educational institutions.

Visual artist Yehudit Sasportas became the first Israeli ever to be accepted to the program and was given a full-year residency at the prestigious Künstlerhaus Bethanien art centre in Berlin. She was chosen to represent Israel this summer at the Venice Biennale, a major contemporary art exhibition.

Pianist, conductor and composer Yaron Gottfried was sent to the exclusive MacDowell Colony art centre in New Hampshire for a month and returned with a major new work.

Graphic artist Adi Stern chose to do a post-graduate degree in typography at Britain's Reading University, where he designed a new Hebrew font – Noam.

"As an artist," says Gottfried, "IcExcellence has helped me feel that I don't have to go into battle alone. In 2004, I was given the opportunity to attend an international congress in Boston for artistic directors, where I learned about conducting and directing orchestras. I was exposed to new materials and I formed a network of connections. Since then, I have already received two invitations to conduct and perform works of mine in the U.S."

Combined with the artistic program are career studies. "These were developed by the foundation and are based on principles drawn from the business world," says Marani.

Artists are invited to participate in two annual workshops to discuss issues that are vital to their career progress. The workshops include lectures and seminars by high-level professionals on subjects such as strategic thinking, self-presentation, marketing, branding, identifying and defining goals, formulating a plan of action, ongoing evaluation and networking. In addition, professional counselling and private business coaching is available to artists who it is felt can benefit from a more personal process.

The workshops have developed into a third area in which the foundation assists artists – a supportive community of artists has been created, in which not only feelings and experiences but also talents are shared.

Fashion designer Claudette Zorea, whose first major collection was presented in 2005 and who was invited to collaborate with the influential designer Jean-Paul Gaultier, is presently designing an evening suit for conductor Yaron Gottfried.

"Three of our graphic and visual artists are designing the sleeves for the discs of the recording artists, and visual artist Gal Weinstein designed the stage for choreographer Yasmeen Goder," says Marani. "Joint projects are being born now literally every day."

Marani says it is thrilling to see the artists turn their goals and inspiring visions into realities.

Lior Elmalich, who was born and raised in the northern border city of Kiryat Shmona, was drawn to Andalusian music from an early age. Elmalich is now recognized worldwide as one of the finest modern singers of traditional Spanish and Moroccan poems and is currently working with the Hebrew University's ethnomusicology department, preserving Jewish cultural musical treasures.

Choreographer and dancer Emanuel Gat, who established his own dance troupe in 2004 – the Emanuel Gat Ensemble – quickly gained worldwide success and recognition, and has performed in Israel, the United States, Britain, France, Japan, Singapore, Korea, Greece, Germany, Serbia, Turkey and Italy. Using his international contacts, Gat is working toward his dream of building a dance centre in the Negev. This ambitious venture will provide a "laboratory" for choreographers and performance space for dance groups from Israel and abroad, and will serve as an educational and training centre.

Marani is delighted that her endeavour to reveal Israel's hidden cultural treasures has succeeded beyond expectation. "Our artistes' careers are progressing by leaps and bounds. Within the decade I believe many of them will be global figures, performing on the world's stages and in concert halls, their work displayed in its galleries and museums," she says.

"They'll make Israel a byword for cultural excellence and a source of pride not only for Israelis but for the entire world Jewish community."

For more information about IcExcellence, visit www.icexcellence.com

Rachel Marani, seated second row, second right, founded IcExcellence to help launch Israeli artists into the global cultural arena. With her are some of the foundation's artists.

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Paralympian trades ice for hardcourt

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The world's top-ranking goalie in sledge hockey is about to try his lightning-fast glove and blocker hands at volleyball.

Paul Rosen, a four-time Canadian sledge hockey paralympic gold-medallist and motivational speaker, recently qualified for the national men's sitting volleyball team and will compete at the Parapanamerican Games in Brazil this summer.

It's yet another accomplishment in the 47-year-old Thornhill, Ont., resident's inspirational career.

As the name implies, sitting volleyball is played from a seated position. The rules are mostly the same as standing volleyball, except the net is lower and players' rear ends must remain in contact with the floor at all times.

Rosen likens the sport to his beloved sledge hockey, where players, seated on customized bladed sleds, must rely on arm strength and agility to get around on the ice.

In sitting volleyball, players are outfitted with special pant-shorts that allow for increased sliding along the hardwood floor.

The uniform, Rosen said, lets players "push yourself from point to point and slide about halfway across the floor," he said.

While on a speaking tour with Hockey Canada earlier this year, Rosen was approached by sitting volleyball team manager, Phil Allen, who asked him if he wanted to try training with his squad.

"I'd always been joking around about playing a summer sport – you know, throwing a javelin or something," a genial Rosen quipped to *The CJN*. "I'm always up to a challenge, so I said 'Sure.' I went on the floor, played with the guys and I loved it."

The next day, Rosen received an e-mail from Allen asking him to join the team for the upcoming Parapanamerican games in Rio de Janeiro from Aug. 12 to 19, where Canadian paralympians will compete against teams from the United States, Brazil, Costa Rica and Cuba.

Only the gold-medal team from the Rio Games will qualify to compete at the 2008 Beijing Summer Paralympics.

Not surprisingly, Rosen has quickly become a veteran, cheerful, stabilizing presence on his new team.

Paul Rosen snags a puck versus Norway last year.

His new teammates have been equally swift to horse around with the goalie-turned-volleyballer.

"It's a tough game, and they're afraid I'll get into that goalie habit and catch the ball," Rosen said with laugh.

But if there's something he fears, Rosen hasn't stumbled upon it yet.

After breaking his right leg in 14 places while playing amateur hockey in 1975, effectively ending his "abled" sports career, Rosen endured more than two decades of painful surgeries and recovery, only to have doctors discover a massive infection in the leg in 1999, leaving him with a no-choice decision: amputate or die.

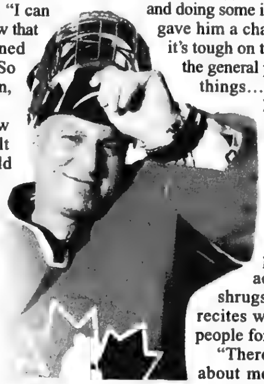
While many people would be angry at the news and the messengers, Rosen takes ultimate responsibility for his fate.

"I never [sued] the doctors, because 90 per cent of what happened to me was my stupidity, my fault. When I was told not to play anymore, I didn't listen. When I was told to have a cast on for seven months, I took it off after three," Rosen recalled. "I can look in the mirror today and know that what happened to me happened because of me and no one else. So even before I had the amputation, I knew I was going to beat it."

What he didn't know, was how a comment during a difficult rehab session by 12-year-old Shane Smith, himself a triple amputee, would inspire him to go way beyond just surviving his amputation.

Smith asked Rosen if he still had a heart and a brain. Rosen said "yes," to which Smith responded, "Then what's wrong with you?"

Eight years later, both Rosen's athletic and speaking careers are thriving. And he credits Smith for it all.



Paul Rosen
[photo courtesy the Adlib group]

"When I had the conversation with Shane, that's when I knew I would achieve greatness," Rosen said. "I lived because I have to spread the message to people that you can achieve anything if you put your mind to it. It's taken a huge toll in my personal life, but it had to be done."

The toll is a perpetually packed schedule that keeps him away from his three children for weeks and months on end while he travels the world, competing for his country and inspiring people everywhere with his story.

It also recently cost him his 27-year marriage. Still, he soldiers on.

Rosen estimates he does approximately 125 speaking engagements a year between his roles as a Canadian Paralympic Committee ambassador and his private business.

And after Rio, he'll resume his sledge hockey schedule, which sees him travelling to Japan, Norway, Germany and the United States over the next year.

He relishes any time he gets to spend with his three kids when he's back home in Toronto.

"They're happy daddy's breaking barriers and doing some incredible things no one gave him a chance [to achieve]. But it's tough on them," Rosen said. "To the general public, I have a million things… but deep down, all I have is my kids."

Rosen plans to go into broadcasting after his hockey career ends. He said the 2010 Vancouver Paralympic Games will be his last.

When people compliment him on all he's accomplished, Rosen shrugs the praise off and recites what he's been telling people for years.

"There's nothing special about me. I'm a 47-year-old guy who decided that 'no' is not in my vocabulary, that I can do anything," he said.

When asked if he ever wishes he had his leg back, Rosen answers resolutely.

"Absolutely not. No way. Not a chance. I've learned way too much from coming as close as I did to dying, to losing my leg, losing my marriage… if I [hadn't lost the leg], I would have gone on like everybody else, taking life for granted. I have no regrets. Absolutely none."

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Keep on cycling

By MICHAEL GORDON

The Senior Side of Life

It was a lovely Sunday morning in late June, and I was out for a shorter than usual cycle. I got onto the Don trail at Finch Avenue, just a few blocks from my home, with the intention of cycling down to one of the coffee shops on my North York path. There, I would have a coffee and read my book – a habit I developed years ago to combine exercise and reading enjoyment.

At the intersection of Leslie Street and Sheppard Avenue, two older women on bicycles were awaiting the light change with me.

One asked, "Is the path still closed at Queen Street?"

"Yes, it's a real shame, as getting to the Beaches or downtown is not as easy, since it now requires a lot of on-road riding, which I don't like," I answered.

They agreed, the light changed and off we went, only to meet up again just above York Mills Road. "We're going to the Tim Hortons around the corner," they told me.

"I would love to join you if I can sit with you and chat," I replied.

"Sure."

Over coffee, Doris and Anne revealed that they were both 73 years old. Although they rode bikes as kids and Anne had ridden during the war in Ireland, which she recounted in a lovely, lilting Irish accent, they took up cycling for recreation just a few years ago. They were part of a larger group of about 12 women, mostly in their age group. They often cycled together in varying sized groups.

A number of them, including Anne and Doris, took long trips to destinations as far away as Ireland, France, Vermont and, most recently, Holland, which they enthusiastically agreed was one of the best. "It was flat, beautiful and cycle-friendly."

They slept on a barge that transported their luggage – and when necessary their bikes from one part of the country to the next, a real treat which they shared with about 50 other international cycling enthusiasts of all ages, including a few older than them.

We shared stories, as I too had cycled in Holland and Vermont and have contemplated some European jaunts now that I have some more flexibility in my work schedule. We went from cycling stories to Ireland stories, which I introduced by noting that while studying medicine in Scotland, I did a month-long external medical rotation in 1963 in Northern Ireland's Londonderry.

I recounted a pre-"troubles" conversation I had had with an ophthalmologist whose outpatient clinic I was assigned to. While examining a nine-year-old boy with a squint, the ophthalmologist asked, "So what does your father do?" He determined that the boy's father was on welfare and the boy had eight siblings.

The physician looked at me, and in front of the lad, said, "Now you see the trouble with Ireland. I am paying for his father to be on the 'dole' [welfare] and have as many kids as he wants, while I work to pay their way."

What an eye-opener to the world of Irish society and politics that was. The terrible fighting is said to have officially started six years later, in 1969, when 67-year-old Francis McCloskey was killed by a Royal Ulster Constabulary officer.

Anne, Doris and I parted ways, having had an engaging, mutually warm and enlightening encounter. I will follow one of the cycle trip tips they gave me and hope to see them again on the cycle paths. Just keep cycling, even as you age. It is good for the body and the soul.

Dr. Michael Gordon is medical program director of palliative care at Baycrest and co-author with Bart Mindszenthy of Parenting Your Parents (Dundurn Press).

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2 pints (4 cup) mango sorbet
1 pint (2 cup) vanilla ice cream
1 1/2cup fresh blackberries
1/4 cup sugar
2 tblsp black currant flavoured liqueur (or your choice of fruit flavoured liqueur)
9"x5"x3" loaf pan or 7-8-cup mold

Soften sorbet & ice cream in refrigerator, about 45 min. Purée blackberries, sugar, & liqueur until smooth; press through fine sieve set over a bowl; discard solids. Freeze 20-40 min. to thicken slightly until ice cream is ready; stir until smooth. Lightly oil loaf pan; cut parchment to fit bottom and long sides of pan, leaving at least 3" of overhang on each side. Fill pan decoratively with spoonfuls of sorbet/ice cream mixture, pressing down and filling empty spaces with blackberry purée. Smooth top, to eliminate air spaces, then fold parchment flaps over top and freeze until solid, at least 3 hrs. To unmold, run knife along short sides of pan to loosen mosaic, then open parchment and invert onto a flat serving dish, discarding parchment. Cut into 1/2 thick slices...

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Of sea crossings past

Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

Permit me to digress from my usual bits of educational advice. I would guess that the following qualifies as a peek into my own education.

I was recently crossing the Atlantic from England to the United States on board the Queen Mary 2 instead of the usual cramped seat of a plane. When we reached the shores of New York, my first glimpse of the Statue of Liberty was through the fog and rain of an early sunrise. As early as it was, dozens of my fellow passengers were on the deck for the event, and the boat played *America the Beautiful*. I was truly moved by the experience. It was and still is the case that millions of refugees have looked to the United States (and Canada) as a safe haven from persecution in countless other, less fortunate countries.

Whenever I hear criticism of the United States (justified or not), I think of the many millions whose lives were saved merely by being on this side of the world instead of somewhere else. I also think of their countless progeny and the many millions more who could be saved by the democracy and justice found there and not elsewhere. We need to be reminded of that from time to time.

And that arrival reminded me of two other boat incidents.

I thought back to the first visit I made to Israel in 1965, also by boat. I was awake the entire night before the landing in Haifa thinking about the great privilege I had been given as the first member of my family to travel "home."

As emotional a moment as that was, it made me think of yet another landing. And the Queen Mary 2 evoked that other event as well. My mother came to Canada in the early 1920s on a boat from Belgium. She was about 12 at the time, an orphan due to a combination of pogrom and Ukrainian famine, and alone in the world. Did she think the same lofty thoughts as she glimpsed the shores of Canada? Her crossing was not as luxurious as mine, but she might have found it princely compared to her shtetl. What if she had gone to Palestine instead of Canada?

Only the wide ocean can inspire such questions without answers.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

By RABBI J. IMMANUEL SCHOCHET

A heterodox paradox

Guest Voice

Dismay and shock reverberate in American "modern Orthodox" Jewry because of an article, *Orthodox Paradox*, in the *New York Times Magazine* (July 22).

The author is Noah Feldman, a brilliant legalist and professor at Harvard with great academic accomplishments. Feldman is an alumnus of Maimonides School in Brookline, Mass., a modern Orthodox day school.

Feldman fell in love with another bright academic. She is not Jewish, but the marriage did not weaken his emotional ties to his roots. He attended Maimonides class reunions and submitted personal events (marriage, births of children) to the alumni newsletter.

But the newsletter ignored his submissions. A class photograph with him and his wife was "fixed" to omit them. The school obviously did not want to acknowledge his intermarriage. This exclusion caused Feldman great anguish and ultimately led to the aforementioned article.

The article traces Feldman's history at Maimonides, a school with a rigorous curriculum of traditional Jewish subjects alongside first-rate secular studies. Expressing great disillusionment, Feldman writes: "Despite my intimate understanding of the mindset that requires such careful attention to who is in and who is out, I am still somehow taken by surprise each time I am confronted with my old school's inability to treat me like any other graduate. I have tried in my own imperfect way to live up to values that the school taught me, expressing my respect and love for the wisdom of the tradition while trying to reconcile Jewish faith with scholarship and engagement in the public sphere… I have not felt myself to have rejected my upbringing, even when some others imagine me to have done so by virtue of my marriage."

The glaring inconsistency in his reasoning, claiming "intimate understanding of the mindset," yet still being "taken by surprise," is stunning. Much more serious, however, is the sequel, as he moves to a critique of traditional Judaism as a whole.

Orthodox Jews clinging to the tenets of their faith are termed "fanatics" and "cult-members." Traditional precepts – prayer-shawls, tfillin, Shabbat laws, sexual mores and the dietary laws – are ridiculed as incompatible with reason and modernity.

Had someone else written this, we could dismiss it as an ignorant rant seeking to evoke contempt for Judaism, if not anti-Semitism. Not so here. Feldman knows that he stooped to crude distortions. His onslaught against the tradition he claims to still cherish can be interpreted one way only – he wants to avenge himself against those who refuse to sanction the lifestyle he has chosen. He forgets that his school did not exclude him; he excluded himself.

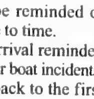
A popular perception of academics is that they are open-minded and objective. The reality, unfortunately, is different. Reason is often abused to rationalize the worst forms of prejudice.

Feldman concedes that on the rational level, he understands the situation. On the emotional level, however, he casts reason aside. Looking into the deceiving mirror of self-love and self-interest he sees a victim of discrimination. Even so, one wonders why he wrote an article that sounds like the tantrums of a petulant child. No doubt he has his own red lines, which his morals and professionalism preclude his crossing. Why then the surprise that others, too, have their boundaries? His expectation that modern Orthodoxy would sacrifice "Orthodoxy" on the altar of relativist modernism is demanding spiritual suicide.

Feldman exercised his right of free choice of lifestyle, fully aware of its implications. We empathize with his pain, and sincerely hope that there will be a mutually happy ending.

How sad and disturbing, however, that he concludes his article with a rhetorical question: "Isn't everyone's life a mass of contradictions?" Yes, indeed! But an honest and reasonable person does his best to resolve these. If unable to do so, he will at least acknowledge his weakness and not try to justify and sanction it.

Rabbi Schochet of Congregation Beth Joseph in Toronto is a retired professor of philosophy and medical ethics and author of over 30 books.



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This Week

National

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Teens from Kharkov, Ukraine, face off against one another during a "Fear Factor" evening program at the Jewish Agency for Israel's summer camp. *[Abigail Bimman photo]*

Kids build Jewish identity at Ukraine camp

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

ODESSA — Summer camp is the same worldwide: children can learn about themselves in fun and challenging ways, while making new friends and participating in various activities.

But 10,000 children and 2,000 college students who live in the former Soviet Union (FSU) are also building Jewish identity at camp.

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) has been operating summer camps in the FSU for the past 16 years. The 70 camps that JAFI runs focus not only on building identity but also on serving as a base for Jewish involvement during the rest of the year.

On a recent JAFI-led press tour in Ukraine, a small group of journalists visited two of the four summer camps there.

The first camp was in Odessa, a city of one million with a rich Jewish heritage and history. The camp is dubbed "Artist's City," and is an eight-day overnight program for children aged six to nine. Over the summer, the camp runs three sessions and serves about 300 campers.

"The camp is a very big contribution to building identity," said Natasha Voskovoinik, who has been the camp's director for three summers, "not only because we are letting these kids know that because they have Jewish roots, they are part of a global identity, but we are also building their identity for something in themselves here and now."

(Voskovoinik spoke in Russian through a translator, like most of the people interviewed for this article.)

This camp operates out of a run-down college-dorm-style building, in which campers in groups of 15, with three counsellors, share their artistic creations and experiences with other groups.

Every drab common area and the children's dorms were filled with bright, creative artwork, from sailboats with painted silk sails that represent the children's dreams to decorated Hebrew letters.

Continued on page 34

Cotler client faces execution

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

When you speak to Shoaib Choudhury on the phone, it seems almost unfathomable that this man who is laughing and sounds so relaxed and serene is facing charges that lead to his execution if he is convicted.

Shoaib Choudhury

The Bangladeshi journalist and editor of the English-language *Weekly Blitz* has, for nearly four years, lived almost every day under a Sword of Damocles for daring to be a pro-Israel Muslim and for crusading against the forces of radical Islam that he says are taking over his beloved country.

At writing, Choudhury was scheduled, after five postponements in less than a year, to go on trial Aug. 17 for sedition, treason and blasphemy, charges all dating back to his attempt to travel to Israel in 2003 to give a speech on interfaith dialogue.

Since then, he has been attacked, beaten, tortured and jailed, and efforts to have the charges against him dropped – including by his international counsel, MP Irwin Cotler – have failed.

Yet, speaking on Aug. 5 to *The CJN* during a trip to the United States – he was allowed to leave his country for the trip – Choudhury, in contrast to his upbeat manner, also came across as a man of serious and determined conviction and moral courage.

"If I am convicted or I am executed, it will not change our mission," he said. "I am sure that someone else would take over."

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OSCE passes resolution against anti-Semitism — see page 35

The News in Brief

CANADA

Travis Picks Ovadia

TORONTO — Israeli-born Toronto resident Dvira Ovadia, 26, was named design icon Debbie Travis' chief designer earlier this month in the finale of Global TV's reality show *From the Ground Up*. Ovadia, the only Jewish contestant on the show's second season, beat out 13 other hopefuls to become head designer of Travis' line of condos and homes. Ovadia, who has an architecture degree from the University of Toronto and a master's in interior design from New York's Pratt Institute, wrapped up shooting of the series last fall.

Deportations Sought

TORONTO — B'nai Brith Canada has launched a court challenge seeking judicial review of Ottawa's decision not to revoke the citizenship of Wasyl Odynsky and Vladimir Katriuk, whom courts ruled were guilty of lying about their wartime pasts when entering Canada. Last May, the Tory government decided not to revoke their citizenships, despite evidence they took part in Nazi war crimes, B'nai Brith said. Its senior legal counsel, David Matas, said some cabinet ministers didn't hear all the available evidence from Jewish groups and Shoah survivors, which would have shown the elderly men should be deported.

WORLD

Banker Led Rebirth

PARIS — Baron Elie Robert de Rothschild, who rebuilt his family's wine and banking empires after the Shoah, died of a heart attack at age 90 at his Austrian hunting lodge, police in the province of Tyrol said. In June, family patriarch Baron Guy de Rothschild died in Paris. In World War II, Elie de Rothschild was captured near the Belgian border and wound up in a Nazi PoW camp. He was reunited with a brother, Alain, and although they were Jews, they were treated as captured officers and weren't executed. After the war, Rothschild led efforts to rebuild the family businesses. He held 25 per cent of the family banking empire.

Shoah Historian Dies

NEW YORK — Holocaust historian Raul Hilberg, author of the three-volume *The Destruction of the European Jews,* died Aug. 4 of lung cancer in Vermont, where he lived. He was 81. A Vienna native, Hilberg fled Austria with his parents in 1939 and arrived in the United States after stops in France and Cuba. Most of his family died in the war. Hilberg returned to Europe as a soldier with the U.S. Army in 1944. A year later, he discovered Hitler's private library in boxes in the former Nazi headquarters in Munich, reportedly prompting his interest in writing about Nazism. Hilberg's study of the Holocaust, published in 1961, became one of the most important works ever written on the Shoah.

Reform Publishes Sex-Change Brachot

NEW YORK — In a ground-breaking move to recognize the experiences of transgender Jews, the Reform movement published prayers for sanctifying sex changes.

The Union for Reform Judaism last week released the second edition of *Kulanu*, its 500-page resource manual for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender inclusion.

The guide includes two blessings authored by Rabbi Elliot Kukla, formerly of Toronto's Danforth Jewish Circle, who was known as Eliza when ordained in 2006 by Reform's New York seminary. Rabbi Kukla originally wrote them for a friend who wanted to mark each time he received testosterone therapy. But the rabbi believes they're appropriate for many points in the sex-change process, including "moments of medical transitions."

Large parts of the U.S. Jewish community accept gays and lesbians serving as rabbis and cantors, and many back rabbinic officiation at same-sex commitment ceremonies. But the Reform movement, the largest U.S. Jewish stream, had never gone as far as endorsing sex-change blessings.

The first Hebrew blessing praises God as "the Transforming One to those who transform/transition/cross over." A second blessing, intended for after completing the transition process, praises God, "who has made me in his image" – a reference to the description in Genesis of Adam's creation. A final blessing is the *Shehechiyanu*, traditionally recited to mark special events or notable firsts.

"The midrash… [says] that the *adam harishon*, the first human being formed in God's likeness, was an androgynous, an intersex person," Rabbi Kukla writes in an introduction. "Hence our tradition teaches that all bodies and genders are created in God's image whether we identify as men, women, intersex or something else."

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'Beast of Bolzano' ordered extradited to Italy

By **DAVID LAZARUS**
Staff Reporter

There's nothing stopping Canada from sending convicted Nazi war criminal Michael Seifert back to Italy immediately, despite his lawyer's intent to appeal a decision upholding his extradition, says Canadian Jewish Congress CEO Bernie Farber.

"Canada need not wait," Farber told *The CJN* last week.

Seifert, 83, was remanded to custody at the North Fraser Pretrial Centre after the B.C. Court of Appeal's Aug. 3 ruling.

His lawyer, Doug Christie, has said he intends to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of Canada, and he was expected to seek bail for his client late last week.

In 2000, Seifert, who once worked in a B.C. lumber mill and resides in East Vancouver, was convicted in absentia by an Italian military court for the rape, torture and murder of nine people at a Nazi concentration transit camp near the Italian town of Bolzano, where he served as an SS prison guard.

Seifert was said to be so cruel that he was dubbed the "Beast of Bolzano." Witnesses at his trial testified that he beat prisoners before shooting them and gouged out one prisoner's eyes.

Most of his victims, Farber said, were partisans, and could well have included Jews.

The Seifert case is especially compelling, he said, because "it is the only extradition case of a Nazi war criminal I know of, anywhere."

Nazi war criminal Michael Seifert remanded after ruling

Although Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel was also extradited to Germany, he was not a Canadian citizen, as Seifert still is, he said.

Farber said he was satisfied with the end result of the case, even though in 1951, Seifert was able to "slip into Canada" and managed to live for more than 55 years in freedom and comfort while his victims "never got to see children or grandchildren."

Seifert's story came to light five decades after he settled in Vancouver in 1951.

According to Farber, documents attesting to Seifert's actions during the war compiled by Italian investigators were stashed away in a nondescript filing cabinet, not to be seen again for another 50 years. Newspapers in Italy called it the "Cabinet of Shame."

As revealed in the CBC TV program *Disclosure* almost six years ago, Italian military prosecutor Bartolomeo Constantini got hold of the documents, which showed Seifert not only to be a brutal Nazi volunteer, but a particularly enthusiastic one.

He volunteered for the eastern front and ended up at the Bolzano transit camp as a guard as punishment for raping a girl from the town.

Disclosure reported that in November, 2000, Seifert was convicted in Italy and sentenced to life in prison in absentia on the basis of those documents and eyewitness testimony.

The case has wended its way through the Italian and Canadian court systems ever since.

According to a timeline on the CBC's website, Seifert's initial appeal to the Italian military Court of Appeal was rejected in October 2001, and one month after the CBC aired its *Disclosure* episode on Seifert, the Canadian government launched proceedings in Federal Court seeking Seifert's denaturalization (however, he still remains a Canadian citizen).

Seifert was arrested in May 2001, but he was released without bond later that month pending an extradition hearing.

In September 2002, Christie argued that Seifert was psychologically unfit to stand trial – an argument that was rejected – and one month later, Italy's highest court upheld Seifert's conviction.

In subsequent years, Canadian courts have similarly rejected other arguments put forward to block Seifert's extradition, among them that he is too frail and infirm to live out the rest of his days in an Italian prison.

The B.C. Court of Appeal, in its Aug. 3 ruling, also rejected the argument that Irwin Cotler, because of his record of affiliation with Jewish organizations, was biased when, as federal justice minister, he let stand a B.C. Court of Appeal ruling that Seifert be surrendered to Italian authorities.

Farber told *The CJN* while it may be natural for the public to feel sympathy for elderly men who face prosecution, or for an old man like Seifert, who has a wife and son and who apparently has lived an honest life in Canada, "they had an ability to grow old. Their victims did not.

"When they were young, they were brutes and thugs and murderers. That's how they should be remembered."

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On Campus

Intern program trains next generation of Jewish leaders

By **SHERI SHEFA**
Staff Reporter

The first session of the Kohn Summer Intern Program, an eight-week internship program for Jewish students who want the opportunity to work in Jewish organizations, is concluding tomorrow (August 17).

The Kohn program, sponsored by the Irving and Toddy Granovsky family, and Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) Toronto in partnership with Hillel of Greater Toronto, was a huge success, said Lisa Rae, the manager of volunteer and student services at JVS Toronto, and one of the co-ordinators of the program.

She said that she is thrilled about how quickly they were able to put this program together and how many students showed interest.

"We didn't have a lot of lead time, and we were able to place 21 students within various Jewish agencies that came forward and wanted a summer intern. It was nice that we were able to offer it to so many students in the first year. We are looking for funding for next year, and we are looking to expand to up to 30 or 32 students," she said.

The students, who all live within the Greater Toronto Area, were placed with Jewish organizations such as the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living; UJA Federation of Greater Toronto; Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee; Honest Reporting Canada; and Reena, depending on their area of interest.

"The students came with varying backgrounds, so we really were able to offer them something that was of interest to them and in their field," Rae said.

The interns were offered a stipend. Full-time participants received $3,000 and part-time participants, working 18 hours a week, were paid $1,500.

The Kohn program was modelled after a similar program run by JVS in San Francisco, where they have been placing Jewish students with Jewish agencies for 20 years.

Rae said that the program aimed to provide Jewish students with meaningful, hands-on work experience that they can transfer to their next job.

"It's also a mentoring program as well. They are hooked up with Jewish agencies, and they are given some Jewish workshops."

Baruch Lipinsky, a 21-year-old University of Toronto student who is double majoring in history and Canadian studies, is one of the participants.

He is interning part time with the Speakers Action Group, an organization that provides both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations with speakers who give lectures about the importance of supporting Israel and combating anti-Semitism.

Students placed with Jewish organizations

He said the highlight of the program was the weekly leadership seminars that took place Friday mornings, organized by Tilly Shames, Hillel of Greater Toronto associate director.

"We met big professionals in the Jewish community and had a wide range of experiences. We met with top people at UJA, we met with people from various organizations including some organizations that we interned at, and the UJA even put us in their 'fancy room' for sessions, which are usually only reserved for meetings with top donors," Lipinsky said.

"I've learned a lot, attending meetings. I take minutes at meetings, I'm working on a database, I help out a bit in fundraising and I conduct research, and I'm also learning a lot of general work skills. I'm getting a lot out of it," he said.

Lipinsky added that he feels better equipped not only to be a Jewish leader but also as a member of the workplace in general.

"I learned about myself and what it is like to be in the world of work. I also made a lot of friends in the program… I basically know the whole group and we all became Facebook friends," Lipinsky said.

He added that they got along so well, having spent time together each week at the three-hour weekly sessions, that they took it upon themselves to organize a get-together at a restaurant.

"It's nice that they've been able to form these friendships and hopefully they'll keep that over the years and build upon it," Rae said.

She added that she has received a lot of positive feedback not only from the students but also from the agencies themselves.

"The agencies are quite impressed with the level of students that we've sent them."

Rae said that a program such is this is important because it offers youth the opportunity to work with and learn more about their community.

"We want students who really want to gain valuable work experience within the Jewish community and also who want to experience and be exposed to the issues facing them," she said.

Lipinsky said those who apply and get accepted for next year's program, should do what they can to get the maximum experience out of it, because they are the future of the Jewish community.

"This program is designed to get the Jewish community leaders for the next generation. We have to professionalize them, and if we don't start with college, who will be UJA's next generation of donors?" Lipinsky said.

From the editor's desk ***Will Return***

SeeJN

OLMERT MEETS SURVIVORS: Representatives of Holocaust survivors met with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert last week to discuss the government's pledge to pay survivors an extra $20 (US) a month above their regular pension benefits, an amount some survivors have called "shameful." The government agreed to review the stipend system and pay survivors according to current financial status and where they were during World War II. [Isranet photo]

New Holocaust text has universal lessons

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Harold Lass and Carole Ann Reed have co-authored a new textbook on Holocaust education for grades 11 and 12 students and their teachers.

Echoes of the Holocaust, a publication of Pacific Educational Press (the publishing house of the faculty of education at the University of British Columbia), was 10 years in the making.

Funding for the project ran dry early on, however, Philip Pinkus – a professor emeritus at UBC, and the man who had originally approached Reed to write the book on behalf of the Vancouver-based Alternatives to Racism Society – facilitated and edited the new publication. It is expected to be available this month.

When Reed – a former social worker who directed the Holocaust Centre of Toronto for six years until 2002 – was approached about writing the book, she was devoting much of her time to her PhD thesis, and called Lass to ask him if he might be interested in taking on the project. It was at his suggestion that the two worked on it together.

Lass, who retired in 1999 as head of the English department at Northern Secondary School, was among Toronto's pioneers in Holocaust education, according to Reed, whose previous book is a historical analysis of the development of Holocaust education in Canada. The two colleagues became friends through their Holocaust-related volunteer work, and they had written articles and presented papers together before the book idea arose.

The new book is "unique in that it takes contemporary issues of discrimination and racism, and parallels events in the Holocaust," said Lass. He noted also that the curriculum is adaptable in terms of how many days teachers want to spend on the issues and the amount of depth they want to go into.

As well as readings on the Holocaust, there are guidelines for teachers, and readings on racism and on discrimination against women, gays and lesbians and people with disabilities. Although Jews were the primary victims of the Holocaust, emphasized Lass, there are universal lessons to be derived from it.

Among them is "the need to stand up and be counted. This is what kids have to learn," said Reed. The poem *The Hangman*, by Maurice Ogden, drives home the point with the story of a complacent citizen who becomes the hangman's last victim when nobody is left to defend him. Lass said he had used it in his classroom and found it particularly poignant.

Reed stressed that "we don't try and compare tragedies [such as the 1915 Armenian genocide or the 1994 Rwandan genocide]. We really advise against that... You respect every victim of suffering."

Because the book was originally written 10 years ago, the authors – who updated it for publication – wondered at first whether it would still be relevant. Reed found instead that it has become newly relevant in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks that resulted in heightened awareness of racial differences and increased Islamophobia, she said.

Also, she added, she thinks anti-Semitism has become "really an issue," which she would not have predicted a decade ago.

Reed, who is not Jewish, said that for years she "didn't get" why anti-Semitism was still a relevant issue. "We all knew better after the Holocaust. The Holocaust made anti-Semitism not socially acceptable. It exposed it for what it was... [but] all of a sudden anti-Semitism has renewed currency."

Harold Lass, left, and Carole Ann Reed have written a new curriculum on the Holocaust that they say is unique in Canada.
[Frances Kraft photo]

The authors are realistic about their target audience. "I don't think this is necessarily going to convert racists," said Lass.

Rather, it's the "passengers" – a term Reed prefers to "bystanders" – who can benefit from "academic backing for what they sense is the right thing," she said.

"'Passengers' are really assenting by refusing to stand up. They're gaining all the privileges you get from conforming... With racism, there's always a benefit to the person who conforms, of being accepted, being one of the group."

Omission

The article titled "New hechsher intended as alternative to COR" (*CJN* Aug. 9) should have stated that Tiara Culinary Creations, owned by Joe Elmaleh, and baked goods caterer Sweet Senses, owned by Perly Hudy, are supervised by Mehadrin Kosher, which is led by Rabbi Moshe Levy. *The CJN* regrets the omission.

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Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue

Youth book competition helps fight racism

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Mentoring, combating racism, education and creativity– those are the aims of a Toronto writing competition that benefits both elementary and high school students.

To compete in the Morley S. Wolfe Youth Book Competition, called "Challenging Racism and Celebrating Differences," high school students create children's books about racism, diversity and prejudice, and the winning entries are shared with elementary school students.

"Essentially, we've got youth mentoring youth," chair Debbie Kornhauser said about the four-year-old contest.

"I believe that it is the way of the future, if we want our youth to understand how important it is to be tolerant of others, that we have to be able to teach them at as young an age as possible."

The competition is co-ordinated by Toronto Residents in Partnership (TRIP), a not-for-profit group that creates and supports community programs to promote racial, religious, cultural and communal understanding, as well as human rights work.

Morley Wolfe, the man behind both TRIP and the contest, is the former chair of North York's Committee of Community, Race and Ethnic Relations. After the old city of North York was incorporated into the new City of Toronto in 1997, the committee dissolved, but he didn't want its efforts to go to waste.

TRIP has worked in a variety of areas, from being responsible for declaring June elderly abuse awareness month to a book drive for youth who are incarcerated in the youth criminal justice system.

"It's a broad rainbow. It gives us an opportunity to work in just about any area that we feel comfortable with," said Wolfe of TRIP's mandate.

Wolfe served as TRIP's founding president from 2003 to 2006. He said the book contest, which he created and TRIP named in his honour, is especially meaningful, because of its mentoring and learning aspects, and also because of its connections to the corporate world.

Morley Wolfe

The competition is held in concert with an award for better business practices that's given to a small company with a good record in human rights and community programming.

"There's a good connection there, so that the human rights aspect moves with the kids into the corporate sector," Wolfe said.

Wolfe has been has been fighting racism and discrimination since the Depression.

Born in Winnipeg in 1928, he remembers his mother putting together a bag with bread and canned food for the neighbours when he was a child. When they wouldn't accept the charity, Wolfe was sent over to ask to play with the family's son, and he gave the bag to him so the parents wouldn't be embarrassed.

"I learned at a very early age that people in need had to be dealt with in an equitable and fair and just manner," Wolfe said.

Growing up, he dealt with all kinds of racism, from being called a "Christ killer" on the playground and having a swastika carved into his desk to hearing racial slurs about people of a different race.

Continued on page 14

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Let them live in dignity

Holocaust survivors in Israel recently staged a quiet demonstration in front of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office, protesting that a proposed government stipend aimed at supplementing their income was shamelessly meagre. Under the plan, survivors will receive a monthly payment of slightly more than the equivalent of $20 a month this year and $40 by 2009. In reaction to protests, Olmert has promised to review his decision, knowing that the amount offered is truly insulting to survivors.

There are about 240,000 survivors in Israel, of whom 80,000 to 120,000 live near or under the poverty line. Given the unique ordeal through which they passed as Jews during the Nazi era, survivors constitute a class of Israelis who deserve special consideration. These are people who should not be subjected to sleepless nights simply because their wallets are bare or almost bare. They should not have to worry about grocery bills and medical expenses as they grow older and more infirm. They should be able to live out their lives in dignity. The Israeli government, from a strictly moral perspective, is duty-bound to ensure that this will be the case, now and in the future. No excuses can be tolerated. If the Jewish state cannot properly care for survivors, something is terribly amiss.

There is a sensible way out of this mess. Rafi Eitan, a cabinet minister and the leader of the Pensioners party, and Colette Avital, a Labor party member of Knesset, have both suggested that stipends should be paid only to survivors who are destitute. It is a sound idea. The government would then be in a position to beef up payments to survivors who are unable to meet their financial obligations. Survivors in Israel, particularly those who cannot fend for themselves in a country where the cost of living is rising virtually every day, must be treated with the utmost respect. We trust that Olmert will be sensitive to their needs.

– S.K.

Raul Hilberg

Since the downfall of Adolf Hitler's regime in Germany, there has been an outpouring of books – historical works, memoirs and novels – about the Holocaust. Some have been workmanlike and a select few, such as Raul Hilberg's *The Destruction of the European Jews*, originally published in 1961, have risen to the level of greatness and become classics of the genre. Hilberg's opus will remain timeless because of its scrupulous and objective analysis of the Nazis' machinery of death. It would be hard to understand the Holocaust in all its permutations without reading Hilberg's magisterial account.

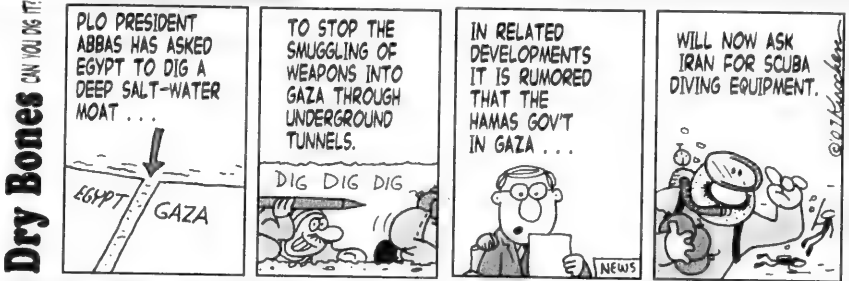
Hilberg, who died earlier this month in his home in Vermont, was a Viennese Jew who was forced to leave his home in 1938 after Germany's annexation of Austria. Astonishingly enough, five publishers rejected *The Destruction of the European Jews* before it finally saw the light of day.

Let it be said that he was a methodical scholar who devoted his life to one of the most important topics in the often horrendous annals of human affairs.

– S.K.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

A terror attack on a Jewish restaurant in Paris that killed six people and injured 22 was condemned by the Canadian government, Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith, as well as by France, the United States, the Pope, the Arab League, and the PLO, although Israel insisted the PLO was involved.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Applauds new hechsher

I, for one, applaud and welcome an additional reliable source of kashrut supervision in the Greater Toronto Area ("New hechsher intended as alternative to COR," *CJN*, Aug. 9). Jewish unity is not necessarily best served by a one-size-fits-all mentality. Rather, Jewish unity may be best served by recognizing a fabric of diversity.

Diversity can enrich a community when its fabric is woven with relationship, dialogue, trust and respect. On almost every other level, our Jewish community is served and enriched by diversity: several synagogues of the same ideological stream in a close-knit geographical area, the large numbers of shuls and congregations in general, many yeshivot and day schools, multiple kosher pizza establishments on the same block, more than one Jewish political action organization, at least two Jewish clothing collection agencies, etc.

Each year, *Kashrus* magazine in Brooklyn, N.Y., prints and describes hundreds of kashrut supervision agencies that serve Jewish communities in the United States. Many of these agencies work within the same local confines. None is threatened. To the contrary, healthy competition keeps the playing field honest and fair. When one is uncertain of a particular halachic position taken by a kashrut agency, all one has to do is make a phone call and inquire. If multiple reliable sources of kashrut supervision help to maintain and expand our community's commitment to and supply of kosher establishments, I say *baruch haba* – a cordial welcome.

Rabbi Howard Morrison
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U.K. boycotters against Israel's right to exist

C. Peter Herman's letter claims that the proposed U.K. boycotts of Israeli academics is merely a protest against Israeli "policy" and thus not anti-Semitic ("Response to Morton," *CJN* letter, Aug. 2).

Why single out Israel? There are scores of exponentially worse transgressors in the world than Israel. Why not Sudanese academics due to its government's genocidal policy in Darfur? Or perhaps Chinese academics due to its government's brutal occupation of Tibet and oppression of Falun Gong members, Muslims and other minorities.

He suggests it is Israeli "policy" that the boycotters are against. Are Israel's policies reasonable considering the context? Two years ago, Israel, to jump-start the peace process, unilaterally withdrew from Gaza. This opportunity did not result in responsible governance in Gaza. Instead, property was destroyed and a barrage of Qassam rockets started to fall on Israel.

Why are Palestinian academics not boycotted for their government's use of terror tactics?

The truth is that the U.K. boycotters are not against Israeli policies but against Israel's right to exist. They misperceive Israel as an imperial construct and offer solutions such as a bi-national state, which is a euphemism for dismantling the world's only Jewish state. Boycotting is about vilifying and demonizing Israel in the hope of making it a pariah state and precipitating its demise. This is ideological, not logical, and thus anti-Semitic.

Norman Epstein
Thornhill

* * *

Academics, trade unions target Israel

Israel has been the favourite target of academics and trades unions, as well as the General Assembly of the United Nations, since time immemorial ("Response to Morton," *CJN* letter, Aug. 2). It is this continuous and singular focus on the Jewish State of Israel that makes their actions anti-Semitic. I will agree with C. Peter Herman that the boycotters are "opposed to Israeli policy, rather than opposed to Jews," once these people launch boycotts against the Muslim states, Christian states or the many other states that are perpetrating crimes against humanity.

Stephen Dreezer
Toronto

* * *

Shivah etiquette

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein's shivah advice was extremely pertinent and helpful ("Shivah 101," *CJN*, Aug 9). Some shivahs appear to have a party atmosphere, with lots of inappropriate chatter and laughter. This may be in part because we are not always sure how to behave when we visit mourners.

Most mourners, as Rabbi Goldstein indicates, would really prefer to talk about the deceased, and some of us might feel awkward about doing this and think perhaps it might bring on more sadness. People in general appear to have a difficult time dealing with death in any situation – note the many euphemisms for death these days and the particularly popular expression "passed away."

Losing a loved one is very painful. Having support during the first few days after a death is what shivah is about, so go, relax, reminisce and don't stay too long.

Zelda Ruth Harris
Toronto

LET THEM GO...

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Shabbat on the Rock

By ERIC MOSES

Erev Shabbat, July 6, 2007

I drove to Toronto's Pearson Airport early Friday morning, leaving behind a beautiful summer day with an expected high of 30 degrees to fly to St. John's to spend Shabbat in Newfoundland. The flight took less than three hours and when I arrived, I was in a new time zone. Newfoundland is 1½ hours ahead of Toronto.

As we prepared to land, the cloud cover and dense fog did not permit any visibility, so I wasn't sure if there was an island in the Atlantic Ocean below. Moments later, we landed in the middle of a torrential downpour. Fortunately, I was greeted at St. John's airport by my friends and members of my shul, Arthur and Margaret Shiff. They knew how ill-prepared a Torontonian would be for the elements of Canada's east coast, so they came equipped with a bright yellow hooded rain slicker. The last time I remember wearing such foul-weather gear was on the Maid of the Mist in Niagara Falls. Needless to say, I gave up fashion for practicality and ditched my leather jacket.

Our first stop was at Georgetown Bakery to pick up bagels and some "Jewish celebration bread." Apparently, the bakery sells it every Friday and it's purchased by Jews and non-Jews alike. Next stop was the shul, the Beth-El Synagogue, which was built in 1959. It's quite amazing that no matter where I go in the world, as soon as I walk into a shul, the feeling of being in a strange land disappears. I walked into the little sanctuary and saw tallitot, Art Scroll chumashim and Birnbaum siddurim – a sign of a traditional shul. The organized Jewish community in St. John's dates back 100 years.

I stayed at the home of the shul's past president, Michael Paul, and his wife Barbara Grandy. Paul recently finished his term as president after 12 years. I wanted to venture out to explore before Shabbat, but the rain and winds were so fierce that I stayed indoors. A pre-Shabbat dinner was held at the home of the current president, Claire Frankel-Salama. She cooked a spectacular dinner for 17 people. The conversation at dinner revolved around the difficulties of obtaining kosher meat, the troubles involved in maintaining a kosher home and the the group's passion and love for their community and shul. Most shocking to me was to hear Jewish people speaking with a Newfoundland accent.

We left for shul by 7:30 in order to be there in time for 8 p.m. davening time. I soon discovered that Newfoundlanders are not in such a rush – 8 really meant 8:30. I davened a traditional Minchah, Kabalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv.

The acoustics in the little shul were magnificent. Nobody seemed to be in a hurry, so I took my time and encouraged the congregation to sing along with me. Upon finishing, people approached me with tears in their eyes to thank me. One older woman went so far as to tell me that she had never heard a cantor in her entire life.

The shul's membership is made up largely of doctors, professors from Memorial University, businesspeople and even one meteorologist.

They are fortunate to have in their midst a very knowledgeable Sephardi Jew, Messod Salama, a professor of Spanish at MU. Messod has one of the largest private collections of Sephardi recordings and manuscripts in Canada. He takes pride in teaching and incorporating Sephardi melodies into the davening, and in preserving the shul's traditions according to Halachah.

After services, he gave a brilliant dvar Torah, incorporating motifs from the parshiot of Korach, Chukat, Balak and Pinchas, the parshah of the week. An Oneg Shabbat followed, with treats baked and laid out beautifully by the ladies – all volunteers. Unlike a Toronto Oneg, this one was served on china dishware. I was impressed.

The most moving part of the evening was the singing of *Shalom Aleichem* at the Oneg. I began the singing, but the 32 people in attendance sang with such enthusiasm and power that they could have easily been mistaken for 200. I was so moved that I felt the tears of emotion well up in my eyes, and I found myself unable to continue singing.

Toronto cantor Eric Moses finds 'home' in Newfoundland.

As my first day in Newfoundland drew to a close, I donned my foul-weather gear and dodged the puddles as I walked home through the pouring rain.

Shabbat morning, July 7, 2007

The next day, I woke up early and prepared myself vocally as I do every Shabbat. I looked out the window and, alas, it was dark, windy and raining. Shacharit was scheduled for 9 a.m., but as I learned from the previous evening, that really meant 9:30. Nobody seemed in a hurry. I was greeted enthusiastically by congregants, who informed me that my new CD, *Moses Live*, had been aired on CBC Radio on Friday night and Saturday morning. Who would have ever imagined hearing chazzanut on CBC radio in Newfoundland.

I finished Shacharit and met the shul's ba'al koreh, Ernie Mauskopf, an 82-year-old Holocaust survivor who is originally from Hungary. He read the parshah so flawlessly that he would be the envy of many Toronto shuls.

This Shabbat was very significant in St. John's, because the Jewish community was also enjoying a visit from the Israeli Ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker, and his wife, Dalia. He recited the prayer for the State of Israel and the *Mi Sheberach* for Israeli soldiers. At the rear of the shul were the ambassador's two RCMP bodyguards, quietly sitting and wearing kippot.

At the congregational lunch following the service, Baker addressed the congregation and spoke passionately about the co-operation and support for Israel that he has received from Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Conservative government.

It was such a special day in the shul that those in attendance didn't want it to end. We continued singing zmirot and more zmirot with complete congregational participation. Finally, it was time for *Birkat Hamazon*, and I was proud to ask Baker to lead us.

Then it was time to return outdoors, and much to my dismay, it was still raining, only stronger than before.

After my "Shabbos shluf," I was ready for my Shabbos walk. Finally, the rain had stopped. My host, Michael Paul, took me on a 2½-hour walk and proudly showed me some of the landmarks in North America's oldest city – St. John's beautiful harbour, Signal Hill, Fort Amherst and the lieutenant governor's mansion.

He explained the general differences in construction on the island. Since brick is so expensive and not manufactured in Newfoundland, most of the homes are made of wood covered with clapboard in an array of different colours. And while Toronto is flat, St. John's is like San Francisco, with lots of steep hills.

We returned to my hosts' home in time for seudah shlishit, followed by *Havdalah*.

Shabbat ended at 10 p.m. In Toronto, that would signal one hour of television and time for bed.

Not in Newfoundland!

The night was still young, and a minyan of Jews descended upon one of St. John's favourite watering holes, O'Reilly's Irish Newfoundland Pub. It was some "melaveh malkah," featuring local talent singing traditional Irish Newfoundland favourites and drinking east coast beer. I felt as if I was in Dublin. Was I really still in Canada?

Sunday, July 8, 2007

On Sunday morning, I awoke to a windy but sunny day (I finally ditched the rain gear) and visited Cape Spear, the easternmost point in North America, which is about a 20-minute drive from St. John's. Several years ago, the Beth-El Synagogue created a beautiful tradition. Each year at Slichot time, congregants daven a sunrise Shacharit service at Cape Spear. The photos of men in tallit and tfillin blowing shofar at the place in North America closest to Jerusalem are proudly displayed in the shul. The shul also has posters of Israel hanging around its social hall, as well as a beautiful painting of a chassidic Jew on permanent loan to the shul from Memorial University. The community has its own cemetery, and Paul and his wife lead the chevrah kadishah.

Sadly, I had to bid farewell to my new friends on Sunday. It was bittersweet, as they knew that by next Shabbat, the excitement would be gone and there was no certainty that there would be a minyan in shul. It was such an uplifting experience for them to have a minyan of 30-plus people and the infrequent opportunity to read from the Torah. Regrettably, the problem facing the East Coast, as well as other smaller Canadian communities, is the lack of Jewish people.

My trip to Newfoundland inspired me to try to reach out to other outlying Jewish communities that are struggling to survive. The Toronto Council of Hazzanim, in conjunction with UIA Canada Small Communities Division, is planning to have a group of chazzanim perform a concert in a different small community each year. This initiative will give smaller Jewish communities exposure in the broader community, in addition to providing them with an excellent fundraising opportunity.

We are also planning to send a cantor annually to Cuba to lead Shabbat services and to deliver much needed pharmaceuticals and supplies. In Havana, the shul also serves as the community pharmacy.

I was invited to Newfoundland to lead shabbat services at Beth-El Synagogue by my congregants and friends, Arthur and Margaret Shiff, who sponsored the weekend together with the Atlantic Jewish Council and Beth-El. In the 100-year history of Newfoundland's Jewish community, services have rarely been led by a chazzan.

Today, the Beth\-El has 25 member families. My experience there reminded me of my childhood in Sudbury, Ont., a tiny Jewish community that also has 25 Jewish families. I lived in Sudbury until I was 13. I was always the only Jew in my school, and the synagogue was the only possible place to express myself Jewishly. It was largely due to my experiences in a small community that I chose to become a chazzan and to serve others.

Newfoundland was quite similar to Sudbury, albeit with ts own unique flair and Old World charm. My Judaism is strengthened by the resolve and devotion of the Jews of Newfoundland. My Shabbat was enriched by their passion and their singing. If you plan to visit Newfoundland and would like to attend services at Beth El Synagogue in St. John's or eat a kosher meal, please contact Michael Paul at mpaul@mun.ca.

Eric Moses is the cantor of Beth Sholom Synagogue in Toronto and president, Toronto Council of Hazzanim.

Thinking outside the box

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

Jews in the Diaspora care much more about Israel than Israeli Jews care about the Diaspora, and the asymmetry may lead to irreparable damage.

The more Israelis ignore the rest of the Jewish world, the more Diaspora Jews will turn their attention to other matters. The relationship is already more fragile than it used to be. That's the thrust of a recent article in the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* by Yehezkel Dror, the distinguished Israeli political scientist and public figure.

Apart from practical proposals about joint educational, social and economic ventures calculated to narrow the gap, Dror also advocates "explicit and declared recognition of the right of Jews in the Diaspora to criticize Israeli policies." If Israel is to be the state of the Jewish people, all Jews must be able to express opinions and espouse causes that challenge any government in power.

For much of my life, I have acted on this principle.

Since only citizens should be able to vote in elections, the time has come to revive the idea that Jews combine their next visit to Israel with acquiring Israeli citizenship. Dror calls for "a radical change in the conception of aliyah, with encouragement to partial aliyah, including multiple residences in Israel and in the Diaspora." For the last seven years, my wife and I, together with other Canadian Jews, have done precisely that.

Many of us reside in Jerusalem. Dror wants to make the city "the cultural capital of Judaism and the Jewish People."

It makes sense. Jerusalem brings Jews closer to their heritage and their people than any other place in the world.

Dror's proposal would benefit both the State of Israel and Jews everywhere. For as hard as Diaspora leaders try to promote synagogue affiliation, Jewish day schools, clubs and summer camps, the combined impact on our children and grandchildren is limited. Time spent in Israel does much more for most of them.

Unlike Ben-Gurion and others of his generation who believed that severing links with the Diaspora and living in Israel is the way to stay Jewish, nowadays many of us think differently. The old approach seems both unrealistic and undesirable, because the strength and viability of the Jewish people depend not on narrow nationalism, but on the interplay between the sovereign centre and the geographic periphery.

New thinking and resolute action are called for. Both are in short supply.

Whereas those engaged in business and technology dream bold dreams and realize many of them, theoreticians of Judaism and its political leaders seem incapable of thinking outside the box. Yehezkel Dror deserves our gratitude for alerting us to the danger of mouthing obsolete clichés and urging us to think imaginatively and act courageously.

An end and a beginning

Jonah Brotman in Ottawa

As the summer continues and more friends return home from exotic locales with exciting tales of travel, one question continues to arise: "What next?"

With the completion of undergraduate university studies, the clear path has given way to infinite forks in the road. Jumping through hoops of government-mandated formal education has taken 18 of my first 22 years in this world. From kindergarten to Grade 12 and through university, the strict regulations of a constraining curriculum and standardized testing have attempted to mould me into an upstanding adult and model citizen.

With the pre-structured stages of life out of the way, a blank slate of newfound freedom emerges that is liberating, yet equally daunting. The choose-your-own-adventure years of my life now kick into high gear.

Finding jobs, paying off debts and saving money all seem so stereotypical. I could work for minimum wage in Toronto, teach English in Asia or go back to school for a master's degree, the increasingly necessary marker of academic achievement. Each choice has positive and negative factors warranting serious consideration.

Everyone encounters similarly distressing situations. New homes, old mortgages, career advancement and retirement – these are some of the choices that determine our future. Thankfully, I can avoid most of them for quite some time.

Decision-making is often swayed by one's closest influences. Friends tell me to travel and parents tell me to plan ahead, probably to avoid future late-night international money transfers. Even my grandparents recently joined the chorus by gently nudging me to find a "path." The path for their generation involved living through the Great Depression, World War II and the post-war baby boom to the current day. That must have been a pretty crazy roller coaster. Mine will just involve iPods and Facebook instead of jukeboxes and sockhops.

For my generation, the "global village" is not just a concept on the pages of famous Canadian Marshall McLuhan. For us, the Internet has connected everyone, all the time, anywhere.

The emerging standard increasingly tends to move away from the straight path of assured comfort toward one of lifelong dynamic change. The average worker today will change jobs three to five times throughout the typical working years. Even "typical working years" have been abolished by baby-boomers not ready to retire at the sprightly age of 65. Work stimulates the brain and keeps the body young – so kudos, but only until I want the job.

A friend recently introduced me to a 32-year-old business manager who complained that his six-figure salary and downtown office failed to satisfy his needs. I was shocked. He seemed so successful and happy.

"I want something different," he said. "I want to be fulfilled, like you."

I was puzzled. Am I fulfilled? This is a tough question. He has comfort, luxury and stability, while I have freedom, adventure and mobility. He envied my NGO work in Africa; I envied his air-conditioned office job. He regrets his past, while I anticipate my future.

One thing that is important to remember, though, is that by dreaming of the future and remembering the past, we neglect the present. Pop culture historian Chuck Klosterman once noted that he spent all his time reminiscing about past loves and imagining future ones. And it left him with nothing but the ephemeral.

Whether one delves into past, present or future, life is a journey worth enjoying. Yet finding value in one's life only really comes with reflection. The easiest time to reflect seems to be at a conclusion. Whether the end of school, a longtime job, a friendship or life itself, finality is attained through contemplation and introspection. The grand scheme of our lives will become clear eventually, or so we all hope.

This being the final instalment of my contribution as a *CJN* campus columnist, I can reflect and be thankful for the input and praise that came from friends, family and anyone within the Canadian Jewish sphere.

The most important lesson I have learned from all of this: more people know and care about you than you think. So be true to yourself and be kind to others. Genuine fulfilment in life will follow.

A final reflection

Mordechai Walfish in Halifax

Ever since I began as the Halifax columnist for *The CJN* a year ago, I have been thinking about what it means for me – a transient "import" to this region – to represent Halifax for readers across the country. Given that this is my final column, I think it is fitting to share some of these reflections, as they have evolved throughout the year.

Because of its geography and its size, Atlantic Canada is, in many ways, viewed by the rest of the country as on the fringes. This has both advantages and drawbacks. On the one hand, being slightly off the radar screen provides for a low-key, unpretentious environment. It means that there are many hidden gems to be discovered in daily life. On the other hand, being out of sight often leads to a portrayal of Atlantic Canada that is slightly caricatured and one-dimensional. As with most places, it is hard to get a sense of Atlantic Canada until one has lived there and experienced day-to-day life. It is hard, and even unfair, to give an outsider's perspective.

One of the questions I received recently from one of my local readers was: "Don't you find it strange being the Halifax writer when you yourself grew up in Ontario and are sure to leave Halifax once you have your degree?"

My answer is yes and no. It is true that I am not a native, and therefore, my view of the city will always be through the eyes of a newcomer. But this is not a responsibility that I take lightly. I have done my best to give only my perspective on the city and to make it apparent that my view is not a comprehensive one. I think that the starting point for any columnist is the people, events and lifestyle that he or she is familiar with. Where possible, I tried to present a nuanced view, showing the variety and complexity of life here.

For those who live in the region, it is blatantly obvious when an outsider fails to provide anything but a one-dimensional perspective on life in Atlantic Canada. A recent example of this is the July 28 issue of the *Globe and Mail*, which featured an article titled "The Lost Tribe of the Atlantic." This article painted a rather bleak picture of the Jewish community of Atlantic Canada, which, it suggests, has fallen from its glory days and needs a grand solution to rescue it.

Luckily, things are more complex than that. Anyone who has spent time in the region (the author, it should be noted, is from Toronto) knows that the above thesis is far from true. In addition to containing some factual errors (for example, it claimed that there are only two rabbis in the region, when, in fact, there are five), the article failed to mention the many aspects of vibrant Jewish life in the region: how Halifax has become a hub for Jewish students, whose numbers exceed 500; how Camp Kadimah provides an exciting and important community for youth both inside and outside the region; how religious and cultural events throughout the year are well-attended and meaningful; and how the Jewish communities that do exist throughout the Atlantic provinces are friendly and welcoming.

The author's focus was purely on numbers and the places, such as Glace Bay, where these numbers have dropped. A detached perspective like this certainly does not do any justice to the richness of the region.

Interestingly enough, for me, the very process of writing about life in Halifax – stepping back and reflecting on it and how I should tell its story to others – allowed me to take more ownership of this place and my life there.

Though I have left the region, at least for now, I do have a window into life in Atlantic Canada, and living there is an experience I will take with me as I move on to the next stage of my life. I take a special pleasure and joy in telling others that I went to school there, and I hope to continue being an ambassador of sorts for the region. Writing this column has given me my first chance to be such an ambassador and I am grateful for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you. *Zay gezunt!*

The Kirshner File

Cynical anti-Semite terrorized French Jews

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Nicknamed "Hitler's parrot," Louis Darquier de Pellepoix held the title of commissioner for Jewish affairs in Vichy France from May 1942 until February 1944. Under his watch, Jews were reduced to second-class citizens, looted of their property, forced to wear the yellow star and dispatched to Auschwitz. But Darquier, a self-important, hotheaded, high-living veteran of World War I who favoured a monocle and abandoned his first daughter, was more than an anti-Semite.

As Carmen Callil observes in her thoroughly chilling biography, *Bad Faith: A Forgotten History of Family, Fatherland and Vichy France* (Random House), Darquier exploited the wholesale persecution of Jews for financial gain. Although the venom of anti-Semitism ran deep in his veins, he was essentially a con man who was primarily interested in feathering his nest.

Born in 1897 in the southern French town of Cahors, the son of a left-wing official who backed the Jewish army officer Alfred Dreyfus during his nightmarish travails, Darquier claimed that he knew "absolutely nothing about Jews" until adulthood. But soon enough, he was a bitter, outspoken anti-Semite. At a meeting in 1937, he declared, "We must, with all urgency, resolve the Jewish problem, whether by expulsion or massacre."

In Callil's estimation, Darquier was greatly influenced by two of the demigods of French anti-Semitism – Edouard Drumont, the author of *La France Juive* (1886) and the publisher of *La Libre parole*, and Charles Maurras, the philosopher who rejected parliamentary democracy and railed against Jews, Protestants and Freemasons. But Henry Coston, a journalist who was active in Action Française, an anti-Semitic organization,was another significant figure in Darquier's conversion.

During the inter-war period, Darquier basically earned a living as a city counsellor and deputy secretary general of *Le Jour*, a far right daily newspaper published in Paris. But above all else, he was a violence-prone rabble-rouser obsessed by Jews.

When Leon Blum, a Jew, became the prime minister of France in 1936, Darquier called for "a debate against Jewish tyranny and the invasion of foreigners." By then, as Callil points out, his views were fixed. He believed that Jews who had arrived in France before 1918 should be expelled, that remaining Jews should not be permitted to hold public office, and that their influence in all spheres should be strictly limited. A racial anti-Semite who was fixated on blooodlines, Darquier was a French Nazi who admired Julius Streicher, the publisher of the pornographically anti-Jewish scandal sheet, *Der Sturmer*, one of Hitler's favourite newspapers.

Even after his induction into the army, a day before France declared war on Germany in September 1939, Darquier could not keep his mouth shut. A lieutenant in an anti-tank unit, he was fined 500 francs for insulting a Jewish soldier. Subsequently, he was heard saying that France was merely fighting "for the Jews of the entire world, while they find safe jobs and continue to run their businesses on our backs."

One can imagine that Darquier was extremely pleased when Vichy France enacted the *Statut des Juifs* in October 1940. These anti-Semitic decrees, which were more stringent than even the German conquerors requested, defined Jews by race and subjected them to a panoply of restrictions as well as police roundups. Xavier Vallat, the first commissioner for Jewish affairs, implemented these edicts with zeal and supervised the first roundup of Jews in May 1941. But since Vallat tried to protect "old" French Jews from the worst excesses, the German command sacked him. The Nazis chose Darquier as Vallat's successor, saying that he had "the correct conception of the Jewish question."

They were right, of course. Darquier did not distinguish between French and foreign Jews. All Jews had to go. Writing in the Berlin magazine *Die Judenfrage* four months after succeeding Vallat, he expressed contempt for the "maudlin sentimentality" of Vichy's anti-Jewish legislation, and went one step further by claiming that "the French administration, which still includes many Jews in its ranks, opposes me with all its might."

Despite his rhetoric, Darquier was a disappointment to the Germans. He was quarrelsome and alienated staff, and there was an atmosphere of sexual impropriety and financial skulduggery in his office.

Darquier and his cynical minions were notorious for accepting immense bribes from wealthy Jews seeking exemptions from anti-Semitic laws. "If such Jews paid him enough, he would turn a blind eye," writes Callil, who adds that Darquier's principal concern was "the legal and illegal appropriation of Jewish assets," known otherwise as "economic Aryanization."

His shenanigans notwithstanding, Darquier remained a model anti-Semite who instilled fear in the hearts of of his enemies. On June 7, 1942, French and foreign Jews in the occupied German zone were henceforth required to wear a yellow star. And in July of that fateful year, he supervised the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup of nearly 13,000 Parisian Jews, almost one-third of whom were children. They were sent to Auschwitz. Under Darquier's reign of terror, thousands more Jews were shipped to death camps in Poland.

Darquier was particularly interested in hounding three categories of Jews who, he argued, had gotten off lightly: Jews who had taken refuge in the Italian occupation zone; war vets and French citizens who had circumvented the *Statut des Juifs*; and half-Jews and hidden Jews who had outwitted him.

Justifying his strong position, Darquier said, "The Jewish problem is not specifically a Jewish problem. It faces all nations and has taken on urgent proportions in France. Germany has simply been the first country in the modern era to provide a governmental solution to the problem… the French government [must] do the same."

Louis Darquier de Pellepoix

In a bid to ape the Nazis, Darquier proposed the denaturalization of French Jews. But Marshal Henri-Philippe Pétain, the leader of the Vichy regime, stonewalled. Pétain accepted his proposal in principle, but refused to sign his bill. He urged Darquier to concentrate on foreign Jews. Complaining about Pétain's lack of commitment, Darquier threatened to resign. But by that juncture, the Germans, fed up with his improprieties and self-serving practices, were already itching to dismiss him.

He was indeed fired, but Darquier could take credit for the murder of some 75,000 Jews, French and foreigners, during the Holocaust.

With the fall of the Vichy regime, Darquier and his dissolute Australian wife, Myrtle, a bigamist, took refuge in a hotel the Germans had frequented. As France was liberated from the Nazi yoke, 9,000 collaborators were summarily executed before special courts could be established.

Darquier was spared, though reports of his assassination abounded. Stuffing him into the trunk of his car, Darquier's brother, Rene, drove him to the Pyrenees, where he was picked up by fascist sympathizers and spirited into Spain in September 1944.

War criminals like Darquier found a haven in Franco's Spain, which Callil caustically describes as "a regime entirely free of the errors of democracy, socialism and communism."

Darquier felt at home in Spain, which had been neutral during the war. His friend, Jose de Lequerica, who had been the Spanish ambassador to Vichy, was now Spain's foreign minister. Darquier was also protected by Antonio Baroso y Sanchez-Guerra, a Franco confidant. Darquier was soon teaching French at a Madrid school, and in 1946, he received a Spanish passport under the name of Jean Esteve Roussel.

A year later, having been declared guilty of "collusion with agents of a foreign power," France sentenced him to death in absentia and withdrew his French citizenship.

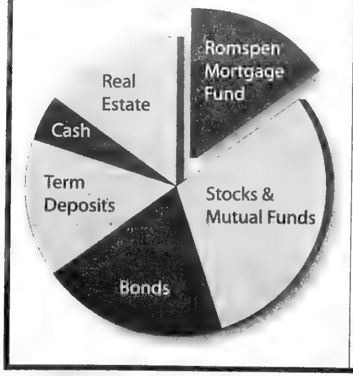
Nevertheless, Darquier continued to rant and rave about Jews. As Callil puts it, "He remained combative and extravagant to the end, and the deranged words he had borrowed from the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* never changed."

In 1978, two years before his death, he granted an interview to a journalist from *l'Express* in Paris. In his usual style, he lied about his role and denied the Holocaust.

"The Final Solution is an invention, pure and simple," he said, adding that he had nothing to do with the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup, and that he attempted "to make the situation of French Jews as comfortable as possible."

The interview ended with this question: "And do you sometimes have regrets? Remorse?"

Darquier replied: "Regrets for what? I don't understand your question."



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Inclusive Public Education: A Cross-Canada Perspective

Ontario has much to learn from other provinces

By DAVID ENGEL
UJA FEDERATION

In the debate about inclusive public education, a lot of discussion centres on how schools are funded in other provinces, and the impact bringing faith-based schools into the system will have on the quality of education in public schools. We can look to the realities in other provinces to find some answers.

Faith-based schools in Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia all receive various levels of public funding in exchange for meeting specific government requirements, such as following provincial curriculum, government inspections, student testing, and standardized administration procedures.

There are Jewish day schools in all of these provinces except Saskatchewan. Students in these schools have benefited in a way their Ontario counterparts have not – they receive excellent education in both general studies and Jewish studies that reflect their family values, but their families do not face the heavy financial burden of having to pay for it entirely on their own.

Bringing faith-based schools into the public education system will enhance learning and diverstiy.

What hasn't happened in these provinces is a significant drop in the quality of education, either in the secular public schools, or in the Jewish day schools. If anything, extending public funding to faith-based schools had made public education stronger.

Take the example of the Edmonton District School Board. While every school in this innovative board follows the standard provincial curriculum, many offer special programs to enhance the school day and attract students and their families based on what is most important to them. Students in every grade are tested annually across the board. Their scores are published and the results are used to improve teaching. Rather than fearing competition from private faith-based schools, the Edmonton board embraces them – it now includes two Christian schools and a Jewish day school. Students are free to attend any school in the board.

What has all of this accomplished? Students receive high-quality, publicly funded education that meets strict provincial requirements and still provides students of faith a place to learn in an environment that reflects their values. Moreover, this model has led to higher academic achievement among students across the board. By challenging students in a variety of ways, grades have improved and drop-out rates have fallen across the board, improving public education for all students.

Ontario can learn much from examining the success of Edmonton's school board – most importantly, that it need not fear a drop in the quality of education should faith-based schools be included in the public system. On the contrary, bringing these schools into public education will enhance learning and diversity.

David Engel is the chair of the UJA Federation Board.

Keeping Judaism alive in Siberia

Growing up in Siberia, Anna Yelsky knew she was Jewish, but lacked the resources necessary to develop a strong Jewish identity. When she was eight, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) – UJA Federation's overseas partner – opened an office in her city, and Anna was excited to become an active member of the Jewish community that slowly evolved. Today, Anna works at a JAFI office and uses the education she received from the Jewish Agency as a springboard for her work. She credits JAFI and its partners around the world for providing services throughout the FSU that enable the region's Jews to maintain a connection to their roots and to establish a connection with Israel.

"I loved the activities at the Jewish Agency; learning about Jewish holidays, traditions and engaging in cultural activities," says Anna, now 22, about her participation in Jewish Agency programs during her youth.

Siberia's Anna Yelsky credits The Jewish Agency For Israel (JAFI) - UJA Federation's overseas partner - with her sense of Jewish identity.

Anna quickly became a permanent participant in Orsk's growing Jewish communal life as a dynamic youth group leader. She was chosen to be a counselor at the Jewish Agency Summer Camp in Samara, where she met peers from all over Russia, as well as Israeli counselors her age. Together, they imparted a positive Israel-centered learning experience to Jewish children of all ages.

Anna teaches Hebrew and lectures at Jewish Agency seminars held throughout Russia. She recently married, and moved with her husband to St. Petersburg, where she works at the Jewish Agency's office. She and her husband speak about the possibility of making aliyah, but have not made a final decision.

"I owe my strong sense of Jewish identity to the Jewish Agency," says Anna. "I cannot imagine what my life would have been like had I not walked into their office fourteen years ago."

Capital Ideas

Sowing the seeds of tax planning today can reap rewards

By JAMIE GOLOMBEK

With Bell Canada stock set to go private in 2008, investors who are sitting on holdings with significant accrued capital gains have an opportunity to do some proactive tax planning.

Investors who hold Bell Canada shares which have appreciated substantially outside of a tax-sheltered plan such as an RRSP or RRIF may face a huge tax liability come early 2008, when their stock is bought out from under them.

But, if you are philanthropically-inclined, sowing the seeds of tax planning today can reap huge rewards in the form of tax savings in 2007 and potentially, for up to five years ahead.

That's because last year's federal budget completely eliminated the capital gains tax on donations of publicly-traded shares to registered charities. By combining the advantages of donations "in-kind" with the additional advantages of the donation tax credit system, you can put into place a significant strategic charitable giving plan that will save you tax now and in the future.

Let's take a look at an example.

Jamie Golombek

Daniel owns $30,000 of BCE shares that he inherited years ago from his great aunt. At the time of his great aunt's death, the fair market value of the shares was only $6,000 which became Daniel's adjusted cost base (ACB) or tax cost.

Daniel generally donates about $5,000 annually to charity, divided equally amongst four of his favourite causes. Given that BCE shares won't be around this time next year, however, he may wish to act quickly to take advantage of this tax planning opportunity.

Let's say he donates his entire $30,000 of BCE stock this year by giving $7,500 worth of shares to each of his four selected charities. He will immediately save the capital gains tax on the $24,000 accrued gain, equal to about $5,000 of tax, assuming a marginal capital gains tax rate of approximately 20%.

But that's not all. Daniel will receive four donation receipts totaling $30,000 which will produce a tax savings to him of at least 40%, regardless of which tax bracket he's in. That's because any donations beyond the first $200 annually are eligible for the donation tax credit, generally at the top federal and provincial tax rates, making them worth virtually the same to all Canadians, regardless of income level.

While the charities benefit this year from the increased donations, Daniel can either choose to claim the entire $30,000 donation credit on his 2007 return or he can spread out his donation credits by claiming them over the next five years, the maximum carry-forward period allowed for charitable donations. Naturally, he would only do so if he was unable to use the full value of the donation credit in the current year to reduce his tax payable to zero.

So, is it hard to do? Based on personal experience, as long as you're dealing with a major charity, it's a piece of cake. Most charities have been set up to accept donations in-kind now for over a decade, when such donations were first given preferential tax treatment.

Jamie Golombek, CA, CPA, CFP, CLU, TEP is the Vice-President, Taxation & Estate Planning, at AIM Trimark Investments in Toronto. He is also co-chair, communications committee, PAC, Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto. He can be reached at jamie.golombek@aimtrimark.com

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An eye-opening mission to Ethiopia and Israel

UJA Federation volunteer has firsthand look at dollars at work

From July 8 – 16, Toronto's David Spiro, a long-time UJA Federation volunteer and currently the co-chair of the United Jewish Communities (UJC) National Young Leadership Cabinet and a member of the UIA Federations Canada Board of Directors, participated in a special UJC fact-finding mission to Ethiopia and Israel where he observed how UJA Federation funds were helping those in need. Below, Spiro shares his observations.

By DAVID SPIRO

Having had an opportunity to reflect on my recent mission to Ethiopia and Israel, one of the most important aspects of the trip was seeing first-hand the incredible impact that UJA Federation dollars have on the lives of those in need. As I prepare for my canvassing over the next few months for UJA Federation's upcoming Campaign for Our Jewish Future, I was buoyed by what I witnessed, and I am now even more motivated to do what I can to ensure the success of this year's vital campaign.

As terrorist rockets began striking Sderot earlier this year, UJA Federation, along with its overseas agency, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), began moving children out of the city and away from the danger to summer camps in safer parts of the country. As part of this mission, I had the opportunity to visit one of those camps. The opportunity for these kids to play outdoors is so important. It was truly inspirational to see how we're giving kids relief from the rocket barrage that they face every day. Their smiling faces and laughter made it clear that we're making a difference in their lives – and that's what it's really all about.

It is by going on missions that we appreciate the effect of the careful planning that goes into the allocation of our dollars that are devoted to Israel and overseas needs. We are grateful for the work of those who have devoted their time and energy to ensuring that the projects we fund are carefully conceived, stewarded and monitored in order to have the maximum possible impact on those in need. We also have the privilege of witnessing the amazing dedication of those who devote their lives to helping others under difficult circumstances. The self-sacrifice of an individual such as Dr. Rick Hodes, the Medical Director in Ethiopia for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, is simply awe-inspiring. Our dollars help him do his work of healing the sick and strengthening the weak.

BIENVENUE A
LA MAISON

Toronto's David Spiro greets Ethiopian olim at Ben Gurion Airport.

With JAFI, UJA Federation is able to provide classes at the Israeli Embassy compound in Addis Ababa where the Falash Mura learn for the first time how to use a stove, a fridge, a toilet and even a toothbrush and toothpaste so they can begin to take baby steps to build new lives for themselves in 21st century Israel.

Among other things, UJA Federation helps to sustain vital remedial programs that assist young Ethiopian children who are struggling to keep up in school with their Israeli classmates because they don't have the kind of educational stimulation at home that we take for granted. And finally by way of example, we assist promising Ethiopian teenagers and young adults who need that extra bit of training and encouragement in order to successfully complete career and vocational programs that will help pave the way for their full integration into Israeli society. At the end of the day, we are helping our fellow Jews fulfill their potential – and what more deserving cause is there than that?

David Spiro is a Toronto lawyer.

JAFI provides summer camp for over 8,000 Sderot youth

Since July 1, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) – UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's overseas partner - has been providing day and overnight camp opportunities to the 8,200 youth between the ages of 6 and 17 living in Sderot and the surrounding area, taking them to camps or on field trips outside the zone which has come under continuous rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip.

On any given day during July and August, there have been some 4,000 children and teens participating in a myriad of JAFI coordinated camp activities. This summer's camp project, *To Sderot With Love*, cost $4.79 million, funded by the United Jewish Communities, the Federations of North America including UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, United Israel Appeal of Canada, Keren Hayesod, the IDB Group and Israeli donors, with the cooperation of Israel's largest daily newspaper Yediot Ahronoth and it's YNET internet site.

Youngsters from the Sderot area enjoy life at a JAFI summer camp.

"On any given day there is a camp activity available to each and every child in the Sderot area, which takes place out of the range of the missiles," says Yael Raz. JAFI's coordinator of the summer camps.

Camp activities include visits to Israel's nature reserves, amusement and water parks, zoos and the safari, entertainment performances, a stand up comedy club, even a miniature American Indian village was set up in a camp near Beersheva – all these on top of routine camp activities.

Campers recently took a three-day tour of Jerusalem, introducing the children to major sites, in celebration of the 40th year of the capital's unification. Camps also bring children to the north of Israel, with a variety of nature-oriented activities, including hiking and kayaking; a camp group also went to Eilat.

"The children are so happy and their parents are so grateful – we get thank you letters every day," Raz said.

Tamir Abouksis, aged 14, from Sderot is one of the children participating. He was wounded two years ago by Kassam shrapnel.

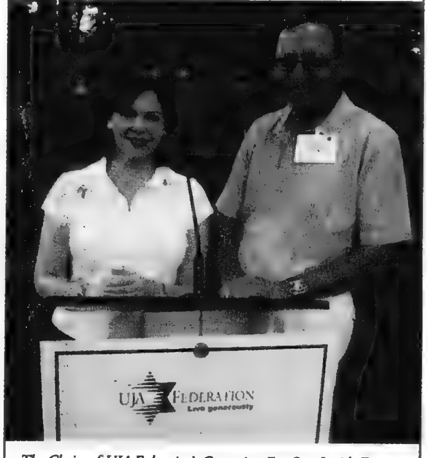
"The situation in Sderot is very difficult," he said. "It is impossible to live like this. I am scared to leave the house, and when I walk in the street I am always mentally lining up potential places where I can take cover."

Gearing up for Our Jewish Future

Members of the 2008 UJA Federation Executive Cabinet recently made their way to the cottage of Judy and Larry Tanenbaum for the annual Leadership Retreat – chaired by Michael Feldman and Sherry Firestone - in preparation for the August launch of The Campaign for Our Jewish Future.

More than 75 lay leaders were treated to a variety of exceptional and passionate speakers who covered topics that helped to explain the importance of this year's campaign.

The Campaign for Our Jewish Future, chaired by Lesley Binstock Offman and Morris Perlis, will hold its official community launch on Wednesday, August 29 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, and will feature actor/comedian Larry Miller as keynote speaker. For information about the campaign launch, please call 416.631.5700



The Chairs of UJA Federation's Campaign For Our Jewish Future - Lesley Binstock Offman and Morris Perlis - address participants at the recent UJA Federation Leadership Retreat.

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Educating youth about racism

Continued from page 6

He said mentoring and teaching youth about racism is extremely important, and he's glad he had such mentors in his parents.

"[They] told me those things were wrong, and if you ever get the chance to do something about it, do it. Don't just talk about it, do it. For the past 50 or 60 years, I've been involved in this kind of programming, or this kind of committee, and trying to make the world a better place to live in," Wolfe said.

Wolfe was a founding member of B'nai Brith of Canada's League for Human Rights and became the national chair for intercultural dialogue. After an almost 40-year legal career, he served as a justice of the peace and continues to serve as a deputy judge in small claims court.

It is crucial to teach youth about racism in elementary school, when they are most likely to form their opinions and ideas, Wolfe said.

"They have to understand what racism is, and they have to understand what discrimination is, and they have to understand what diversity is," he said.

> ***'They have to understand what discrimination is, and they have to understand what diversity is'***

"You have to implant that in the kids. Once they have an idea of what it is, they have to understand how it affects other people."

The book competition aims to do just that. The top three winners – who are named by a panel of judges that includes community leaders, educators, journalists and editors – receive cash prizes. There are also three honourable mentions.

The competition has already seen success in the last four years, said Kornhauser, citing teachers who choose to make it part of their curriculum, and the positive effects of mentoring on the younger children.

She said that when Windfields Junior High students read their entries to elementary students, for example, the younger children asked for autographs.

"It's been a very positive thing and just a brilliant idea," she said.

Teachers, librarians and school administrators who want more information about the contest should call TRIP at 416-395-6475 or visit www.trip-toronto.ca. The deadline for notification of participation is Oct. 12 and the contest deadline is Nov. 30.

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The Gooderham-Weizmann connection

By HOWARD ALTER

Special to the CJN

What possible link might there be between Toronto's most recent cultural and tourist destination, the Distillery Historical District, and the birth of the State of Israel?

An article on the *Canadian Home Workshop Magazine* website about Canadian inventions credits Albert Edward Gooderham, owner of the Gooderham and Worts distillery in the early 1900s, with having created a method of producing the solvent acetone from grain. I was surprised by this statement, recalling having once read a different account of this invention in a biography of one of Zionism's greatest leaders.

Guest Voice

Puzzled and intrigued by the seeming discrepancy, a little research led me to discover an interesting convergence of the two stories.

In 1916, a brilliant chemist at Manchester University in England discovered a bacterial fermentation process for synthesizing acetone, which was in desperate demand during World War I for the manufacture of explosives. Formerly, acetone could only be manufactured from wood, of which there wasn't enough in all the forests of Europe to supply the armament needs of the British army.

The scientist, an avidly Zionist Jew of Russian origin named Chaim Weizmann, was brought to London, where he explained to the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, and to the minister of munitions, David Lloyd George, that his process would produce the necessary tons of acetone if large supplies of corn and a sufficiently large fermentation and distillation plant could be found.

The British colony of Canada had the corn, and the largest distillery in the British Empire was in Toronto. So this is when Gooderham successfully redirected his massive complex on the shores of Lake Ontario, under the title "British Acetones Toronto Ltd.," to use the aptly named bacterium clostridium acetobutylicum weizmann to create the new product according to the Jewish scientist's method.

With the first quantities of acetone arriving in the United Kingdom from Toronto in early 1917, Weizmann's supervision of the mass production of synthetic acetone for the Allies opened doors for him in British government circles, where he served as an eloquent and persuasive spokesperson for Zionism.

When Lloyd George left the munitions ministry to become prime minister, under whom Arthur Balfour became foreign secretary, gratitude to Weizmann for his munitions discovery combined with personal empathy for him and his Zionist cause culminated in the Balfour Declaration on Nov. 2, 1917, which proclaimed the sympathy of the British government for Zionist aims in Palestine, one of the most important events in the establishment of the Jewish State.

Meanwhile, royalties on his acetone patent gave Weizmann the financial security and independence he needed to allow him to devote himself to Zionism, including presidency of the Zionist movement.

In the 1930s, he went on to create what became the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, and during World War II, assisted by the warm relationship established years before with Winston Churchill, he brought about the formation of the Jewish Brigade Group in the British army.

And Gooderham? He had returned to the production of whiskey while also pursuing multiple philanthropic interests, including establishing Connaught Laboratories, chairing the Ontario Red Cross, being a prominent member of the board of governors of the University of Toronto and chair of the insulin committee overseeing Banting and Best's discovery.

He was knighted Sir Albert Edward Gooderham, and in 1949, Weizmann was honoured by the state he helped create by being elected the first president of Israel.

Howard Alter is a Toronto psychiatrist.

Mazuz made wrong call on JNF

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

Through A Sephardi Window

It could have been her cool blue eyes, but more likely it was those frightening blue numbers tattooed on her forearm.

All I know for sure is that when our Talmud Torah teacher said we all had to save our allowance money and give it to the Jewish National Fund in order to plant trees in Israel, the entire class did just that.

That was some 30 years ago. In the silliness of my childhood and to the chagrin of my good teacher, I dedicated that first tree to my pet bird. Little did I understand then that with this small act, I was now part of a grand plan.

For years, Jewish men would pray while at the same time dropping a few coins into a blue tin box. Women, too, saved pennies from their grocery money and before lighting Shabbat candles would place coins into the JNF tin.

It's been more than 100 years since Theodor Herzl founded the Jewish National Fund. With the JNF, he told us, you don't just have to dream and to aspire, you can actually do something tangible. Give us your coins and we will purchase Palestine, Arab lands, one parcel at a time, and little by little our holdings would grow.

In those days, there was no government, no nation, no people and hence no politics. There were just genuine Jews around the world expressing their Zionism by purchasing land, penny by penny, for other Jews.

Who would have thought then, in those prewar years, that those pennies would one day amount to more than 10 per cent of Israel. Verdant forests, roads systems, vast irrigation projects, land reclamation, desert development – these and more are today's JNF.

Much has happened in just a century, but not everything in the JNF's existence has been rosy. Like the people of Israel, the JNF has weathered financial crises, severe drought and maliciously set fires.

Its latest and current crisis, however, is altogether different.

Israel's attorney general, Menahem Mazuz recently decided that non-Jews could not be barred from buying or leasing JNF lands.

Imagine: land bought by Jews for Jews now being returned to the hands of Arabs.

The clear implication of the attorney general's ruling is that if the JNF continues with its policy to allocate its lands in Israel to Jews alone, it is practising racism.

How unfortunate that Israel's own government would have us fall into that old sewer of "Zionism equals racism."

It wasn't that long ago when "the world" told "us" that, yes in fact, Zionism is racism. One still remembers that single proud moment during that particularly awful debacle when Chaim Herzog, Israel's then-ambassador to the United Nations, defiantly stood before the entire General Assembly and tore up the resolution.

Mazuz's decision has prompted the Knesset to respond, and MKs are now moving forward with new legislation – it's already passed first reading – that would prohibit Israeli Arabs from buying or leasing JNF-owned lands.

One prays that sanity will prevail again soon.

Jewish Life

A true friend of the Jewish people

Churchill and the Jews by **Martin Gilbert, McClelland & Stewart**

Martin Gilbert, the tireless author of more than 75 books, is Winston Churchill's official biographer and among the foremost historians of the modern world.

In his latest book, he turns to the intriguing subject of Churchill's many-sided relationship with Jews. The British statesman had always been fascinated by Jewish history – above all by the ethics of Judaism and its insistence on monotheism.

Books
Bernard Baskin

In 1931, Churchill wrote a newspaper article about his admiration for Moses. "He was the greatest of the prophets, who spoke in person to the God of Israel; he was the national hero who led the Chosen People out of the land of bondage, through the perils of the wilderness, and brought them to the very threshold of the Promised Land; he was the supreme law-giver, who received from God that remarkable code upon which the religious, moral and social life of the nation was so securely fastened."

Churchill disdained the notion that the biblical account was a myth. Moses, for him, was the leader of a wandering tribe that was in many ways indistinguishable grasped and proclaimed an idea of which all the genius of Greece and Rome were incapable."

In 1921, Churchill was appointed secretary of state for the colonies with special responsibility for Britain's two League of Nations mandates, Palestine and Iraq.

In a series of intricate political manoeuvres he accepted a plan in which two sons of Sherif Hussein of Mecca would occupy the thrones of Iraq and Transjordan – although Transjordan was an original portion of the Palestine Mandate. In return, western Palestine would remain the Jewish national home under British control.

Confronted with Arab opposition, Churchill declared, "I am myself perfectly convinced that the cause of Zionism is one which carries with it much that is good for the whole world, and not only for the Jewish people, but that it will also bring with it prosperity and contentment and advancement to the Arab population of this country."

Responding to the argument that only a limited number of people could live in a country as small as Palestine, Churchill referred to it as a profound illusion, "There are more people today living 20 storeys living on the ground in New York 100 years ago. There is no limit to the ingenuity of man if it is properly and vigorously applied under conditions of peace and justice."

As colonial secretary, his 1922 White Paper led to the immigration into Palestine of 300,000 Jews in 14 years.

Churchill was a persistent opponent of what he called "the anti-Semitic lines of prejudice," and he strove to support the aspirations of the country's Jews, both as citizens of Britain participating fully in national life and as advocates and participants in the creation of Israel.

In 1946, when Jewish terrorism in Palestine created a backlash of anger in Britain, some members of Parliament became increasingly hostile to Zionism. Churchill countered by contrasting British government policy in Palestine with that of India. The government, he said, "is apparently ready to leave the 40 million Indians to fall into the horrors of sanguinary civil war compared to which anything that could happen in Palestine would be microscopic – wars of elephants compared with wars of mice."

Churchill died in 1965; he was 90 years old. The entire free world mourned. He had once told a colleague, "The Jewish people know well enough that I am their [illegible] Gilbert concludes his book with these words: "This was true, he was both a friend in their hours of need and a friend in deed."

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Jewish and Israeli podcasts, Pt. 1

Some of my best friends are no longer around.

But hey, that's OK. I've found new ones to replace them.

A while back, I told you about a number of podcasts that I had become hooked on, such as the one called The View from Here by a couple, olim named Harry and Ziva. From their home in Modiin in central Israel, they would create regular audio reports about life in that country. Harry would fulminate about the latest scandal and then rave about a great Israeli chocolate bar. And I got quite hooked into listening into their discussions and rants.

The Jewish Highway

Well, podcasts come and podcasts go. And it seems that A View from Here is gone.

If you're still among the uninitiated and have never listened to a podcast, think of it as a free radio show that you can download and listen to on your computer or a portable MP3 player such as an iPod. And if you really enjoy a podcast, subscribe to it so that the new editions automatically appear on your computer and on your MP3 player, so that you can listen to them whenever and wherever you want.

There are thousands of podcasts out there and, not surprisingly, quite a few deal with Israel or Judaism. As for the quality of podcasts, they can rival the best documentaries you'll hear anywhere. Or they can sound like they were recorded on a kitchen table (because many are). In this column, I'm going to suggest which podcasts are worth a listen. As to how to listen to them, there are many good sites that will walk you through the process such as at Wikipedia. **[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Podcast]** or Apple's iTunes. **[tinyurl. com/ypt4xp]**

Luckily, Carol and Charley are still around. They're another American couple who made aliyah and have a lot to say about the state of the State of Israel. To mark their 11th anniversary in the country, they recently devoted a special edition of Israelisms to immigration. In other editions, they voiced their displeasure that haredi schools receive government funding, yet haredim do not serve in the Israeli military. **[israelisms.com/]**

Sharing a Zionist belief but elsewhere on the political spectrum, Arutz Sheva (also known as Israel National Radio) has created a series of podcasts similar in content, in tone and political outlook to its news service. Other podcasts have suggested that the appointment of Quartet (United Nations, United States, European Union and Russia) special envoy Tony Blair is a waste of time and have visited a group of immigrants from France as they touched down at Ben-Gurion Airport. **[tinyurl. com/3dlggy]**

OyPod describes itself as "the first and currently only podcast for Jewish teens." Perhaps. What I do know is that this is the lovely work of Danny Zeff, 15, of Sacramento, Calif. "I'm a Conservative Jew who's proud of his heritage. I think ever since I went to Israel, I've definitely gotten a lot more into Jewish culture." Danny looks at his life from a Jewish perspective, such as the time he was asked to sign up for organ donations at his school and wondered what Halachah had to say about organ donations. He did some research and reported on the subject on his site. He's also been known to throw in a Hebrew slang lesson and answer readers' questions, such as "Why are Jews always late?" By the way, Danny thinks his voice in his latest oyPod sounds a bit squeaky. **[tinyurl.com/2cndlr]**

Oh, one more thing about Ziva and Harry, whom I mentioned earlier. Although their podcast is no longer being produced, I still follow their lives through their blog and can give you an update. Since I last wrote about them, Harry's arthritis is still acting up and can be quite painful. On the other hand, earlier this year, Ziva gave birth to their first child, a daughter, Tzofia, whose picture you can see here. **[theviewfromhere.net/]**

Even if you don't speak Hebrew, the name Tzofia may ring a bell if you're familiar with the lyrics to *Hatikvah*, "Ayin L'tzion Tzofiah" ("An eye still watches toward Zion…")

Next time, more podcasts to keep you entertained and informed. Meanwhile, you can do a bit of discovering on your own of the (mostly) Jewish list at **tinyurl.com/2eqngh**.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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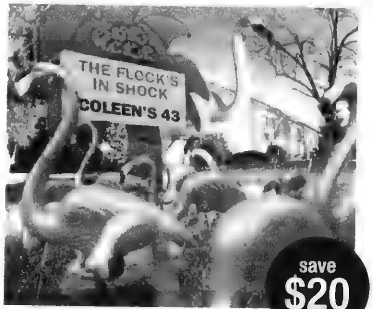

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Greater Toronto Area

New Canadian book explores Berlin Philharmonic during Nazi era

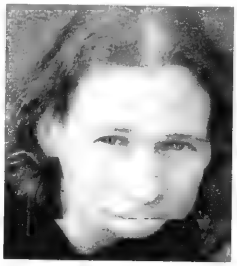
By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Misha Aster has done more in his 28 years on this planet than most do in a lifetime.

He's studied at three of the most prestigious schools in the world – McGill University, the London School of Economics, and Harvard University.

The son of an opera director and a university professor, and the grandson of a concert pianist, Aster, born in Hamilton, Ont. and raised in Oakville, Ont., has an ear for music and languages. He speaks five languages and has directed operas in both Canada and Europe – at least one of which he translated from German to English himself.

Now, living in Berlin, Aster is getting set to release his book, *Das Reichsorchester: Die Berliner Philharmoniker und der Nationalsozialismus*, which translates into *The Reichs-Orchestra: National Socialism*, at the end of the month in Germany.



Misha Aster

The book chronicles the experience of a community of about 100 musicians during the Third Reich, but focuses mainly on the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra as an institution, and the individual and collective experience of its members, Aster said.

Aster explored the relationship that Wilhelm Furtwängler, the philharmonic's chief conductor, and one of the greatest conductors of the 20th century, had with Nazis before and during World War II.

"Though Furtwängler was never a member of the Nazi Party, he remained in Germany throughout the period. He helped many Jewish musicians and interceded on behalf of a number of persecuted families, but also maintained close ties to the highest leaders of the regime. He remains, therefore, a highly polemical figure, revered by some, condemned by others."

Aster also looked into the fate of the Jewish members of the Berlin Philharmonic.

"Rumours abound about this, and it is widely assumed the orchestra must have suffered a horrible purge in 1933. Astonishingly, the Berlin Philharmonic in 1933 employed only four Jewish musicians. All four Jewish musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic emigrated from Germany between 1934 and 1935. All ended up in the United States."

He added that his research resulted in a history book on a musical subject, not a music history book.

The release of the book on Aug. 25 is meant to coincide with the Berlin Philharmonic's 125th anniversary.

In the philharmonic's 125 years, never has anyone explored its archives and documented its history during the Nazi era. So how did a young Canadian kid end up in Berlin poring over tens of thousands of pages of archival and private collections of correspondence, schedules, programs, lists, memos, and photographs to produce the first book on the subject?

"I have had a love affair with the city since a family visit to Berlin in winter, 1990… After 1995, I went off to university and then began working, but Berlin remained a pole to which I would gravitate whenever time allowed."

Always looking for an excuse to settle in Berlin, Aster finally found it when he found himself on a train from Berlin to Basel, and "through a series of remarkable coincidences," met and had breakfast with a man named Walter Küssner, archivist in the Berl[illegible]

"At some point in our conversation, the subject of the experience of the orchestra during the Third Reich came up. Walter is of the German generation of the 1960s, for whom the Nazi era is a vivid presence, but not personal memory. He expressed his dismay at the lack of information about the Berlin Philharmonic both before and during the war years. He described the period as a blank spot in the orchestra's history," Aster recalled.

Aster and Küssner had already developed a friendship when Küssner was appointed Berlin Philharmonic Archivist in 2002.

"The moment he took the job, he called me up and said, 'Now is our chance.' He asked me to come to Berlin and undertake some preliminary investigating, just to see what could be dug up on the mysterious blank spot."

Five years later, Aster is anticipating the release of the book, the only one on the subject to date.

"To the question, why is a 28 year old kid from Canada writing this book rather than some distinguished German intellectual, the answer is simple: because in over half a century, no one else has. In the past week I have had two Germans say to me, 'I am going to buy this book for my mother.' I think the Berlin Philharmonic recognizes this is something long overdue, and are pleased someone has taken the initiative to look into it."

The Canadian edition of the book will be published by Mosaic Press and is due out in Spring 2008.

Correction

The article "Members vote to reorient Holy Blossom sanctuary" (*CJN*, Aug. 2), about a membership vote at Holy Blossom Temple regarding renovations and a possible reorientation of the sanctuary to face east, contained a misleading statistic and an incorrect number of total voters. In fact, 61 per cent of members who voted to renovate – not 61 per cent of all 2,594 voters – were in favour of reorienting the sanctuary to face east. Only 58 percent of all voters – a total that includes those who voted against renovations of any kind – were in favour of the change.

Reports highlight growing security threats

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

Supporters of Israel often complain that foreign correspondents ignore the genuine security threats facing the tiny Jewish state.

That complaint was valid in the spring and summer of 2002, when Israeli forces tried to eliminate terrorist cells in the Palestinian territories under "Operation Defensive Shield." At the time, the Israeli army was frequently depicted as an aggressor operating with "excessive force." Numerous media outlets painted a similar portrait of Israel's military during last summer's conflict with Hezbollah.

But now another story is starting to gain some ground. Many journalists have seen how Israel's unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in August 2005 has been met by persistent Qassam rocket fire into Israel's southern communities, especially the town of Sderot. They have also seen how Iran fuels and funds, with Syria's assistance, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza.

In "Waiting at the border: Israel girds for attack" (*Toronto Star*, Aug. 4), Oakland Ross described Israeli concerns about the Iranian-Syrian re-supply of Hezbollah. Interviewing Israel Defence Forces soldiers and commanders at Israel's northern border with Lebanon, Ross wrote: "The Israel Defence Forces believe Hezbollah has spent the past year replenishing its stockpiles of rockets, including the short-range Katyushas that turned this side of the border into a free-fire zone last summer."

Ross quoted Col. Kobi Marom, former commander of the front with Lebanon, who said about Hezbollah: "They don't want to escalate the situation today… They need time to recover. But it's just a question of time until they try again."

Ross noted that the 13,000-strong United Nations force has been effective – even according to the IDF – in keeping Hezbollah from re-establishing itself militarily, though Hezbollah flags still fly and its members frequently test the security of Israel's electronically monitored border fence.

Aftermath of a Qassam rocket attack on a Sderot school.

Meanwhile, according to the *Globe and Mail*'s Mark MacKinnon in "Kremlin sets sights on Middle East" (Aug. 7), Russia may be planning to re-establish its naval base at the Syrian port of Tartus, an act that will surely embolden Syria's support for Hezbollah in Lebanon.

MacKinnon wrote that, if true, the move "would mark the first time Russia has established a military presence outside the borders of the former Soviet Union since the USSR fell apart in 1991."

The implications for Israel and the region are enormous. Not only would Russia challenge the U.S. presence and policy in the Middle East, it would dramatically complicate Israel's latitude to act against Syria in a conflict over the Golan Heights, or against renewed aggression from Hezbollah in Lebanon.

MacKinnon noted: "Two years ago, Moscow wrote off nearly $10 billion [US] Soviet-era debt owed to it by Syria. Now it's reportedly in the midst of selling medium-range missiles and MIG-31 fighter planes to Damascus over Israel's objections."

Russia also maintains lucrative arms deals with Iran, including support for Tehran's nuclear ambitions. And it provides diplomatic support to Hamas, which is backed by both Iran and Syria. Hamas' Damascus-based leader, Khaled Meshaal, was recently invited by Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit Moscow for a second time.

With the United States badly tied down in Iraq and Afghanistan, and with Iran and Syria pushing their aggressive interests, fuelled by growing Russian support, and with Hezbollah trying to assert itself against the shaky Lebanese government led by Fouad Siniora, the Middle East is fragile and volatile.

And all this is occurring while Israel and the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority are trying to revive a peace process based on major Israeli territorial compromise in return for Palestinian security guarantees – precisely what Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, and, arguably, Syria at this moment, will try their best to thwart.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Former actuarial student takes a risk

By **SHERI SHEFA**
Staff Reporter

Although it's been years since he was in school to become an actuary – somone who calculates financial risk and uncertainty – as the co-owner of The Israeli Source, financial risk and uncertainty is still very much a part of his life.

Chuck Elnekave and his wife of four years, Barbara, opened Israeli Source: the Ultimate Jewish Shopping Experience gift store in Thornhill, Ont., about 1½ years ago, but despite the challenges that come with starting a new business, Elnekave said he couldn't be happier.

Just a few years ago, the 28-year-old, who grew up in Thornhill, was studying mathematics at York University.

"I saw myself being an actuary at one point, but I really started to like working in the Jewish market. I went to university with a real love for math and by the time I came out, I decided that I like practical stuff, and I don't like to focus on all this theoretical stuff," he said.

He said he had a positive experience working at Israel's Judaica and he also gained experience working with his stepfather, who does wholesale and retail of food products primarily from Israel.

"His business approach combined with the product knowledge that I have from Israel's is what I tried to put together here," Elnekave said, referring to Israeli Source, his Judaica store at 60 Doncaster Ave., through which he sells Jewish products that he buys in bulk, so he can sell his merchandise at a more affordable cost.

Chuck and Barbara Elnekave

"We are more of a volume retailer. We don't necessarily carry as expensive a selection. We carry fewer different products, but we buy more of them. And we try to buy at a cheaper price so we can pass the savings on to the customer," Elnekave said, adding that while they do carry products from North America, they try to carry as much merchandise from Israel as they can.

But he said that his experience with the business end of the Judaica world, combined with his wife's product knowledge, is the secret to their success.

"Although Barbara, my wife, spends a considerable amount of time at home with our daughter, she is an integral part of running this operation, and wears herself thin just trying to put in enough time here at work as well," he said.

"Her knowledge of judaica is probably even superior to mine, which makes us the perfect team – I bring in the family experience in terms of importing and wholesale, and she brings the product knowledge."

Elnekave said he loves the challenges associated with running a business, but most of all, his biggest joy is exposing people to products that can change their outlook.

He recalled an incident involving a customer from Barrie, Ont., who visited his store a day before Rosh Hashanah last year. At the time, there was a promotion, during which a percentage of every sale was donated to the Association for the Soldiers of Israel, a non-profit organization in Canada that supports Israeli soldiers on active duty.

"He wasn't really connected at all to Judaism, but he felt a strong connection to Israel and he was feeling like maybe he should try to find a shul for the High Holidays, so when he saw the ad that said that a percentage of his purchase would go to benefit the soldiers, he decided to come in and pick up a machzor," Elnekave said.

The customer soon began making regular visits, each time asking more questions about products such as tzitzit, mezuzot and books on Halachah.

"Eventually he wanted to start learning Talmud to try to understand it all. He's now in Israel for the summer, and he mentioned last month that he's strongly considering moving to Toronto to be closer to the religious neighbourhoods, or possibly even trying to go to Israel for a year or more and spend time in a hesder yeshivah [a program that combines Torah study with service in the Israeli army]," Elnekave said.

"I thought this was a really nice twist on how we started out trying to bring Israel to our customers, and while we've accomplished that, we've also managed to bring our customers to Israel."

Elnekave also said he enjoys the fact that one product, such as a kiddish cup, can fulfil the needs of every kind of Jew, regardless if someone is looking for a functional, run-of-the-mill piece, or an artistic masterpiece.

"To see which customers have an affinity for a certain type of product, you might think the modern, liberal Jews might like the more artistic stuff and the traditional Jews might like the more traditional stuff, but it's not always the case. You get a lot of the liberal Jews who just want something that's nostalgic, something that is like what their bubbie used to have," he said.

"The biggest joy is helping people find what they want… This feels like something I was meant to be doing."

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Randi Bergman graduated from Ryerson University with a bachelor of design, fashion.

Josh Bower graduated from the University of Guelph with a bachelor of commerce degree in the honours marketing management program.

Vanessa Bower graduated from Grade 12 and will be studying public relations at the University of Guelph Humber.

Mazel Tov to Emma-Belle Freid who is graduating to junior kindergarden in September.

Sari Kraft graduated with a bachelor of science in kinesiology from the University of Western Ontario.

Rebecca Laiken graduated with a bachelor of arts in child and youth studies from Brock University.

Jenny Libman graduated with a bachelor of applied science in applied human nutrition from University of Guelph.

Joe Sheffield graduated from Queen's University where he received his honours bachelor of arts in history.

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What's New Deadlines: Monday, Aug. 20, is the deadline for the Aug. 30 issue, Monday, Aug. 27, is the deadline for the Sept. 6 issue and Wednesday, Aug. 29, is the deadline for the Sept. 12 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0949 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Saturday, Aug. 18

B'NAI SHALOM SERVICES

Join B'Nai Shalom, an egalitarian Conservative synagogue in Halton-Peel, for its monthly Shabbat service followed by kiddush and conversation. 10 a.m. For location, e-mail info@bnaishalom.ca or call **Judi** at 905-469-4344.

Sunday, Aug. 19

BASKETBALL CLINIC

Beit Rayim Synagogue and School presents a free basketball clinic 12-5 p.m. at the Rutherford Village Plaza, Rutherford and Bathurst. Bring your family for an afternoon of sport, fun, free raffles and nosh. Kashrut observed. 905-889-0276

Monday, Aug. 20

ASIAN MEDICINE

The Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine offers a free information session hosted by fourth-year interns on Traditional Asian Medicine. 6:30 p.m. For information, visit www.ccnm.edu. Registration required. E-mail Hgibson@ccnm.edu or call 416-498-1255 ext. 263.

Tuesday, Aug. 21

SUMMER CONCERT

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents Casablanca Orchestra at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park. 7:30 p.m. Free. 416-395-7873

Wednesday, Aug. 22

JEWISH JOKERS GROUP

The Jewish Jokers, Humour and Trivia Group meet at 7 p.m. at the Antibes Community Centre for its monthly meeting. All welcome. Call **Irv Helpert** for information, 416-661-2541.

KIDS' FUN IN THE PARK

The Jewish Centre for Learning and Living hosts Kids' Entertainment in the Park, a free show every Wednesday through the summer, 7-8 p.m. at Thornhill Woods Public school. Performances take place in the field behind the school. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. 905-762-0566

LGBT SUPPORT GROUP

Are you a parent or relative of a LGBT person? Do you want to meet and discuss the new directions in your life? Come and chat at Beth David Synagogue boardroom. 7:30 p.m. For information, call **Elissa**, 416-633-5500, ext. 32.

Thursday, Aug. 23

BRAIN HEALTH

Baycrest presents the documentary film *The Art of Aging: The Limitless Potential of the Brain*, a film that explores how to live a fuller and healthier lifestyle as we age. Followed by a discussion. 1:30-3 p.m. Register at 416-785-2500, ext. 3374.

FAMILY FUN

Enjoy free activities for the whole family, including crafts, jumping castle, sports skills and more. 5:30-7 p.m. at Earl Bales Park followed by a show by the Dufflebag Children's Theatre, 7-8 p.m. 416-395-7873

SINGLES SOCIAL EVENT

Join Walk and Talk Etc., Jewish Singles 50+, for an evening of theatre at the amphitheatre in High Park to enjoy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. For information, e-mail walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

Other News

HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute is accepting registration for the fall session of Hebrew-language classes

Continued on page 25

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What's New

Continued from page 24

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AWARENESS PLAYERS

Council Awareness Players, an award-winning troupe of volunteer actors and authors who provide education on elder abuse, healthy hearts and fire safety using dramas and skits, are available to perform for community groups, clubs, synagogues and schools. For information or to book the group, call Council House, 416-633-5100.

PRETEEN PROGRAM

JACS, Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others offer an early intervention preteen program developed to meet the demand from preteens dealing with addicted parents and siblings and those who are experimenting with drugs and alcohol. Participating teens come to relate to issues on their own terms, without judgment or embarrassment. Teens are also introduced to constructive life-coping skills and tools to help them make healthy and confident decisions. For teens who think they have crossed the line with drugs and alcohol, program co-ordinators can facilitate the resources they need for recovery. For info, contact **Zalman Goldman**, 416-635-6446.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse in the Jewish community is often considered a taboo subject, but it does exist and we all have a responsibility to learn more about it. Trained speakers are available for your group at no charge. Call Jewish Women International, 416-630-9313.

BOWLERS WANTED

Seniors Mixed Bowling: Enjoy two games of 10-pin bowling Tuesday afternoons 1 p.m. at Playtime Bowl, 33 Samor Rd. All welcome.

Women 40+ League: Join women 40+ for social 10-pin bowling at Newtonbrook Bowlerama every Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 5. For information, call **Elaine**, 416-498-6543 or **Wendy**, 907-707-3499.

Women's League: Wednesday night ladies league at Playtime Bowl is looking for bowlers. For information, contact **Charlene** at 416-221-9328.

Maven Bowling: This social league of men and women in their 30s-50s meets at Wilson ProBowl, 877 Wilson Ave., for three games every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. starting on Sept. 6. For information, call 905-889-8333.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer, or for more information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Café: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual, friendly environment with JIAS volunteers Thursday evenings at the Bathurst JCC or Thursday afternoon location in Thornhill. Children are welcome. Those interested call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

Volunteers are needed for JIAS Telephone Language Companion program. Call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

JUMPStart: If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer, call **Elisa**, ext. 24.

Family-to-Family: Welcome newcomer families and provide informal advice and orientation to our community. To participate, call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

FOR SENIORS

Association for Jewish Seniors meets with political candidates for upcoming election at a general meeting Thursday, Aug. 16, 9:30 a.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Members free, non-members $2. For reservations, call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park. Casino Rama. Wednesday, Sept. 5; Casino Niagara, Tuesday, Sept. 18. Activities include mah-jong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; duplicate bridge, Wednesdays, 12-3 p.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m. For information, call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 416-395-7881.

Bathurst JCC and Miles Nadal JCC present 55+ tours to Ottawa and 1000 Islands, Oct. 23-25. Includes two nights accommodation, tours, food and entertainment. For information and registration, contact **Teme Kernerman**, 416-636-1880, ext. 364, or bjcc55plus@bjcc.ca, or **Randi Sokolsky**, 416-924-6211, ext. 154, or randis@mnjcc.org.

SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies: Enjoy a film Friday, Aug. 17, 1-3 p.m. Info, call **Monica**, ext. 2297.

The next fitness session begins on Monday, Aug. 20, register now.

Computer Lab Programs: Wagman has a new group of volunteers in the computer lab. Join them on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. One-on-one assistance is available. Contact **Mara** at ext. 2275 for details.

Creative Arts Studio: The next session begins Monday, Aug. 20, and runs until mid-December. Register at the service desk 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Ext. 2267

High Holy Days Tickets: Tickets for the Orthodox Synagogue as well as our newly renamed Beth Chavarim Synagogue go on sale at the Wagman service desk (ext. 2267) beginning Monday, Aug. 20. Tickets $80.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Terri Dunnigan discussing "Spiritual Well-being." Thursday, Aug 16, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free.

Lecture by **Diana Mingail** on "Canadian Women's Struggle for Political and Professional Rights." Tuesday, Aug. 21, 10-11:30 a.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Stories from the Heart, Thursday, Aug. 23, 12-1 p.m. $3.

Free classic movies, Thursday, Aug. 23, 2 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca

Sign up for the Summer Arts Party, a fun-filled weeklong program of music, dance, painting, drawing, pottery and swimming. Monday, Aug, 27, through Friday, Aug. 31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost $350 inclusive.

Summer Arts Party offers special events for teens. The Big Draw, on Tuesday, Aug. 28, is an evening of drawing-based games and contests with MC **Misha Glouberman**, who regularly hosts *Room 101*. The Battle of the Dancers takes place Thursday, Aug. 30. Sole Power leads dancing to the latest hip hop, break-dance steps and more. Watch demos and learn steps and routines from professional dancers. The evening ends with a team competition. Each $10. To register or for information, call **Elyse Goody**, ext. 222.

The Red Cross babysitting course for 11- to 14-year-olds takes place at the BJCC Sunday, Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Learn what to do in case of emergency, safety tips for children of all ages, how to cope with common problems, first aid and much more. Course certificate and workbook will be given to all who successfully complete the course. Pre-registration is required, call ext. 235.

The Hebrew Club for the Blind and Vision Impaired is a club for seniors and is run by the blind with the assistance of volunteers. The club meets in the evenings, the first Monday of each month. Each meeting includes either a guest speaker or entertainment, followed by light refreshments. For information, call **Bernice**, 416-223-8479.

jVIAnetwork – connecting active vision-impaired Jewish adults. This is a new group that looks to establish a recreational and phys-ed program, interesting and varied outings, and activities that allow for socialization and networking. For information, call **Bess**, 905-508-2892.

Register now for September programs and classes for birth to six years old at the Family Place at the Jewish Discovery Museum. The museum offers a wide array of classes including music, Hebrew, nature and cooking. For information, call ext. 390 or to register call ext. 235.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www. mnjcc.org.

The 2007-08 Miles Nadal JCC program book is now available to explore at www.mnjcc.org. Register now by calling ext. 0.

Jewish meditation, Sundays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Connecting the practice of meditation to our tradition with instructor **Michelle Katz**. Drop in $15, series 10 for $125.

Good Age Club meets every Thursday at 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, visit to the ROM. Annual membership fee, $50, includes one yoga and one aquafit class at the MNjcc. For information, contact **Randi Sokolsky** at randis@mnjcc.org or ext. 154.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Be a part of the BJCC Seniors-Online Computer Lab. If you are 55+ and have computer or teaching skills, this is an opportunity to share your computer knowledge with other seniors. We are looking for a retired or semi-retired individual to help teach and develop our curriculum catering to the elder adult learner. Also looking for teaching assistants. Contact **Brian Prosserman**, 905-882-6080.

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OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

ALLAN FELDMAN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 26 at 11:30 a.m.

Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Dufferin St., North of Major Mackenzie

Comunity Section JJJJJ

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

Followed by light refreshments at 5444 Yonge St. (party room)

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MARILYN (ROSENBERG) JACOBS ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 26th at 11:30 a.m.

Woodlawn Memorial Park

762 Woolwich St., Guelph

enter via entrance across from Marilyn Drive

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

HELEN MANDELZYS ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 26th at 11:00 a.m.

Baron de Hirsch Cemetery

de la Savane

Russian Polish Section #3, Gate #1 (B-28A)

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The ***STERN*** family of the late

RIVA LONDON ז"ל

(August 9, 1912 - July 31, 2007)

would like to express their heatfelt gratitude for all the expressions of kindness, support given and shiva meals received during our recent bereavement

Our Bubby will be dearly missed by all her Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

---

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

JOSEPH KATES ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 19th, 10:00 a.m.

Lambton Hills Cemetery

Royal York Rd.

Ostrovtzer Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

ROSE GOLDIN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Aug. 19th, 11:00 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Chenstochover Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

It is with deepest sympathy and regret, we mourn the passing of my dear sister in law and our aunt

LILIAN GOLDBERG ז"ל

Leaving her dear husband Herbert and daughters Shelley, Stacey and Steve and grandson Spencer.

We share in your sorrow.

Our love and blessings go out to you.

Phyllis and family.

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The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

SALLY SWITZER ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Aug. 19th, 1:00 p.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park

Anshei Kiev Section

Followed by

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

ANN CHAIKEN ז"ל

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

SARA KOPLOWITZ ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 26th, 10:30 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Bathurst south of Steeles

LodzerSection

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

ROCHELLE MULLER ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 26th at 12:00 noon

Lambton Cemetery

Royal York Rd. between Eglinton & Dundas

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

Subscribe to

The Canadian Jewish news

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MOLLY DYKOPF ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 26th at 10:30 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Bathurst south of Steeles – Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Gonin, Inessa	July 25/07	243 Tansley Rd
Norris-Swire, Hortense (Jimmie)	July 25/07	1 Benvenuto Pl
Yoskowich, Pola Pnina	July 25/07	2 Buchan Crt
Miltchin, Ethel Blanche	July 25/07	53 Alexis Bl
Pearlman, Sidney	July 25/07	131 Beecroft Rd
Madorsky, Joshua Shane	July 25/07	139 Gailcrest Cir
Hoppe, Samuel	July 25/07	28 Baintree Ave
Stein, Burton S.	July 27/07	Private
Bowman, Irving	July 27/07	3560 Bathurst St
Tretiak, Dina	July 29/07	Private
Sebbag, Meyer	July 27/07	
Heitner, Frieda	July 28/07	
Klein, Ivan	July 29/07	108 Woodward Av
Rozenfeld, Sheyndl	July 30/07	Private
London, Riva Rebecca	July 31/07	55 Ameer Av
Zarnett, Joseph	July 31/07	9800 Yonge St
Klimitz, Solomon	July 31/07	866 Sheppard Av
Cohen, Harold	Aug. 1/07	110 Promenade Cir
Dubin, Anne	Aug. 2/07	619 Avenue Rd

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Sylvia Lampert	Jul 28/07	218 Hillhurst Bl
Sam Rotenberg	Jul 31/07	59 Danby Av
Edward Diamond	Jul 30/07	2 Edith Dr
Sam Mlava	Jul 31/07	645 Castlefield Av
William Wine	Jul 26/07	17 Lyonsgate Rd
Helen Shleser	Aug 1/07	1035 Eglinton Av
Irving Frisch	Aug 3/07	22 St. Thomas
Helen Singer	Aug 3/07	55 Ameer Av
Pearl Simbrow	Aug 5/07	1035 Eglinton Av

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On the passing of his brother
Edward Diamond ז"ל
May you know no more sorrow

**To place an unveiling notice,
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15 DAYS prior
to the date of the unveiling.**

Obituary

Artist helped Holocaust survivors

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Evelyn Zacks, a tireless worker for Holocaust survivors and a noted artist, died July 18. She was 97.

She and her husband, Archie, the Canadian representative of Vaad Hatzalah, an organization started by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, worked with Vaad Hatzalah to assist European Jews who came to Canada during and after the war. She helped establish temporary housing at the Hashomer Hadati (later Mizrachi) camp in Bronte, Ont.

Evelyn would cook for the people at the camp – which, among its other residents, housed roshei yeshiva of the famed Mir Yeshiva who had found safety in Shanghai – and she had her husband drive the food out to Bronte. She also provided doctors and medicines for the camp residents, and helped them get visas and whatever help they needed.

Her son, Ralph, said many people came to the funeral and shiva, telling stories of all the help she gave to them in their time of great need. One woman said Evelyn once travelled on foot in a blinding snowstorm to help her get visas.

Before the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, she and her husband helped Jews still living there escape to safety.

Evelyn Zacks, then Evelyn Frisch, came to Canada from Sassov, Poland, in 1929. Although times were hard, her mother insisted that she go to school.

Ralph Zacks said that his mother worked hard, and, in an effort to integrate fully in her new country, managed to lose her accent.

Ever since she was a child in Poland, Zacks said, his mother loved doing tapestry work and petit point. She took her work to the Canadian National Exhibition, where several "socialites," as Zacks described them, commissioned her to decorate their purses.

From this modest start, she was asked by the government to teach crafts, especially tapestry and petit point, in small communities around Ontario.

Always an observant Jew, she took kosher food with her on her trips, and she insisted on being home for Shabbat and Yom Tov.

She also worked at the Art Institute of Ontario, where she met artist Frank Carmichael, a member of the famed Group of Seven.

"She got Frank Carmichael to change his art, to use different colouring, and a different way to separate the sky and earth," Zacks said of his mother.

Tapestry and petit point were not her only artistic talents. She painted, sculpted and did bronzes, and she also taught all these skills.

When she got older, she volunteered at Baycrest, where she also taught arts and crafts, and came up with projects and programs to get the residents to "refocus" their minds, her son said.

At the same time, she took courses at the University of Toronto's Innis College until she was 93.

Evelyn Zacks is survived by her brother Irving, her son Ralph and his wife Daphna, and grandchildren Aaron, Shoshana, Meira, Hadassah and Deena. She was predeceased by her husband Archie, and brothers Shia, Sidney, Sam, Harry, Bill, and Itche.

Health & Lifestyles

What do all these labels mean anyway?

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. With so many natural and organic foods now in the grocery store, I am increasingly confused about what labels mean – natural, free range, no hormones, organic, etc.. Can you please explain?

A. You are right. There are many new and confusing terms on foods these days. Here is the way the Canadian Food Inspection Agency defines some of them:

There are no actual criteria for the words "free range," and the term does not mean organic unless otherwise specified. The package will often explain what the company means by free range, but it's not a regulated term.

Raised without the use of hormones, means that no hormones were administered to the animal when it was raised. Hormones naturally exist in animals, but this claim is irrelevant and misleading when pertaining to poultry or eggs because these foods are not allowed to be treated with hormones. The description is applicable only for beef and dairy products.

Raised without the use of antibiotics simply means that this animal was not treated with antibiotics during raising.

For beef, poultry, dairy products, etc., organic means that the animals were fed only organic feed, never received hormones or antibiotics or other prohibited drugs and were never irradiated. Organic pertaining to fruits and vegetables means that they were grown without any synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, and have not been genetically engineered or irradiated. There is currently no regulation of organic fish in Canada.

It is good to know, too, that the regulation and inspection of these foods and control of these claims is getting better every year. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's new Canada Organic Regime is due to go into effect by 2008.

Q. I heard something recently about a new government hotline that helps educate the public on nutrition. Where can I find this?

A. The Ontario government recently launched a major initiative offering a free information line to residents manned exclusively by registered dietitians who can offer advice and answer questions. The toll-free number is 1-877-510-5102, and it is available Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time; or go to www.Ontario.ca\EatRight.

Q. I love the iced coffee drinks offered in many of the specialty coffee stores. Are they loaded with calories?

A. These beverages have become very popular and are delicious, but many are high in fat and calories. The good news is that almost every place I see offering them also has the nutrition information available if you ask for it, so that you can make an educated decision when ordering.

My advice – get an ice coffee, ask for the lowest fat milk they have and then add your own sugar sparingly or a shot of no-cal sweetener. Avoid the giant size drinks, leave off the whipped cream and the whole milk, and control the added sugar. Then you can still cool off with a delicious drink, get your caffeine jolt and end up with under 200 calories and one gram of fat. The full deal is usually 500 to 600 calories and close to 20 grams of fat, most of which is saturated.

Q. I suffer from arthritis. Are there any foods that can help with this?

A. One super food when it comes to inflammation from arthritis and gout is sour cherries. These are typically not sold fresh, but rather as frozen berries, dried, or more commonly as juice. One cup of sour cherry juice per day can have great benefits in easing some of the pain associated with this inflammatory disease. The juice doesn't taste tart. It is actually incredibly fresh and delicious tasting, like the inside of a cherry pie, and is available at health and specialty stores.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

From left, Mike McMullen and Pete Cassidy of StreetSmarts, Alex Cywink of Ve'ahavta, and Max Caspi-Roy, a volunteer with StreetSmarts. [Sarah Caspi photo]

Ve'ahavta helps Ottawa street outreach program

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Toronto's Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee has extended its reach to help Jewish Family Services of Ottawa's StreetSmarts program bring aid to the local homeless population.

Two vehicles bearing donated supplies recently arrived in Ottawa to boost the stores of goods for distribution by StreetSmarts volunteers.

The connection between the two groups was made by former Ottawan Naomi Levitz, who now lives in Toronto.

While working as a summer student with Jewish Family Services (JFS) in 2004, Levitz connected with Pete Cassidy, senior outreach worker with the StreetSmarts program, and became involved in the project.

After the summer, she attended the University of Michigan, where she completed an MSW, and then moved to Toronto, where she works as a mobile mental health issues crisis team worker. She became involved with Ve'ahavta and has participated in its projects in El Salvador, Cuba and Toronto.

"Throughout my work with homeless women in Michigan and with the Mobile Jewish Response to the Homeless [MJRH] in Toronto, Pete and the StreetSmarts program have remained on my mind," Levitz said.

"Recently, Ve'ahavta has renewed its goal of fulfilling its mandate as a 'Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee.' The MJRH is now approaching its 10th year, and facilitates connections between volunteers and the street community to lend a listening ear and necessary supplies. It's a wonderful program, involving hundreds of community members here to solicit products, to make sandwiches, to give out supplies, to lend an ear," she added.

"The StreetSmarts program, while smaller in scale, shares the same commitment to non-judgmental listening and strives to 'love thy neighbour as thyself.' Through Pete and an outreach team, members of Ottawa's street community feel listened to and validated. Through socks or a toothbrush, self-esteem and renewed hope can be found," Levitz said.

"This past year, Ve'ahavta hosted Pete and showed him around Toronto homeless services. It was the beginning of a fruitful relationship that has resulted in four van loads totalling over $6,000 worth of in-kind donations being brought to Ottawa."

Sarah Caspi, JFS' co-ordinator of StreetSmarts, was enthusiastic about the connection.

"Pete Cassidy's trip to Toronto last winter was very inspiring and left Pete very excited and full of ideas. Ve'ahavta has been very generous to StreetSmarts, having made two other trips to donate to the StreetSmarts program prior to this trip. We're a small group with limited funds, so it's a huge boost to the program to have donations of this calibre," Caspi said.

"Although Ve'ahavta operates a much bigger program than StreetSmarts, collaborating in many street outreach programs, there is a common thread that binds them together: both are working in the spirit of tikkun olam."

She added: "Although both groups have many non-Jewish individuals working for them, Jewish ideals – from polices of inclusiveness… to our pursuing the education and the establishment of outreach to the Jewish community around issues of homelessness – are present in all that is done."

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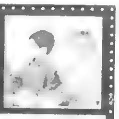

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Coast to Coast

Brandeis program trains day school teachers

By **DIANE KOVEN**
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Kathy Kanigsberg of Ottawa was one of seven women who recently graduated from a unique teacher-training program at Brandeis University.

The program, called DeLeT – short for Day School Leadership Through Teaching and also the Hebrew word for "door" – is the only program in North America focused solely on preparing Jewish day school teachers with a year-long mentored internship.

"Over the past five years, DeLeT graduates have become inspired educators and active teacher-leaders in their day school communities, making an impact on the field of day school education that is disproportionate to their numbers," said Judy Elkin, DeLeT director and Mandel Center senior Jewish educator.

Kanigsberg, who attended Ottawa's Hillel Academy, went on to a five-year B.Ed. program at McGill University. She then spent two years working in a pre-school at Montreal's West Island JCC.

"I loved it, but I knew that I wanted a bit more of a challenge. I found this program [DeLeT] and it had a lot of what I wanted… a big plus for me was that it was a year-long internship so I was in the same place for the whole year, which is very rare to find," she said.

"Also, it taught how to teach both general studies and Hebrew studies and how to integrate them. I think kids can leave school a bit confused, but with this model we are fusing the two together. It is a really important message we are sending that the Jewish part is just as important as the general part," she added

"I started the program last July and by the end of July, I knew that it was going to be a life-changing experience."

Kanigsberg had high praise for both the program and the mentor teachers.

"Without them, I would not be half the teacher I am today. Today I count them as my friends and as my colleagues. They are not just my teachers."

Now set to put her lessons into practice, Kanigsberg will be remaining at the school where she did her internship.

"I got my dream job," she said.

She will soon start teaching kindergarten at the South Area Solomon Schechter Day School and will also be continuing her studies in order to complete her master's in teaching at Brandeis by next summer.

"I think that will keep me busy," she said.

Kanigsberg's enthusiasm for the DeLeT program is so infectious that this year's class includes her sister Sarah, who will be working in a Grade 1 class in September.

For details on the DeLeT program, visit www.brandeis.edu/centers/mandel/DeLeT.

Quebec to fund renovations at Jewish nursing home

By **JANICE ARNOLD**
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The Jewish Eldercare Centre (JEC) will receive more than $1,5 million from the Quebec government for renovations.

Mont Royal MNA Pierre Arcand announced at a press conference at the long-term-care institution that the health and social services ministry will underwrite the cost of renovating many of the washrooms, replacing the nurse-calling system and installing rail-mounted patient lifts in the David and Sylvia Kastner Pavilion.

The money is coming from a fund established in 2005 to expand or improve the province's institutions for the elderly. A total of $725 million is to be spent over a five-year period, Arcand said.

JEC president Mark Potechin said the first project will be to upgrade the security features of the washrooms, benefiting both patients and staff. Bathing areas will also be redesigned to allow greater privacy for patients.

Potechin said the baths and showers have become rundown and the plumbing needs changing.

The second project will be to install a new system that will enable patients to call staff more easily and allow staff to communicate among themselves more efficiently and respond more quickly to emergencies.

The third phase of the renovation will be the installation of a new type of lift in all patient rooms, which will be safer for both patients and staff.

Work is expected to begin in the fall.

Potechin said the grant will "go a long way towards improving the quality of life of our residents by enhancing their physical environment and enabling our outstanding team of professionals to provide even better care… We are pleased with this investment and the confidence that the government is showing in the services that we offer."

The Kastner pavilion is one of the two main buildings of the 320-bed JEC, which was formed by a merger of the Jewish Hospital of Hope and the Jewish Nursing Home in 2001.

"Here at the JEC we provide comprehensive and compassionate care to the elderly affected by chronic illness or by the loss of physical or cognitive autonomy. We do so in a homelike environment and according to Jewish tradition and values," Potechin said.

Arcand also announced that another institution in his riding, the Centre d'hébergement Vigi de Mont-Royal, will receive $1.65 million to upgrade its facilities. In addition, he referred to the government's intention to set up a public consultation process this fall to address the question of how to better meet the needs of an aging population.

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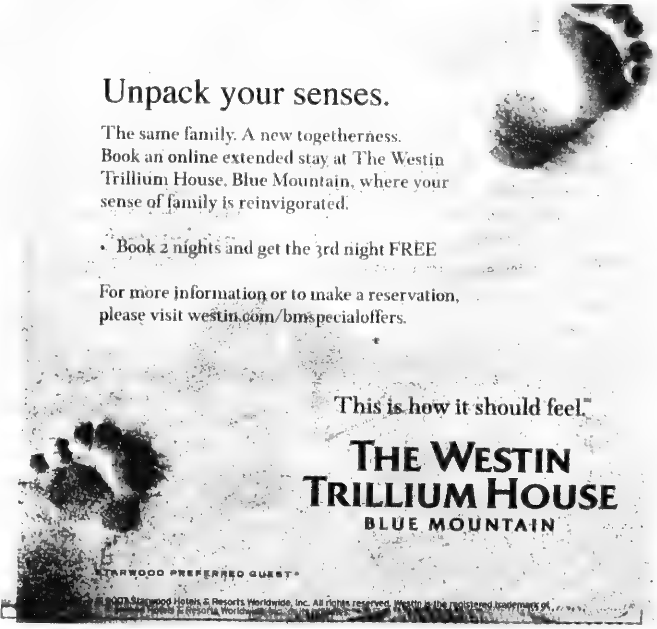

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Coast to Coast

Interior of shul at Jackson's Point, Ontario. Inset: shul's exterior.

Rural shuls thrive amid cottage country boom

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to the CJN

Is there a better way to relish those gloriously hot summer days then spending them at the cottage?

For an ever-growing number of Toronto-area Jews, cottage country is a haven.

Its serenity, beautiful scenery, amenities, fresh water lakes and reprieve from big-city hustle bustle draw thousands every year.

And as the Jewish population in cottage country climbs in the summer months, the demand for synagogue services expands.

As a result, areas such as Lake Simcoe, Muskoka, Wasaga Beach and Jackson's Point have decent turnouts for Shabbat services during cottage season.

"It's quite well attended," says Gershon Weinstock, who attends and is secretary of the Hebrew Centre of Belle Ewart, located in between Bradford and Barrie.

"And we're getting bigger and bigger."

Built in 1944, the Belle Ewart congregation is Orthodox and offers weekday as well as weekend services.

The shul has a mikvah, which Weinstock says contributes to the significant participation of women, and also provides Judaica classes.

While it may take two or three hours to get to some cottages, Belle Ewart is about an hour from the city, and Weinstock believes that proximity is a factor in the shul's vitality.

In Jackson's Point, the Hebrew Community Centre Synagogue caters to between 50 and 75 people on Shabbat during cottage season.

"People like the warmth of the shul, the camaraderie," explains Michael Harari, who has been attending services there for about 15 years.

"We have definitely grown in the last five years as cottage country has become more popular in general."

Like the Belle Ewart congregation, the Jackson's Point shul is Orthodox, but it doesn't have a rabbi or chazzan, so services are run communally.

However, Rabbi Yaacov Felder provides spiritual guidance to congregants, Harari says.

In 2003, the synagogue underwent a much-needed facelift.

The synagogue had been in disrepair and was far from modern. To the rescue came Mendel Green and Julie Wise, area cottagers who helped generate $75,000 for renovations, which gave a fresh new look and feel to the ark, kitchen, lighting, washrooms and many other areas of the synagogue.

"It's not a big shul, but it's very heimish," notes Harari.

"It's a very nice place for people [in cottage] country to go on Shabbos."

Other cottage shuls include the Orillia Cottage Shul, the Tent City Area Shul, the Wasaga Beach Community Shul and the B'nai Isaac Synagogue just outside of Baysville in Muskoka.

"It's a very homey shul," says physician and mohel Aaron Jessin of the B'nai Isaac.

"My grandfather bought the property about 30 years ago and today, we have as many as 50 people [attending services]."

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Bangladeshi journalist is a proud 'Muslim Zionist'

Continued from page 1

Choudhury is almost serene in that knowledge and acceptance. His wife, Happy, and two children, daughter Priyanka, 17, and son Hamzalah, 7, he said, support him completely. So, he added, do thousands of fellow Bangladeshis who share his pluralistic sensibilities and are fighting with him for the forces enlightenment to prevail over the tide of radical Islam in his country that is rising despite its origins as a secular parliamentary democracy.

"There's a large, large number of Bangladeshi people who feel the same as we do," Choudhury said, "and many of them – or at least some of them – have openly expressed their support for me," in particular the Bangladesh Minority Lawyers Association, which is representing him in court.

On the other hand, most top-ranked lawyers in Bangladesh won't touch his case, "because they think if they support a Muslim Zionist, it will hamper their careers," he noted. "They don't like to support me, but I don't care."

On the eve of returning to his country, Choudhury was buoyed by his six-day trip to New York, New Jersey and Washington, where he addressed synagogue, audiences, visited Capitol Hill, and lunched with the American Jewish Committee, which last year presented Choudhury, at the time in absentia, with its Moral Courage Award.

He also received some excellent news during the trip. Despite Choudhury's own belief that a diagnosed case of glaucoma was causing impairment of sight in his right eye, a New York doctor told him that he has never had the disease, just the effects of a bad eye infection that was never properly treated and made worse by sleeping on a jail floor under poor conditions.

Throughout the trip, Choudhury was accompanied by Richard Benkin, a Jewish activist who was able to help Choudhury get out of prison on bail in 2005. The two invariably address each other as "my brother" and launched a website together – interfaithstrength.com – to promote understanding among religions.

Still, they don't necessarily agree on everything. Despite his generally optimistic outlook, Choudhury thinks there is only a 50-50 chance that charges against him will be dropped, and it won't be accomplished so easily, because of the necessity to "appease radical forces."

Benkin told *The CJN* that while the fact that Choudhury was allowed out of his country might be taken as a positive sign, "it's not good policy to wait and hope that things go well."

Benkin believes the current interim Bangladeshi government "has to see that if the case is not resolved, there could be some real, serious consequences," particularly with regard to trade benefits.

"There are many possible routes by which these charges can be dropped," Benkin said, but he quoted Cotler to the effect that you cannot expect Bangladesh to do the "logical" or "right" thing.

Choudhury has on occasion identified with the notion that he is living out the pages of a Franz Kafka novel. Benkin sometimes calls him "Joseph K," the protagonist in Kafka's masterpiece, *The Trial*.

Then there's what Choudhury considers the completely laughable notion that he has been a Mossad spy – "I mean, it's too funny!" – or that he is "blasphemous" in his acceptance of other religions.

Choudhury said he inherited his tolerant, open nature from his father, who received a master's degree in India and instilled in his family the principle "never to hate any particular religion."

Choudhury first met Jews when he was starting out as a journalist, "and they were many of my colleagues. They were wonderful."

It is incomprehensible to him why his country has not yet recognized Israel, a nation that was among the first to recognize Bangladeshi independence in 1971. Choudhury has referred to himself proudly as a "Muslim Zionist" and said that "as a Bangladeshi, I feel personally obligated towards Israel."

Choudhury is grateful for the support he has received from the West, most notably in the form of strong resolutions by the U.S. Congress and the European Union. He is also grateful for Cotler's efforts and for representations made by the Canadian government on his behalf and by other canadians, including a letter in May sent by the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression to Bangladesh's high commissioner in Ottawa.

Whatever support he may have, however, Choudhury is facing a real threat if charges against him are not dropped. Yet, as Benkin said, Choudhury "would not entertain any notion of not going back," despite several offers of political asylum.

"He would never even consider it," Benkin said.

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שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

אדמות מדינה-מבחן לדמוקרטיה

בימים אלה ניטש בארץ ויכוח נוקב, האם ראוי הוא שאדמות מדינה (כמו אדמות קרן קיימת) יכולות להימכר רק ליהודים. בישראל, אזרחי המדינה הערביים יכולים להצביע לכנסת, לשרת כשרים (ויש בימים אלה שר ערבי), אך אין ביכולתם לקנות אדמות מדינה. הדבר עומד, ללא ויכוח, נגד חוקי השוויון של כל מדינה דמוקרטית. תארו לעצמכם שבקנדה היה חוק שקובע שיהודים, או ערבים, או נורווגים, אינם יכולים לרכוש אדמות. זה היה מגיע לבית המשפט תוך יום.

אבל......ישראל איננה קנדה. ישראל מוקפת מדינות מוסלמיות שפועלות יום ולילה בדרכים לא דמוקרטיות להרוס אותה. האם מדינה דמוקרטית שנלחמת על קיומה יכולה להשתמש רק בדרכים דמוקרטיות! על כך ענו המקורות שלנו: "הקם להרגך-השכם והרגו". תארו לעצמכם שסעודיה היתה מקציבה טריליון דולאר לקנות אדמות קרן קיימת - תוך זמן קצר היה מקום לטענות הפליטים הפלשתינאיים שחובה להחזירם.

אחר שנוגע למיעוטים, כולל שירותים, חינוך וכל שאר זכויותיהם כאזרחים. ולא כך הוא. אבל שישאר בינינו.

חמש עשרה שנה ל-TAILS

בשישי ליולי 1992 הוצגה לראשונה בבית החולים לילדים של טורונטו הצגת הילדים "זנבות", שבה הצוות הרפואי מציג מחזמר לילדים המאושפזים ומשפחותיהם. מאז חלפו חמש עשרה שנה ושבע מאות חמישים הצגות. היו ילדים שראו את ההצגה עטורת הפרסים פעם אחת והיו כאלה שראו אותה שמונים פעם, היו ילדים שגדלו והביאו את ילדיהם לראות את "זנבות", והיו כאלה שנפטרו ממחלתם יום אחרי שראו את ההצגה.

את חגיגות חמש עשרה השנה, החלטנו לציין בפתיחת ההצגה לילדי הקהל הרחב והוריהם.

בשביעי לאוקטובר (יום ראשון) תוצג "זנבות" ב-10:30 בבוקר במועדון הג'ז **Rex** שבדאון טאון, ובחנוכה תוצג ההצגה פעמיים ביום ראשון ה- 9 בדצמבר ב- **JCC** של בְּלור וספדיינה באולם מיילס נאדאל. סמנו לכם את הימים האלה, ופרטים יבואו בהמשך.

סרטים שכדאי לראות הקיץ

על פי דרכי מימים ימימה, הינה מבחר סרטים שאהבתי ושיעשו לכם טוב:

Ratatouille הוא סרט מצוייר על חולד שרוצה להפוך לשף במסעדה פריזאית. לא לא לא ! אל תטעו! זה לא סרט ילדים, זהו סרט מהנה ונוגע ללב, שגם ילדים ייהנו ממנו, אבל בעיקר אתם. עשר בסולם קורן.

Paris je t'aime הוא נסיון קולנועי מיוחד: נתנו למיטב הבמאים לעשות כל אחד סרטון בן חמש דקות שמוקדש לאחד משמונה עשר הרובעים של פאריז. התוצאה מדהימה. לא יאומן מה אנשים מוכשרים יכולים לעשות עם חמש דקות סיפור!! עוד עשר בסולם קורן.

Hairspray הוא סרט לפי המחזמר ההוליבודי על תחנת טלביזיה לבני נוער בבולטימור של שנות הששים. אנרגיה נהדרת ושירים מקסימים. שווה ללכת רק כדי לראות את ג'ון טרוולטה שמופיע בתפקיד של אמא. תצאו עם חיוך גדול. תשע בסולם קורן.

נגני הג'ז של סיד

אם יוצא לכם לעבור באזור הספריה של נורת'-יורק, שווה להיכנס ולראות את תערוכת נגני הג'ז של הצייר ונגן הג'ז הטורונטאי סיד פרֶס. סיד, בן ה 75 מצייר ציורים שונים, אך ג'ז ונגני ג'ז הם המומחיות שלו. ציור מדהים שלו תלוי באולפן ההקלטות שלי, והוא נותן לי הרבה השראה. אך שישאר בינינו.

Camp Kadimah kids support Israeli counterparts

By JOEL JACOBSON

Special to The CJN

HALIFAX — Teens at Camp Kadimah in Barss Corner, N.S., raised $5,005 for the Koby Mandell Foundation and Camp Koby on Kibbutz Negba, near Ashkelon, Israel.

The camp was founded by Koby's parents, Americans Rabbi Seth Mandell and his wife Sherri, an author and journalist, who emigrated to Israel in 1996. The camp, for kids who have lost a parent or sibling to terror, is a memorial to their son, who was killed by Palestinians in the West Bank in 2001.

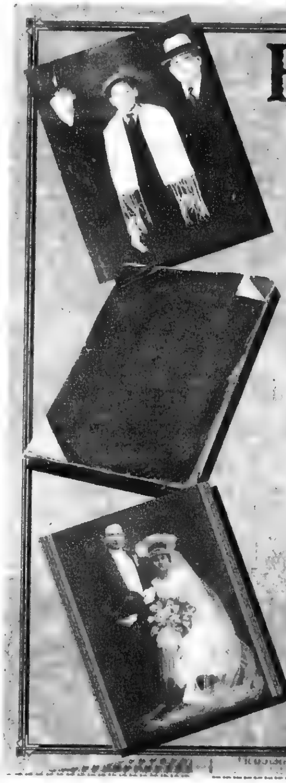
It enables young people to enjoy camping programs such as art; music and drama therapy; swimming, basketball, soccer and other sports; and tours and special entertainment.

The 14- and 15-year-olds from Camp Kadimah [illegible]

"It really has been an amazing experience watching these kids put so much effort into something that in the end means so much to so many people," said Adam Armeland, Kadima's assistant group leader for 14- and 15-year-olds.

"It was especially meaningful to the kids because they felt a connection helping kids of their age have similar experiences."

Pictured at Camp Kadimah, from left, are Toronto campers Lauren Morrison, Mark Greenbaum, Yael Chapman, Joel Kadish, Hilary Abramsky.



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Baking up some sweet memories

By NORENE GILLETZ

Here are some super sweets to prepare the next time you have company. They're decadent and definitely not low in calories, so these recipes are best saved for special occasions!

The first recipe comes from cookbook author and caterer Susan Mendelson of Vancouver. Her recipes have been favourites in kitchens around the globe for nearly 30 years. I often receive requests on how to make Molten Lava Cakes, so this recipe will be a luscious addition to your culinary repertoire. The recipe was given to Mendelson by Hawaiian friends who promised that it would be a memorable dessert. I'm sure you'll agree!

LAZY GOURMET'S LAVA CAKES

Source: *Mama Now Cooks Like This* by Susan Mendelson, Whitecap

¼ cup butter
½ lb. semi-sweet chocolate
½ cup sugar
3 tbsp. cornstarch
4 whole eggs
4 egg yolks

Melt butter and chocolate in a saucepan over low heat.

Mix sugar and cornstarch together in a bowl. Crack eggs into another bowl and whisk yolks into whole eggs.

When chocolate has melted, remove from heat. Whisk in sugar-cornstarch mixture until blended. Add eggs and stir until smooth. Chill in the fridge overnight.

Preheat the oven to 400. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Line 8 metal rings (you can use 1½-inch deep tin cans with both ends opened) with a strip of parchment paper, or grease ½-cup ramekins. Set the rings on the baking sheet and brush generously with butter. Scoop chocolate filling into each one, filling them two-thirds full.

Bake in preheated oven for 12 to 15 minutes. Remove from oven. Slice a metal spatula under cakes and transfer to serving plates. Gently slide the rings off cakes and remove the parchment. Dust with icing sugar and serve immediately. Makes 8 servings.

* * *

These squares are quick to make when I don't have much time to spend in the kitchen. I can mix them up in about 2 minutes in my food processor, so they're ideal when you are asked to bring a delicious dessert for a pot luck event. I often bake them in advance and freeze them. When I did catering in Montreal, these were a staple in my repertoire. They're very rich and luscious, so cut them in small squares.

Mama
now cooks like this!
THE BEST OF
Susan Mendelson
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TRACY KUSIEWICZ

NORENE'S LEMON SQUARES

Source: *The Food Processor Bible* by Norene Gilletz, Whitecap

Base
1 cup butter or margarine, cut in chunks
2 cups flour
½ cup sugar
Topping
4 eggs
¼ to ⅓ cup lemon juice (preferably fresh, but bottled is also fine)
2 cups sugar
¼ cup flour
1 tsp. baking powder

Preheat oven to 350. For base: Process base ingredients on the steel blade of a food processor until crumbly, about 20 seconds. Press into sprayed 9 x 13-inch baking pan. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes, until golden.

Process topping ingredients until blended, about 10 seconds. Pour over base. Bake 25 to 30 minutes longer, until golden. Cut into squares when cool. Makes about 48 squares. Freezes well.

* * *

The recipe for these addictive cookies comes from my "pan-pal" Cori Freedman. A few months ago, I was visiting my daughter and her family in Richmond, BC. We were having dinner in a Chinese restaurant with a mutual friend. Freedman, her daughter and her grandchildren stopped by our table to chat for a few minutes. After the meal, they stopped by once again and Cori reached into her purse and gave each of us one of these yummy cookies from her "Bubbie-Bag."

Freedman told me "These are the cookies that my grandchildren adore, so I always bring them along with me to give to them as a special treat when we go out for dinner together." I asked her to share the recipe with me and received the following e-mail from her:

"I am sorry that it took some time to e-mail this to you. My daughter Alexis has been nagging me to send it to you. The recipe came from a magazine advertisement and I've adapted it to make in my food processor. I hope your family (and your readers) enjoy these cookies as much as mine does!"

CORI'S TOFFEE CHOCOLATE ALMOND CRUNCHIES

1 cup butter, softened
¾ cup packed brown sugar
½ cup granulated sugar
1 egg
1¾ cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
2 tsp. vanilla
1 cup quick-cooking oats
1 pkg. (200g) Skor toffee bits
1 cup chocolate chips (milk or dark chocolate)
¼ cup slivered almonds
½ cup dried cranberries, if desired

Preheat oven to 375. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a food processor, process butter, brown sugar, granulated sugar and egg together until smooth. Add the flour, baking powder and salt and process until blended. Blend in vanilla. Remove mixture from the processor bowl and transfer it to a large mixing bowl. Stir in the oats, toffee bits, chocolate chips, almonds (and dried cranberries, if using), until well combined. Drop dough by tablespoonfuls onto prepared baking sheets.

Bake on the middle rack of the oven at 375 for 8 to 12 minutes, or until light golden. Cool for 5 minutes on sheet, then transfer to rack and cool completely. Makes about 4 dozen. Freezes well.

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. Her new book Norene's Healthy Kitchen *(Whitecap) will be available in September 2007. Contact her at 416-226-2466 or http://www.gourmania.com.*

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Boycott of Hamas counterproductive, Brown told

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Britain's refusal to speak to Hamas is counterproductive, and efforts should be made to form a new Palestinian unity government in the West Bank and Gaza, a British parliamentary committee recommended Monday.

A report published by the House of Commons' foreign affairs committee concluded that pursuing a "West Bank first policy" – under which Britain deals with the West Bank, which is run by the Fatah party, and isolates the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip – would further jeopardize peace.

"Given the failure of the boycott [of Hamas] to deliver results, we recommend the government should urgently consider ways of engaging politically with moderate elements within Hamas," the all-party committee said.

It said Britain's former prime minister Tony Blair should personally engage with Hamas to help bring about reconciliation with the rival Fatah movement, in his new role as envoy for the Quartet of Middle East mediators – the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia.

Britain has joined in a western political and financial embargo imposed on Hamas, an Islamist movement with an armed wing that is regarded as a terrorist group by Israel, the European Union and the United States.

Hamas has been isolated because of its refusal to meet three criteria laid down by the Quartet – recognition of Israel's right to exist, renunciation of violence and adherence to interim peace agreements with Israel.

The parliamentary report also recommended that Britain push Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, whose Fatah group is backed by the West, into negotiations with Hamas to re-establish "a national unity government across the occupied Palestinian territories."

The committee said Britain had erred in enforcing the embargo against Hamas, even after the group agreed in February to form a unity government with Fatah. That agreement was aimed at ending internal violence and easing western economic sanctions.

The sustained boycott of the Palestinian government because Hamas was part of it meant the effort at unity had been "highly likely to collapse," the report said.

Factional fighting between the rival movements eventually led to Hamas taking control of the Gaza Strip in June, while Fatah, which lost elections to Hamas in early 2006, was reduced to administering the larger West Bank territory.

The committee also called for a new approach to ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. It reaffirmed the goal of a two-state solution but said the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, drawn up in 2002, "has largely become an irrelevance."

Neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians have fulfilled their commitments under the plan, which calls for Israel to halt settlement building in the West Bank and the Palestinians to dismantle militant groups and cease terror attacks.

The report advised Prime Minister Gordon Brown's government to improve its image in the Arab world because, it said, Britain's reputation has been damaged by its policies in Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority.

In Israel, speaking on the same issue, Meretz party chair Yossi Beilin said last week it is vital that Israel reach an agreement with Hamas, directly or indirectly, before the Middle East summit scheduled for this fall. Otherwise, he said, Gaza may "explode."

Beilin, speaking at a Jerusalem conference held by the Geneva Initiative and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung on the Geneva Convention, said a ceasefire negotiated with Hamas would include it taking responsibility for a total cessation of Qassam fire.

"Hamas have said they are capable of stopping Qassam fire on Israel, and I believe they can," he said.

Interfaith effort in a Polish town

By **DINAH A. SPITZER**
JTA

Michael Schudrich, left, the chief rabbi of Poland, and Czestochowa Mayor Tadeusz Wrona clean up a gravestone on Aug. 7 in the town's Jewish cemetery, which was badly desecrated.

[Photo courtesy of Czestochowa Mayor's Office]

PRAGUE — Local Polish officials and Catholic teens wasted little time in joining the small Jewish community to clean up one of the biggest cemetery desecrations in postwar Polish history.

One Sunday, police discovered that some 100 graves in the Jewish cemetery of Czestochowa were covered with anti-Semitic graffiti. The next Tuesday, the cleanup began in the southern Polish town.

"We are here together in order to say that we are taken aback with what happened and we want to quickly as possible get rid of these horrible symbols," Czestochowa Mayor Tadeusz Wrona told JTA, speaking by phone from the cemetery.

Swastikas, skinhead symbols and a Magen David in a noose, as well as the phrase "Juden Raus," or "Jews Out," were among the graffiti spray-painted by unknown perpetrators.

Polish President Lech Kaczynski decried the desecration in a letter to the head of the town's Jewish organization.

"This act of aggression is unusually shocking, especially because the Czestochowa graveyard belongs to one of the most impressive Jewish cemeteries in Poland," Kaczynski wrote. It is an act of aggression "against the heritage of Czestochowa, against the common history of its Polish and Jewish residents."

There are 4,500 headstones in the Jewish cemetery, founded at the end of the 18th century and one of Poland's largest. About 40,000 Jews lived in Czestochowa before World War II, comprising one-third of the city's population. Only 5,000 survived the Holocaust. About 100 Jews live there now.

At the cleanup, Wrona said: "Today our city is very open and positive to Jews both here and around the world. This terrible incident is not going to change that."

Poland's Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich said the city "has made more efforts to commemorate its Jewish history than any city of its size in Poland.

"Poles feel things like this are not supposed to happen here," said Rabbi Schudrich, who, with the mayor and a local priest, cleaned a swastika from a grave.

He said he was not disappointed that only 22 town residents showed up for the afternoon cleanup, since it was announced just hours earlier and most town residents were either at work or away on vacation.

Since the end of the Communist regime, city officials have worked closely with philanthropist and Czestochowa native Sigmund Rolat to recover the city's Jewish past.

Rolat informed the police about the vandalism after he visited the graves of his family. He had recently funded the cemetery's renovation so that it could be open to the public.

"I am never speechless, but I couldn't speak for several minutes after seeing stone after stone covered with these signs," he said Tuesday by phone from New York. "This was unbelievably shocking."

Rolat, who lives in New York and Florida, sponsored a photo and historical exhibition of the Jews of Czestochowa that began travelling across the United States in 2004.

Along with the Taube Foundation, Rolat and the Polish government support Inspired by Jewish Culture, an annual nationwide art school contest to depict Jewish life in Poland.

City officials have also helped host several Czestochowa reunions of Jewish natives and their descendants. The most recent one featured a giant sukkah built by students from the local art school.

About a dozen students from that school were on hand to help with the cemetery cleanup. Local Jews also turned out to begin the work, which will be completed over the next week by paint removal experts.

Rolat said the inauguration in June of a Jewish culture centre in Czestochowa may have given some extremists a motive to vandalize the cemetery.

Wrona said the Polish media have noted a rising number of racist incidents in the region in recent years.

Rolat said he hoped the desecration could lead to a commitment from the city to provide better security for the cemetery, with regular patrols and perhaps a permanent watchman.

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Camp in Ukraine helps build Jewish character

Continued from page 1

"We will come back home very joyful, and have new games and be healthy. They have a doctor here," said Sasha, 8, from Odessa.

Vova, also 8 and from Odessa, thought for a moment before he answered what he likes about camp.

"If we just hang around on the street, we will hang around and do nothing – here we learn," he said. "We learn about Shabbat, and I love Shabbat."

Both boys said that after this summer experience, they would call themselves Jewish before identifying as Ukrainian.

Of the 300 campers, Voskovoinik said that 40 per cent of them have never been to a JAFI camp and half of those have not had other Jewish exposure.

The Chabad movement also runs FSU summer camps, but Voskovoinik says that the two organizations are not in competition with each other. Many children go to both camps, and the groups try not to schedule them at the same time. There are also Hebrew day schools across Ukraine where children can get a Jewish education.

Maxim Peliansky, 19, is a counsellor at the Odessa camp. The local teen has worked in as many Jewish organizations and groups as he could find, but he said JAFI changed his thinking about how he can relate to children.

"Here I can be myself as a *madrich*," he said, using the Hebrew word for counsellor. "At other organizations, I was strictly instructed as to content. Here I can express myself."

All JAFI summer camps accept children who qualify under Israel's Right of Return law, meaning that they must have at least one Jewish grandparent. There is an interview process before registration, so that children and parents understand the educational component of the camps.

JAFI camps serves both the secular and Orthodox communities, and camp food is kosher.

The camps are free for families. In co-operation with a number of sponsors, JAFI spends about $10 million a year on the camps, which works out to about $500 per child for a weeklong session.

The high rate of intermarriage in FSU can make growing up Jewish confusing. Some campers only recently learned about their Jewish heritage, and many Jews in FSU are unaware of their heritage.

An anecdote journalists heard on our visit involved a man who, when asked by a JAFI emissary if he was Jewish, flippantly replied, "No. My mother is Jewish, that's all."

On the subject of intermarriage, Vosovoinik said, "We have to not cancel their world because we can't cancel a parent, but the world they get here can be part of it. We have to be very sensitive. It's very complex."

The second camp the journalists visited was an hour outside of Kharkov, a city with a population of almost two million people. This weeklong camp, for teens aged 13 to 17, revolved around the theme "Israel is Real."

The week was loosely based around life in Israel, with programs such as an end-of-high-school exam about Israel, university day, army training and a "Yad Vashem" tour.

The reporters joined the campers for several sessions, including a "Fear Factor" evening program (based on the television show) and a tour of a fabricated but realistic-looking Yad Vashem. At a dance party/evening program, the children divided into groups and gave presentations on what Israel meant to them.

The intensity of these young people's love for Israel came through in their presentations. They included song, dance, art, humour and speech to convey the message that Israel is, in fact, real.

"One goal of the camp is to create a Jewish identity with a multi-dimensional understanding of Israel as a crucial part of that identity for the next generation," said Jan Friedman, JAFI's education emissary for Kharkov and Donetsk, who runs the camp with her husband, Guy.

"The position of the camp is a very strong starting point – [campers] know it's the beginning of a process, they really get the idea of continuation," she said, adding that JAFI holds events for campers all year long at their Kharkov office.

Sasha Blitshtein, a *madrich* from Kharkov, understands the importance of recognizing and building Jewish identity among teens.

"Those who are here for the first time, they can be surprised at what they find, for good or for bad. Being Jewish can be something they don't understand or accept, or, something that makes them different. And being different at this age is an important thing," Blitshtein said.

The campers and *madrichim* agreed that being Jewish is a positive way to be different.

"I don't show my Jewishness publicly, but if someone asks me to fill out a form, I'm proud to do it," said Ella Karnitskaya, a 17-year-old Kharkov teen who recites the *Shema* every day and lights Shabbat candles with her mother.

"Other kids get piercings. This is my way of being different."

Katya Varkova, 24, is an Israeli *madrich* who made aliyah from Kharkov in 2000 and is back for camp. She said it's important to focus on Jewish identity, not only in the camp but also at home during the year.

"In the small cities with no Jewish community, how free do they feel to express their identities?" she asked.

Many Ukrainian villages and towns have tiny Jewish communities, and many cities also have relatively small Jewish populations, which might naturally lead some Jews to think about aliyah.

JAFI's goals focus on nation-building and identity-building, with Israel as a central goal to that identity. But they don't push aliyah on anyone.

"I personally made aliyah and believe Jews can and should – but I don't put it into the program as a message," said Voskovoinik, who left Riga in 1993 as a teen to study in Israel.

"I don't think there is a division – being Jewish means Israel. I believe that, but I don't tell children and their parents," she said.

Friedman said that "the goal is to make Israel a significant part of identity.

"This can be through aliyah, but within the overall goal of building community. Israel will be part of the community here. We really want them to make a rational choice from thinking from inside their identity."

Friedman made aliyah from Belarus in 1990.

Several of the counsellors and campers were considering or definitely planning to make aliyah, and most want to visit Israel.

The idea of aliyah can create a confusing tension with the goal of building a Jewish community in Ukraine for young Jews.

"That is the million-dollar question," said Rabbi Moshe Moscovitz in his Kharkov synagogue office. He came to Ukraine from Venezuela 17 years ago to head the Chabad synagogue, the only shul in the city. He arrived with one child and now has nine.

"The community is much more stable than it used to be, but everyone has at the back of their minds about going to Israel," he said.

"I don't tell them to go – I'm much more passive. I believe they should go, but they should come to the decision in a conscious way."

The message can be a confusing one for the younger generation.

"Community building is postponed because community leaders keep making aliyah," 19-year-old Edward Dolgin at the Kharkov camp summarized.

"I plan on making aliyah in two years, so it's not so important," he said.

"Definitely, there is a Jewish future here," said Voskovoinik, who is clearly passionate about the work she does to further that aim.

University leaders oppose boycott

JTA

NEW YORK — Nearly 300 university presidents signed on to a full-page advertisement in the Aug. 8 *New York Times* protesting the academic boycott of Israel.

"Boycott Israeli Universities? Boycott Ours, Too!" read the ad, organized by the American Jewish Committee in response to a proposed boycott of Israeli academic institutions by the British University and College Union. The ad featured a statement by Lee Bollinger, president of New York's Columbia University, that was endorsed by the other presidents.

"At Columbia, I am proud to say that we embrace Israeli scholars and universities that the UCU is now all too eager to isolate – as we embrace scholars from many countries regardless of divergent views on their government's policies," Bollinger wrote. "Therefore, if the British UCU is intent on pursuing its deeply misguided policy, then it should add Columbia to its boycott list, for we do not intend to draw distinctions between our mission and that of the universities you are seeking to punish. Boycott us, then, for we gladly stand together with our many colleagues in British, American and Israeli universities against such intellectually shoddy and politically biased attempts to hijack the central mission of higher education."

Among the signatories were the presidents of Brandeis University, the University of California-Berkeley, Northwestern University, Penn State, Tufts University and Princeton University.

Israel Briefs

No war with Syria: Olmert

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said he sees no chance of war between Israel and Syria in the coming months. "I believe we can look forward to a calm summer, a calm fall and a calm winter," he told cabinet colleagues Aug. 8, sources said. "Israel has no intention of attacking Syria, and neither does Syria intend to attack Israel." The comments appeared to be an attempt to calm concern that a year after the Lebanon war, there could be another conflict on Israel's northern front.

Hebron squatters evicted

Israeli forces evicted Jewish settlers who had taken over disputed properties in Hebron. Thousands of soldiers and police descended on the West Bank city Aug. 7 to remove two Israeli families squatting in abandoned apartments. The evictions was resisted by settlers who pelted the security forces with stones. Four people were arrested and at least 30 injured, including several police officers. The settlers say the properties, converted stalls in Hebron's wholesale market, originally belonged to Jews. The city's Arab residents dispute the claim. Twelve soldiers who refused to take part in the evacuation were court-martialed and sent to the stockade. Most will serve 28-day sentences.

Land swap planned: report

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert plans to offer the Palestinians a state on most of the West Bank, with land allotments from Israel to make up for Jewish settlement blocs Israel would annex, *Ha'aretz* reported. The Aug. 7 report said the Olmert wants to recognize the Palestinians' claim to all of the West Bank, but instead of giving up Jewish settlements in the territory, he intends to offer the Palestinians land of equivalent size from inside the Jewish state. It may consist of Israeli Arab towns, an ethnic trade-off aimed at mollifying Olmert's rightist partners in the coalition government, the report said. Olmert's office denied the report, saying "such a plan has not been considered, nor is it being raised for discussion in any forum."

– JTA

OSCE passes resolution to fight anti-Semitism

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The parliamentary assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) has adopted a new resolution against anti-Semitism.

At its annual meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, last month, the 56-member body, comprising states from Europe, Central Asia and North America, produced its 2007 Kiev Declaration containing a comprehensive, six-page section on fighting anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and "other forms of intolerance" throughout Europe.

Among the dozens of points in the section, the document reminds all member states who played a role in the Holocaust of their historic "impact, and the continued acts of anti-Semitism occurring throughout [Europe] that are not unique to any one country and necessitate unwavering steadfastness by all participating states to erase the black mark on human history."

The OSCE resolution also asked its members to join together and denounce the "continuing intellectualization" of anti-Semitism among Europe's academia and called on them to ensure that Jews and minorities on campuses are protected from undue harassment. It also expressed specific concern about recent attempts to single out Israel for divestment and sanctions.

Senator Jerry Grafstein attended the OSCE parliamentary assembly last month in Kiev, Ukraine.

[photo courtesy Jerry Grafstein's office]

At the Kiev session, Canadian Senator Jerry Grafstein, who has worked with the organization for the last 12 years, was elected vice-president of the OSCE's parliamentary assembly.

Grafstein helped support and push through the resolution, which he said would provide "leadership in the struggle against the oldest of viruses of hate – anti-Semitism."

In a speech to the assembly, Grafstein cited images of World War II to emphasize the importance of fighting anti-Semitism in all its forms.

"After the lessons of World War II, most civilized persons began to hope and believe the postwar world would be free of such ancient hates… it was not to be."

Speaking to *The CJN* last week, Grafstein lamented the continued spread of anti-Semitism and Israel-bashing throughout Europe, particularly in the United Kingdom, but he praised the OSCE's resolution as a milestone.

"The largest parliamentary human rights organization in the world has taken this issue on," he said proudly. "We were very successful in getting most of the [members] to agree with the resolution, though it was not a unanimous vote."

The resolution was "heatedly" discussed before being passed, Grafstein said, noting that those opposed to the resolution, namely Britain and Denmark, objected to the section on divestment from and boycotts of Israel. He said they argued that it would mean any state who advocated for these measures would be automatically labelled as anti-Semitic.

"Our response… was no, we're not talking about Israel here, we're talking about institutions that happen to be Israeli," Grafstein said. "And yes, if you try and boycott and criticize those institutions, and you don't do it in the appropriate way as you do other institutions, then you are anti-Semitic, because you're singling out Jewish institutions for this type of egregious conduct."

The counter-argument helped carry the motion, he said.

New measures were also put into place to help monitor the progress of the resolution and track their effectiveness from year to year, Grafstein said.

"We're trying to attack the problem systematically… and have parliamentarians go back to their countries and actually do something, then come back and report [to the OSCE], not just draw up resolutions."

Grafstein said the OSCE is scheduled to hold a "side meeting" in Toronto in September 2008 in which he plans to lead a discussion on anti-Semitism.

'Jewish' cardinal was link to interfaith world

By BEN HARRIS
JTA

NEW YORK — As he lay dying earlier this month in a Paris hospice, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger reached out to his longtime friend Rabbi Israel Singer.

The Jewish-born Catholic official, who served for decades as a conduit between the Vatican and the Jewish community, called Rabbi Singer, a former senior official of the World Jewish Congress and a major player in the effort to build Catholic-Jewish ties. Rabbi Singer flew to Paris and the two met several times before Lustiger succumbed to cancer on Aug. 5. He was 80.

"He was completely conscious and aware," said Rabbi Singer, who called Cardinal Lustiger by his Hebrew name. "Some of the conversations were 25 years old. They were very moving."

Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger

Born Aaron Lustiger in Paris in 1926, he was the first child of secular Polish-Jewish emigres. In 1940, he was sent with his sister to live with a Catholic woman following the German occupation of France. In August of that year, at age 13, he was baptized, adding Jean-Marie to his name.

Cardinal Lustiger was a central figure in Catholic-Jewish reconciliation efforts that characterized the tenure of Pope John Paul II, with whom he was close. He served as John Paul's representative at the commemoration ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in 2005.

As archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Lustiger served as a diplomatic back-channel, relaying to the Vatican Jewish concerns regarding Catholic anti-Semitism and the building of a convent at the Auschwitz death camp.

The latter issue had a special resonance for Cardinal Lustiger because his mother, Gisele, perished there.

A longtime proponent of interreligious reconciliation, Cardinal Lustiger was nevertheless seen as a troubling figure by the small cohort of Jewish leaders who regularly engaged their Catholic counterparts in dialogue.

Though widely admired for his warmth and friendliness, even those close to him acknowledged their discomfort sitting across from a man who had willingly converted to Catholicism and yet continued to speak of himself as a Jew.

"I was born Jewish, and so I remain, even if that is unacceptable for many," Cardinal Lustiger once told an interviewer.

"For me, the vocation of Israel is bringing light to the goyim," he said, referring to the Hebrew term for non-Jews. "That is my hope, and I believe that Christianity is the means for achieving it."

In an interview soon after being named archbishop by Pope John Paul II, he told an interviewer, "For me this nomination was as if, all of a sudden, the crucifix began to wear a yellow star."

One Jewish leader who met Cardinal Lustiger many times in the context of interreligious dialogue said such comments underscore what he saw as the "problematic" nature of the endeavor.

"He said that as a Catholic he is a fulfilled Jew," said the leader, who asked not to be identified. "It implies that if you do not share that faith then you're not complete."

"It took awhile for Jewish leaders to recognize that he was not proselytizing but that he was really sincere in seeing himself as a bridge that could help reconciliation," said Rabbi James Rudin, a past chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations.

Even Rabbi Singer, who was close to Cardinal Lustiger and hosted him in his home, said he was deeply uncomfortable at their first meeting.

"It was almost impossible for me," Rabbi Singer said. "I was embarrassed to tell people that we were meeting."

If it was hard for his Jewish interlocutors, it seems to have been equally hard for Cardinal Lustiger himself.

In the 1970s he was reported to have considered leaving France for Israel, but he remained and quickly rose up the Church ranks. He became bishop of Orleans in 1979 and archbishop of Paris in 1981. Two years later, John Paul made him a cardinal. He retired in 2005.

During a 1995 visit to Israel coinciding with Holocaust Remembrance Day, Lustiger was vilified by Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, who accused him of betraying his people at their darkest hour.

"To say that I am no longer a Jew is like denying my father and mother, my grandfathers and grandmothers," Cardinal Lustiger responded. "I am as Jewish as all the other members of my family who were butchered in Auschwitz or in the other camps."

In a lighter moment during an appearance at Tel Aviv University, Lustiger was asked if he could become the next pope. He replied using the Yiddish word for crazy: "Meshuggeh."

Lustiger was buried Aug. 10 in Notre Dame cathedral in a ceremony that included the recitation of *Kaddish*.

Hundreds of people, including prominent Jewish leaders of France, Holocaust survivors and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, gathered to see Cardinal Lustiger's coffin carried through a crowd and placed on the stone square in front of the 12th century cathedral.

The cardinal's great-nephew read a psalm in Hebrew and French, and placed a bowl of earth gathered from meaningful Jewish and Christian sites in Israel.

An 83-year-old Nazi death camp survivor and cousin of the cardinal, Arno Lustiger, then led the reading of the *Mourner's Kaddish.*

Cardinal Lustiger's sucessor, Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois, said Cardinal Lustiger wanted members of his family, Jews and Christians, and his friends to say some traditional prayers for the dead.

With files from Ha'aretz

Olmert says needs in northern Israel exaggerated

By JACOB BERKMAN
JTA

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said the problems in war-struck northern Israel are exaggerated, and he described American charitable donations to help the region as important, but he stopped short of calling them necessary.

Olmert made his comments Aug. 8 to a delegation of American journalists who had come to Israel on a mission organized by the United Jewish Communities to showcase how $360 million raised from donors across the world were being used to aid the north's recovery after last summer's war with Hezbollah. His office stipulated that Olmert could be paraphrased but not directly quoted.

The prime minister, whose government has faced criticism over its perceived failures in responding to the needs in the north, told the visiting journalists that the situation in the area is not dire. The economy is booming, he said.

Asked if the North American money given to Israel was "necessary," he would say only that it is important and significant. Olmert went on to say that Israel is happy to receive money and that it is helpful, but necessity depends on the attitude of the giver and receiver. Americans had to give money and Israel wanted to receive it, he said.

Some previous prime ministers also have balked at portraying Israel as a needy country. Olmert did not appear to be criticizing American Jewish organizations as his predecessor, Ariel Sharon, did in 2003 when he slammed them over fundraising efforts that highlighted hunger in Israel.

But Olmert's Aug. 8 comments came in the middle of efforts to highlight the success of the Israel Emergency Campaign, which federation leaders have hailed as vital to helping Israel's immediate and long-term recovery from the conflict, and as evidence of the UJC's relevance and effectiveness.

His remarks last week struck a different tone from comments he made when UJC launched its emergency campaign last summer in the midst of the war. At that time Olmert said he was relying on American Jewry to help "rehabilitate our cities."

In response to Olmert's comments last week, UJC officials lauded the performance of the organization and its partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Howard Rieger, UJC's president and chief executive officer, said he was proud of the impact the funds have made on the region. According to Rieger, the funds have provided loans for businesses that would have failed, contributed to educational programs and addressed the psychological needs of residents affected by the trauma.

"I don't think there's ever been a hint" from anyone involved in the process "that the direction wasn't a relevant direction," said Rieger, who spoke to JTA from Florida and was not at last week's meeting with Olmert. "The feedback on the ground has been terrific."

Rieger said that after hearing about Olmert's remarks, his only response was "to be introspective and ask if what we've done has been meaningful and had an impact."

The answer, he said, was yes.

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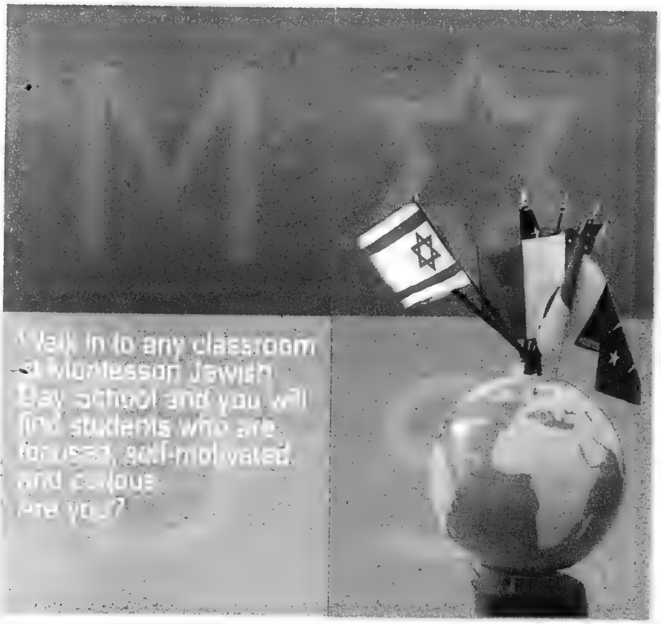
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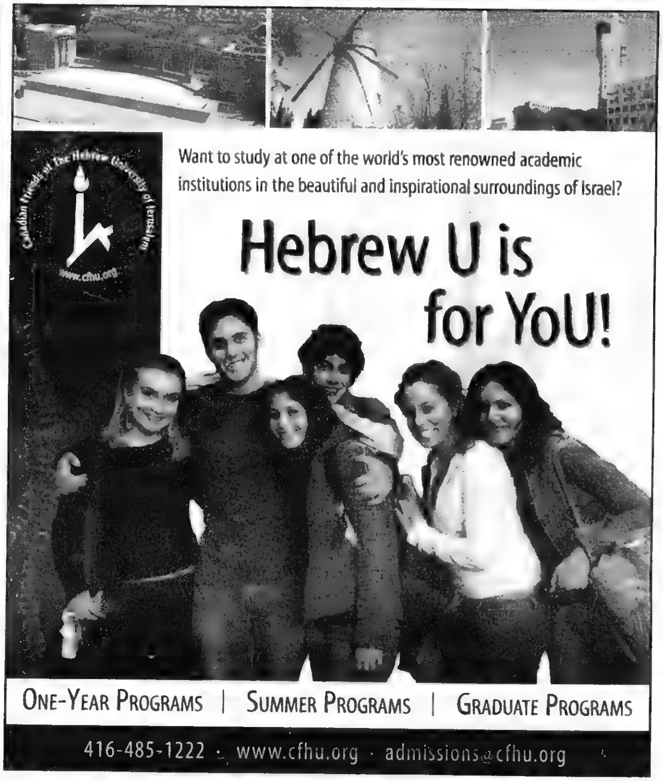
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As if to make his point, DeOliveira walks a visitor past some of the priceless rock memorabilia hanging on Hard Rock Cafe Toronto's walls, such as Bob Dylan's autographed guitar from the cover of a 1984 live album and a handmade mariachi suit he wore on tour. Guests will also see a pair of sketches by John Lennon, a fur-trimmed purple jacket that belonged to Prince and an outrageous pair of platform shoes from the closet of Stanley Eisen – better known as Paul Stanley of KISS – as well as a beautiful custom instrument once owned by Canadian guitar virtuoso, Alex Lifeson, of Rush.

And as a testament to the old adage, "rock 'n' roll never dies," Hard Rock Cafe at The Rogers Centre boasts dueling walls of The Rolling Stones' and The Beatles' memorabilia. So far, The Beatles are ahead with 23 pieces, including the hand-written lyrics to "Get Back." But if Brit Rock isn't your thing, you can check out some cool stuff from this side of the pond, like the guitar Jimi Hendrix used when recording "Little Wing," the jacket Buddy Holly wore on tour or Bo Diddley's guitar "Lucille." There is a tribute room to the "King" himself, where you can get a peek at Elvis's silk pajamas, among other things.

After the tour, DeOliveira explains that this is all part of the experience, that his staff will design exactly the experience a guest is looking for. "For instance, you can have a sit-down dinner or a buffet. We have great sound, great lighting and video monitors throughout the cafes. We can set up for dancing or karaoke. We can even put together really fun loot bags from our Rock Shop. Whatever you need. Because to us, you're a rock star."

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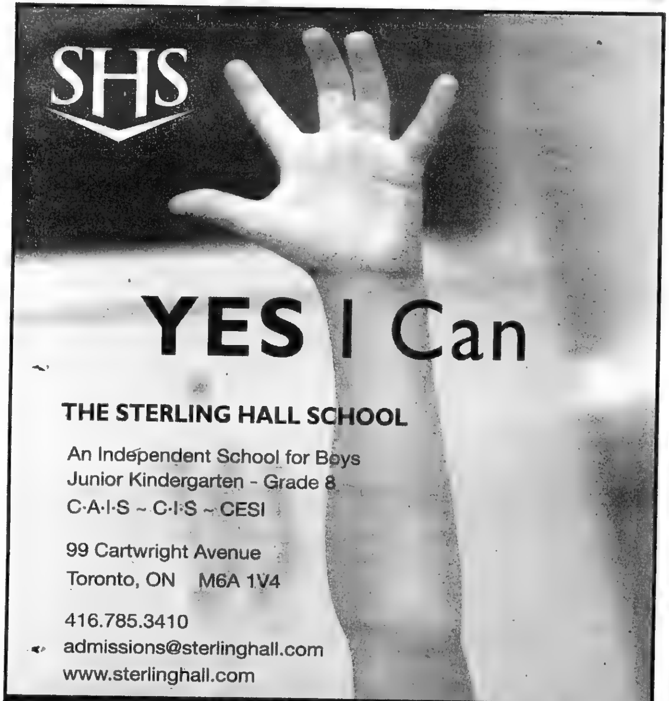

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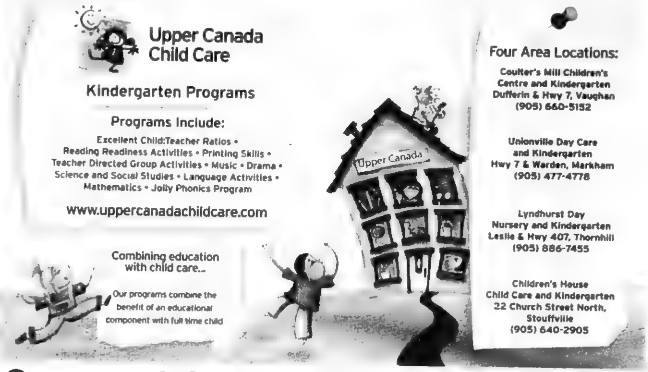

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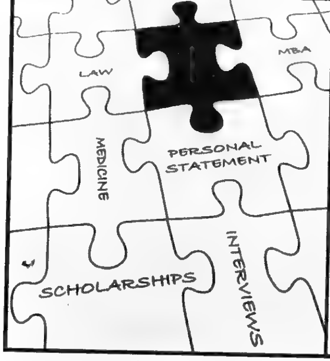

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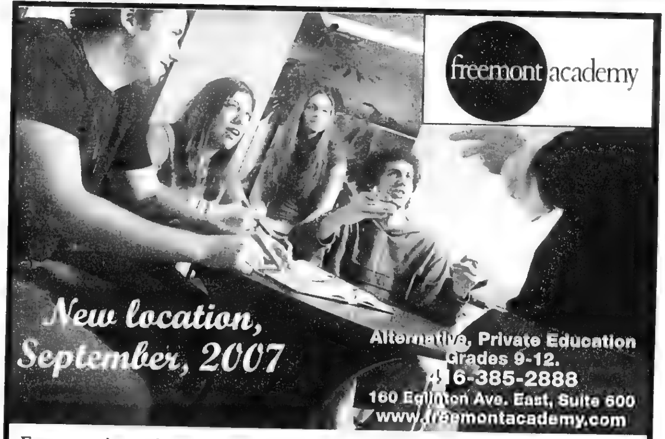

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Educator aims to improve health-care education

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Since Lorie Shekter-Wolfson was appointed to the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) as co-chair of its new Education and Research Council four months ago, she has been eager to implement her ideas in an effort to improve the way health-care professionals are educated.

Lorie Shekter-Wolfson

Shekter-Wolfson, the dean of community services and health sciences at George Brown College, said she is excited about the opportunity to examine and improve the health-care system beyond the institutions, by making sure that whether people are educated at college or university, they will be properly prepared to work together.

"We should be delivering health care beyond institutions because our bodies aren't determined by institutions. It is really based on continuum of care. Health-care education should be the same [throughout the province] because at the end of the day, these people have to work together in the system," she said.

Despite the fact that a majority of health-care professionals, including nurses, have been educated in the college system, she added, the role of colleges is often underrated.

"Our goal is to develop a strategy to look at the way of approaching the diversity of [methods] being used to support clinical education within the Toronto Central LHIN so that students, organizations and service users can benefit."

Shekter-Wolfson, who has worked for the Ontario government's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, said her goals as the co-chair of the education and research council parallel her goals for George Brown, where she has worked since 2002.

She said students at George Brown are now studying in controlled applied learning environments, where they will hopefully better understand how to integrate their roles and deliver the best patient care.

Through this new program, students are learning to take a holistic approach with patients in the areas of dental health, nursing, health and wellness. Another aspect of the program provides a simulation of in-patient health-care environments, which offers them the opportunity to have hands-on practice.

As a member of Health Canada's Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient-Centred Practice's national expert committee and through her involvement with Jewish Family & Child of Greater Toronto, Shekter-Wilson has the experience needed to determine what areas need improvement.

"One of the things that we're trying to do is to develop what is an ideal, what an ideal state of education and research would look like for the Toronto Central LHIN and then determine what it is we want to work on because as a committee, our goals are to be… able to start looking at things across the spectrum."

She said she hopes that meetings with the committee, which is made up of some of Ontario's influential doctors and health-care professionals, will result in tangible benefits for Ontarians.

"If we can talk about how we can look at health-care education and practicum in a more holistic professional focus, at the end of the day, it is going to support better collaborative practice, [and] minimize mistakes – because more people die of mistakes than they do of various diseases, primarily because of [a lack of] information and not knowing how to work as a team."

Shekter-Wolfson is optimistic about the direction that Ontario's health-care system is going, and predicted that it will continue to improve.

"There is a thing called Health Force Ontario, and [Ontario's minister of health and long-term care George] Smitherman has made it clear that we need to ensure that we are educating our professionals in the right way to better maximize the care that is given to a patient. We know that we need to do better in terms of health-care access, and there have already been research projects that have come out of the province through Health Force Ontario's initiative to support interprofessional education projects."

She said she'd like the health-care system to resemble the oral health system, where dentists get a lot of support from dental hygienists and other technicians, and predicted that patients will continue to see the benefits of better practice.

"I think it will continue to improve as the students get better prepared, not their individual skills… but other skills are required around communication, around the maximization of roles."

Walk or run to help kids with diabetes

The Diabetes Walk for Hope in support of children and adolescents who live with diabetes is set for Sept. 23, 10 a.m., at Étienne Brûlé Park, which is in walking distance from the Old Mill subway station.

The five-kilometre walk or run raises funds for the Diabetes Hope Foundation, which awards scholarships for students living with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and supports Camp Huronda, a non-profit camp for children with diabetes.

The foundation also runs a medical assistance program, which helps children living with diabetes whose families are not covered by third-party health plans and who struggle to obtain the medical supplies and drugs needed to control the diabetes.

A foundation press release states that the average cost per patient for these supplies is anywhere from $200 to $350 per month, up to $4,000 per year, per patient. For lower income families and new immigrants with no third-party insurance coverage, these costs can be staggering, it says.

The foundation also partners with pediatric hospitals and pharmaceutical companies to ensure financial obstacles are not barriers to obtaining the best diabetes health care.

For information or to volunteer for the walk, e-mail walk@diabeteshopefoundation.com or call at 905-670-0557, ext. 256.

Sponsors for the walk include Alberto Culver, Citigroup, Diet Canada Dry Ginger Ale, Fluid Hose & Coupling, Kernels Popcorn, MBC Development Ltd., Marathon Watch Co. Ltd., Nortown Foods, The 5-Factor Diet, Toronto International Film Festival and Quagmire Golf.

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HEEBONICS

Young Toronto paramedics – sirens, lights and stretchers

By Abigail Bimman
CJN Intern

I'm tearing down the wrong side of Yonge Street at 100 klicks, lights spinning and sirens blazing – but I'm not scared. The driver I'm sitting beside, Jason Benaim, has delivered four babies and saved countless lives.

I went on an ambulance ride with paramedics Benaim and Carole Smith, who work 12-hour shifts. I met them at 6:45 one morning at 16 Station, at Bathurst Street and Finch Avenue.

"Lights and sirens on your first call – not bad," said Smith, 28, en route to a call just after 7 a.m.

Emergency calls come in as either alpha, bravo, charlie, delta or echo, in order of increasing urgency, based on the information received at the dispatch call centre of Toronto Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

This one was a delta. A man had passed out in the bathroom at work (confidentiality rules prohibit specific information disclosure).

Over the next 12 hours plus, we received three more calls – a charlie for a woman who fainted, an alpha for an adverse reaction to new medication, and another charlie for what was suspected to be a stroke but ended up being a slightly confused elderly woman with pain in her face.

"It's a funny job," said Smith, leaning on the open door at the back of the ambulance, one leg up on the truck, waiting for Benaim to fill out forms at Humber River Regional Hospital, Finch Avenue Site. She was referring to the system's occasional mistakes, specifically recalling an alpha call she once received for cardiac arrest, which typically would be an echo.

Humber Finch was one of three hospitals I visited that day. And wait times were fast, except for the last call of the evening. For that one, we stayed almost an hour past shift before being relieved by another paramedic.

"I've had six or seven calls where I can honestly say that without our intervention they'd be dead," said Benaim, 32.

He has been a paramedic for four years and loves that his job isn't monotonous.

"You see something different every day. There's no redundancy," he said.

"There's excitement, there's an adrenaline rush. You see people at their best and at their worst as well, and all across the spectrum."

He said you need a high level of curiosity and maturity for the job, and his own enthusiasm is clear. While in the passenger seat of the ambulance or waiting for a call at the station, he eagerly teaches me about the workings of the heart, what information the SAT (blood oxygen) monitor records or the causes of low blood pressure.

Benaim said he always knew he wanted to be a paramedic but earned a university degree and worked as a bar manager before going to paramedicine college, receiving the two-year diploma mandatory for paramedics.

Paramedic Jason Benaim performs life-saving measures in the most extreme circumstances.

Benaim is a level 1 paramedic. In Toronto, there are three levels, designated by shoulder stripes. Paramedics are also divided into primary care paramedics (PCP, and levels 1 and 2) and advanced care paramedics (ACP, level 3). Those with level 3 designations do additional tasks, such as starting intravenous lines.

In the past 20 years, Benaim says paramedicine has changed a lot. Paramedics are now allowed to give a death pronouncement when a doctor approves it over the phone; previously the doctor would have had to make the pronouncement in person.

Respect for paramedics has grown, Benaim said, so that people think of them as much more than "ambulance drivers," a moniker he strongly dislikes.

"I wouldn't have said it was a valid career choice 20 years ago – the respect level was lower. We were sometimes known as the dirty third cousin of emergency services. We still have a long way to go, but we're getting there."

Waiting for a call at 16 Station, the paramedics discuss why they aren't often in the limelight. Part of the problem, the group agrees, is that at the emergency scene, paramedics are long gone with the injured when the media shows up, leaving the public to hear from police or fire services.

"Paramedics are the 'face' of the health system for the most critically ill and injured citizens in any community," said Dr. Brian Schwartz, the director of the Sunnybrook Osler Centre for Prehospital Care.

"Their skills are unique in that they perform life-saving – and symptom relief and comfort – measures in the most extreme circumstances – dark, cold, sometimes potentially dangerous environments – with the sickest and most distressed individuals."

Being Jewish can give a paramedic an advantage in dealing with Jewish patients.

"People like to be taken care of by their own," said level 1 paramedic Michael Conforti, who has been at the job for six years.

Known at EMS as the only person on the job who wears a kippah, Conforti became more observant a few years ago and said that he now spends "half his life" doing shift changes so he can be off work on Shabbat. He said that since he started wearing a kippah, he noticed a change in his behaviour and also in others' perceptions of him.

"Anything you do as a Jew… whether a paramedic, businessman or street sweeper – if you are doing it in a good, positive, ethical way, you are doing it the Jewish way. If you do it with passion and caring, you are doing it kiddush HaShem," said Conforti, 32.

Shachar Gabay, 36, immigrated from Israel after working as a medic in the army and is now a level 2 paramedic after nine years on the job. For him, being Jewish can also make a positive difference on certain calls.

"If I meet an Israeli family and start talking Hebrew, it changes the whole dynamic of the call. Instead of looking at you as an authority figure, you can just see the barrier melt away."

Gabay said when he get calls from Holocaust survivors, they are often very nervous at the sight of someone in uniform.

"You can see it in their eyes. And sometimes they tell you, the minute we walk in it reminded them of this or that."

Gabay, Conforti and Benaim estimate there are only a handful of Jews among the approximate 900 EMS paramedics in Toronto.

"I think it's a great career, I think it's a very challenging career, and I hope to see more Jews, more of us, choosing that profession. There's a lot to be proud of," Gabay said.

Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

ASHKENAZ EXTRAVAGANZA: FREE ALL-STAR YIDDISH/KLEZMER CONCERT AT EARL BALES ON AUG. 28

The Ashkenaz Festival presents East Meets West, a free concert featuring all-star Yiddish and klezmer musicians from the former Soviet Union and Israel, at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park, Tuesday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m.

The concert is sure to be as much of a crowd-pleaser as last year's, which attracted some 2,500 people to the same venue. Since parking is limited, use of the TTC is advised. Although the concert is free, tickets are required and are available at the Zukerman box office from noon on Aug. 28. Doors open 5 p.m. (Rain venue: Beth David Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Rd.) For details, phone 416-635-2883, ext. 150, or visit the website www. ashkenazfestival.com

Ofir

The Ashkenaz Foundation is a community-based, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Yiddish and Jewish culture through the arts, mainly through its huge festival at Harbourfront every two years and through smaller community events in alternate years.

* * *

CD Launch Concerts

- Israeli performer **Ofir**, now living in Toronto, launches her debut album of dance music at a fundraiser CD launch concert at the Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St. W. $50 (students $25) includes raffle entry, appetizers and entertainment. Tuesday, Aug. 21, 8 p.m.
- Vocalist **Aviva Chernick** performs with pianist **Tania Gill** and bass player **Andrew Downing** in London, Ont., to mark the release of her CD *In The Sea*. Described as "an intimate and sensual musical adventure," the CD's 10 songs explore Judeo-Spanish folk melodies and the music of German cabaret, traditional spirituals and **Kurt Weill**, **Leonard Cohen**, **Randy Newman** and others. Aeolian Hall, 795 Dundas St., London. Thursday, Aug. 23, 8 p.m. Tickets $15 in advance, $18 at the door. Watch for the Toronto release date. www.avivachernick.com

* * *

Names in the News: Toronto theatrical producer **Aubrey Dan**, who recently threw his cap into the theatrical ring with a new and innovative season of stage productions, has joined forces with Elephant Eye, an $8-million creative collective of producers, with the goal of developing new book musicals for Broadway and stages around the world.

Dan's company, Dancap Productions, has joined with some 16 other producers internationally to create new works with commercial potential. Musicals in development include *The Addams Family*, *Bruce Lee: Journey to the West* and *Saved*.

Meanwhile, Dancap's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* is at the Elgin Theatre, Sept. 19 to Oct. 14. Other offerings in Dancap's première season are *Spelling Bee*, *3 Mo' Divas*, *My Fair Lady*, *Avenue Q* and *Jersey Boys*. Details at www.dancaptickets.com.

* * *

Honours & Awards: Toronto storyteller **Dan Yashinsky** has won the 2007 Anne Izard Storytellers Choice Award for his book *Suddenly They Heard Footsteps – Storytelling for the 21st Century*. This award is given by the Westchester Library System for the best English-language storytelling books published in the previous two years. *Suddenly They Heard Footsteps* is published in Canada by Vintage Canada, and in the United States by the University Press of Mississippi.

* * *

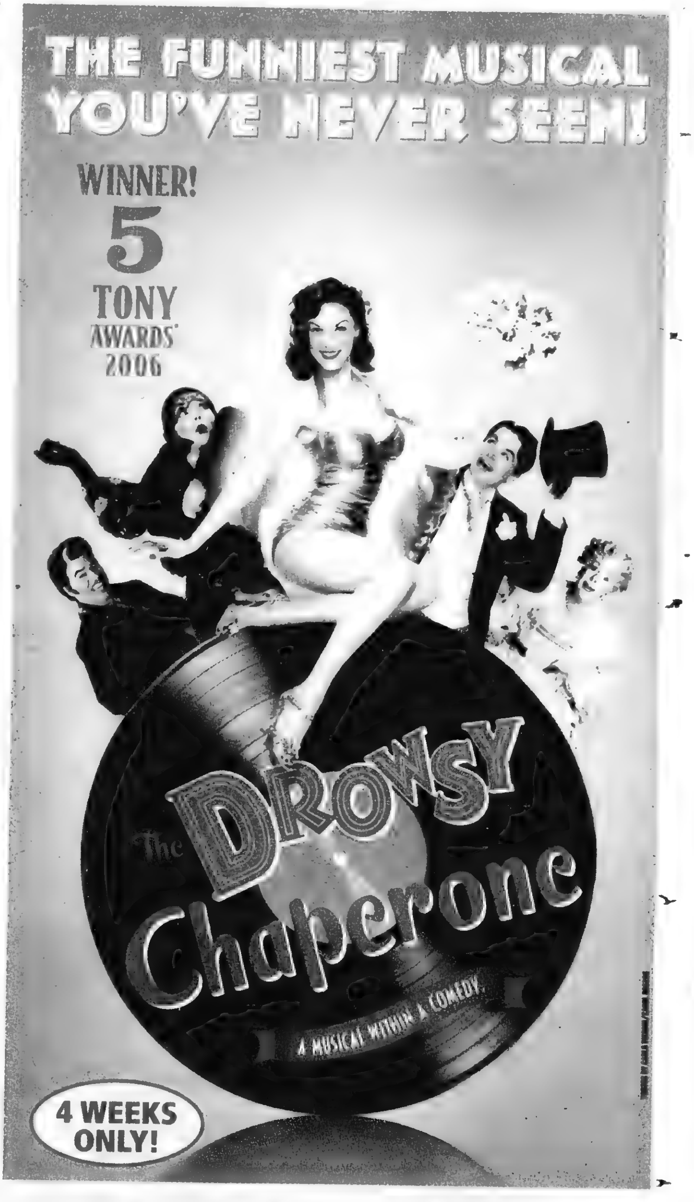
Arts in Brief

- The Markham Jazz Festival unrolls on Aug. 17, 18 and 19, with a lively roster of entertainment that includes the **Hilario Durham Big Band**, **Tom Van Seters Quartet** and the **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band** (Sunday, 12:30 to 2 p.m.) www.markhamjazzfestival.com
- The Association of Artists for a Better World presents the sixth annual Concert For Peace, a free family day of blues, roots and world music with themes of peace. Rain or shine. Mel Lastman Square, Aug. 18, 2 to 10 p.m. www.abetterworld.ca
- The **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** has announced an online seat sale designed to offer music fans affordable subscription packages. For one week beginning Aug. 13, TSO concert tickets will go for $39 each with a minimum of three tickets purchased. www.tso.ca
- Running Aug. 23 to 26 in the St. Lawrence Market neighbourhood, the eighth annual Scotiabank BuskerFest is raising donations and awareness for Epilepsy Toronto. This year's festival features *Jack's Rainbow*, inspired by **Jack Yeilding**, a four-year-old boy who set up a fundraising lemonade stand outside his Oakville home last summer and raised $14,000 for Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, the hospital that oversees his epilepsy treatment.
- *The Year My Parents Went On Vacation*, a feature film that ran at the last Toronto Jewish Film Festival, opens in a Toronto-area theatre this week for a limited commercial run. Set amidst the backdrop of a World Cup-crazy 1970s Brazil, this poignant coming-of-age film tells the story of 11-year-old Mauro, a child of Communist parents who are secretly on the run from the police.

* * *

At the Galleries

- Artist **Jerry Friedman** makes driftwood sculpture. "I work in a naturalistic style, selecting pieces found in the shallows of Bella Lake," he writes. "The pieces may be representational or impressionistic, with an emphasis on the form, lines, texture and grain." Works by Friedman and other Muskoka-area artists are featured in the Limberlost Studio Tour, Aug. 18 & 19, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Muskoka Road 8 (Limberlost Road), 15 minutes northeast of Huntsville. 416-789-1759 or 705-635-3537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Arts & Travel

Israeli Yiddish singer debuts CD

Music Reviews

Vira Lozinsky
Vayte Shtern

Vira Lozinsky

For most of its 30 year or so history, the Yiddish music revival has been a largely North American and European phenomenon.

Ironically perhaps, Israel has done little to nourish this cultural renaissance, prioritizing Hebrew and the nation's contemporary Middle Eastern cultural context over the lost world of the European shtetl. As Israeli klezmer musician Assaf Talmudi recently told the *Jerusalem Post*, "The Yiddish language and culture were sacrificed to build Israel."

There are, however, signs of an underground Yiddish music revival emerging in Israel. One of the leading lights of this nascent movement is Tel Aviv's Vira Lozinsky, a protégé of the legendary Yiddish singer Nehama Lifshitz.

Lozinsky has just released her stunning debut CD *Vayte Shtern* (*Distant Stars*) and makes her debut North American concert appearances this month in Montreal and Toronto, and at the KlezKanada Festival in Quebec.

Like many of the new voices of Yiddish culture in Israel, Lozinsky's roots go back to eastern Europe. She was born and raised in the Bessarabian town of Beltz, now in the Republic of Moldova, moving to Israel in her teen years during the post-Soviet Jewish emigration of the early 1990s. On her new CD, Lozinsky pays homage to those roots, featuring a number of songs written by Bessarabian Jewish singers and poets, including such legends as Itsik Manger, Moishe Oysher and Zelik Barditshever.

Also notable is Lozinsky's extensive collaboration on the CD with her father, Michael Felsenbaum, a respected Yiddish poet, author and dramatist, who contributes to this collection a number of his own original Yiddish songs, as well as Yiddish translations of Bessarabian Roma (Gypsy) songs.

Lozinsky's powerful alto is vibrant and warm – the perfect instrument to convey this unique and highly original repertoire. Her acute attention to dynamics and lyrical nuance make the performances on the CD even more commanding, vividly evoking the "land of wine and sadness" about which she sings. One cannot help being drawn into the mythic Bessarabian landscape of these songs, filled with pastoral images of green fields, lonely shepherds, forlorn young maidens and star-filled skies that conjure dreams and hopes.

Wisely avoiding the nostalgic kitsch that too many contemporary Yiddish singers embrace, Lozinsky and her longtime collaborator, pianist Regina Dricker, have crafted thoughtful arrangements that reveal a deep respect for the material and the idiom, while still expressing a unique personal style.

Lozinsky shines vibrantly on *Vayte Shtern*, and her star will no doubt soon shine across the international Yiddish culture scene, as a premier performer of Yiddish song and as a leader of a new generation of Israeli Yiddish singers.

Vira Lozinsky performs in Montreal at the Annual Yiddish Concert in the Park on Aug. 16 and in Toronto at Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park on Aug. 28, 7 p.m. For details, visit www.ashkenazfestival.com or www.viralozinsky.com. She's at the KlezKanada Festival in Quebec, Aug. 20 to 26.

– Eric Stein

***

The Lithuanian Empire
The Lithuanian Empire

Generally speaking, whenever a new klezmer album is released in Canada, it's time for the Jewish community to celebrate. And with the Lithuanian Empire's eponymous debut CD release next week, this time is no exception.

Continued on page 47

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Lithuanian Empire CD a cause for celebration

Continued from page 46

The eight-piece band consists of talented musicians from across Canada and the United States, including renowned drummer Lorie Wolf, clarinettist Kinneret Sagee and veteran pianist-singer Fern Lindzon, all Toronto jazz scenesters.

Music Reviews

After meeting one another at KlezKanada in Montreal in 2005, an impromptu, raucous jam session among the members convinced the group to move forward as a band.

Two years later and the Lithuanian Empire has achieved what it set out to do, as it says in the CD's liner notes, to create a "spiritual fusion of sound."

The band describes its music as "pickled herring, bagels and lox, and kugel meet Led Zeppelin, margaritas and Nils Landgren to make beautiful harmonies on the streets of Harlem… make that Vilnius."

With a description like that, one expects a rip-roarin' musical experience; and the Empire doesn't disappoint.

The album has an open, jam-like feel to it, and you can almost see the musicians smiling at one another as they recorded, revelling in their music and likely laughing in their brief klezmerfied Led Zeppelin tribute halfway through the affair.

Ranging in style from the opening a- cappella *Tisch Nign I* through to the saucy, playful, up-tempo jaunts of *Balkan Balabusteh, Sushi for Shabbes* and *aSHERville,* to the closing niggun, *Tisch Nign III,* the Lithuanian Empire manages to interject an array of musical influences while still keeping that old-time klezmer feel.

The Lithuanian Empire's debut CD doesn't disappoint. From left are Andy John, Ryan Purchase, Fern Lindzon, Kinneret Sagee, Moti Ludmer, Lorie Wolf, Eva Boodman and Becky Wexler. [Jackie Shapiro-Senior photo]

Throughout Wolf lays down impressive, intricate beats, while clarinettists Sagee and Connecticut resident Becky Wexler joyfully pull the tunes along.

Meanwhile, Edmontonian Ryan Purchase keeps the sound honest with punctuating trombone bursts, and Montrealer Eva Boodman heralds mightily on the opening strains of the traditional *Ol' Daddy Sizzlegut* and elsewhere with her solid trumpeteering.

Montrealers Randal Pierce and Moti Ludmer lend their happy accordion-playing to the album, and North Carolina native Andy John performs triple-duty as guitarist/ bassist/ harmonica player, laying down tracks of rock-solid bass work and tasteful guitar all through the CD.

Not to be missed is the album's sixth track, *Tisch Nign II*, which stands out as a short, sad and beautiful divergent piano composition by Lindzon and should be listened to and absorbed with eyes closed.

For more information, visit www.thelithuanianempire.com.

Lithuanian Empire performs at Klez Kanada Aug. 20-26, in Lantier, Que.; on Aug. 28, at La Sala Rossa in Montreal; on Aug. 29, at Avant-Garde in Ottawa; and in Toronto on Aug. 30, at the Lula Lounge; and Sept.2, at the Rex Hotel.

–Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf

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Chassidic mom pens stories about everyday life

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

A surprise French-language bestseller last summer in Quebec was a collection of heartwarming and humorous stories about the everyday life of an Outremont chassidic family. Written under a pseudonym by a grandmother from that community, it was entitled *Lekhaim! Chroniques de la vie hassidique à Montréal.*

The collection by "Malka Ziporahh" has now been published in the original English as *Rather Laugh Than Cry: Stories from a Hassidic Household* by Montreal's Véhicule Press.

The 25 semi-autobiographical stories, illustrated with the author's own drawings, offer a rare portrait of an insular and often misunderstood people by one of its members.

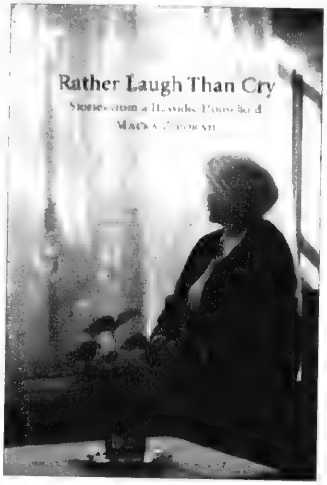
The book's popularity is not due to any dirty linen aired. This is not a tell-all; there is nothing in this book that should upset the community.

What it does do is put a human face on the Outremont Chassidim, about whom most Montrealers know little other than the negative media coverage of "accommodating" their differences.

Ziporah charmingly chronicles the small joys and trials of running a busy household, describing emotions that any mother could relate to, although few raise 12 children as she did and live according to a tradition that governs all aspects of life literally from waking up in the morning to going to bed at night, and assigns men and women such clearly defined roles.

Going by these stories, it is an almost idyllic existence, with its unchanging rhythms and faith in a higher power. The writing reveals the wisdom and serenity that comes with experience, and it has enough wryness to elevate the humour from the pollyannish.

As she explains: "History shows us that what is fashionable and proper in one era can be deemed cruel and immoral in another. The most stable foothold is, through good times and bad, to cling to the tried and true values handed down to us by our parents."



In *The Red Pants*, a mother speaks of her sentimental attachment to a pair of little trousers that she bought 20 years earlier for the exorbitant sum of $16 for her eldest son Moishy, and that have been passed down to his younger siblings until they are little more than a rag.

In *A Fishy Tale*, daughter Sheindl finally wheedles her reluctant mother into buying her a goldfish, just like her friend Raizy's. However, as Mom expected, the pet soon loses its appeal when Sheindl realizes it is a living creature that gets dirty and doesn't always behave nicely.

Making challah and kreplach, trying to live according to the teachings of the sages of old, juggling heavy schedules of social commitments, and sharing information through the "Women's Communication Network" are all fodder for Ziporah's imaginative mind.

There are gentle rants about dependence on the telephone, the expense of orthodontics, cold weather, and learning how to use a computer, and some sadness, such as the bittersweetness of Shavuot for Hungarian Jews because it was around that time that many were deported to Auschwitz and other camps.

The only story that makes any reference to non-chassidic neighbours is *Squeezing in a Succah*. The narrator's worry that her unhandy son-in-law's white vinyl balcony hut is an eyesore to "the non-Jewish Outremont dwellers who are accustomed to a city that is as well groomed as the poodles and pedigreed canines that they elegantly lead around the streets."

In the introduction, the author offers insight into what makes her tick, why family and customs are all-important to her, and her need to bring order to chaos. Humour has enabled her, and Chassidim in general, to "rather laugh than cry." Happiness is always mixed with sorrow in the Chassidim's collective memory.

Ziporah, 52, was born in Israel to Hungarian Holocaust-survivor parents. She grew up in Australia and has been living in Montreal since marrying 33 years ago. Today, her children range in age from nine to over 30.

She has been writing as a pastime for most of her married life, and has published more than 100 stories in small publications aimed at Orthodox Jewish readers.

That these stories ever reached a wider audience is, as she would say, bashert. About six years ago, Université du Québec à Montréal student Julie Gagnon interviewed Ziporah for research she was doing on synagogues in Outremont. The author happened to mention that she did some writing and gave Gagnon a few samples. Gagnon's professor at UQAM was none other than Pierre Anctil, who has devoted some 25 years to studying the Montreal Jewish community and fostering understanding between francophone and Jewish Quebecers.

He immediately recognized the stories' potential to dispel misconceptions about Chassidim, and persuaded a reluctant Ziporah to let him translate them into French. She insisted, however, on remaining anonymous Malka Ziporah is her mother's name – not wishing for celebrity or any change in her way of life.

Finding a publisher was not easy; the major houses were not interested.

Finally, Anctil turned to the small Les éditions du passage, owned by the daughter of an acquaintance.

Lekhaim! became the bestselling book Les éditions ever published in its relatively brief history, hitting the top-10 French books list last August, and going into second printing after the first 2,000 copies were sold.

Ziporah sees divine providence in the unexpected success of her stories.

"Through what many might conceive as coincidence, they were destined to spread to a wider and more diverse readership," she writes in the preface. To her new English readers she introduces herself this way: "I am a Hassidic Mom, and I gingerly pull the curtains aside and invite you to peek inside and see things as they are. Please make allowances for the toys on the floor, and the cookie crumbs. It is impossible to be perfect."

Gruber's top 10 places to visit

JTA

Ruth Ellen Gruber, author of *Jewish Heritage Travel: A Guide to Eastern Europe*, has shared her top 10 favourite Jewish places to visit.

- The historic Jewish cemeteries and painted synagogues in northern Romania. The most impressive cemeteries are the three in Siret, on the border with Ukraine. Nearby towns with painted synagogues and cemeteries include Botosani, Suceava, Radauti and Piatra Neamt.
- The Jewish cemeteries and ruins of fortress synagogues in Ukraine. In Sataniv, the synagogue hauntingly retains some of its interior decoration and the tombstones feature elaborate carving. The village of Sharhorod has a fortress synagogue, fascinating cemeteries, extensive remains of shtetl architecture and a small Jewish community.
- The baroque synagogue and Jewish cemetery in the village of Mad, in northeastern Hungary.
- The synagogues in Lancut, in southeastern Poland, and in Tykocin, in northeastern Poland.
- The old Jewish quarters, synagogues and cemeteries in the towns of Boskovice, Trebic and Lomnice, near Brno in the Czech Republic.
- Anything to do with the Hungarian architect Lipot Baumhorn (1860-1932), modern Europe's most prolific designer of synagogues.

Particularly recommended are the grand synagogue in Szeged, Hungary, and a ruined synagogue in Lucenec, Slovakia; Baumhorn's tomb in the Kozma Utca Jewish cemetery in Budapest; and the monument to him outside the former synagogue he designed in Szolnok, Hungary.

- Wooden synagogues. About a dozen simple wooden synagogues survive in out-of-the way villages in Lithuania. Most look like barns. The ones in the villages of Kurkliai, Pakruojis and Ziezmariai are particularly striking.
- The elaborate synagogue in Subotica, Serbia, is an extraordinary example of Hungarian art nouveau architecture.
- The Holocaust monument complex in Belzec in southeastern Poland.
- The Holocaust memorial in Plunge, Lithuania, features a profoundly moving installation of massive wooden sculptures by the Jewish wood-carver Jakob Bunkas and his artist friends.

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New witness accounts of the Holocaust

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

"To keep alive not only memory but also its voices is a noble undertaking." – Elie Wiesel

The importance of witness accounts to the Holocaust can never be understated. Even as this tragedy was unfolding, the zeal to document and leave behind first-hand accounts was remarkable.

The Diary of Anne Frank, of course, is the most famous example of this.

In the introduction to *Shards of Memory: Narratives of Holocaust Survival*, editor Yehudi Lindeman relates how Simon Dubnov, an elderly Jewish historian, on being led to his execution in Latvia in 1941, exhorted his fellow Jews to *schreibt un farschreibt* (write it down and record it).

Much of the history of the Warsaw Ghetto comes to us from the Oneg Shabbat archive, the work of a circle of amateur historians determined to leave behind their story.

Recognizing that time was gradually taking its toll on living accounts, director Steven Spielberg set up the Survivors of the Shoah project, which recorded survivors' testimonies.

Other similar projects also exist. Among them are the USC Shoah Foundation Institute and Lindeman's Living Testimony Video Archive at McGill University.

The 25 stories in *Shards of Memory* are compiled from interviews from the McGill archives. In addition to Jewish survivor accounts, they include an account from a Sinti (Gypsy) survivor and one from a Danish rescuer.

Rather than transfer their oral testimony directly to print, the editors chose to tell their stories as third-person "ghost-written" narratives, which brings them closer to conventional historical narratives.

The editors strived to tell each survivor's story chronologically, giving them a "narrative trajectory" that covers prewar life, the Nazi period and post-liberation experiences.

The editors acknowledge that a task such as this one was not without its challenges. Documenting what Wiesel calls the "unbridgeable gulf between the survivor's memory and its reflection in words" is an onerous task, but one that needed to be done.

Shards of Memory shows how each survivor's story is unique – yet the reader gets the sense that one common thread seems to appear in each account: bravery.

Many of the survivors relate the cunning it took to stay one step ahead of their murderous pursuers. Whether escaping before the occupation, escaping from transit trains, from ghettos and even from camps, each one survived using only his or her wit, courage and sheer bravado in the face of annihilation.

* * *

Like Anne Frank, Petr Ginz, a 14-year-old Jewish boy living in Prague during the war years, dutifully kept a diary of his experiences under Nazi occupation.

Petr was a young prodigy – a gifted storyteller and artist (one of his sketches was taken aboard the ill-fated space shuttle Columbia in 2003 by Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon). He undoubtedly would have become a great writer had he survived.

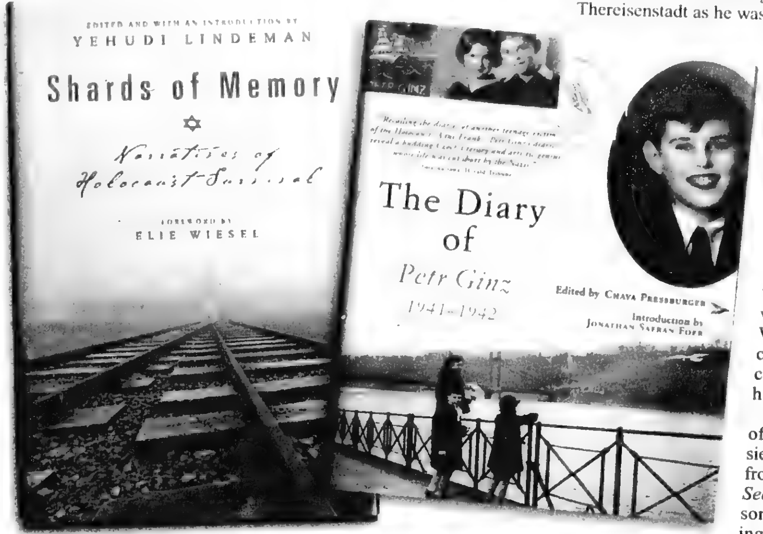
The Diary of Petr Ginz 1941-1942 was written before he was deported to Theresienstadt, where he would become the driving force behind the secret newspaper *Vedem*. This collection was edited by his sister Chava Pressburger, who last saw Petr in Thereisenstadt as he was shipped to Auschwitz, where he died in 1944, aged 16.

Like Anne Frank, Petr tries hard to keep a semblance of normal life despite the prospect of deportation hanging over him like a Damocles' sword.

He was a mischievous, fun-loving boy with a keen sense of humour. On Sept. 19, 1941, the day after Czech Jews were forced to wear yellow stars, he wrote: "The weather is foggy. Jews were told to wear a badge. When I went to school, I counted 69 sheriffs. Mummy counted more than a hundred."

This book includes some of Petr's writings from Theresienstadt, including an excerpt from his unfinished novel *The Secret of Satan's Ghetto*, and some of his remarkable drawings.

Both these books are welcome additions to the canon of Holocaust literature.


EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
YEHUDI LINDEMAN
Shards of Memory
Narratives of Holocaust Survival
FOREWORD BY
ELIE WIESEL
PETR GINZ
The Diary of Petr Ginz 1941–1942
Edited by Chava Pressburger
Introduction by Jonathan Safran Foer

***Shards of Memory: Narratives of Holocaust Survival*, edited by Yehudi Lindeman, Praeger Publishers**

***The Diary of Petr Ginz 1941-1942*, edited by Chava Pressburger, Atlantic Monthly Press**

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The Canadian Jewish news

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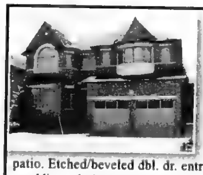

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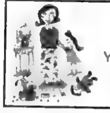

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Observant Jew survives Minneapolis bridge collapse

By JEREMY BRENINGSTALL

Special to The CJN

MINNEAPOLIS — A 20-year-old Torah Academy alumnus from Plymouth, Minn., who is trying to save a friend's life from cancer came face to face with his own life-threatening experience Aug. 1 during the I-35W bridge collapse in the Mississippi River.

Fortunately, he survived to tell the tale with only a few minor injuries.

At least eight people were killed in the Minneapolis bridge collapse and several dozen were injured.

Roman Koyrakh, whose family immigrated to the United States from Russia 18 years ago, was driving northbound in bumper-to-bumper traffic on his way to pick up his father from work on Aug. 1.

He had almost made it across the now infamous bridge when things suddenly began to "shift sideways" and he felt himself falling. For a moment, time seemed to stand still. Koyrakh said the *Shema* came into his head and he thought he was about to die.

The air bag popped open as his father's green Subaru Outback station wagon hit the water of the Mississippi River upside down. Water began to pour into the car, but Koyrakh realized he was still alive.

"This is when I finally had my moment of panic," Koyrakh said, recalling the incident in a phone interview.

He reached down to unfasten his seatbelt, pushed his car door against the current; exited the vehicle and pulled himself up through the water and onto a girder, a green support beam that was part of the wreckage.

> ***The first thing he saw was an SUV above his head***

The first thing he saw was an SUV above his head, held in place by the girder. An injured woman was in the car.

"Are you OK?" Koyrakh recalls asking. She was conscious, but Koyrakh, fearing that he would make her injuries worse, decided it would be best to await for professional help to arrive.

He then heard two people calling from a red and a silver car floating in the river, the same one later depicted in many news photos. By now the river was full of voices, but he couldn't hear what they were saying.

He jumped into the river and swam toward them. He began to feel shooting pains in his leg. He saw that their condition appeared stable and other people were arriving at the scene, so he returned to the shore.

At that point, given his own physical condition, "I realized there was nothing I could do," Koyrakh said.

Walking up the street dazed and feeling very lucky, he said the *Shema* again. He borrowed a phone and called his parents to let them know he was all right.

Koyrakh was later taken by ambulance to an area hospital, where he received stitches on his face.

During a talk at Bais Yisroel in St. Louis Park, Minn., on a Shabbat since the bridge collapse, Rabbi Moshe Tuvia Lieff noted that Koyrakh's life was saved at a time when he had been working to help a friend finance surgery to assist in his battle against bone cancer.

While Koyrakh had to face a momentary danger, he said his own situation doesn't compare to his friend's, who is fighting for his life every day.

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Lorne Rubenstein - Canada's premiere golf writer

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The *Globe and Mail's* seasoned golf columnist, Lorne Rubenstein, was stunned to hear last winter that he would be inducted into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame.

"It was unexpected," he said. "I had no idea I was under consideration. It never entered my mind."

Observers of the game, however, were hardly surprised.

Rubenstein, 59, is Canada's pre-eminent golf writer, having been the founding editor of *ScoreGolf* magazine, a *Globe and Mail* freelancer for the past 27 years, a contributor to major Canadian and American periodicals and the author and co-author of nearly a dozen books.

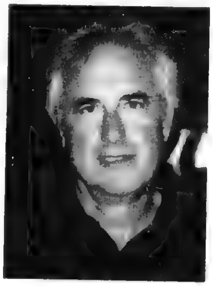
"I'm pleased that the Royal Canadian Golf Association – the governing body of golf in Canada and the operator of the hall of fame– considered me worthy," said Rubenstein, who was officially inducted, along with amateur champion Mary Ann Lapointe, this past June in a ceremony at Maple Downs Golf and Country Club in Maple, Ont.

With his induction, Rubenstein came full circle. His first job in golf, in 1976, was as curator of the RCGA's library, museum and hall of fame at the Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville, Ont.

To the best of his knowledge, he is the first Jewish-born writer, and only the second journalist, to be named to the hall of fame. Dick Grimm, a convert to Judaism, and the late Ralph Reville, an early 20th century editor, preceded him.

To Rubenstein, his selection clearly means that the RCGA recognizes the need for fair commentary in golf.

The current editor of *ScoreGolf*, Bob Weeks, who nominated Rubenstein, said that his colleague and friend is a model writer noted for his insightful, comprehensive and balanced columns and stories.



Lorne Rubenstein
[Sheldon Kirshner photo]

As he put it at a banquet on the day Rubenstein was inducted into the hall of fame, "Lorne's writing is invigorating to read. You never get a tired story full of jargon or puff or cliches. You get a story that is genuinely crafted and wisely thought out, never slapped together."

Rubenstein, whose role model is the late American sports writer Herbert Warren Wind, never imagined that his life's work would revolve around golf.

Although he started playing at the age of 11, and was a caddy and a competitive golfer shortly afterward, he seemed destined for a career in academia.

"I just fell into golf," he said in an interview earlier this month after returning from a tournament in Britain.

Born and raised in Toronto, Rubenstein is a reasonably good golfer who has won a number of tournaments, notably the Hulbert Memorial Pro-Junior in 1964, the Eastern Ontario Amateur in 1972 and the Golf Writers Association of America championship in 1984.

In 1985, he was a member of Canada's Maccabiah Games team, which placed third.

Rubenstein's father, Percy, a professional football player for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the 1940s and later the owner of an automotive supply store, introduced him to golf at the Don Valley course. "It kind of went from there."

Rubenstein was drawn to the introspective aspects of the game, and as an avid reader who still likes to frequent libraries whenever possible, he immersed himself in its rich literature and lore.

As a boy, he studied at Talmud Torah and Associated, and while completing an undergraduate degree at York University where he wrote a paper on the psychology of golf, he caddied for Bob Dickson, a United States and British Amateur winner.

In 1972, he spent six weeks as a volunteer on a seaside kibbutz next to Israel's only golf course in Caesarea.

Returning to Canada, Rubenstein finished an master's degree in psychology at the University of Guelph. "My plan was to complete a doctorate at York University," he said.

But then, thanks to a friend's tip, he applied for a position at the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame, where he organized its memorabilia. "That got me into golf." While working there, he began writing for the Canadian Open program.

In 1979, after having caddied for two-time Canadian Amateur champion Jim Nelford, he published his first magazine piece, The Psychology of the Swing, in Toronto. "I never actually sat down and decided to to be a golf writer."

It just happened.

While caddying for Nelford, Rubenstein asked Cec Jennings, the sports editor of the *Globe and Mail*, whether he would be interested in a story about golf from a caddy's point of view. Since then, Rubenstein has churned out more than 2,500 columns and stories and covered about 400 to 500 tournaments.

Rubenstein was never interested in becoming a member of the *Globe*'s staff. "It has worked out well as it is. I've always enjoyed my freedom."

As a columnist, he has travelled widely, sometimes with his wife Nell Waldman, a retired community college English teacher whom he married in 1992. "Golf has been a passport to the world for me."

One of his hardest-hitting columns, published on Feb. 16, 1989, turned on prejudice. Ken Fulton, the head pro at the Scarboro Golf and Country Club, had just been hired by the Oakdale Golf and Country Club, whose membership is mainly Jewish. At a dinner in Fulton's honour, some stereotypical comments about Jews were made. In disgust, Rubenstein left and proceeded to file a column in which he noted that there is "a thin line between satire and bigotry."

Apart from the *Globe* and *ScoreGolf*, he writes or has written for *Golf Illustrated*, *Golf World*, *Golf Digest*, *Toronto Life* and *Maclean*'s. On the Internet, he contributes to Golf Observer.com.

He has appeared frequently on the Golf Channel, and until two years ago, co-hosted the *Acura World of Golf*.

A relatively prolific author, Rubenstein's books range from *Seasons in a Golfer's Life* (with Jim Nelford) and *A Season in Dornoch* to *Mike Weir: The Road to the Masters* and *A Disorderly Compendium of Golf* (with Jeff Neuman), his latest.

Not surprisingly, he is on friendly terms with some of the greats, including Mike Weir, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson, Nick Price and David Leadbetter.

A member of five golf clubs in Ontario, Scotland and Ireland, he spends winters at his home in Jupiter, Fla., with his wife. "We've been going down there for many years, and we're very lucky we can do that."

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The death of Yiddish

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

New Views

I first came across the work of Michael Chabon seven years ago when I saw *Wonder Boys*, the film adaptation of his 1995 novel of the same name. At the time, I thought the story and its protagonist were thinly veiled reworkings of Philip Roth's recurring Nathan Zuckerman. Zuckerman and *Wonder Boys'* Grady Tripp, both neurotic, sex- and drug-addicted novelists, are the sort of characters, I suspect, that most writers swear they'll never turn into, but in some very dark spot, fantasize they might be able to actually pull off.

Chabon is best known for his Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* (2000), a historical novel about the two young Jews, Sammy Clay and Joe Kavalier, who built a comic book empire in the late 1930s. His new novel, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, by contrast, takes place outside history. In fact, starting from two real events – the Holocaust and the 1948 establishment of Israel – the story veers off into an entirely new vision of the past 60 years of Jewish history.

As Chabon imagines it, after the fall of Israel in 1948 (he leaves that unexplained), the United States offered Jewish refugees of Europe a federal district to call their own in Alaska. (Chabon grabs another piece of real history here: then-U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt proposed just such an idea in the late 1930s.) The fictional district of Sitka, Alaska, has been home to transplanted European Jews for the last 60 years. All types of Jews – Chassidim, Zionists, enlightened and unaffiliated atheists live in Sitka, where the presiding language and culture is Yiddish – just what you'd expect if European Jewry had never crossed the ocean.

The novel is a tribute to 1940s noir crime capers: Meyer Landsman, the depressed, alcoholic homicide detective, and Berko Shemets, his straight-guy sidekick, stumble through the Sitka underworld to solve the murder of a strung-out heroin addict who, it turns out, is the brilliant son of the Verbover Rebbe, head of a fictional sect of crooked Chassidim.

They battle a police bureaucracy that insists on ignoring the file and uncover a joint U.S.-Verbov plan to incite an Arab civil war in the former Israel (the first step in a scheme to reclaim Israel for the Jews). The story is well done and the characters are true to their genre.

But the novel's real kick is the wild image of European Jews and their offspring living in Alaska, speaking Yiddish in the year 2007. It's unthinkable, and, yet, so easily imagined.

Writing in the current issue of *Commentary*, Ruth R. Wisse, a distinguished Harvard University professor of Yiddish literature, argues that Chabon reinforces old stereotypes of the European Jew, who is a "harmless refugee… unless and until he fatally conspires to resettle the land of Israel." She also takes aim at Chabon's "sophomoric" Yiddishisms: "Chabon's japes are geared to those who know… as little as he does about European Jewry and its historic language."

Wisse nails Chabon perfectly, but she misses the point. The Yiddish in-jokes in *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* are indeed juvenile: when one of the novel's characters tells a second to "go take a *shitt* in the lake," younger, westernized Jews can appreciate the reference. But, when it comes to the difference between calling a Sitka neighbourhood *Shvartsn Yam* or *Shvartser Yam*, (Chabon uses the former, while Wisse contends the latter is linguistically correct), the same crowd – the crowd that will read this novel – couldn't care less.

For better or worse, Chabon's version is the future of Yiddish language and culture. European-style Jewry is dying – that way of life hasn't been a reality for 60 years (except in some small circles), and most of the people who lived it are dead.

For Wisse and some children of Holocaust survivors, that doesn't sit well. For everyone else, Chabon's cheeky, imperfect Yiddish will suffice. The jokes and personalities will live on, but the rest will be gone and probably forgotten soon enough.

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Salt and pepper

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Salsa: 2 cups fresh pineapple, cut into small chunks
1 small red onion, diced
1 cup fresh cilantro, minced
1/4 cup of extra virgin olive oil
Zest & juice of 1 lime

Put pineapple, red onion and cilantro into a medium-sized bowl. Add lime zest, juice & oil. Toss well; let flavours mingle at least 1/2 hr. before serving.

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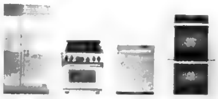

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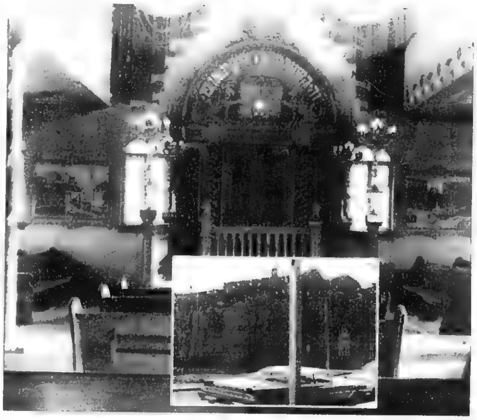
BERKELEY STREET SYNAGOGUE

By BILL GLADSTONE



"This is the gate of God, the Righteous shall enter through it," reads the Hebrew inscription from the *Hallel* prayer (Psalm 118) above the holy ark in the former Berkeley Street Synagogue, south of Queen Street in east-end Toronto. The congregation started in a house on the street and built the shul during World War I. It opened in 1918. As seen in these 1950s-era photographs, a Talmud Torah was later added in back. Eventually, most Jews disappeared from the neighbourhood and the synagogue – officially known as B'nai Israel Hamizrachim, or the Eastern Children of Israel – was bulldozed to make way for the Moss Park housing project.

[Ontario Jewish Archives]

Teaching our kids through Harry Potter

By RICHARD S. GELLER
Heritage Florida Jewish News

Guest Voice

I read to my kids almost every night. When Hannah reached first grade, tired of Dr. Seuss, we began reading *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. The story hooked us instantly into a world of witches, wizards, and "Muggles" (non-magical people). By the end of first grade, Hannah had developed such a love of reading, that she was devouring thousands of pages by herself. Like millions of other children, thanks to Harry Potter, reading remains one of Hannah's passions.

A decade after Harry Potter first appeared, many agree that J.K. Rowling has created one of the most enduring works in English literature. The stories are imaginative, complex and entertaining even to adults. The main characters resonate with our children because they seem like normal kids, who develop deep friendships, find courage in their shared adventures and seek a sense of belonging.

On the evil side, Rowling taps into the history of Nazi Germany. She divided the magical world into "pure-bloods" (no Muggles in the bloodline), "half-bloods" (one magical parent and one Muggle parent), and, to underscore the nonsense of it all, children born with magical abilities, but with no magical lineage whatsoever.

The series' heroine, Hermione, born to Muggles, is the Hogwarts School's hardest-working and most talented student. However, that doesn't stop her and Harry's "pure-blood" nemesis, the bigoted Draco Malfoy, from taunting her as a "mudblood."

Rowling also created a Hitler-like antagonist, Voldemort, who rallies his SS-like "Death Eaters" on notions of preserving their "pure-blood" heritage. Draco, who eventually joins the Death Eaters, threatens of the coming genocide in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, "I warned you!… They'll be the first to go, now the Dark Lord's back! mudbloods and Muggle-lovers first!"

Hitler entered into alliances with "non-Aryans," including Soviet Russia (temporarily), imperial Japan and the Arab mufti of Jerusalem. To gain power, Voldemort similarly allies himself with those bearing no resemblance to the "pure-blood" ideal, including a werewolf, giants and ghoulish cloaked monsters known as "Dementors." Ironically, Voldemort himself is a half-blood, born to a Muggle father.

Reminiscent of Hitler's "1,000-year Reich," Voldemort seeks to remain in power forever, by using a dark magical spell to achieve immortality. In the Harry Potter movies, actor Ralph Fiennes, the sadistic camp commander of *Schindler's List*, is perfectly cast as Voldemort.

The latest film and fifth book, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, presents a naive government known as the "Ministry of Magic," which refuses to believe Harry's eyewitness account of Voldemort's return. Harry reminds one of early death camp escapees, disbelieved by those in power, by the press and even by soon-to-be victims. Harry is mocked, playing the role of Moshe the Beadle, who escaped the Nazis and warned the villagers at the beginning of Elie Wiesel's autobiography, *Night*.

Dumbledore, headmaster of Hogwarts, who does believe Harry, is reminiscent of British prime minister Winston Churchill's lone voice in the 1930s warning of Hitler. Rowling creates uncanny parallels to 1930s European leaders, who would not believe Hitler's true intentions and capabilities. Harry himself is an average wizard, with average grades, humble, and yet, out of love for his friends and vengeance for his parents' murders, finds courage to fight Voldemort despite bleak odds. Harry is not unlike the orphans who rose against the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto.

Hannah just turned eight, and wanting to shelter her from our cruel history, I haven't had the heart to teach her about what happened to her eastern European relatives, left behind by her great-grandparents who immigrated to America. When the time comes to teach her about the deathly Holocaust, J.K. Rowling will have made my burden easier.

Richard S. Geller is an attorney who lives in Orlando, Fla.

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This Week

National

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Wiesenthal report shows increase in hate websites. ***Page 6***

Community Focus

Keeping green in our own community. ***Section B***

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Israel to aid Holocaust survivors

By ANSHEL PFEFFER
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JERUSALEM — In a meeting with representatives of Holocaust survivors, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert agreed to allocate NIS 100 million (about $25.2 million Cdn) next year for medical and nursing-care benefits to survivors living in Israel.

In addition, he said the survivors would enjoy municipal tax discounts, an exemption from the television tax and NIS 30 million ($7.56 million) in vacation and convalescence benefits.

The meeting with representatives of the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors was held this past Sunday, the deadline set by Olmert for settling the demands of Holocaust survivors who had protested a government plan to grant them just $20 a month in subsidies.

Government will allocate about $25.2 million (Cdn)

The funds allotted for convalescence and for medical and nursing-care benefits, which will be distributed by the Holocaust Survivors' Welfare Fund, will double in 2009.

Olmert refused, however, to grant benefits to survivors who fled Nazi-controlled territory and were not placed in concentration camps or ghettos, saying that to do so would be to create an "ethnic gap" between European Holocaust survivors and elderly Israelis who fled persecution in other countries, such as Iraq.

"I don't doubt for even one moment the distress of those who fled from countries where the Nazis were, and they are survivors of the Nazi occupation," Olmert said, adding, however, that "I am not disregarding those who fled from the enemies of Israel – the Persians, the Moroccans, the Tunisians and the Syrians."

Noah Flug, who heads the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, told Olmert that two-thirds of Holocaust survivors from Poland managed to flee eastward during the Nazi occupation. He said most international groups and foreign governments – and previously, the Israeli government – have recognized such refugees as survivors in every way.

The government negotiators were initially considering granting benefits to those who fled Nazi-controlled territory, but changed their position in face of opposition from the Finance Ministry's budget division.

The ministry said financial problems relating to such survivors should instead be resolved within the context of a solution for all needy elderly Israelis. The National Economics Council is due to come up with such a solution by mid-September.

The Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors is aiming to

Continued on page 26

D'oh! Simpsons writer saves the day

By SHERRY SMITHER
Special to The CJN

The world is coming to an end, and someone must save the day. Will it be Superman, Batman, X-Man or the Fantastic Four?

No, it's Homer Simpson to the rescue. D'oh? Well, don't be surprised – Homer created the problem. Now, that's not surprising.

"Homer has slipped up a couple of times," says Joel Cohen, a senior writer and a co-executive producer for *The Simpsons*.

Look at the mess Homer gets himself into in the newly released *The Simpsons Movie,* created by a team of writers that includes Cohen.

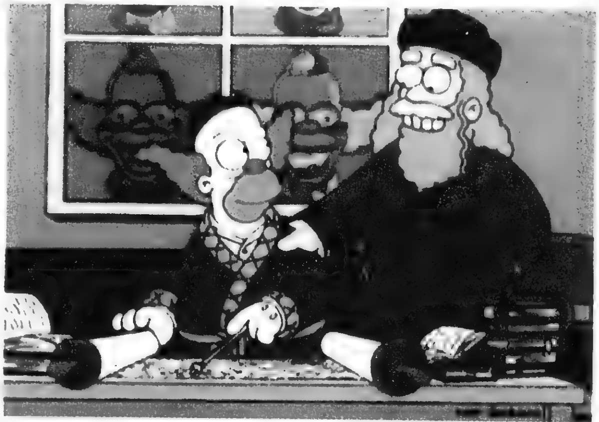
When Homer's pet pig's droppings, kept in a leaky silo, turn the townspeople into an angry mob, he's forced to leave Springfield with his wife, Marge, and his children, Bart, Lisa and Maggie. More trouble's on the way as President Schwarzenegger gets the Environmental Protection Agency involved. Homer is left to fend for himself, embarking on a personal journey to right the wrongs.

Cohen, 39, originally from Calgary, says the movie took four years to make. because "the animation process takes a long time, and there's lots of writing.

"First there were 11 writers, later others from the show joined on," he adds.

The same holds true for the hit television series *The Simpsons,* which recently celebrated its 400th show and 18th season.

Continued on page 31



Joel Cohen is responsible for some of *The Simpsons'* most popular episodes, including *Today I Am A Clown.* [*The Simpsons*™ and ©, 2007 20th Century Fox Film Corporation] All Rights Reserved.

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Israelis, Canadian Jews help Peru after earthquake — see page 26

The News in Brief

CANADA

City Honours Mirvish

TORONTO — Mayor David Miller declared Aug. 12 Ed Mirvish Day in Toronto as crowds thronged the streets outside the late entrepreneur's Honest Ed's store for to celebrate his life. Among those joining Miller at the tribute, which featured free entertainment and hot dogs, were Mirvish's wife Anne and son David, as well as Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and former Ontario lieutenant-governor Lincoln Alexander. Mirvish died July 11 at 92.

Wiesel Speaks

CALGARY — Lawyers must guard against apathy in the face of evil and beware the justice system being corrupted to support injustice, Nobel laureate, author and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel told a legal convention in Calgary last week. Wiesel gave the keynote address Aug. 12 at the opening of the Canadian Bar Association's annual conference. Noting that many lawyers stood by as Hitler made plans to kill Europe's Jews, he cautioned against being indifferent to current injustices at home and globally.

WORLD

Prof In Tenure Fight

NEW YORK — More than 800 people signed a petition to deny tenure to a Barnard College professor accused of being anti-Israel. Nadia Abu El-Haj, an assistant professor of anthropology, wrote a book, *Facts on the Ground*, that attacks Israeli archeology, arguing it produces knowledge to support Israel's foundational myths and is thus complicit in state "crimes" against Palestinians. Paula Stern, a 1982 Barnard graduate who started the petition, says El-Haj's scholarship is shoddy and her claims unsupported.

Birthright Gets Gift

JERUSALEM — The Adelson Family Charitable Foundation donated some $30 million (US) to birthright israel for next year's trips. The gift brings the total pledged to birthright by the foundation to nearly $60 million. The latest gift will help end long waiting lists that have resulted from birthright's popularity. In February, the foundation gave $25 million to birthright, allowing for twice as many trips to Israel this summer by Jews 18 to 26. Some 32,000 applications, a record, were received from North America for some 19,000 spaces this summer. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson gave $5 million to birthright in December, enabling those on the waiting list to go on winter trips. Birthright israel honoured the Adelsons Aug. 12 in Jerusalem.

Assailant Apologizes

SAN FRANCISCO — The man who accosted Elie Wiesel in a San Francisco hotel apologized last week in court. Wiesel, a Shoah survivor and Nobel laureate, was on the witness stand recounting what he called his most harrowing ordeal since World War II when Eric Hunt blurted out, "I'm terribly sorry about what happened." Wiesel said he wasn't sure the apology by Hunt, 23, of New Jersey, was sincere. "I expected it," Wiesel said. "I'm a novelist. I imagine situations. This is something a character would do. It's clever, very clever." Hunt admitted he travelled 3,000 miles to California to get Wiesel to admit the Shoah didn't occur. He's charged with six felonies, including attempted kidnapping, battery and stalking, in connection with the Feb. 1 incident, when he approached Wiesel in an elevator at a conference. Hunt was arrested three weeks later after posting an account of the incident on an anti-Semitic website.

War Criminal Denied Bail

VANCOUVER — Convicted Nazi war criminal Michael Seifert was denied bail last week as he seeks to appeal a ruling earlier this month to have him extradited to Italy, where he faces a life sentence.

B.C. Court of Appeal Judge Jo-Ann Prowse said public confidence in the justice system would be undermined if he were freed while seeking leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. Prowse said he's unlikely to succeed, because his grounds for appeal are "frivolous" or "weak."

On Aug. 3, the B.C. Court of Appeal upheld a ruling that Seifert, 83, be extradited for killings he committed in 1944 and 1945, during World War II.

In 2000, Seifert, who once worked in a B.C. lumber mill and lives in East Vancouver, was convicted in absentia by an Italian military court for the rape, torture and murder of nine people at a Nazi concentration transit camp near the Italian town of Bolzano, where he served as an SS prison guard. Italian courts upheld the ruling, and he's been fighting extradition since his arrest here in 2002.

Seifert, who came to Canada in 1951 and became a citizen, was said to be so cruel that he was dubbed the "Beast of Bolzano." The Ukrainian-born Seifert admits to being at the camp, but denies taking part in the killings.

If his appeal is denied, Seifert could be extradited quickly, as he would be out of legal options.

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Torontonians help beleaguered Israeli city

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Yehoshua Weber and members of Clanton Park Synagogue raised $36,000 this summer for a transportable bomb shelter so that they could help residents of Sderot in a concrete way.

The beleaguered Israeli city is using the shelter outside a day-care centre run by Re'ut (a non-profit organization that serves social and educational needs). The town has been subject to Qassam rocket attacks from nearby Gaza for seven years, and the attacks were stepped up this spring.

Operation Lifeshield, the organization that provided the shelter, honoured the rabbi and the synagogue, which has about 230 member families, at a dedication ceremony in Sderot last month.

In a test run, the children were able to get from the outdoor play area into the shelter in less than 15 seconds, according to information from Operation Lifeshield.

Morris Sosnovitch, who chaired the shul's six-week fundraising campaign following a Shabbat sermon by the rabbi on the need to help, said he thinks the idea struck a chord. "We could actually make a difference in people's lives," said Sosnovitch, who was in Sderot two years ago for his nephew's wedding. "We could save lives in the event of an attack, and I think that really spoke to people."

From left, Shmuel Bowman of Operation Lifeshield, Yechiel Colman and Rabbi Yehoshua Weber, both from Clanton Park Synagogue, hold a plaque at the dedication of a new transportable bomb shelter in Sderot, Israel.

At the dedication, which took place in front of the children's centre, congregants Yechiel Colman, and Bobby and Sharon Silberstein and their children joined the rabbi. The shelter was dedicated in memory of the synagogue's founders.

Colman said Sderot was quiet the day of the dedication and "absolutely beautiful. It's a small town, with very nice-looking homes from the outside, a commercial centre, a residential area, shops."

He was enthusiastic about the donation, noting that the shelter could be on site within two days of the organization's receiving funds. He also said he would urge other synagogues to contribute funds for such shelters, but he was critical of the Israeli government, which, he said, "has not properly stepped up to the plate.

"It is essential in my view that the government of Israel take positive steps to prevent the Qassams coming over in the first place. Can you imagine if the FLQ became more active and started sending missiles into Ottawa or any Ontario town?

"Providing these shelters, while commendable, is not a long-term solution."

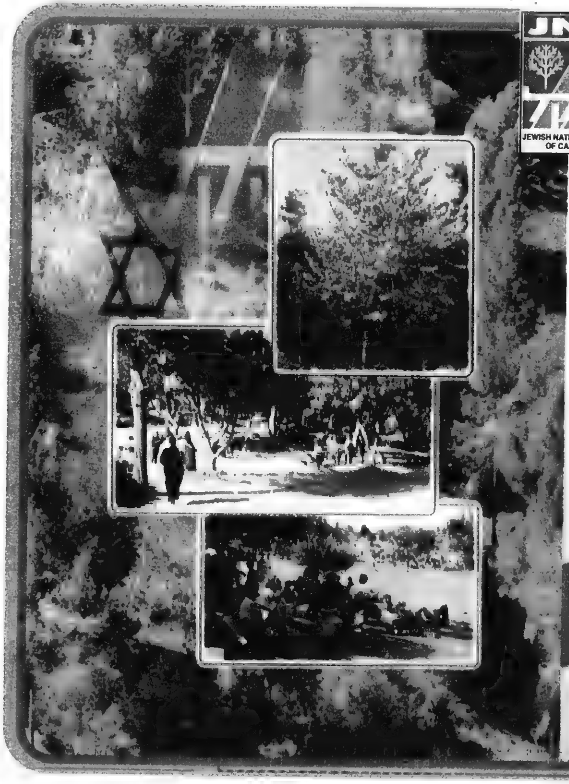
Colman noted that for about half the price of the shelter, the organization offers bus shelters "that provide a great deal of protection. You don't have that many seconds after the warning goes off."

Other organizations have also made Sderot a priority. UJA Federation of Greater Toronto donated $1 million in emergency funds earlier this year, and it has raised $180,000 for Sderot youth in an ongoing campaign to collect further funds. "It is an important priority," said federation spokesperson Howard English.

The Reform movement and the Orthodox Union (OU) have also launched fundraising campaigns for the Negev town.

The Canadian Reform movement has donated "quite a bit" to the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism – the Israeli Reform movement – for its emergency relief efforts, said Rabbi Sharon Sobel, executive director of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism & ARZA Canada. Last fall, her office sent $75,000 to help rebuild northern Israel after the Lebanon war last summer.

Continued on page 7



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Jerusalem, endless enigma

From the editor's desk

It is not clear whether the 40th anniversary earlier this summer of the reunification of Jerusalem had an impact on the findings of the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies' (JIIS) annual poll regarding the place and importance of Jerusalem as a factor in the strength of State of Israel and the image of the city in the eyes of the Jewish public.

The findings, however, were unequivocal.

- A clear majority of the Jewish public (92 per cent in 2007, 95 per cent in 2006) believe that it is important or very important to maintain a large Jewish majority in Jerusalem.
- An equally impressive 81 per cent of the Jewish public (up from 77 per cent in 2006) believe that Jerusalem with a clear Jewish majority contributes to the national strength of the State of Israel;
- But 54 per cent of Jerusalemites felt the capital is more and more a city of the haredim, as compared to 65 per cent of the rest of the residents of Israel who felt that way.

Last week, the institute released the findings of a companion poll, of sorts, concerning Jerusalem that are a bit difficult to reconcile with the results of the earlier poll.

As reported in *Ha'aretz*, the study dealt with projections of the city's future demographics in order to make determinations about the types of local community councils that would promote the best local governance in the city.

The study was funded by the Association of Community Centres, which is a strong proponent of the notion that the city works best when citizens are given the opportunity to become involved in local councils to find solutions to unique local problems. Preferably, the local councils should reflect the composition and concerns of the people who live in the area.

Setting aside the report's conclusions regarding the optimum configuration of local community councils that will correlate best to the city's demographics, it is the substance of those as-yet-unkown demographics that draws our immediate attention.

Ha'aretz described the study as providing "a glimpse into the future of Jerusalem neighbourhoods."

"According to the study's authors, most people in the capital are not Zionists; they are either Arab or ultra-Orthodox. Furthermore, for the first time, there are signs that the city's secular middle class is moving to the suburbs.

The study points out that the rapid growth of the haredi population is pushing the ultra-Orthodox communities into secular neighbourhoods of the city."

As well, "since the construction of the separation fence, some Arab families have moved into Jewish neighbourhoods, particularly in the northern parts of the city where rents are relatively low."

Thus, it may indeed be true that a vast majority of Israel's Jews want Jerusalem to retain its strong Jewish majority. However, it is likely equally as true that Jerusalem's Jewish majority is evolving into a haredi one.

For a number of reasons, including financial, economic, social and educational, secular and even sizable numbers of modern Orthodox Jews are leaving the city for outside Jerusalem, albeit neighbouring communities.

Are we witnessing a character transformation of Israel's capital? Are the city's many famous diverse neighbourhoods headed to a kind of socio-religious homogeneity that will mark the end of their distinctiveness?

It is difficult to look to Jerusalem's recent past for any certainty about its demographic future. Much like the mysterious metaphysics and sometimes otherworldliness of the city, its future, quite obviously, is still an enigma.

By contrast, however, the city's past has been one of the most chronicled of any city on earth. For a superb elucidation of Jerusalem's recent past, I recommend *Beyond the Wall: Chapters on Urban Jerusalem* by Heike Zaun-Goshen.

Zaun-Goshen, a writer and translator who lives in the Jerusalem area, walks with the reader through some the city's delightful, interesting and wonderfully eccentric neighbourhoods, each its own community of characters and character.

Her work does not generally delve further back than the last century and a half when, as the author points out, Jerusalemites began to move "beyond the wall." Urban changes were set in motion that would result in Jerusalem developing "from a sleepy, provincial one-horse town somewhere in the Turkish empire into today's complex modern city."

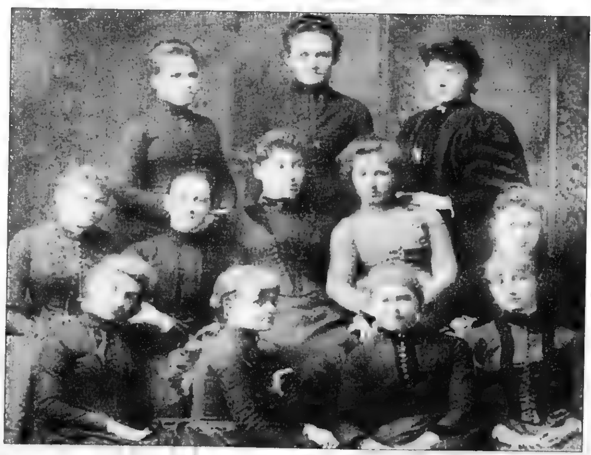
Well-researched and rich in detail, the book is aimed primarily at the lay reader. Its language is smooth and inviting. The history it tells is always informative and thought-provoking. The book also has the added benefit of a one-page foreword written by Teddy Kollek. It was probably one of the very last messages on Jerusalem written by the late mayor before he passed away.

Anyone familiar with the streets and the neighbourhoods of Jerusalem will delight at the opportunity Zaun-Goshen provides us to learn about their origins and their engaging idiosyncrasies.

* * *

This column will be written next week in Jerusalem. – ***MBD***

SeeJN



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Jewish day school fees on the rise — again

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Students and parents at Toronto Jewish day schools may be starting to face back-to-school anxiety – students over the end of summer, and parents about lighter wallets.

Seymour Epstein

That's because Labour Day is just around the corner and tuition fees for grades 1 through 8 at Toronto's seven largest day schools have increased between three and eight per cent from 2006-07 to 2007-08, similar to last year's increases of four to eight per cent.

At the same schools, tuition for preschool and nursery school increased between three and 19 per cent.

The increases are once again higher than the annualized rate of inflation, which in June, the latest month for which data is available from the Bank of Canada, was 2.2 per cent.

Associated Hebrew Day Schools raised its fees for half-day nursery, junior and senior kindergarten by six per cent, from $4,825 to $5,100, and its full-day fees for the same grades by three per cent, from $9,650 to $9,950.

Tuition for grades 1 through 6 rose four per cent, from $10,250 to $10,700, and five per cent for grades 7 and 8, from $10,450 to $10,950.

Bialik Hebrew Day School saw a uniform increase of three per cent in fees for its half-day junior and senior kindergarten programs, as well as full-day kindergarten and grade 1 through 8.

In the 2006-07 school year, half-day enrolment cost $5,500, and this year costs $5,662.50. These fees are exactly half of the full-day fee, which was $11,000 last year and $11,325 this year. The fees include a $1,025 building fund payment, which has remained unchanged since last year.

Eitz Chaim Day School raised tuition by five per cent in grades 1 through 8, from $10,400 to $10,900. Half-day nursery school fees climbed five per cent as well, from last year's $2,900 to this year's $3,050. Full-day nursery school costs four per cent more at $3,800, up from $3,650.

Junior kindergarten at Eitz Chaim showed the largest tuition fee increase out of all the schools, jumping 19 per cent for half-day enrolment, from $2,900 to $3,450, and 17 per cent for full-day enrolment, at $4,200, up from $3,600 last year. Full-day senior kindergarten fees rose four per cent for the 2007-2008 school year, from last year's $6,950 to this year's $7,250.

Tuition at Leo Baeck Day School rose by six per cent for both the half-day nursery and junior kindergarten programs (to $5,225, up from $4,950) and for full-day senior kindergarten and grades 1 through 8 (to $10,450 from $9,990).

Parents of toddlers at Netivot HaTorah Day School's half-day nursery school will pay eight per cent more than last year, $3,125 instead of $2,900. Full-day nursery school costs seven per cent more at $8,140, compared to 2006-07's $7,635.

Half-day junior and senior kindergarten tuition is $5,570 this year, up eight per cent from last year's $5,160. Full-day kindergarten fees also rose eight per cent, from $9,805 to $10,585.

Grades 1 to 3 at Netivot HaTorah cost $11,310, eight per cent higher than last year's $10,480. Tuition fees for grades 4 through 8 also increased by eight per cent, from $10,680 to $11,540.

Netivot HaTorah is introducing an extended nursery program this year that runs until 2 p.m. It costs $5,633.

Tuition at the Toronto Heschel School rose five per cent for full-day junior kindergarten, from $9,300 to $9,800.

All other tuition fees increased by six per cent. Half-day junior kindergarten climbed from $5,300 to $5,600; senior kindergarten to grade 3 now costs $13,800, up from last year's $13,000; grades 4 to 5 is $14,000 this year, up from last year's $13,200; and grades 6 to 8 costs $14,300, up from $13,500.

The United Synagogue Day School increased nursery school tuition fees by 12 per cent, from $4,400 last year to $4,950 this year. Half-day preschool and full-day senior kindergarten both increased six per cent. The former costs $5,500, up from $5,200, and the latter $11,000, up from $10,400.

Tuition for grade 1 is up seven per cent, to $11,400 from $10,700, and fees for grades 2 to 8 are six per cent higher at $11,900, up from $11,200.

Fees were also raised by Toronto's two largest Jewish high schools. The Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto made headlines this spring with its 10 per cent increase in tuition fees. Tuition this fall is $17,150, up from $15,650 last year.

Fees at the Bnei Akiva high schools, Ulpanot Orot Girls' School and Yeshivat Or Chaim, are not far behind. The cost of tuition for the 2007-08 year climbed eight per cent from last year, to $16,900 from $15,650.

Seymour Epstein, senior vice-president of Jewish education for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the executive director of the Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education (the Mercaz) said schools make individual choices based on internal budgets, and the financial strain on families caused by high tuition fees will only be reduced when the provincial government funds Jewish schools.

Continued on page 6

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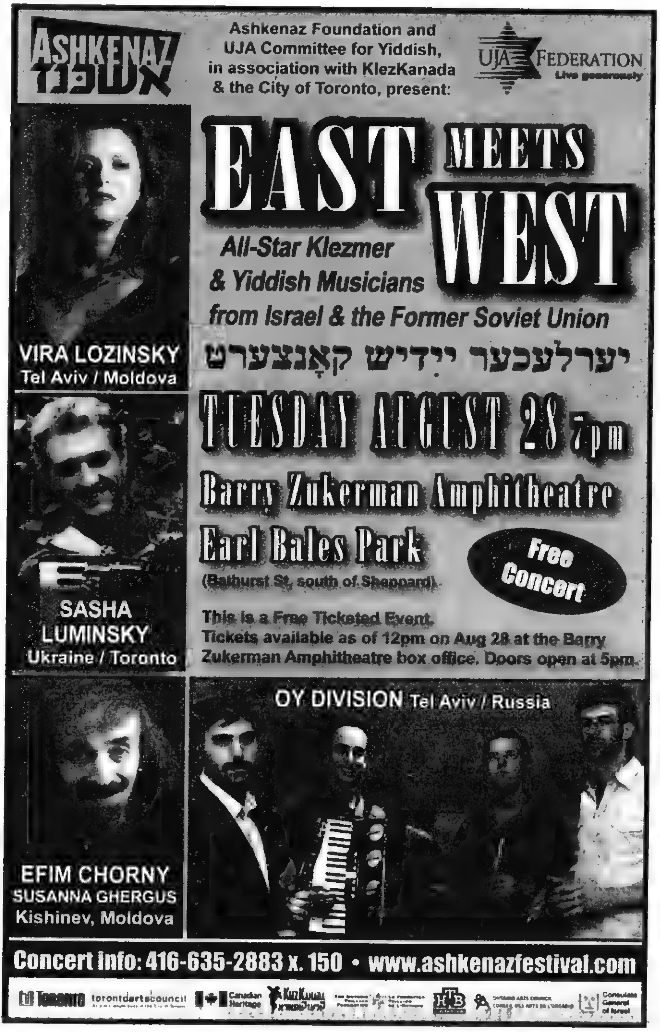

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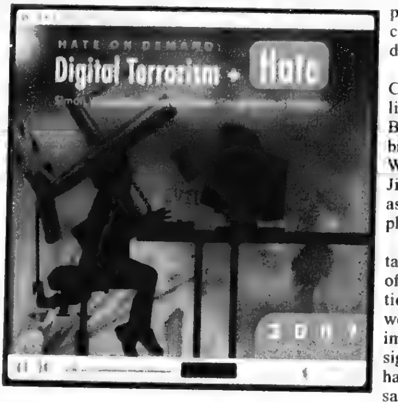
Online hate sites grow again, Wiesenthal report says

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The number of hate and terror-related sites on the Internet has increased to more than 7,000, the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center said at the recent release of its annual findings on online racism.

At an Aug. 10 news conference in Vancouver, Leo Adler, the Wiesenthal Center's director of national affairs, noted that the number of hate and terror sites worldwide is up almost 17 per cent – from about 6,000 – since the release of last year's report.

The Center's *Digital Terrorism and Hate 2007* CD-ROM – the latest in a series of electronic reports disseminated annually for the past decade to police, governments, educators and parents across Canada – is the result of work by the Wiesenthal Center's international team of researchers, who sifted through more than 25,000 sites to find the offending pages.



Adler called today's Internet climate one that "not only facilitates hate, violence and terrorism, its technological engines shape and even dictates tactics and trends deployed by groups committed to destroying our democratic values and multicultural societies."

He added that terrorist organizations continue to use the Internet to "recruit young people into their culture of death."

This year's CD-ROM highlights two British Columbia websites, BC White Pride and Jihad Unspun, as prime examples of web hate.

It also contains hundreds of samples of articles, videos, web pages and images, all designed to spread hateful messages against Jews, Israel, America and a hodgepodge of other groups.

It also includes two flash movies that trace "the evolution of how hate… groups have manipulated the web to promote their agendas."

Presented in English, French and Spanish, *Digital Terrorism and Hate 2007* allows users to search and read up on hate sites by region, strategy, group and a plethora of sub-headings.

The content is overwhelming and often sobering.

Of the 7,000 sites found this year, Adler estimates that 60 per cent are "terrorist related" and focus exclusively on Israel, Jews and the West.

"The overwhelming majority [of sites] have always been anti-Semitic in various forms," he said. "But there are sites that are homophobic, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim… it's very democratic. Nobody is left out. There's a hate group [for] everybody."

Leo Adler

Just two days after the CD's launch, a tip from the Calgary Police Service alerted the Wiesenthal Center to yet another website, called the "Aryan Guard," after Calgary authorities discovered leaflets advertising the site inside some of the city's free weekly newspapers and posted around town.

The site was registered in July and put on a U.S.-based server by Bill Noble, who is well-known to the Center for his racist views and publications.

Noble is currently awaiting trial in B.C. on charges of wilful promotion of hatred, stemming from an Wiesenthal-filed complaint against him in 2004.

"Noble has begun to re-acquaint himself among global racists… in recent weeks," Adler said. "His new on-line initiatives are cause for great concern and vigilance by Canadians."

Though many hate sites are aimed at Canadians, most are hosted on U.S. servers, which makes it difficult to prosecute their authors due to U.S. First Amendment rights, Adler told *The CJN*.

But any time a hate site is found on a Canadian server, the Center will contact the server host, and most times the site will be taken down.

Still, the increase in sites worries Adler.

"Twelve years ago, there was only one site. The increase isn't unusual given that the Internet is spreading," he said. "People are becoming more sophisticated in being able to [set up hate sites]. You only need one person… and if he's sophisticated, he can make the site look good, obtain funding, get recruits and put his views across."

Adler said work on the 2008 version has already begun. "We never stop."

School director considers school fees to be low

Continued from page 5

David Prashker, director of Leo Baeck Day School, said he considers fees at all the Toronto day schools to be low, and added that the schools work very hard to keep them that way.

"We are so conscious of the number of people who want and need and deserve a Jewish education in the community, for whom high prices would simply exclude them. Huge efforts go into keeping tuition down," he said.

"My sense of those increases that have happened is that they are absolutely necessary to provide the core quality education that we are all trying to provide for our children."

Gail Baker, head of school at the Toronto Heschel School, said that "tuition fees are raised due to rising costs and also because our school, like other ones, does not usually turn students away because they can't afford the tuition. The cost of day school education is high and it is our culture to be as inclusive as possible."

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Interactive Torah program unique, founder says

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

A new interactive online Torah study program now being offered by Torah in Motion is a global first, says founder and leader Rabbi Jay Kelman.

The program, called e-TiM, for electronic Torah in Motion, features noted speakers and scholars from around the world whose lectures are broadcast live to subscribers via the web.

It's interactive because viewers can use a webcam to ask questions or participate in lectures if they choose to.

"While Internet learning has caught on and there are a number of Jewish organizations [using the Internet], I'm not aware of anyone else where [the program is] two-way interactive and video interactive and you don't have to go anywhere," Rabbi Kelman said.

"You can be in your pyjamas and learn with somebody who is in Israel."

He added: "The technology is amazing. Not only can you see and talk to the speaker, it's better than a live class. You can write questions into the screen. There's total interactivity between you and the speaker and you and the other people."

Torah in Motion is a Toronto-based modern Orthodox learning centre that has been offering lectures, courses and programming since 2001. E-TiM got started in 2006, but is making its grand debut this fall.

The lineup of classes is diverse in terms of both topics and speakers. Examples include two lectures on "The Mitzvah of Shofar: Its Nature and its Purpose" by Rabbi Adam Mintz and Rabbi Dov Linzer; a series on the "architects" of modern Orthodoxy by Rabbi Marc Shapiro; and a Midnight Midrash series starting in late October.

Rabbi Jay Kelman

Last year, Rabbi Kelman said, a variety of students signed up for e-TiM from across the globe, including from Canada, the United States, Israel, Australia and Germany. He hopes the roster will grow this year.

Eventually, Rabbi Kelman also wants to expand the program with lunchtime learning sessions and daily evening sessions. He is also working on having regular Torah in Motion programs broadcast live online.

Currently, only e-TiM classes are broadcast live. Participants can choose to be anonymous or to be actively involved. "Re-runs" can be heard again, but not seen, after the initial broadcast.

Sholom Eisenstat, a computer resource teacher for the York Region District School Board, calls himself the "technical brains" behind the e-TiM operation.

"It's basically a television station… but the interactive stuff is what's really unique here," Eisenstat said of the program.

For more information or to register, visit www.torahinmotion.org.

Reform members shopping in Sderot

Continued from page 3

This summer her office raised a more modest $3,400, including an anonymous donation of $1,000. She said the campaign is still ongoing and attributed the relatively low amount in part to people being away for the summer and, for some, having already donated to the federation's campaign.

On a trip to Israel in July, Rabbi Sobel, who travels to Israel twice a year, learned that members of a Reform synagogue there were helping in a different way, by travelling to Sderot to do their grocery shopping, thus helping the town's economy and providing moral support. "That, to me, was very moving," she said.

The Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism has hosted Sderot families for a weekend away, organized children's activities in Sderot, packed food parcels for the needy and hosted youngsters from Sderot as well as from kibbutzim on the Gaza border also suffering Qassam attacks at its summer camp.

Beth Avraham Yosef of Toronto was among the mostly American Orthodox congregations raising money for the OU's campaign. The synagogue, which raised more than $40,000, has also undertaken other projects for Sderot, including support for a hesder yeshiva there, said synagogue member Larry Zeifman.

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Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. One entry per person!

The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.
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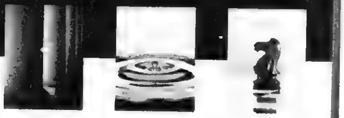

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Israel's northern front

The first anniversary marking the end of the Second Lebanon War passed quietly on Israel's northern front last week, a year to the day on Aug. 14 that a United Nations Security Council resolution went into effect. Resolution 1701, approved by Israel and Lebanon, ended 34 days of fighting that pitted Israel against Hezbollah, a Shiite Lebanese force supported by Iran and Syria.

Hezbollah, which regards the outcome of the war as a "divine victory," marked the anniversary with a bombastic rally in Beirut during which its spiritual leader, Hassan Nasrallah, told followers that, while he does not seek a second round, Hezbollah is in possession of rockets that can reach any point in Israel. Israeli Infrastructure Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer took his threat seriously. As he put it, "Nasrallah has never lied. He is cocky, he is arrogant, but at least from our experience with him, to my regret, what he has said, he has done." Lest we forget, Hezbollah fired nearly 4,000 Iranian- and Syrian-made rockets at Israeli military bases and population centres, causing civilian casualties and property damage of a calibre that far surpassed Iraq's bombardment of Israel with 39 Scud missiles in the 1991 Gulf War.

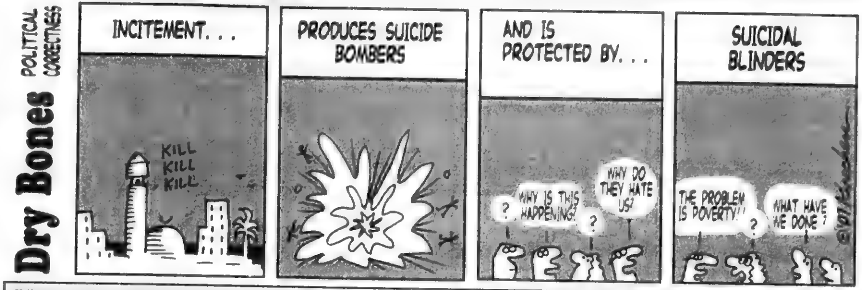
As these developments in Lebanon played out, the Golan Heights, captured by Israel from Syria in the 1967 Six Day War, remained tranquil, the ceasefire hammered out by the United States in the wake of the 1973 Yom Kippur War holding firm. With war jitters grating nerves, Israel and Syria sent conciliatory messages to each other. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said, "Israel is not interested in a war with Syria, but we are preparing for any eventuality." Striking a remarkably similar tone, Syria's vice-president, Farouk Shara, declared, "Israel knows that we do not wish for war," but he added that Syria can fall back on what he described as "other options." All things considered, then, a renewal of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, on the one hand, and Israel and Syria, on the other, seems unlikely at this moment. But the north remains a tinderbox that may yet explode should there be a miscalculation by either side.

Although Israel's military performance in last summer's war left much to be desired, and emboldened Hezbollah and its allies, Israel emerged with tactical gains. Hezbollah was dislodged from the Israeli border area, forced to deploy to positions north of the Litani River. Lebanese troops finally made their presence felt there for the first time in a generation. And the UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, was beefed up. Since Hezbollah can, therefore, no longer act with impunity, it has refrained from launching attacks on Israel. Viewed from this perspective, the UN truce has been effective. Yet dark clouds loom on the horizon, given that Resolution 1701 has been only partially implemented. Southern Lebanon has not been demilitarized, nor has Hezbollah been disarmed. Iran and Syria continue to replenish Hezbollah's arsenal, according to reports. The two Israeli soldiers abducted by Hezbollah on July 12, 2006, the incident that triggered the war, remain in captivity. When all these factors are considered, along with the recurring tensions that characterize Israel's uneasy relationship with Syria, one can safely say that the seething northern front is still a cause for concern for the Israeli government.

–S.K.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

PLO forces, crushed during the recent war in Lebanon, gradually left Beirut for havens throughout the Middle East. Meanwhile, Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin, the European Economic Community, the United Nations and U.S. officials all said they support diplomatic initiatives to solve the Palestinian question.



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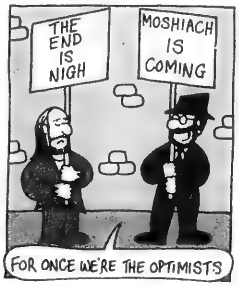
Palestinian goals

The left rejoiced after reports that the political platform of the new Palestinian government did not include the word "resistance," which was the Palestinian code word for terrorism against Israel ("New PA plank omits 'armed struggle,'" *CJN*, Aug. 2). This development, it was asserted, demonstrates once and for all that the "moderate" government of Palestinian Prime Minister Salem Fayad is a partner Israel can work with. But those claims were quickly deflated by none other than Fayad himself. Speaking to reporters in Cairo, Fayad reaffirmed that Palestinians have the right to use violence against Israel. "Resistance is a legitimate right for the Palestinian people," he said. Plain, simple and clear.



It should be obvious by now, even to the most obtuse leftist ideologue, that the only difference between "moderate" and "extreme" Palestinians is one of style, not substance. Their goals are the same, as are their tactics, and we do ourselves and our future a great disservice when we delude ourselves into thinking otherwise.

Izzy Kaplan
Vice-president
Toronto Zionist Council

* * *

Applying 'double standards' to Israel

Naomi Klein appears to be very upset with a comment by Paul Michaels in which he allegedly "denigrated" an op-ed piece by Klein criticizing Israel's defence industry ("Klein responds to Michaels," *CJN* letter, Aug. 2). The piece appeared in several left-wing papers around the world, including Vancouver's *Georgia Straight*. Klein's explanation is that it only was a "much-abridged version of a chapter" in her upcoming book, *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise Of Disaster Capitalism*, describing a "global phenomenon," the growing military industry around the world.

Unfortunately, her excuse is entirely disingenuous. The chapter she chose for her widely distributed article solely dealt in very harsh terms with Israel, to the exclusion of all other countries involved in the trade of weapons, compared to whom Israel is a minor player.

In 2005, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, on behalf of the European Union, drafted a definition of anti-Semitism that states, in part, that "examples of ways in which anti-Semitism manifests itself with regard to the State of Israel, taking in account the overall context could include… applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected and demanded of any other democratic nation."

Jack Chivo
West Vancouver

* * *

Klein has different standard for Israel

I find it curious that Naomi Klein considers it threatening that Israel provides telecommunications equipment to police departments in the United States, but then she has a different standard for Israel than for any other country ("Klein responds to Michaels," *CJN* letter, Aug. 2).

Klein quotes former U.S. president Dwight Eisenhower's oft-repeated warning about the "military industrial complex." Many years before Eisenhower's warning, the Russian Communist Vladimir Lenin described leftists in the West as "useful idiots."

Israel Unger
Fredericton

* * *

New interest in Yiddish

In my small, close circle of friends, there is a phenomenon occurring. Where once children of Holocaust survivors may have joined the rest of the crowd and made fun of Yiddish accents, more and more of these same children, who are losing their parents to old age, suddenly hear ourselves inserting Yiddish words here and there more and more often. We even find themselves singing Yiddish songs that our late parents used to sing to us as children. We sing these songs with tears in our eyes. Personally, I found it so very touching when, after my father passed away last October, my 24-year-old daughter went on the Internet and listened to Yiddish songs her zaide sang to her when she was little.

Vardit Zafri
Toronto

* * *

Comment applied to gov't position

The CJN in the article "Federal court denies Jerusalem, Israel, designation" (July 19) states: "In an interview with *The CJN*, David Matas, Veffer's Winnipeg-based lawyer, called the court's ruling 'facetious and nonsensical.'"

While, in that interview, I did use the phrase "facetious and nonsensical," I applied that phrase to the position of the government, not to the ruling of the court.

David Matas
Winnipeg

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Knesset should protect JNF land

Bill would permit gov't to continue current practice

**By MORTON A. KLEIN
AND IRWIN HOCHBERG**

Israel's democratically elected Knesset is right to be pushing forward with a bill reaffirming that all lands belonging to the Jewish National Fund should continue to be leased to Jews in accordance with terms of the organization's charter.

Critics of the measure, which the Knesset recently approved 64 to 16 in the bill's first reading, misconceive the function and purpose of the JNF, a body funded by private donations to purchase and develop land for Jewish settlement. The critics do not seem to understand that JNF land is private land, not state-owned public land.

For more than 100 years, Jews from around the world put their small change and small bills into the well-known blue-and-white JNF boxes in homes, schools and synagogues. Jews understood there was a sacred promise that their money would buy land in Eretz Yisrael for Jews to emigrate there and build a Jewish state in our ancient, biblical homeland where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived, and where King David and King Solomon once ruled. This was the contract, the promise, the covenant between JNF and the Jewish people.

During its century-long existence, from the time of Turkish and later British rule, the JNF has been involved in the legal purchase and reclamation of 250,000 acres of largely uninhabited, malaria-ridden swamp lands and desert that no one wanted or could live on. The JNF eliminated disease, rendered the land fit for habitation and agriculture, planted 220 million trees and built many reservoirs.

There is increasing pressure now to lease parts of this private land (constituting about 10 per cent of Israel) to Israeli Arabs, although they already have the right to lease public Israeli state land (about 70 per cent of Israel). Such a step would be wrong. No one would dream of telling private land owners like the Catholic Church or the Muslim Waqf to whom they can lease their land. Moreover, JTA reported on "some cases where Jews attempted to move into non-Jewish neighbourhoods… that have been vigorously protested by non-Jews, saying they should be allowed to maintain ethnically and culturally distinct communities."

JNF is responsible for co-ordinating the planting of all trees in Israel. All JNF forests have large markers that have been carved by a stonemason (seen here). Some are very elaborate and give the name of the forest and the donor. Below: Canada Park.

It seems clear that the JNF contract with Jewish donors must be respected – that's why Israel's democratically elected Knesset voted overwhelmingly to approve the first reading of a bill to reaffirm that all private JNF land continue to be leased to Jews in accordance with the JNF charter.

Additionally, there are many laws, institutions and practices in Israel that we all support that promote and protect the Jewishness of the state, such as immigration laws, Jewish education in schools, the Jewish-starred flag and the national anthem, *Hatikvah*, which speaks of the Jewish soul.

As Philadelphia's *Jewish Exponent* editorialized, "The land in question is not mere real estate JNF property is the inheritance of the entire Jewish people." It added that "JNF policies should stand."

In the late 1800s, the Jews rejected settling in Uganda because it lacked any historical or religious connection to Judaism. The *Exponent* added, "JNF's task is building homes for a nation that has no other haven." Indeed, Holocaust survivors, former Soviet and Ethiopian Jews, Argentine and French Jews and Jews from Arab countries are among the millions of persecuted and oppressed Jewish immigrants who have come to Israel.

Those who say this Knesset law proves that Arabs suffer discrimination in Israel are speaking nonsense. Like Israeli Jews, Israeli Arabs are members of the cabinet and Knesset and the law courts, they are consul generals and attend Israeli colleges and medical and law and graduate schools. They have full voting rights, citizenship, medical insurance and pension plans.

One of the few differences is that they are not required to perform military service, but that is hardly a case of discrimination – rather, it shows great sensitivity to Israeli Arabs. In fact, if the blacks of South Africa had enjoyed the same rights as the Arabs in Israel, discrimination would never have been a serious issue there.

It is also surprising that those organizations opposed to this bill are not on record condemning genuine racism and discrimination in the practices of many Arab states. In Jordan and the Palestinian Authority and other Arab states, it is illegal to sell any land to Jews under punishment of death. Saudi Arabia, in addition to such practices, bans any expression of religion other than Wahhabi Islam – there are no churches or synagogues, or even religious services in a hall, permitted by Saudi law and women are prohibited from driving cars. Where are the critics when it comes to genuine human rights abuses in Arab states? Why, instead, do they seek to limit the rights of Jews to lease privately owned land in Israel purchased for that very purpose?

Ronald Lauder, president of the JNF, had it right when he said: "This Knesset decision reaffirms the vision and the dream of Theodor Herzl and the millions of Jews over the past 106 years who contributed and participated in the rebirth of a Jewish nation after 2,000 years. The land of Israel is part of the very existence of the Jewish people from as far back as Abraham. We are a people linked to our land. Now and forever."

The Knesset bill is one step toward securing this precious legacy and it deserves the support of all American Jewish organizations.

Morton A. Klein is national president of the Zionist Organization of America and Irwin Hochberg is vice-chairman of the board of ZOA, a past chairman of UJA-Federation of New York and a past U.S. national campaign chairman of Israel Bonds.

Love is contagious

Aiden McGuire is both a Yankee fan, and an amazing friend.

Aiden and Michael Sayre have been buddies since childhood. Now in their mid-20s, they are also diehard Yankee fans.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

But it's getting harder for Michael to follow the Yankees, because he suffers from congenital glaucoma, a condition that's left him blind in one eye and rapidly losing vision in the other. Until recently, Michael had never seen a live Yankee game, and it looked like he'd never have a chance to see one, either.

Then in March, Aiden wrote a letter to the Yankees that said: "I'd like to tell you about my best friend, Michael Sayre… Michael is a 25-year-old diehard Yankees fan. He was born with glaucoma. Recently, he lost all vision in his right eye. Right now he's hanging on to what vision he has left in his left eye, and his doctors don't know how long it will remain healthy."

The Yankees gave Aiden and Michael two tickets behind home plate and a VIP tour of Yankee Stadium, where they met future Hall-of-Famers Alex Rodriguez, Derek Jeter and Roger Clemens. It was truly a Yankee fan's dream. Perhaps Michael described it best: "I was going crazy. My head was going to explode."

Aiden and Michael's friendship grabs your heart and inspires you. Pirkei Avot tells us that an enduring friendship is based on "love independent of ulterior motives." Michael and Aiden share that type of friendship, and it's impossible not to be moved by Aiden's sincerity.

And that's precisely my point: love is contagious.

One sincere act of kindness can inspire a dozen others. Aiden's letter inspired the Yankees, and the team's kindness inspired others: American Limousine chipped in with transportation, JetBlue offered airfare, the Peninsula New York hotel delivered lodging, Majestic Athletic pitched in a jersey, and Hillerich & Bradsby shipped personalized bats.

One letter started a chain reaction of kindness. Sincerity inspires others to share in the gift of friendship.

In the Book of Ruth, one woman's kindness changes the course of history. Ruth, a foreign widow, treats her ex-mother-in-law, Naomi, with loyalty and love. Her kindness inspires Naomi's relative, Boaz, to be kind to Ruth. Ruth and Boaz marry, and the people of Bethlehem, inspired by their kindness, bless them on their wedding day. Ruth's baby, Oved, begets Jesse, who begets David, the future King of Israel. One woman's kindness literally gives birth to future redemption.

Yes, kindness begets kindness, which begets even more kindness. Human hearts are open, ready to catch the "love bug."

That's why when good people such as Aiden, Ruth, Boaz or Michael tell their story, they'll all tell you the same thing: love is contagious.

Achieving bat mitzvah equality

My daughter had one request for her bat mitzvah. After attending many bat mitzvah services with no real prayer or random speeches about Jewish heroines, she said, "I want Torah at my bat mitzvah."

She wanted to read the entire weekly portion, including the Haftorah, and comment on the reading, as she had seen others do. True, the friend and cousin who most inspired her were male, but she did not say, "I want to do it like the boys do." She simply wanted to do it "right." And coming from a Jewish day school, attending synagogue regularly, to her "doing it right" meant doing it all.

Gil Troy in Montreal

Some may interpret this as cheeky, rebellious or political. Actually, it was an innocent request of a child of this century who is blessed not to view everything through a gender lens, who is inspired by what particular kids do, not the fact that it is a boy or a girl doing it. The result was a relative rarity in the Jewish world: a traditional Shabbat service with a mechitzah separating men and women, but with a woman chanting the full Torah reading as both men and women blessed the Torah.

In truth, the egalitarian praying and the traditional division confused even many of our own guests, who could not figure out how to label us – although some similar models are developing in Jerusalem and elsewhere. Besides delighting in our daughter's mastery of Va'etchanan – a particularly long and complex parshah – and in her thanking of her teachers at school and from shul for preparing her, my wife and I were satisfied that we could fulfil her vision for her rite of passage.

If a bat mitzvah is supposed to launch young Jews on their independent Jewish journeys, if the idea is to welcome them, I can't understand the logic of putting a "Keep Out" sign on the Torah itself.

Amid so much angst these days about kids distancing themselves from Judaism, we would not tell our daughter, "Sorry, you can only read part of the Torah," or "Sorry, you can't do it in a real service." I reject those Orthodox bat mitzvah services that parade everyone through an artificial exercise that anyone who knows anything knows is not a real prayer service.

In preparing for her bat mitzvah, my daughter participated in a wonderful women's Rosh Chodesh service at the start of every Jewish month. In the spring, she led part of the service. This time, the women sat in the centre, and the half dozen of us males who were invited sat in the women's section on the side. My father-in-law bristled as he sat "in exile." I left convinced that just as the Passover Haggadah commands us to feel as if we personally escaped Egypt, every male should sit in the women's section occasionally. The world looks very different from a restricted side view than it does from premium box seats.

Equality need not mean sameness. I appreciate Judaism's celebrating and consecrating the differences between men and women. I like that my wife lights Shabbat candles while I say *Kiddush* over the wine. But we are all smart enough to know when distinguishing between men and women acknowledges differences respectfully and when it creates hierarchy.

A mechitzah down the middle separating men and women creates equal but different sanctuaries. Relegating women to the side or the balcony exiles them to the proverbial back of the bus. Similarly, a bat mitzvah celebration with an asterisk, a partial embrace of the Torah rather than a full clasp, risks distancing young girls from Judaism.

This situation is particularly absurd, because the most inequitable restrictions against women are rabbinic improvisations that are not specified in the Torah itself.

Women's traditional roles reflect women's historic roles. But things have changed. Until the overreaction to 19th-century Reform, Judaism traditionally had been an Etz Chaim, a tree of life, growing slowly but steadily. We cannot keep non-essential, alienating medieval rabbinic decrees frozen in time. We must prune selectively, sparingly, cautiously, allowing for gradual development so Judaism – and modern Jews – can flourish.

I am glad my wife and I fulfilled our daughter's remarkable wish. We invite other parents from the traditional world to give their daughters the same gift.

The presence of the past

This summer, I had the privilege of joining two York University colleagues in Europe for a unique program in Holocaust education: Learning from the Past, Teaching for the Future. Now in its fourth cycle, the Mark and Gail Appel Program in Holocaust and Antiracism Education spans three countries and two continents.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

Designed primarily for future teachers by Mark Webber, director of York's Centre for German and European Studies, and Michael Brown, former director of York's Centre for Jewish Studies, the program brings together Canadian, German and Polish university students. The ongoing success of the program rests with the vision, sensitivity and careful planning on the part of my two colleagues, for whom it is a labour of love.

The program is built on field study – travel to sites of Jewish life and death, coupled with seminars, lectures, and workshops. The intensive study of the history of the Nazi genocide as well as the cultural and religious life of European Jews prior to the Holocaust is framed by Canadian ideals of diversity and tolerance.

The students' learning experience doesn't end at the close of the European field study component. The students propose a research project to complete over the next six months. In February, the Polish and German students will join their Canadian cohorts at York.

In addition to sharing the fruits of their research, the students take part in a Canadian field study component, exploring the ethnic, cultural and religious diversity of Canada's multicultural society. The program culminates in a symposium on Holocaust and anti-racism education hosted by York.

While I have worked with the program before, during the Canadian segment, and have been impressed by the thoughtful engagement of the students, this was the first time I joined the group in Europe. Only by travelling and working with the group can one fully appreciate the depth, seriousness, and intensity of the program.

The program is truly international in scope. German and Polish university professors, committed to facing the past, accompany and teach the group.

Clearly, the governments of the three countries see the significance of the program.

At an evening hosted by the Canadian embassy in Berlin, for example, Jutta Limbach, former chief justice of the German Federal Constitutional Court, spoke of multilingualism as a key to understanding other cultures, to seeing them on their own terms.

At the Canadian embassy in Warsaw, Abraham Rotfeld, a former foreign minister of Poland, spoke to the group about the history, experience and contributions of Jews in Poland.

The international cohort of students spent four weeks travelling through Germany and Poland learning about European Jewish life and culture, as well as the development of Nazism and the tightening of the genocidal net. By focusing on the stories of individual communities, along with broad social and political movements, the students engaged with the past with an eye toward the future. As teachers, how might they develop lessons and curricula that counter anti-Semitism and racism?

At memorial sites and museums, they were encouraged to see them not as tourists but as educators. Who is the intended visitor to a particular memorial? What message is communicated? How is it connected with the history and politics of the culture in which it's located? Would you bring school children there, and if so, how might you prepare them?

The students were asked to notice not only what they see, but what they cannot see; not only what they hear, but what they cannot hear. In visiting synagogues in Munich, Berlin, Krakow and Warsaw, they recognized the absence of the communities that once populated services.

In the ruins of the old Jewish cemetery of the Polish town Oswiecim – renamed Auschwitz by the occupying Nazi regime – desecrated matzevot had been collected and restored to the graveyard, lined up in random order, with no way to match the tombstone to the grave. There are no longer any living Jews in Oswiecim to mourn their departed ancestors.

As the students struggle with the past, and with their own relationships to that past, they also struggle to come to know one another and to understand how that past might speak differently to them, based on the experience of their home country and their family.

They learn to ask tough questions of themselves, and to listen to the other with empathy and respect. Most importantly, they make a commitment to the past and to the future.

The Kirshner File

Einstein was an unconventional thinker

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Walter Isaacson, the former managing editor of *Time* magazine and the ex-chief executive officer of the CNN television network, is a strong proponent of adult education. Several years ago, while working on a biography of Albert Einstein, whom he describes as "the most creative scientific genius of modern times," he concluded that he had to sharpen his already considerable skills as a journalist to better understand the complexities of Einstein's "crowning glory," the general theory of relativity. Isaacson, therefore, hired a tutor to instruct him in the arcana of advanced mathematics. But for Isaacson, who studied history, literature, politics, philosophy and economics at Harvard and Oxford universities, these tutorials were hardly daunting. "It was not heavy labour," said Isaacson, who was here recently to publicize *Einstein: His Life and Universe* (Simon & Schuster). "I love science."

Equally at home in both the arts and sciences, and the author of biographies on Henry Kissinger and Benjamin Franklin, Isaacson was seriously drawn to Einstein after being named editor of *Time* in 1995 – a position he held for the next six years – and launching deliberations to select its person of the century. There were no shortage of candidates, of course. But Isaacson, 55, plumped for Einstein – a German Jew who settled in the United States after the Nazis' rise to power – and his view prevailed.

The scion of an old New Orleans Jewish family of German and British stock, and currently the president of the Aspen Institute think-tank in Washington, D.C., he convinced his colleagues that Einstein was indeed worthy of the honour, due to his undisputed place in contemporary science.

Einstein, who was an examiner in Switzerland's patent office before becoming an academic, wrote four pivotal papers in the early 1900s that revolutionized physics and sealed his reputation as a great scientist. He proved that light can be conceived as particles and waves, that molecules and atoms exist, that there is no such thing as absolute time and space and that there is an equivalence between energy and mass.

With these seminal papers, he demolished a sweeping pronouncement by a revered British scientist in 1900 that there was "nothing new" to be discovered in physics.

Far from being esoteric, Einstein's ideas laid the foundation for two of the biggest advances in physics – relativity and quantum theory – and had wide-ranging practical applications as well.

"His fingerprints are all over today's technologies," Isaacson observed, citing the development of photoelectric cells and lasers, nuclear power and fibre optics, space travel and even semiconductors. To Isaacson, Einstein's success was rooted in three elements. He questioned conventional wisdom, challenged authority and marvelled at mysteries that struck others as mundane. In short, he was a nonconformist who abhorred the herd mentality.

"He could think unconventionally. One of his maxims was that imagination is more important than knowledge." Like a child, Einstein never lost his sense of wonder at the magic of the physical world: magnetic fields, gravity, inertia, acceleration and light beams.

Isaacson's book, which has been on the *New York Times*' bestseller list, is but the latest in a long line of Einstein biographies. His, however, is the first to draw on Einstein's new collected papers, which were released last year, contain more than 14,000 documents and will fill 25 volumes when fully published.

Walter Isaacson

"I was given special access to that archive," said Isaacson. "And I was able to take advantage of some new analysis of the notebooks Einstein used as he was working up his theory of relativity."

As Isaacson pointed out, biographies in the past dwelled on his scientific breakthroughs or his personal life and politics.

Einstein is different. "I try to weave all these strands together in one tapestry," explained Isaacson, who dedicates his hefty, well-written book to his father, an engineer who imbued him with an appreciation of science and math. "Mathematics is the good lord's brush stroke for painting physical reality," he said. "It's an imaginative endeavour and is as creative as poetry and music. We shouldn't find mathematics any more intimidating than Shakespeare."

Given Isaacson's penchant for and background in math and science, he had no trouble immersing himself in the minutiae of the Einstein canon. Yet he knew that he would be required to call on expert help. In this humble spirit, he turned to a succession of famous American scientists, from Douglas Stone, a professor of physics at Yale University who vetted the science, to Murray Gell-Mann, the winner of the 1969 Nobel Prize in physics who checked chapters on relativity and quantum mechanics.

Einstein in 1933 in California

Not surprisingly, Isaacson also consulted his father. "He read the book at least three times in manuscript form and made a variety of good suggestions."

If Isaacson could have had a conversation with Einstein – who died in 1955 – he would have asked him one nagging question: Why was he so intellectually rebellious when he was young, yet so staunch a defender of classical physics when he was old? It remains a conundrum, but Isaacson believes that Einstein's outsider status as a Jew, accentuated by his exposure to anti-Semitism in Europe, prompted him to challenge received wisdom and thus deviate from well-worn paths.

The Zurich Polytechnic turned him down for a job, leaving Einstein with the impression that anti-Semitic animus was a factor in his rejection. The University of Zurich offered him a professorship in 1909, but only after some faculty members were assured that he did not possess the "unpleasant peculiarities" allegedly associated with Jews.

Isaacson contends that the emergence of virulent anti-Semitism in Germany after World War I heightened Einstein's identification with his Jewish background and led him to embrace Zionism, despite his general aversion to nationalism.

Einstein, whose first wife was a Serbian, soured on assimilation after the assassination of Walther Rathenau – the Jewish foreign minister of Weimar Germany – in 1922.

Shortly afterward, he made his first and only trip to Palestine. Yet, as Isaacson notes, Einstein – a pacifist until Hitler assumed the chancellorship of Germany in 1933 – held that Jews and Arabs, "the two great Semitic peoples," had a common future and should co-operate.

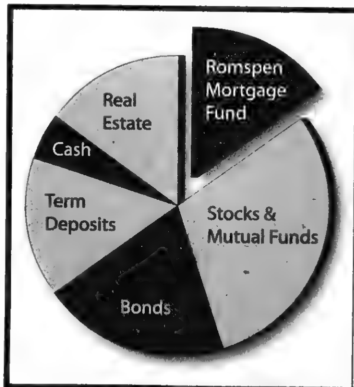
Although he subscribed to Zionism, Einstein, an advocate of a one-world government and a supporter of socialist economic policies, was an opponent of a Jewish state until the establishment of Israel. "I cannot understand why it is needed," he said in 1946. But with Israel's creation in 1948, Einstein's attitude changed.

When Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president, died in 1952, the post was offered to Einstein, then a member of the Institute of Advanced Studies in Princeton, N.J. He was "deeply moved" by the offer, but felt that he lacked "the natural aptitude and the experience to deal properly with people and to exercise official function."

Isaacson is certain that Einstein would have been a horrible president. "He was never good at going along with consensus and his puckish sense of humour would have gotten him into trouble."

A frequent visitor to Israel, Isaacson was profoundly affected by his authorship of *Einstein*.

"In doing this book, I was struck by Einstein's deepening connection with the Jewish people, and this has served to solidify my own Jewish identity."



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Liberals, NDP are no-shows at seniors' debate

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Election 2007

A political debate hosted by a group representing nearly 5,000 Jewish seniors turned into a Tory information session when provincial Liberal and NDP candidates failed to show up.

Nearly 100 members of the Toronto Association of Jewish Seniors (AJS) assembled over coffee and bagels at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation on Aug. 16 expecting to hear from candidates from the three major political parties ahead of the Oct. 10 provincial election.

Scheduled or asked to attend were David Zimmer, Liberal MPP for Willowdale; Bernie Tanz, Conservative candidate for Eglinton-Lawrence; Mike Colle, Liberal MPP for Eglinton-Lawrence; and Rini Ghosh, NDP candidate for Willowdale.

But Tanz and fellow PC-er David Shiner, candidate for Willowdale, were the only politicians to appear.

Not surprisingly, the meeting quickly turned into a two-hour promotional event for the Conservatives.

Ruth Goldsmith, spokesperson for the AJS, was disappointed that only one side of the political spectrum was represented at the event.

"We wanted to ask [all the candidates] what their positions are on issues that affect seniors… affordable housing, transport, health care," she said, adding that many seniors might now be more tempted to vote Conservative due to the perceived lack of interest by the other candidates to partake in the talk.

Zimmer cancelled, citing a busy schedule, and aides for Ghosh and Colle said they were "unavailable" for the morning meeting, another AJS spokesperson said. (Calls to the three candidates' offices were not returned.)

As a result, both Tanz and Shiner stumped unopposed for Conservative leader John Tory, and they urged the seniors to put their faith in their party.

A third guest speaker, Josh Cooper, executive director of the Canadian Jewish Political Action Committee, a non-partisan group whose mission is to encourage Jewish Canadians to get involved in politics, also addressed the group.

In the 2004 federal election, Cooper was the Conservative candidate for Thornhill, but lost to Liberal Susan Kadis.

His talk, however, was non-partisan, and he called on those present to get involved in some fashion and vote for whomever they liked. He reminded the seniors that Jewish politicians and politicians sympathetic to Jews helped change racist practices in the province many years ago.

"Your generation understands the importance of voting," Cooper said. "The younger generation doesn't remember the time in Toronto when Jews… were told to use separate washrooms. Don't ever think that your vote doesn't make a difference."

During a question-and-answer period, some seniors challenged the candidates to assure them that they can look forward to a better quality of life from a provincial Tory government, while others used the opportunity to vent frustrations at governments for increasing taxes.

One cantankerous man stood up and expressed contempt for politics in general. "I've heard these same speeches for 40 years from every government. Nothing changes," he shouted.

Shiner and Tanz responded by invoking pledges made by their party on some of the big-ticket issues in this election campaign, such as promises of funding for faith-based schools and transportation, and to upload costs from municipalities back to the province to relieve pressure on property taxes.

They tried to placate the audience, saying that Tory's "word is his bond" and that he will fulfil all his campaign pledges.

Ben Goldmintz, MC and AJS president, closed the event by reminding those present of the association's tongue-in-cheek election motto: "Remember, we're old enough to vote."

PC candidate David Shiner addresses seniors last week at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Seated, from left, are Bernie Tanz and Josh Cooper. [Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf photo]

Corrections

The obituary for Evelyn Zacks, "Artist helped Holocaust survivors" (*CJN*, Aug. 16), contained two errors. Vaad Hatzalah was begun by the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations. Mrs. Zacks survived her brother, Irving Frisch, by a matter of days. *The CJN* regrets the errors.

* * *

The photo credit with "Kids build Jewish identity at Ukraine camp" (*CJN*, Aug. 16) is incorrect. The photograph was taken by Alexander Krivonosov. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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The dark side of the Hamas spin machine

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

Last month, following the release of Gaza-based BBC correspondent Alan Johnston, who had been held hostage for 114 days until Hamas forced his captors to let him go, the organization put on a "charm offensive" for the sake of western audiences.

Hamas orchestrated tours of Gaza for large numbers of foreign correspondents, showcasing the organization's efforts to restore tranquility and order to Gaza in the aftermath of its violent rout of Fatah.

The correspondents not only reported what Hamas officials wanted them to see, but they also pointed out Hamas' blatant attempt to "spin" them. In fact, the *Globe and Mail*'s Mark MacKinnon ("On tour with the Gaza spin machine," July 31) remarked sardonically that their heads were "spinning from the spin."

The darker reality is that the radical Islamic group makes open, critical reporting from Gaza virtually impossible. The few western journalists who do try to report critically often face intimidation.

Yet as bad as things are for western correspondents, they are even worse for Palestinian journalists who try to report stories that Hamas finds unacceptable.

Reporting for Associated Press on Aug. 13, Ibrahim Barzak described how, in the midst of trying to stop a protest by about 300 people in the Gaza Strip against Hamas, "militiamen" from that organization not only beat and arrested protesters, but also "confiscated equipment from news photographers and cameramen seeking to cover the arrests, including an Associated Press stills camera."

Hamas then went further, raiding the Gaza offices of Arab media organizations such as Gulf-based satellite broadcaster Al-Arabiyya, looking to confiscate any material from the rally.

(Fatah too, especially under the late Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat's rule, was notorious for intimidating journalists reporting events that Arafat and his cronies didn't want aired.)

* * *

Aug. 15 marked the 60th anniversary of the partition of India into the Muslim state of Pakistan and the (largely) Hindu state of India. The Canadian and international media were full of stories and commentaries to mark the occasion.

Many of these reports described the civil war that erupted between Muslims and Hindus prior to partition, resulting in as many as one million deaths (according to Pankaj Mishra in "Exit Wounds," *The New Yorker*, Aug. 13). After partition, between 12 and 15 million people became refugees – with Muslims moving from India to Pakistan, and Hindus moving from Pakistan to India. In a great many cases, people who wished to remain were forced by authorities to flee. As a result, Pakistan today is 96 per cent Muslim.

This November, the media will most likely mark another 60th anniversary – the UN General Assembly Partition Resolution for Palestine that was the basis for the creation of Israel in May 1948. It also should have been the basis for the creation of an Arab state alongside Israel, except that the Palestinian leadership and Arab states violently rejected the proposal.

Because of this rejection, most Jews who were evicted from Arab lands became citizens of Israel or western countries. However, Palestinians who either fled the subsequent fighting or, in some cases, were forced to flee by Israeli forces became permanent refugees who declare and continue to battle for their "right of return" to Israel.

Several years ago, Israeli law professor Amnon Rubinstein wrote about the irony that while many voices around the world advocate for a Palestinian "right of return," no one declares that in the India-Pakistan case refugees have a "right of return" to their former homes in either country. The clamour in the one case, but the silence in the other, certainly deserves reflection.

Hamas rally in Gaza. [CJN file photo]

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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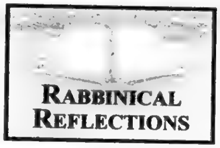
Jewish Life

The Kabbalah experience

By RABBI JERRY STEINBERG



The Hebrew word *Kabbalah* means "to receive." The question is, receive what? The answer given by most Kabbalists would be "the divine influx."

Again we have a question: what is the divine influx? This is understood as information, inspiration and understanding coming from a source outside of conventional consciousness, from another realm of reality, from the Place of God. In this sense, Moses, the prophets and and many other biblical personalities were Kabbalists – they were in a state of reception, waiting to hear or see a divine being, whether it was an angel or some other celestial figure. Sometimes the divine influx came in a vision or a dream and on occasion in a clear voice, as for example, the prophet Samuel when he was a young boy.

While in some quarters of the Jewish world it's believed that prophecy (the reception of a divine voice or vision) came to an end about 22 centuries ago, in reality, it continued on after the completion of the Hebrew Scriptures, and there are many examples of rabbis since that time who have heard voices and seen visions. There is, in fact, a term in the Talmud that is used to describe an auditory call from God – Bat Kol (which literally means "the daughter of a voice" but is usually translated as "a still, small voice").

Some well-known rabbis over the past 500 years have had unusual experiences regarding the divine influx, particularly in the form of voices and visions. Rabbi Joseph Caro (16th century), to whom we owe a major codification of Jewish law, the *Shulchan Aruch*, was adept at hearing a voice that he identified as the Mishnah. This voice came through him to his disciples and expounded often on points of Jewish law.

What Rabbi Caro did in the 16th century we might today call channeling, a phenomenon that occurred in abundance in the 80s and 90s, especially in North America. Voices ascribed to other dimensions of reality would speak through certain individuals, imparting both general and specific information in a variety of areas from philosophy to religion to medicine. Names such as Edgar Cayce, Seth, Emmanu-El and Ramtha are known to those who followed this trend.

In the 18th century, two Jewish luminaries, the Vilna Gaon and the Baal Shem Tov, experienced heavenly excursions and wrote about them. In a rare and now famous epistle, the Ball Shem Tov (the founder of Chassidism) spoke about the ascent of his soul to a heavenly domain: "On the day of Rosh Hashanah [September 1746], I engaged in an ascent of the soul as you know I do, and I saw wondrous things in that vision that I had never before seen since the day I had attained to maturity. That which I saw and learned in my ascent is impossible to describe or to relate even from mouth to mouth. But as I returned to the lower Garden of Eden, I saw many souls, both of the living and the dead, those known to me and those unknown."

The Vilna Gaon reflects on a nocturnal visitor: "Last night Elijah [the prophet] visited me. If I remember rightly, my informants did say in name that it was Elijah, but possibly it was some other messenger from the celestial academy who revealed awesome things."

And finally, the "Ari," Rabbi Isaac Luria (16th century), whose disciples tell of his studies on high: "[He was one] whose soul ascended nightly to the heavens and whom the attending angels came to accompany to the celestial academy… And to whichever academies he wished to go, the angels would take him. The next day he would disclose to the sages what he learned in that academy."

If we look at the 11th chapter of the Book of Numbers, we might speculate that Moses would be very pleased with the men mentioned here. He said "If only all of God's people were prophets that God put His spirit upon them."

Rabbi Jerry Steinberg is spiritual leader of Temple B'nai Shalom V'Tikvah in Ajax, Ont.

Pronouncements of agreement

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Midrashic Moments

As the summer months continue and we draw closer to the High Holy Days, we continue to read the book of Deuteronomy and hear the words of Moses.

Certainly the entire book of Deuteronomy is equal to and accepted as level with the other books of the Torah. Yet there is much discussion within Jewish literature as to how we are to understand that the words of Moses could gain such stature.

Early on, the Talmud clearly states that all the words in the book of Deuteronomy are dictated by God to Moses in the same fashion as the first four books of the Torah were dictated.

By the Middle Ages, one commentator distinguishes elements within Deuteronomy. The elements that repeat portions found earlier within the Torah are the words of Moses while the elements that are new are Divine words.

As Jewish history continued to unfold, commentators agreed or disagreed with the proportion of the Divine words versus Moses' human words, until we reach points of view that state that the book of Deuteronomy is entirely made up of Moses' words to which God agreed.

In fact, God agreed so completely that God then commanded Moses to write his thoughts down. One of the most beautiful expressions of this thought was expressed by a Jewish thinker in the modern world. Rabbi Shlomo Riskin has published his view, based on the Kotzker Rebbe, in which he states that the words of Deuteronomy are the words of Moses offered on high, to which God answered, "Amen."

With this profound image in mind, the power of the narrative shifts to the tiny word at the end, "amen."

The word is said so often by every Jewish person that we are often in automatic mode when we hear a blessing and quickly dispense an "amen." In fact, we are so used to hearing the word at the end of a blessing that at times we can hear people answering "amen" to their own blessings, something the rabbis of the Talmud have expressly forbidden. Perhaps we have underestimated or misunderstood the power of "amen."

The Talmud describes the word "amen" as an acronym representing the Hebrew phrase that means "God, a faithful ruler." When we recite the *Shema* in private, this is the Hebrew phrase we say quietly, immediately before our Shema proclamation. Yet the word itself is rooted in the word *emunah*, faith. It's fitting that it's the acronym that precedes our strongest declaration of faith, the *Shema*. Clearly, as an acronym, it functions to inform us of a Divine attribute: faithfulness.

But amen itself means "I agree." It's in this context that we use it when answering someone who has uttered a blessing. We listen to the blessing and state openly to the speaker, "Amen" – I agree with the truth you have just expressed. This is why we don't say "amen" to our own prayers – it would be redundant. We assume that we meant what we just said in prayer and, therefore, we would not have to conclude with a statement of agreement.

To say "amen" to someone who is praying is to publicly state your support for their heartfelt expression. To say "amen" is to take a stand just as to remain silent when hearing a blessing is to take a stand. There is no neutral territory. We either support the prayers of someone, or we do not. Whether we are uttering the words of a prayer or passively listening to another person, prayer is always active and we are always taking a stand for which we may be challenged.

We are forbidden to say "amen" to inappropriate prayers. The Talmud cites an example of a prayer in which someone prays that God take someone's life. Such a prayer is inappropriate and all those who say "amen" will be counted as if they themselves uttered the prayer. We know that we must be actively engaged in our prayers, but the bar has been raised higher when we understand that we must actively be engaged in deciding when to say "amen."

Moses recites the words of the fifth book of the Torah, Deuteronomy, and God hears these words as a prayer and answers "amen" – I agree.

When the High Holy Days begin and Jews around the world offer our prayers to God, may we remember that every prayer can have several answers. We often think that God will answer our prayers with a "yes" or a "no." May we each merit that God answer our prayers with the tiniest of words that empower. May we each merit a Divine 'Amen'.

(I would like to thank the reader who prompted me to write further thoughts on Deuteronomy.)

By ALEX GROPPER

The Dead Sea Scrolls, Pt. 2

In my last column, I wrote about the Dead Sea Scrolls and their discovery. It is a story filled with intrigue and adventure. Here the story continues.

By the late 1970s, most of the scrolls were in Israeli-held territory, but Israel did not want to upset the status quo of scrolls research. As a result, the scrolls were still in the hands of a small, select group of researchers. The researchers were part of the original scrolls team that had been set up in the 1950s, headquartered in the Rockefeller Museum of east Jerusalem, which at the time was controlled by Jordan. The majority of these scholars were Catholic. One of the exceptions was Frank Cross of Harvard University.

Past Forward

It was envisaged that the publication of the scrolls would encompass 20 volumes, to be published by Oxford University Press under the title of *Discoveries in the Judean Desert of Jordan* or *DJD* for short. Ten years after the Six Day War of 1967, only six of the 20 volumes had been published. That led Geza Vermes, a distinguished scrolls scholar from Oxford University, to comment to me that he despaired of ever seeing the material, even before he died. The delay in publication spawned a conspiracy theory in which it was postulated that the Catholic Church was holding back scrolls, which would damage the Catholic faith.

Indeed, the original editor of the scrolls project was the legendary Dominican monk and scholar, Pere Roland de Vaux, head of the Ecole Biblique Dominicain in Jerusalem, whom I had met while excavating at Et Tell, the site of the biblical city of Ai, in 1968. Some scholars believe that it was because of de Vaux's monastic connections that he formulated the Essene hypothesis, which implies that the Essenes, the reputed authors of the scrolls, led a monastic existence at the site of Qumran where the scrolls were discovered. This theory has had an enormous impact on scrolls research.

De Vaux himself had led a mysterious life before joining the Dominicans, and there were many stories circulating about his escapades. Some said he had been a circus performer, while others believed he had served in the French Foreign Legion. The impression he left with me was that of a quick-witted, small, wiry man who clambered up and down the tell, the hill, at Deir Dibwan while chain-smoking foul-smelling French cigarettes.

After de Vaux's death, another Dominican scholar, Pierre Benoit, succeeded him. Benoit struck me as being a serious, studious man when I met him. He was quite upset when I asked him about the veracity of the conspiracy theories and gave me carte blanche to examine the scrolls under his control when I spoke to him in the early 1980s.

Upon Benoit's death, John Strugnell became head of the scrolls publication team. He was a professor at the Harvard Divinity School. I had met Strugnell in 1980, while doing interviews for a CBC series on lost manuscripts.

I remember going to Strugnell's home, which looked like something out of skid row, and being struck by the incongruity of seeing a batch of scrolls facsimiles on a filthy couch. Ultimately, Strugnell's drinking problem and an indiscreet comment about Judaism to an Israeli newspaper would force him to step down as head of the publication team. Shortly afterward, the Israelis took over the scrolls operation, and a number of events occurred that made the scrolls accessible to anyone who wanted to see them.

The initial goal of publishing 20 volumes has now been surpassed. As for my connection with these fabled documents – this past year, the scrolls once more re-entered my life when the Israel Antiquities Authority, which controls the scrolls, asked me to help them bring a major exhibit of the Dead Sea Scrolls to Toronto. It is a project that I have undertaken with enthusiasm. Once more, the Past moves Forward for me.

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Jewish and Israeli podcasts, Pt. 2

There are dozens, perhaps hundreds of podcasts that focus on Israel or the Jewish world. Here are a few that are sure to entertain, educate and provoke, too.

The Jewish Highway

Nextbook, "A gateway to Jewish literature, culture, and ideas" has created a wide-ranging podcast to complement its impressive website. Recent offerings include:

- An interview with Cory Kahaney, whose off-Broadway show pays homage to Jewish female comedians of the 1950s, including Totie Fields and Jean Carroll;
- Alex Halberstadt explains how in the early 20th century Yossele Rosenblatt became the world's most renowned cantor;
- And we meet "Captain Jack" Johnson and find out how he "contributed to Jewish statehood" when he signed on as a second mate on the ship Exodus in 1947. **[tinyurl.com/323ytg]**

Perhaps the sweetest podcast to grace my computer and MP3 player is titled 1-2-3 Jewish Kids & Me. The format is simple: an anonymous father and his equally anonymous daughter read aloud stories tied to the Jewish calendar. For Shavuot, we hear why Mount Sinai was chosen for the giving of the Torah even though it didn't have the highest of peaks. **[tinyurl.com/ 2wedg9]**

Feed Me Bubbe takes the cross-generational motif a step further.

This delightful video podcast pairs Avrom Honig with his sweetheart of a bubbie, Bayla Sher. In recent episodes, she demonstrates the secrets behind her mouth-watering blintzes, kasha varnishkes, tzimmes, fricassee and the classic Chicken Soup Chicken. Bonus: the home page of this site has a lovely documentary about how this podcast came to be – along with a cameo appearance by zaide. **[tinyurl.com/ 2vmb3y]**

Long before anyone had heard of podcasts, Louis Brandsdorfer was recording his mother's story of horror and survival during the Holocaust. Thanks to technology that has developed since those recording were done, you can listen to and download Malka Brandsdorfer's recollections, The Bleeding Sky. She speaks Yiddish for the interviews and the free downloadable book is in English. **[tinyurl.com/2hhhcy]**

Rabbi Joseph Bloch and his wife, Yael, produce a regular and chatty podcast about current affairs in their country called Rabbi Joe in Jerusalem. In a recent edition, you can hear Rabbi Joe seethe over the small pension that was offered to Holocaust survivors in Israel. In other provocative casts, he asks whether Arabs are getting a raw deal in Hollywood, how modern Orthodoxy should treat the intermarried and whether sexual morality is still relevant. **[tinyurl.com/zhe9j]**

Meir Schweiger is also a rabbi from Jerusalem. But his podcast focuses on the weekly Torah portion rather than on current events. Rabbi Schweiger is a senior faculty member at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. **[tinyurl.com/ 3crotn]**

Temple Isaiah, a Reform synagogue in Lafayette, Calif., wants to be part of Your Jewish Neighborhood through its podcast. Recently editions featured Cantor Leigh Korn on his travels to the tiny Jewish communities of Rhodes, Greece, and Dubrovnik, Croatia. We hear about the challenges in recruiting and selecting religious school teachers that match the philosophy of your congregation. And there is a feature interview with singer-songwriter Neshama Carlebach. **[yourjewish-neighborhood. libsyn.com/]**

Does the news sometimes get you down? Then it may be time to subscribe to JNewsLight and what it calls The Lighter Side of Jewish News. Through short five- or six-minute podcasts, they survey some not-so-earth-shattering stories you may have missed. That's how I learned:

- That a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed synagogue in Elkins Park, Penn., has been designated a historic landmark;
- About Argentina's last Jewish cowboys;
- How a 2,000-year-old date seed is growing in Israel's Arava valley;
- And that actor Natalie Portman fought back tears of joy when she helped name a baby gorilla in Rwanda, while in that country with a group of celebrities and conservationists. **[jnewslight.blogspot. com/]**

. Do you have a favourite audio or video podcast that you find yourself returning to? Tell me about it and I may mention it in a future column.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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at the YAD VASHEM
Holocaust Memorial
Earl Bales Park

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2007
10:00 a.m.

The Holocaust Memorial at Earl Bales Park in Toronto was built by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem to immortalize the Six Million souls murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators. This Memorial serves as a permanent symbol for fuure generations that the lessons of the past must never be forgotten.

For further information or to inscribe the names of your loved ones on the Wall of Remembrance, please contact the office

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Jewish Toronto

UJA Federation names its first CEO of Jewish Community Services

Gail Bernstein excited to play important role in Tomorrow Campaign campuses

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA FEDERATION

It didn't appear likely that after 16 productive and satisfying years as CEO and General Manager of Toronto's International Centre, Detroit native Gail Bernstein was going to leave her position in search of greener pastures. That was until she was approached to take the reigns of a new position at UJA Federation as the CEO of Jewish Community Services of Greater Toronto. It was an offer which, as they say, she simply couldn't refuse.

In her new capacity, Bernstein is overseeing the business management of UJA Federation's three Tomorrow Campaign community campuses, ensuring the continued growth and excellence of the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre at Bloor and Spadina; The Sherman Campus, which will soon break ground on the site of the current Bathurst Jewish Community Centre on Bathurst Street, just north of Sheppard Avenue; and Vaughan's Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus.

To Bernstein, the proposition of playing a key role in a project as immense and important as the Tomorrow Campaign is as inspiring as it is overwhelming.

"It is exciting to be able to share in the dream of the community's visionaries by joining Jewish Toronto from the southern end of the city up to and beyond its northern limits," Bernstein explained from her new office in the Lipa Green Building for Jewish Community Services. "It is exceptionally meaningful that through this ambitious endeavour we will be bringing Jewish culture, health and wellness, fitness, and social services to all elements of society in a humane and vital way."

"Gail brings an incredible wealth and talent to UJA Federation," said UJA Federation president and CEO Ted Sokolsky. "That talent will help us reach our goals of operating our new campuses on a level of excellence that will solidify our investment and support the future of a thriving and compelling Jewish community."

Gail Bernstein (Photo by Joel Verbin)

Although this is the first time in Bernstein's illustrious career - which spans over 30 years - that she will have worked in the Jewish community, the idea was very appealing; it had always been a consideration of hers to eventually retire and volunteer with an organization that would make a difference. And it was her parents who were instrumental in instilling her with that value.

"I saw strong role models for Jewish philanthropy in my parents," Bernstein continued. "They were very active in our synagogue and B'nai Brith, and it's an image I have always carried with me. It had always affected the way I see the world."

The broad scope of the Tomorrow Campaign capital projects was very alluring, and one that eventually sold her on the position.

"This is an opportunity for me to finish my career working for the greater good, to leave a legacy - and it feels really good. It feels like a perfect fit."

From the Gaza Border: A mother's gratitude

Despite the fact that two Qassam rockets just fell about 200 metres from her home and her electricity is out, Marcell Bar-On refuses to be intimidated. "This is our reality. My husband's family founded this Kibbutz (Nir Am) and this is our home. We will not let anyone scare us from leaving," she says.

The reality, however, has taken a tremendous toll on her children, especially her youngest son Gabi. "Gabi was born in 1997," she says. "When he was three, the rockets started falling. He can't remember a time when there was no terror. His childhood has been fraught with never ending pressure."

By the time he was in the second grade, Gabi, like many of the Kibbutz and Sha'ar Hanegev region children, had developed extremely aggressive behaviour and his ability to concentrate in school was limited. Finally, Bar-On and her husband took him for psychological counseling. "This helped him considerably, but the rockets continue to fall, classes are constantly disrupted and the children study in shifts, as all of the classrooms are not fortified," explains Bar-On, who is a teacher at the regional school. "The fear is always with us."

"What truly helped the children this year were the enrichment activities and clubs provided by the Jewish Agency," she says. "Gabi takes Darbuka (drums) lessons and this is a wonderful outlet for him. He bangs on those drums and unleashes so much pent up energy. The class gives him so much joy and I see the change in him. He also enjoys the nature classes. There is something very calming about caring for animals."

Ten-year-old Gabi is benefitting from The Jewish Agency's A New Tomorrow program.

Bar-On also sees the change in the other school children. Through sports, music, drama and nature activities, the children are engaged in interesting activities that distract them from their everyday worries. "Our children are not able to play freely outside," she says. "These activities are a godsend. At the same time, many of the parents are struggling under terrible financial strain and would not have been able to afford these clubs."

With the generous support of the Federations of North America – including UJA Federation of Greater Toronto - the Jewish Agency, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, put into place a network of formal and informal educational activities for children in northern and southern regions of Israel.

The program, called A *New Tomorrow*, began in the North after the Second Lebanon War and was launched in Sderot and the Gaza perimeter communities soon after. More than 47,000 children participated in the program during the school year, and it has helped many of them to overcome trauma and return to normal activities.

Perspective

Making public education fair for everyone

By DAVID KOSCHITZKY

This is an historic time for our community. The subject of integrating faith-based schools that meet provincial requirements into the public education system is back on the public agenda.

Its impact would be significant. Public funding for qualifying faith-based schools would correct decades of inequity in which only Catholic schools are part of the public system. The Catholic system is an excellent example of how well integration of faith-based schools into public education works. As a matter of fairness, inclusion should apply to all faith-based schools, including Jewish day schools.

As the system currently stands, parents who choose Jewish day school for their children are financially penalized for making that choice. They support public education, and they pay their taxes like everyone else in Ontario. And yet, their children remain shut out from the public school system.

David Koschitzky

On the other hand, 650,000 Ontario Catholic students receive the benefit of being educated within their faith, and within the public system. They participate in standardized testing; their teachers follow an approved provincial curriculum ensuring all students learn according to Canadian values and their presence strengthens public education in Ontario. That's the formula that should apply to all faith-based students.

Funding for Catholic schools is constitutionally required, but that does not justify the exclusion of other faith-based schools that not only meet provincial requirements but also educate thousands of graduates who have made invaluable contributions to Canadian society.

From Quebec westward, every province other than Ontario provides public funding for faith-based schools. Only Ontario funds one faith-based school system to the exclusion of all others.

Integrating Jewish day schools into the public system would provide relief to thousands of Jewish families making significant financial sacrifices so their children can receive a quality education, combining Canadian and Jewish values. It would ensure that what is being taught at faith-based schools is consistent with the values cherished by Canadians. And faith-based funding would provide more Jewish community financial resources for other urgent needs such as assistance for the poor and isolated seniors.

Helping our community better understand the value of integrating faith-based schools into public education is the first step to making it a reality.

Let's give our children the chance to be part of a strong, vital and inclusive public school system that reflects 21st century Ontario and passes the test of fairness.

David Koschitzky is Vice Chair, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

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The Campaign For Our Jewish Future set to launch

New plan will tackle four areas of concern

By JO MICHAELS
UJA FEDERATION

There's less than a week to go before UJA Federation's 2008 community campaign launch on August 29 at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York Hotel. The launch traditionally attracts over 1,000 people.

Last year, UJA Federation's annual campaign was forced to quickly change into the Israel Emergency Campaign as Hezbollah began to attack Israel's northern communities just prior to the event.

"This year's launch has a different focus," says UJA Federation campaign director, Jeff Springer. "Although there is no longer a crisis in Israel, there are still a number of serious and mounting concerns both in Toronto and in Israel's peripheral communities. This year's campaign, The Campaign for Our Jewish Future, has been created to address these concerns. The launch on August 29th is the first opportunity for Toronto's Jewish community to learn about how we'll be taking action."

Dale Lastman

Lynn Belzberg

Although the full details of this year's vital campaign will not be released until the launch, the chairs of the event, Lynn Belzberg and Dale Lastman, have shared the four vital areas that will be the focus of The Campaign for Our Jewish Future.

"UJA Federation is embarking on a plan to address the pressing issues facing our community today," explains Belzberg. "It calls for a coordinated array of new, ambitious and focused initiatives that will create dramatic progress."

"These new collective initiatives will cover four vital areas of concern: inspiring Jewish identity among our next generation; standing with Israel in a time of great need; transforming lives within our underprivileged populations: and engaging the growing and dynamic Jewish community here in Toronto," adds Lastman.

"These four areas are all connected," says Springer. "They speak to social justice and Jewish ideals and they highlight our collective obligation to build a vibrant Jewish future."

Comedian and actor Larry Miller

Keynote speaker for the launch will be Larry Miller. A well-known actor and comedian, Miller is best known for his roles in films like *Pretty Woman* and *Best in Show* and television appearances on a number of shows including *Seinfeld*. Miller will be sharing his experiences of being an outspoken supporter of Israel while living in Hollywood.

Launch attendees will also be treated to a performance by the inspirational Tzeirei Sderot Choir, eight talented teenagers from Israel, Ethiopia and the Former Soviet Union, who will be flown in from Israel to perform. Through song, this talented group – making their first appearance in Canada - will share their stories of surviving countless Qassam rocket attacks in the southern Israeli community of Sderot, to which UJA Federation has provided considerable financial assistance.

Tickets are still available for $30, but are selling very quickly. To reserve your ticket for this important community event, call (416) 631-5700 or visit www.ujaevents.com/registration/2008launch.

UJA Federation helps welcome Darfur refugees to Eilat

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA FEDERATION

Since 2002, hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians have been murdered in Darfur. This summer, hundreds of Darfur refugees – making the sojourn from the battlefields of Western Sudan by foot - have been seeking shelter in Israel. Many of these embattled people find refuge with different aid organizations throughout the country.

Recently, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto played a vital role in helping these new members of Israeli society – particularly the children – feel welcome in the Jewish State.

UJA Federation – which has been supporting the Darfur refugees through the Jewish Agency for Israel - planned a special program which was funded through its Partnership 2000 (P2K) initiative, which twins Eilat/Eilot with Toronto.

This father and his two young children - all refugees from Darfur - made their way from the war-torn Sudan to seek refuge in Eilat.

The program saw two organizations - Canada-Israel Experience (CIE), the Israel experience arm of UJA Federation best known for its birthright israel program, and Canadian Young Judaea - come together to play an important role in a vital humanitarian undertaking in Eilat.

Shai Ben Shmuel, a CIE group coordinator in Israel and Canadian Young Judaea's (CYJ) Josepha Michaelson created a heart warming program for close to 100 refugee children. Over the course of a few days, CYJ participants and their staff, along with CIE participants, created a series of recreational activities for these children aged 3 to 12.

Activities included beading, boondoggle, mask making, teaching songs, playing soccer, Israeli dancing, guitars and a special visit to Eilat's underwater observatory.

"This program is an incredible testament to the high level of cooperation and education that exists between the Toronto Jewish community and the people of the Eilat/Eilot region," said Michael Soberman, national director of Canada Israel Experience. "Through a generous subsidy provided to Canadian Young Judaea by UJA Federation's Partnership 2000 initiative, the CYJ participants were able to truly make a difference in these people's lives. This initiative has taught us all the Jewish value of treating the stranger among us with compassion and love."

"On a personal note, I've never been more proud of a group of campers than I am of this one," said Michaelson. "They put all the ideas together for the programs and ran them. I was barely able to hold back my tears watching campers holding these little kids and just hugging them. They definitely wanted to have more time with them there and want to know how they can continue being involved."

Six Hundred Immigrants from France arrive in Israel

(Photo by Marc Israel Sellem)

Six hundred new immigrants recently arrived in Israel on two special flights from France, constituting the single largest group of immigrants to arrive in Israel this year. It was a coordinated effort of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and AMI, the French organization which promotes aliyah.

Immigration from France is expected to reach a 26-year high, with an expected 3,200 French Jews moving to Israel this year, the largest number since 1971, representing a 10 percent increase over last year, which saw 2,900 French immigrants.

The two flights, one from Paris and one from Marseilles, arrived simultaneously at Ben Gurion Airport where the newcomers were greeted by Israel's President Shimon Peres, Chief Rabbi Yona Metzger, Absorption Minister Yaakov Edri, Jewish Agency Chairman Zeev Bielski, AMI founder Pierre Besnainou and Keren Hayesod Chairman Avi Pazner. "Today is a holiday for Israel," said Bielski at the airport ceremony. "The day 600 Jews join us in Israel is a holiday."

Where's the beef? — Montreal of course

New kosher meat processor opens

By **JANICE ARNOLD**
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The owners of what is purportedly the largest kosher meat processing plant in Canada – opened in Montreal in June by the new company Minsky's Kosher Meats Inc., – intend to shake up an industry that they say is badly in need of modernization.

The 21,000-square-foot, highly automated facility koshers, butchers and packages fresh and frozen beef, veal and lamb, processes already-koshered poultry, and produces a line of deli meats under the label Minsky's Glatt Kosher.

Minsky's is supervised by Montreal's Vaad Ha'ir, inspected by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and is HACCP-approved. Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points is an exacting standard of food safety implemented a few years ago by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and accepted internationally.

President Allan Cantor and chief executive officer Ron Simon said Minsky's is already supplying supermarkets, private butchers, caterers and restaurants in Montreal. They said it has also begun to distribute in Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa and Winnipeg and will "very shortly" be in Toronto.

Cantor, who has experience in the non-kosher meat business, said the company wants to provide kosher consumers with more choice and convenience than is now available.

For example, Minsky's offers prime beef cuts that have been aged for 21 to 28 days, which no other kosher purveyor does, he said, and it has started to make marinated beef and chicken products.

The aim is to develop a full range of prepared foods that can be heated and served, including individual portions, similar to those sold at the non-kosher M&M Meat Shops.

"If the non-kosher consumer goes to her butcher and asks for honey-mustard marinated chicken breasts, for example, he'll likely say, 'No problem.' The kosher consumer can't get that," Cantor said.

Now running well below capacity, the plant, if operated at full tilt, could supply the current Canadian market for kosher meat two times over, he and Simon said.

They add that they're looking at the U.S. market as well, but not in the short term.

Cantor said they don't want to make the same mistakes as Levitts Kosher Foods Inc., once the largest kosher meat processor in Canada. The 65-year-old company went bankrupt in 2004 after opening a reported $6.5-million, 40,000 square-foot plant in LaSalle four years earlier.

Cantor, who is from Ottawa, emphasized that he began exploring entering the kosher meat business well before Levitts' demise, because he believes the market is rapidly growing, especially among non-Jews, because of concerns over meat safety.

He and Simon had considered opening in Toronto, where Simon – a co-owner of Supreme Foods, a distributor of organic, kosher and other specialty food – continues to live, but they chose Montreal for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the stringency of the Vaad and the wide recognition of its MK hechsher.

Under the Vaad's enhanced scrutiny since a kosher-chicken fraud was uncovered in Monsey, N.Y., last year, there is a mashgiach on-site at all times when meat is received, processed or shipped, and when he is not there, the meat is kept in lockers to which only he has the key, Cantor said.

All its beef comes from two slaughterhouses in Toronto, Ryding Regency and St. Helen's. The veal is from Montpac and Ecolart, and the lamb is from Forget, all Quebec abattoirs.

Chicken, turkey and duck are supplied by Montreal's Marvid and to a lesser extent Chai of Toronto.

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Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

דער 12טער אויגוסט — אַ טראַגישע דאַטע

פון שמחה סימכאָוויטש

(סוף פון פריערדיקן „ווינקל")

אייניקע חדשים נאָך דעם איז דער אַנטיפאַשיסטישער קאָמיטעט אויפגעלייזט געוואָרן און זיין פּרעסע־אָרגאַן, די „אייניקייט", ווי אויך „דער עמעס"־פאַרלאַג זיינען געשלאָסן געוואָרן. עס האָבן זיך אָנגעהויבן די אַרעסטן פון ייִדישע שרייבער און אינטעלעקטואַלן אין מאָסקווע, קיִעוו, מינסק און בירעבידזשאַן. אין דער זעלבער צייט האָט זיך אויך אָנגעהויבן אַ ממשותדיקער פּאָגראָם איבער דער ייִדישער ליטעראַטור און קולטור. עס זיינען פאַרמאַכט געוואָרן ייִדישע אינסטיטוציעס, ייִדישע שולן און די ייִדישע פּרעסע.

אויף סטאַלינס באַפעל איז אויסגעפירט געוואָרן דער מאָרד איבער שלמה מיכאָעלס בעת זיין באַזוך אין מינסק. דאָס איז געווען דער ערשטער שטאַרקער קלאַפּ פאַרן סאָוועטישן און פאַרן וועלט ייִדנטום.

פון די הונדערטער אַרעסטירטע האָט מען אויסגעטיילט באַזונדער 15 מיטגלידער און מיטאַרבעטער פון ייִדישן אַנטיפאַשיסטישן קאָמיטעט, איינגעשלאָסן דעם ממונה איבער אים — סאָלאָמאָן לאָזאָווסקי — כּדי זיי צו שטעלן פאַר אַן עפנטלעכן משפט.

אין משך פון צוויי און אַ האַלב יאָר האָט מען די פופצן אַרעסטירטע געפּאַרשט און געפייניקט, כּדי זיי זאָלן זיך מודה זיין אין נישט־געשטויגענע פאַרברעכנס, וואָס האָט אַריינגענומען ייִדישער נאַציאָנאַליזם, שפּיאָנאַזש און פאַרראַט. די זיינען אויך באַשולדיקט געוואָרן אין וועלן אָפּרייסן דאָס האַלב־אינדזל קרים פון דעם סאָוועטן־פאַרבאַנד און דאָרטן עטאַבלירן אַ ייִדישע מדינה. זייענדיק שוין מיד און נידערגעשלאָגן פון די כּסדרדיקע פייניקונגען האָבן אַלע „באַשולדיקטע" אונטערגעשריבן די דיקטירטע פּראָטאָקאָלן.

דעם 8טן מיי 1952 האָט זיך אָנגעהויבן ביי פאַרמאַכטע טירן דער משפט איבער די אַרעסטירטע דורך אַ מיליטערישער קאָלעגיע פון דריי הויכע מיליטער־לייט. אַלע באַשולדיקטע האָבן אָפּגעלייקנט אין גאַנצן אָדער טיילווייז די פאָרגעוואָרפענע זיי פאַרברעכנס. דאָס געריכט איז געווען גענייגט לטובת די אַרעסטירטע, אָבער דער פּאָליט־ביוראָ האָט געפאָדערט די העכסטע שטראָף.

דעם 18טן יולי האָט דאָס מיליטערישע געריכט אַרויסגעגעבן דעם אורטייל: דערשיסן דרייצן באַשולדיקטע, בתוכם אַלע ייִדישע שרייבערס, ווי אויך דעם אַלטן באָלשעוויק לאָזאָווסקי. בלויז צוויי פון די אַרעסטירטע האָבן אויסגעמיטן די טויט־שטראָף. דער זשורנאַליסט סאָלאָמאָן בערגמאַן איז געשטאָרבן אין תּפיסה שפּיטאָל און די ביאָ־כעמיקערין לינאַ שטערן איז אָפּגעקומען מיט בלויז 5 יאָר פאַרשיקונג.

דעם 12טן אויגוסט 1952 איז אין הויף פון דער לובּיאַנקער תּפיסה אויסגעפירט געוואָרן דער מאָרד איבער די 13 פאַרמשפּטע, וואָס זייער איינציקער חטא איז געווען וואָס זיי זיינען געווען ייִדן און געשאַפן אין דער ייִדישער שפּראַך.

איך וועל ענדיקן מיט די ווערטער פון זיאַמע טעלעסין:

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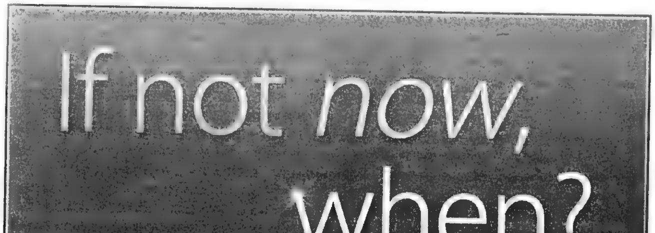

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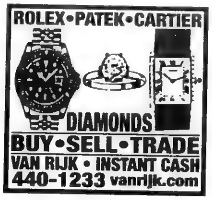
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Outrage forces removal of pro-Hezbollah billboard

By RON STANG
Special to The CJN

WINDSOR, Ont. — Many in Windsor are breathing a sigh of relief after a controversial billboard depicting Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, erected in the heart of the city's Arab Middle Eastern community, came down within days of being put up.

The billboard showed Nasrallah alongside smaller images of four other Lebanese leaders. The sign had both English and Arabic text. In English, it read, "Lebanese and Arab communities in Windsor city congratulate the Lebanese people for their steadfastness and endeavour to establish peace in Lebanon."

But the person who first brought the billboard to the public's attention, Edy Haddad, a University of Windsor student and a Lebanese-born Canadian, said the Arabic wording contained a reference to "fight" in it.

"There are two different sayings," Haddad, the former North American youth representative for Kataeb, a Lebanon-based, pro-democracy party, said of the sign. He said that in English the text stressed "the whole peace thing." But in Arabic, "they were trying to say this is our army, but they did it in a very nonchalant way, but there is a… [phrase] that had the word 'fight' in it."

Haddad, who lives two blocks from the billboard, put out a press release Aug. 10 and demanded that the "despicable" billboard, located along one of Windsor's busiest streets, be taken down. The release said Hezbollah "is on the terror watch list by Canada" and "has murdered countless numbers of civilians."

Since that time, Haddad said in an interview, he has received death threats and some people "were threatening to come to my house and beat me up."

The billboard raised alarm in Windsor generally, chiefly among the city's Jewish community, which made immediate efforts to contact elected politicans and the city's mayor to seek the sign's immediate removal.

Harvey Kessler, executive director of the Windsor Jewish Federation and Community Centre, said the "primary concern" was that the poster depicted an individual who "represents a terrorist organization that's banned in Canada." He said police, including the RCMP, were investigating.

By midday on Monday, Aug. 13 – three days after the billboard went up – the sign had been removed and replaced with an advertisement for a local auto dealership.

Kessler suggested that Windsor Mayor Eddie Francis, who is of Lebanese descent, was instrumental in having the poster taken down.

"He told me he was going to do everything in his power to make sure that billboard came down as quickly as possible," Kessler said. "I assume someone put pressure on the billboard sign company to take it down."

The billboard became a national news story. Kessler and the mayor's office received phone calls from across the country, mostly condemning the sign.

The incident appears to be unprecedented in Canada.

"The only situation I can recall that is at all analogous to this is the Jews for Jesus billboard that was put up at the corner of Bathurst [Street] and Wilson [Avenue in Toronto] a few years ago," said Len Rudner, national director of Community Relations for Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC). "The billboard, offensive in its presentation of a Holocaust survivor who had 'found' Jesus, was quickly taken down."

Rudner added that since the Canadian government has deemed Hezbollah to be a terrorist organization, "it is entirely inappropriate that the leader of Hezbollah should be portrayed in such an adulatory fashion." CJC commended the Windsor Jewish Federation and the mayor's office for having "this material removed from the public square."

Michele Erskine, marketing director for CBS Outdoor Canada, the company that owns the sign, called the entire incident "an honest mistake."

She said an employee at the firm's Windsor office "didn't recognize the full content" of the sign or recognize the significance of the pictures before putting it up.

"Since we realized the mistake was made, we've taken it down as fast as we could."

Attempts to reach the billboard's supporters were unsuccessful. The *Windsor Star* quoted Hussein Dabaja, who said various members of the Lebanese community took up a collection to pay for the sign and had made their point.

"The Jewish are not the enemy," Dabaja told the *Star*. "When Hezbollah fights the Israeli army, they fight the Israeli occupation to Lebanon."

The billboard went up just before the Aug. 12 one-year anniversary of Israel and Hezbollah agreeing to a United Nations-brokered ceasefire following last summer's war between the Jewish state and the Lebanese-based Shiite Muslim group.

Windsor's Lebanese community, which Haddad estimated at between 15,000 and 20,000 people, is typical of many such communities in Canada, divided between Christians and Muslims.

He added that "it's not all Muslims that support Hezbollah."

Kessler said that while a sign such as the pro-Hezbollah billboard increases tensions generally, "I think it's going to increase tensions most in the Arab and Lebanese communities, from what I'm hearing."

He added "there are many different perspectives" within the Lebanese community "on the politics of the Middle East."

Meanwhile, he said he will bring the matter to city hall's race and ethnocultural relations committee, hoping "protocols" will be developed in the event another such incident occurs.

Kessler said that on this occasion "the community reacted." But he said that in the event of a future incident, "we would have some proactive strategies or protocols in place."

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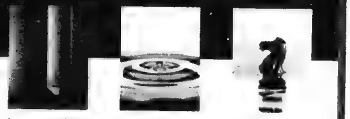

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Filmmaker's Dove ad campaign launched a promising career

By KYLE GORDON
Special to The CJN

In less than 60 seconds, Canadian director Yael Staav illustrates how our view of beauty has been manipulated and distorted by the media.

Her "Evolution" commercial, part of the Dove campaign for real beauty, is a fast-forward version of the transformation of a woman on the street to the model on the billboard. In the ad, the woman on film undergoes hairstyling, makeup and a series of computer-generated touch-ups before her makeover is complete.

"On the one hand, I think the message is something we all know, but at the same time, I know that one of the feelings women have when they watch the Dove spot is, 'I can't wait to show this to my boyfriend,'" said the 32-year-old Edmonton native.

"It was such a simple message that the agency came up with, and I think that is why it resonated with people so clearly. You could see the transformation happening – it was almost proof," said Staav.

With more than four million viewings on YouTube, women were watching and so was the advertising industry. Staav received the Grand Prix in the Film Lions category and the Cyber Grand Prix at Cannes 2007 with Dove "Evolution."

This year marked the 54th anniversary of the Cannes Lions international advertising festival. Participants are exposed to 25,000 ads in areas such as film, press, media and direct marketing.

"The feedback just keeps you on your toes. At no point do I feel satiated. You're always looking for the next thing to challenge you. All I care about is, when do I get to sink my teeth into something else really challenging," said Staav.

It was this passion that drove Staav to leave Edmonton at 19 and pursue the New Media program at Ryerson University in Toronto.

"Being Jewish, a director is not part of your vocabulary growing up. It's not like you're going to be a lawyer, doctor or a director. But when I came to Toronto, I realized people do this for a living and it looked amazing," said Staav.

While in Toronto, Staav began taking photographs of her friends' bands.

"The bands started to get bigger and the photos started getting published, and we were exposed to the world of VideoFACT," said Staav.

VideoFACT is a grants program that was established in 1984 to assist Canadian talent. It is funded entirely by the MuchMusic network.

"I started applying for grants, and I got them for a lot of artists. It was a lot of naiveté. I think about the little stick drawings I sent them and it makes me giggle," she said.

Staav began directing music videos, but financially she was still strained. During a low point, she even contemplated leaving the industry to pursue a law career.

"I had my LSAT books on top of my fridge until two or three years ago."

But it was the advice of a good friend that encouraged Staav to take a chance and send her demo reel to a few commercial companies.

"I started by sending my reel to an amazing company not with the expectation that I would get signed."

Her handcrafted label landed on the right person's desk at the right time and Staav was "whisked away on this whole other journey."

"As much as people say luck is two-thirds ambition and one-third elbow grease, I feel I had some fortune shine on me," said Staav, who recalls countless talented friends who are still struggling for a venue to ply their skills.

In addition to luck, Staav says she owes much of her success to her parents, Isaiah and Pnina, both of whom were born in Israel and later moved to New York City before settling in Canada.

"I can only speak from this position because they supported me through it. There are many years when you're an artist or filmmaker, when you're not making an impact. You need a supportive foundation without nudging."

Along with "Evolution," her commercial works include "Daughters" for Dove, "Hugging" for ALS, "Bad Hair Day" for Tetley and "Hose" for the YMCA.

"She is such a wonderful, smart, beautiful and confident person. She brings humanity to the business and her craft, and that shows in her work. The world is her oyster," said Eva Preger, executive producer of Soft Citizen, Staav's Canadian representation.

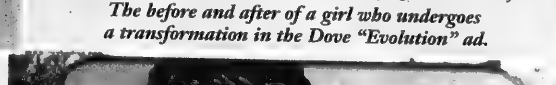
With the success of her commercials and short films, Staav is starting to think about writing screenplays.

"My family, the madness of Jewish schtick and the complexities of being a modern Jewess in a big city is always going to enter into my work," she said.

Staav is currently on location in Mexico City shooting a health commercial.

"You put yourself out there and you work hard and opportunities naturally open up. There are so many things I want to do… and still make it home [to Edmonton] for the High Holidays," she said.

To watch Dove "Evolution," visit www.campaignforrealbeauty.com.



The before and after of a girl who undergoes a transformation in the Dove "Evolution" ad.

CHECK OUT OUR BLOG @ HEEBONICS.CA

Visitors from Baycrest are seen with some of the LITs and CITs at Camp Robin Hood this summer.

Baycrest residents go to camp

By LORNE BERGER
and SARAH POLAN
Special to The CJN

As the buses roll in through the camp grounds, the visitors from Baycrest look out of the windows and see the smiling faces of campers enjoying summer activities. The smiles are reflected on their own faces.

Camp Robin Hood and Baycrest have created a special bond over the last 15 years – a relationship that is rekindled twice every summer for the enjoyment of campers and seniors alike.

The relationship started when a parent of a Robin Hood camper suggested that a program integrating campers and Baycrest residents should be established. The idea has evolved to the point where the campers in the leader-in-training (LIT) and counsellor-in-training (CIT) program are now responsible for organizing the visits.

This year, the visitors were given a tour of the campsite and participated in an art activity.

Working with the campers all summer, the LITs and CITs develop a variety of skills including leadership, communication and teamwork. The visit from Baycrest is an opportunity for them to learn to work with and provide leadership for adults.

In turn, the seniors enjoy the experience of being with the children, and in some instances, get to relive the joy of their own childhood.

The visitors were welcomed by Larry and Pearl Bell, the senior directors (Bubbie and Zaide) of Camp Robin Hood.

If not *now*,
when?

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel tov to Joseph & Guta Israel on your 60th anniversary. With love always, Albert & Arlene, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mazel tov to Bertha Mann on celebrating her 90th birthday on July 12.

Mazel tov to Judith & Ed Pakes on their 40th anniversary. Love, your children and grandchildren - Barry, Brenda and Shayna; Debbie, Dovid and Dari; Natalie, Steve and Gabi.

Heartfelt mazel tov to Sam Sheinkman on the occasion of your 90th birthday. From your family and friends.

Mazel tov Bernice & Ben Urovitz on your 60th anniversary. Love from Ellen, Michael, Ricky, Kyle and Samantha, Joe & Fanny, Patti & John.

Happy 90th birthday to Arnold Shildkraut on Aug. 1. Love, Max & Faina.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return.
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By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES. Monday, Aug. 27, is the deadline for the Sept. 6 issue; Wednesday, Aug. 29, is the deadline for the Sept. 12 issue; Tuesday, Sept. 4, is the deadline for the Sept. 20 issue; Monday, Sept. 10, is the deadline for the Sept. 26 issue; Monday, Sept. 17, is the deadline for the Oct. 3 issue; Wednesday, Sept. 19, is the deadline for the Oct. 11 issue; and Monday, Oct. 1, is the deadline for the Oct. 18 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0949 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Sunday, Aug. 26

SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Join Walk and Talk Etc., a walking club for Jewish singles 50+, for an easy walk through Pomona Mills Park in Thornhill. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the tennis court parking lot, 200 John St., east of Henderson Ave. For information, walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

SINGLES EVENT

Join Jewish singles 50+ for a mix and mingle. 5:30 p.m. Call **David**, 416-781-7947.

AM SHALOM SYNAGOGUE

First annual Am Shalom Synagogue bazaar, silent auction, bake sale and barbecue, Aug. 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. If you have items to donate, contact **Jean Trainor**, 705-739-9834. Portion of proceeds will be donated to Gilda's Club, 767 Huronia Rd. Barrie. Call 705-792-3949, e-mail amshalomcongregation@bellnet.ca.

Tuesday, Aug. 28

A VIDEO TRIP TO CHINA

Rafael Lupas presents the video *A Trip to China* to the Dr. W. Filderman Bnai Brith Lodge. 6 p.m. at 15 Hove St. For information, call **Felicia Lowy**, 416-631-0634, or **Neti Badulescu**, 416-733-1214.

EAST MEETS WEST

UJA Committee for Yiddish and Ashkenaz Foundation present East Meets West, a concert of klezmer and Yiddish musicians from Israel and the former Soviet Union. Performers include **Vira Lozinsky**, **Sasha Luminsky**, Oy Division and **Efim Chorny** and **Susanna Ghergus**. 7 p.m. at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park. Free, tickets required. Tickets available at the theatre box office from noon on Aug. 28. Doors open 5 p.m. Rain venue Beth David Synagogue. Info, 416-635-2883, ext. 150, or www.ashkenazfestival.com.

MELTON INFO NIGHT

The Melton Mini School holds an information night at Beth David Synagogue. 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to hear a model lesson and learn about the Melton program. 416-789-7400

ISRAEL UPDATE

Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood and the entertainment and cultural committee present **Brian Morris**, former chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, on the topic "Update on the Israel Situation: Myth and Fact." 8 p.m. Members free, guests $2. 416-789-3213.

Wednesday, Aug. 29

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Jewish Genealogical Society presents **Doreen Berger** talking about how she came to write *The Jewish Victorian*, which contains genealogical information from Jewish newspapers printed in Great Britain from 1871 to 1880. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Non-members $5. www.jgstoronto.ca

Other News

PERINATAL CARE

The Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine offers a free information session on perinatal care, Part I, Thursday, Aug. 30, 6:30 p.m. Part II, Monday, Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m.

Continued on page 23

On Campus

Jewish studies major now at York

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

York University has long been known as a school with a large Jewish population, an impressive selection of Jewish studies courses, and a renowned Centre for Jewish Studies.

But starting next month, York will become one of only two Ontario universities to offer both a major and minor in Jewish studies. (The other is the University of Toronto.)

Previously, students could take Jewish-themed courses without being able to major or minor in Jewish studies.

"As the dimensions of the offerings in Jewish studies filled out, we increasingly began to think it made sense to mount a program, which is to say that now someone can major or minor in Jewish studies," said Eric Lawee, the Jewish studies program co-ordinator.

"One could have just taken a number of Jewish studies courses up until now. We had a certificate that attested to one's competence in Judaica, but now, one can actually do one's degree in Jewish studies. It is a new development we're excited about."

He added that York has had a long history of offering Jewish studies courses.

Its Centre for Jewish Studies, headed by Prof. Sara Horowitz, is a research hub that offers courses and organizes community programs related to Jewish learning. Lawee said he hopes both the centre and the new program will benefit from ongoing interaction.

Lawee also hopes the new program will fit into York's mandate of offering broad-based education.

"Students often associate Jewish studies with religious studies, and needless to say, we have a lot of interest in Judaism as a religion, but we also recognize that Jewish studies goes well beyond just the religious dimension. It can be Jewish literature, Jewish history, sociology of the Jewish community, Jewish music and so on," he said.

"Jewish studies shouldn't be seen in narrow terms, and we don't want to ghettoize Jewish studies as an academic discipline with no connections to the broader world of humanistic study."

Students who choose to major or minor in Jewish studies will study Judaism as a religion, but they will also have the opportunity to explore Jewish history, culture, sociology, languages, and fine arts from biblical times to the present.

"York has always prized broad-based education… But we think we'll be able to be focused enough to make sure there is competence in Jewish studies, but broad-based enough to make sure people are connecting to larger academic courses in the university," Lawee said.

He added that students who are already in the middle of their education at York and are interested in majoring in Jewish studies, switching into the program shouldn't be a problem.

"It is often the case that first-year students are undeclared when they come to university… even people who do declare their major very frequently find that what they thought was to their liking was not, so they found something they are more akin to, so they change majors… Our expectation will be that mostly first-year students either coming to York for the first time or who have already been here for a year will be the first cohort to go through the program."

Lawee said that although York has for many years offered a good selection of Jewish studies courses, he hopes the new program will give potential students yet another reason to come to York.

Queen's group backs boycott

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

A Queen's University campus group has strongly criticized the head of the school for her opposition to a proposed boycott of Israeli academia.

Last week, the Queen's Coalition for Racial and Ethnic Diversity (QCRED), an anti-racist group dedicated to cultural awareness at the university, sent a letter to principal Karen Hitchcock objecting to her statement on the school's website denouncing a May decision by the British University and College Union (UCU) to hold a union-wide debate on whether to boycott Israeli academia.

An Aug. 15 report in the *Toronto Star* quoted a portion of the QCRED letter, which called Hitchcock's position a "mischaracterization and defamation of Queen's community members… who strongly oppose your stance."

The move by the UCU, Britain's largest teacher's union, has been met with widespread denunciation by most major Canadian universities.

In July, Hitchcock responded to the UCU announcement by calling it "antithetical to the core value of academic freedom, which is cherished by Queen's and other universities around the world."

She also stated that Queen's should also be added to the UCU boycott list if the union does not alter its "ill-advised course."

The *Star* report also quoted Queen's English professor Margaret Pappano, a faculty member of QCRED, who called Hitchcock's statement "blatantly political" and hypocritical because it was announced without prior debate.

"You can't be silent for years about what's gone on to Palestinian academic freedom and suddenly issue a statement of support for Israeli academic freedom without it having political connotations," Pappano said.

Lorinda Peterson, a spokesperson for the principal's office, confirmed that the QCRED letter had been received, but said Hitchcock was away.

Calls by *The CJN* to the coalition and Pappano were not returned.

Continued from page 22

For information, visit www.ccnm.edu. Registration required, Hgibson@ccnm.edu or 416-498-1255, ext. 263.

KOSHER CRUISE V

Join Beth Jacob Congregation's for food, music and fireworks on their fifth annual kosher Labour Day cruise, Monday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m. $40. To reserve, call 416-638-5955 or visit www.byad.org. For information, call Sunday to Thursday 9-11 a.m.

MAKIN' MUSIC

Join Beth Tzedec for Families Makin' Music beginning Friday Sept. 7. Mixed ages to five years old. 10:15-11:15 a.m. Children under seven months, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Call **Helen Bauer**, 416-844-5655, to register.

FAMILY FUN DAY

Canadian Friends of Hebrew University alumni and Friends host their fifth annual Family Fun Day of outdoor adventure, entertainment and a barbecue at Camp Robin Hood in Markham, Sunday, Sept. 9, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. $40. Family pass $85 before Aug. 27, $100 after the 27th. For information and tickets, contact 416-485-8000 or tor@cfhu.org.

SINGLES CRUISE

Singles 35+ are invited to a kosher dinner cruise with a klezmer band on Ottawa River, Sunday, Sept. 9, 4-8 p.m. $75. To reserve, call 613-523-3831 or e-mail cepelinski@rogers.com.

HEBREW SCHOOL

Beth Israel Hebrew Academy offers Sunday or Tuesday Hebrew school in Thornhill for students in senior kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah age. Each lesson includes an art component. For information, contact **Lillian Benlolo** at 905-326-8767 or beth_israel@hotmail.com.

BOWLERS WANTED

Sunday Night Bowling, 10-pin bowling for singles and couples 50+. Meets every second Sunday at 7 p.m. The group also organizes social activities throughout the year. First bowling night, Sunday, Sept. 9. For details, call **Al** and **Rosalyne Federman** (couples), 416-635-0563, or **Hanita Chencinski** (singles), 416-922-1400.

HIGH HOLY DAYS TICKETS

Join **Chabad Markham** for the High Holy Days, 83 Green Lane. Tickets available at 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

Kolel celebrates the High Holy Days with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** at the BJCC. For tickets, call 416-636-1880, ext. 255, or visit www.kolel.org.

YIDDISH CLASSES

The Committee for Yiddish, Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto offer Yiddish language classes for adults at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Conversation, reading and writing are included at each level. All classes take place Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon, beginning Sept. 23. $110/12 sessions. Conversational Yiddish, with materials provided in transliteration, is offered Tuesdays, beginning Oct. 9, 1-3 p.m. $90/10 sessions. A free children's Yiddish class involving language, culture and the celebration of Jewish holidays is offered Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Registration is Sunday, Sept. 23, the first class is Sept. 30. There is a $20 supplies fee. All classes are held at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. For more information, contact **Ethel Cooper** at ecooper@ujafed.org or 416 635-2883, ext. 389.

SUPPORT GROUP

The Caring for Your Loved One support group for those caring for an elderly parent with dementia starts this fall, Wednesday evenings 6-7:30 p.m. at Baycrest. To register, call 416-785-2500, ext. 3587 (**Nira**), or ext. 2998 (**Elaine**).

AMPUTEE SUPPORT

Chazak V'Ematz offers support to all amputees, to help them adjust to life. The group meets to discuss new products and prosthetic devices. For information, call **Ruth**, 416-783-3717

FOR SENIORS

Seniors Weekly Bowling, single and couples, meets every Sunday at 7 p.m. at Bowlerama, Bathurst and Glencairn, for five-pin bowling. First-time bowlers welcome. For information, call **Ben,** 416-633-2428.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park. Casino Rama. Wednesday, Sept. 5; Casino Fallsview Niagara, Tuesday, Sept. 18. Activities include mah-jong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; duplicate bridge, Wednesdays, 12-3 p.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m. For information, call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 416-395-7881.

Bathurst JCC and Miles Nadal JCC present 55+ tours to Ottawa and 1000 Islands, Oct. 23-25. Includes two nights' accommodation, tours, food and entertainment. For infofmation and registration, contact **Teme Kernerman**, 416-636-1880, ext. 364, or bjcc55plus@bjcc.ca, or **Randi Sokolsky**, 416-924-6211, ext. 154, or randis@mnjcc.org.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

High Holy Days tickets for the Orthodox synagogue as well as our newly renamed Beth Chavarim Synagogue are on sale at the Wagman service desk, ext. 2267. Tickets $80.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Stories from the Heart, Thursday, Aug. 23, 12-1 p.m. $3.

Free classic movies, Thursday, Aug. 23, 2 p.m.

Rabbi David Eligberg, of Beit Rayim Synagogue, speaks Tuesday, Aug. 28, 10-11:30 p.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Wine and cheese party, Wednesday, Aug. 29, 6:30-9 p.m. Call **Ruth**, ext. 105 for information.

Michelle Cauch will talk about "Sex After 60!" Thursday, Aug. 30, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca

Sign up for the Summer Arts Party, a fun-filled weeklong program of music, dance, painting, drawing, pottery and swimming. Monday, Aug, 27, through Friday, Aug. 31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. $350.

Summer Arts Party offers special events for teens. "The Big Draw" on Tuesday, Aug. 28, is an evening of drawing-based games and contests with MC **Misha Glouberman**, who regularly hosts *Room 101*. For "Battle of the Dancers," on Thursday, Aug. 30, Sole Power leads dancing to the latest hip hop, breakdance steps and more. Watch demos and learn steps and routines from professional dancers. Each $10. To register or for information, call **Elyse Goody**, ext. 222.

The Red Cross babysitting course for 11- to14-year-olds takes place at the BJCC Sunday, Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. What to do in case of an emergency, safety tips for children of all ages, how to cope with common problems, first aid and much more will be covered. Course certificate and workbook will be given to all who successfully complete the course. Pre-registration is required, call ext. 235.

Seniors online computer Internet courses made easy for adults 55+. Personalized attention, low student-to-teacher ratio. The course Windows – Level 1 will allow you to take control of your computer by becoming comfortable and familiar using the Windows operating system. Begins Sept. 4. Open computer lab, walk-in basis, $1 per hour, Monday and Wednesday noon-1 p.m. in Room 216. For information or registration, call ext. 235.

Join Conversation Café Thursday evenings, a joint program with JIAS, offering newcomers a chance to practise English in a social environment. Call for information.

jVIAnetwork connects active vision-impaired Jewish adults. The group looks to establish a recreational and phys-ed program, and organize outings and activities that allow for socialization and networking. For information, call **Bess**, 905-508-2892.

Register now for September programs and classes for birth to six years old at the Family Place at the Jewish Discovery Museum. The museum offers a wide array of classes, including music, Hebrew, nature and cooking. For information, call ext. 390. To register, call ext. 235.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www. mnjcc.org.

The 2007-08 Miles Nadal JCC program book is now available at www.mnjcc.org. Register for Hebrew classes; Jewish meditation; adult choirs; klezmer workshop with **Eric Stein**; musicianship; pottery; Film Sundays with **Shlomo Schwartzberg**; Music Sundays with **Jordan Klapman**; and private music lessons. Children's programs include preschool classes; after-school programs, nursery school, Suzuki program and preschool music. Fitness and swimming classes are available for all ages and levels. To register, call ext. 0.

Good Age Club meets every Thursday at 1 p.m. Aug. 23. Visit to the ROM, Aug. 30, Movie Mania. Annual Good Age Club membership fee of $50 includes one yoga and one aquafit class at the MNjcc per week. For information, contact **Randi Sokolsky** at randis@mnjcc.org or ext. 154.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Learn to be a professional puppeteer and help the Concern Kids educate children 4-14 about drugs, violence, gangs, multiculturalism and more. If you are energetic and can give four hours a week until June 2008, send a resumé to info@theconcernedkids.com or call **Linamaria**, 416-636-1656. Access to a car preferred.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 19

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To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Pearl Simbrow	Aug 5/07	1035 Eglinton Avenue, West
Jerry Levine	Aug 6/07	205 Cummer Avenue
Florence Cadesky	Aug 5/07	767 Spadina Road
Dorothy Zimmerman	Aug 6/07	514 Brunswick Avenue
Leo Smith	Aug 6/07	77 Avenue Road,
Sadye Wintre	Aug 6/07	355 St. Clair Ave.West,
Pesia Hirsz	Aug 7/07	718 Sheppard Ave. West,
Abraham Rapoport	Aug 8/07	2500 Bathurst Street,
Gary Galin	Aug 7/07	2243 Turnberry Road,
Marilyn Tavroges	Aug 7/07	4005 Bayview Avenue,
Lillian Kestenberg	Aug 8/07	93 Charlton Blvd.
Michael Englishman	Aug 8/07	35 Roman Road
Sam Pancer	Aug 11/07	4005 Bayview Avenue,
Bernard Bernickier	Aug 10/07	35 Argyle Road
Daisy Harris	Aug 11/07	

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Shapiro, Irene Bertha	Aug. 2/07	5935 Bathurst St
Milyavsky, Leonid	Aug. 3/07	6171 Bathurst St
Ross, Libby	Aug. 3/07	306 Finch Ave. E
Ben-Zvi, Tova	Aug. 3/07	541 Finch Ave. W
Najhaus, Abraham	Aug. 4/07	7825 Bayview Ave
Rubin, Saul	Aug. 4/07	118 Fairholme Ave
Dennill, Nathan (Natie)	Aug. 5/07	125 Willowbrook Rd
Marcus, Solly	Aug. 6/07	96 Fifeshire Rd
Greenspan, Sarah	Aug. 9/07	98 Rockford Rd
Bienstock, Max	Aug. 9/07	3560 Bathurst St
Swartz, David Stanley	Aug. 10/07	12 Ravenrock Court
Lax, Shirley Bernice	Aug. 10/07	Private
Fruchter, Sinaida	Aug. 11/07	4455 Bathurst St
Nussbaum, Daniel	Aug. 11/07	4005 Bayview Ave
Corbett, Jack	Aug. 11/07	204 Jaimie Rd
Himel, Dorothy	Aug. 10/07	47 Kennard Ave
Miller, Ella	Aug. 12/07	Private
Davidzon, Boris	Aug. 12/07	98 North Meadow Cres
Glowinski, Rose	Aug. 11/07	177 Linus Rd
Smith , Bina Mahriam	Aug. 10/07	Private

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

PERCY GOODMAN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Aug. 26th, 11:00 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Kieltzer Sick Benefit Society Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

MAX KIRSHENBLAT ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Aug. 26th, 12:00 noon

Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Independent Order of Foresters Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

SARA KOPLOWITZ ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 26th, 10:30 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Bathurst south of Steeles

LodzerSection

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

EDITH LOGAN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Aug. 26th, 2:00 p.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park

New Beth Radom Section 5

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The *STERN* family of the late

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(August 9, 1912 - July 31, 2007)

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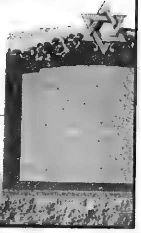

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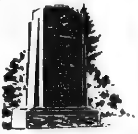
Sunday, Aug. 26th, 12:00 noon

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Clanton Park Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend



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The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

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will take place

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Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Bathurst south of Steeles

Ostrovtzer Section

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Jean, Shirley, Hedy, Jimmy, Bill and grandchildren

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MARILYN (ROSENBERG) JACOBS ז"ל

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Sunday, August 26th at 11:30 a.m.

Woodlawn Memorial Park

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Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

LOUIS EINHORN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 26th at 10:30 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Bathurst south of Steeles – Shaarei Tefillah Section, Row D, Plot 64

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Darfur refugees will be refused entry into Israel

© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Israeli government said Sunday that it would turn away refugees fleeing Darfur and seeking asylum in Israel, after it deported to Egypt for the first time almost 50 refugees that escaped the war-torn Sudanese region.

"The policy of returning back anyone who enters Israel illegally will pertain to everyone, including those from Darfur," said David Baker, a spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office.

There are currently some 2,500 African refugees in Israel, including roughly 500 from Darfur.

The government has been struggling with what to do with the refugees, whose numbers have shot up in recent months to as many as 50 a day, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, apparently as word of job opportunities in Israel spread.

Israel Radio reported that PMO officials said Sunday night that Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak agreed in a phone conversation Sunday that Israel would continue to return to Egypt Sudanese refugees who illegally entered it.

Olmert instructed the Immigrant Absorption Ministry on Sunday to absorb the Darfur refugees already in the country in Israel. "Those already in Israel will be allowed to stay," Baker said.

This decision, however, is only applicable to Darfur refugees already in Israel, and those who cross the border in the future will be immediately returned to Egypt.

Fighting between pro-government militias and rebels in the western Sudanese region of Darfur has killed more than 200,000 people and displaced 2.5 million since February 2003.

The refugees deported on Sunday were arrested last Friday evening as they tried to cross from Egypt into Israel, and were held for more than 24 hours at an Israel Defence Forces base in southern Israel before bussed back to Egypt on Sunday.

IDF figures showed that of the slightly more than 50 refugees deported, close to 50 were from Darfur. The rest were from the Ivory Coast and Somalia.

This is the first instance in which Israel has returned African refugees to Egypt, in accordance with an agreement with Mubarak at the Sharm el-Sheikh summit in 2005.

A group of displaced Sudanese villagers are seen here in northern Darfur region of Sudan, in 2004. [CJN File photo]

An government official said Egypt has agreed to treat the Darfur refugees well, but acknowledged it might send them back to Sudan. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, because he was not authorized to discuss the matter with the press.

Olmert said Sunday that he welcomes the move. "Mubarak has met his commitments, and this is the first sign of the prevention of infiltration from Egypt to Israel in a free manner."

Hadash MK Dov Khenin said in response that, "The expulsion is an inhumane act that violates international law."

The move comes about two weeks after 63 MKs signed a document urging the government to refrain from deporting Sudanese refugees to Egypt, amid reports of violent treatment the refugees face in Egypt. The signatories included Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, Labor's Amir Peretz, Hadash's Dov Khenin and the National Religious Party's Effi Eitam.

Egyptian riot police violently cleared a refugee encampment in central Cairo in 2005, killing nearly 30 people.

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Olmert, Abbas talks hit snag

By BARAK RAVID

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JERUSALEM — Talks between Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on a future Palestinian state are stuck on the issue of the Palestinian refugee problem.

Abbas is refusing to make significant concessions, government sources in Jerusalem told *Ha'aretz*.

They said Abbas and Olmert have in recent weeks been negotiating a new document on the core issues of forming a Palestinian state. The one-page document has five general clauses on central issues such as the permanent borders of the future Palestinian state, the question of jurisdiction over holy sites in Jerusalem and the Palestinian refugee problem.

But Olmert and Abbas have yet to agree on actual resolutions, the sources said, adding that the two leaders will meet at the end of the month to discuss the issues.

Both Israeli and Palestinian parties involved in the negotiations said the document was meant to be completed for the international peace conference U.S. President George W. Bush plans to hold in the fall.

Foreign diplomats said Abbas' aides told them that the international conference could not take place before the document is completed.

Sources at Olmert's office, however, suggested a different approach. "We're hoping to complete the document of principles before the conference, but the meeting does not depend on the document's completion," one said.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is scheduled to arrive in Israel early next month to try to bridge the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions. Rice is reportedly determined to deal with core issues, as opposed to tactical problems such as Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank or concessions aimed at improving living conditions for the Palestinians.

If the document is completed in time, it will form the basis for further discussions at the conference, government sources said. Sources involved with the negotiations said the Palestinian side had already assembled a team to handle the talks.

Israeli diplomats have yet to set up such a delegation, but Jerusalem is currently forming a negotiating strategy for future talks with the Palestinians. The strategists are also enlisting international support and assistance for the talks.

The immediate goal will be to weaken Hamas, the Fatah rivals who seized control of the Gaza Strip this past June. This would be achieved through a boycott on Hamas amid attempts to bolster Abbas' West Bank government.

In its dealings with moderate Arab states, Israel is no longer demanding full recognition. Instead, Israel will seek a gradual rapprochement with the Arab League. Israel aims to secure the Arab League's support and assistance for the international conference.

Sources in Jerusalem said, however, that Arab diplomats are skeptical about the conference and fear that it has little chance of breaking the impasse in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Survivors get boost in benefits

Continued from page 1

help those who have fallen through the cracks and receive little government support in the form of the benefits received by most survivors who were in concentration camps or ghettos.

Some 8,000 survivors who, for bureaucratic reasons, have yet to receive a special government allotment will receive NIS 1,200 ($302) a month for the next two years. The government will try to convince Germany to provide these funds. If it does not succeed, it will increase the benefits paid by Israel to NIS 1,600 ($403) a month after the two years have passed.

In addition, some 7,000 survivors who receive reparations from a German fund established in the 1990s, and who subsist thanks to income supplements, will receive an annual grant of NIS 3,000 ($756). The government will also fund a centre that will inform survivors of their financial rights and help them receive the money due them.

The government, whose negotiating team was led by Prime Minister's Office director general Raanan Dinur, also agreed to symbolic gestures such as granting survivors a badge of appreciation on the occasion of Israel's upcoming 60th birthday. It will also establish a committee – half of whose members will be survivors and half ministerial directors – that will meet twice a year to discuss survivors' benefits and any related problems that might arise.

The government also committed to promote legislation recognizing the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors as the representative group in any future negotiations with the government.

Israelis, Canadian Jews help Peru

JERUSALEM — The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said Sunday that $20,000 (US) had been sent to the Israeli Embassy in Lima in order to buy emergency provisions for victims of last week's earthquake.

Israeli President Shimon Peres instructed diplomats to ask the Peruvians what further help could be offered by Israel, which has organized major aid airlifts and search-and-rescue teams for foreign disaster zones in the past.

Peru is a popular destination for Israeli trekkers, but none were known to be among the hundreds of people killed by the Aug. 15 quake. More than 500 people have been reported killed, and more than 17,000 people have been displaced.

In Toronto, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has launched an emergency relief fund for those affected by the earthquake.

Proceeds will be distributed regardless of religion by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). The JDC is working with other disaster relief agencies in the regions to assess immediate needs.

The JDC has a century-old history of providing relief to those in need. It collected $19.6 million for the relief effort following the tsunami in Southeast Asia in 2004 and $800,000 for the Pakistani earthquake in 2005.

Donations can be made at www.ujadonations.com/Peru, or call 416 631-5705.

CANADIAN TECHNION SOCIETY
Notice of Annual General Meeting
Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting
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will be held at the National office
970 Lawrence Avenue West, Suite 206
in Toronto on
Sunday, September 9, 2007
12:00 noon
For further information: National office 1-800-935-8864

Israel Briefs

U.S. boosts grants

The Bush administration signed a deal to boost U.S. military grants to Israel by 25 per cent. U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns and Bank of Israel Governor Stanley Fischer met Aug. 16 in Jerusalem to seal a deal in which Israel will receive $30 billion (US) in defence aid over the coming decade. Israel, which currently gets $2.4 billion a year from Washington, sees the boost as vital to overhauling its armed forces after the Lebanon war and ahead of any showdown with arch-foe Iran. The new deal awaits congressional approval, and officials expect the first payout will take place in the 2009 fiscal year.

Nasrallah issues threat

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said Israel faces a "big surprise" that could shake the Middle East if it invades Lebanon again, the *Turkish Daily News* reported last week. Nasrallah, who made the comments in a speech to mark one year since Hezbollah's ceasefire with Israel, said his group has missiles that can reach deep into Israel. "Oh Zionists, if you think of launching a war on Lebanon, and I don't advise to do it," he told thousands of supporters at an Aug. 14 rally in Beirut. "I promise you a big surprise that could change the fate of war and the fate of the region."

Netanyahu re-elected

Benjamin Netanyahu easily won re-election as head of Israel's Likud Party last week. A final tally gave Netanyahu, the leader of Israel's parliamentary opposition, 73.2 per cent of the votes. His closest rival, pro-settler activist Moshe Feiglin, took 23.4 per cent.

Hamas vows victory

Hamas vowed to press the Palestinians' fight against Israel until it is destroyed. "Palestinians will fight Israel for generation upon generation until victory, and will yet get to dance at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem," Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas prime minister in the dismissed Palestinian Authority government, told a Gaza rally Aug. 16. "If Israel is not defeated in this generation, it will be in the next generation," he said.

Prof apologizes

An Israeli professor apologized for cursing troops who evicted settlers from disputed West Bank properties. Hillel Weiss, a professor of Jewish studies at Bar-Ilan University, was in Hebron during this month's eviction of two squatter families and appeared on national media calling for the death of a senior army commander involved in the operation. The remarks outraged top Israeli brass and politicians, prompting police to probe whether Weiss had incited violence. On Aug. 13, Weiss said he sent a letter of apology to the military chief of staff and that he never intended for his invective to be taken personally. "I said that I was ashamed of my curses, that this was a terrible lapse," Weiss said. He said his daughter was among the settlers removed from buildings in Hebron to which Palestinians claim ownership, and that he was outraged by what he described as excessive force used by police and troops. "I was thrown out of my daughter's house along with her and the babies, very forcibly," he said. "I came out full of anger and fury."

Hebrew U gives refund

Hebrew University compensated a man whose attendance was scuppered by World War II. On Aug. 14, Hebrew U gave Baruch Kaplan, 85, a cheque for $3,800 (US), a symbolic sum that today would cover two years of tuition. The Polish-born Kaplan enrolled to study chemistry at in 1939, and his father paid in advance. War broke out, and Kaplan escaped the Nazi onslaught, but his family was killed. He would later study sciences in Moscow, becoming a renowned scholar, before making aliyah. He said he plans to spend the cash on tuition for one of his great-granddaughters.

– JTA

Jews help build youth village in Rwanda

By JUSTIN SULSKY
JTA

NEW YORK — Anne Heyman heard a statistic nearly two years ago that would change her life: 15 per cent of Rwandan children are orphans due to the 1994 genocide in which 800,000 people were murdered in 100 days.

"I couldn't let go of this notion," Heyman said. "There was really no future for Rwanda."

Heyman, a non-practising attorney born in South Africa, has spent the past two years pushing for the creation of a Jewish-sponsored institution in Rwanda to help tackle the dire situation.

Her determination is paying off – last Friday she attended a groundbreaking ceremony in Rwamagana, Rwanda, for the Agahozo Shalom Youth Village, which will serve 500 impoverished orphans.

Agahozo – Kinyarwandan for "the place where tears are dried" – is modelled after the Youth Aliyah Village of Yemin Orde, which was founded in 1953 and initially housed Holocaust orphans.

To help realize her vision, Heyman turned to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Israeli officials, including many Ethiopian Israelis, have also been involved in the formulation of the youth village.

"We will strive to the extent that it's possible to create a normal environment," Heyman told JTA in a phone interview from her hotel room in Rwanda. "As far as I know, it's unprecedented."

The JDC is promising that the village will provide Rwandan orphans, many of them infected with HIV and suffering from AIDS, with a "safe, structured environment with a rich community life where children are exposed to all elements of parental and familial normalcy, thereby providing wholeness in the wake of destruction."

"[Jews] have a collective experience with the Rwandans, having come through genocide," said Will Recant, the JDC's assistant executive vice-president. "We're very much invested in the long-term sustainable commitment to make this happen."

Heyman said she hopes that students from all over Rwanda will come to the village and impart what they have learned to their home communities when they graduate.

"The effect of this project will be felt over the country," Heyman said.

Recant said numerous high-ranking political and business leaders support the school, which is slated to open in 2009.

"We've been received at the highest levels of the Rwandan government," he said.

Recant and Heyman both said they hope eventually to build similar villages in other parts of Africa.

Heyman said in order to provide the greatest benefit, the JDC is trying to hire as many qualified Rwandan people and companies as possible. But because of the shortage of qualified Rwandan teachers, she said, some positions will be filled from outside the country.

Recant, who has extensive experience leading the JDC's non-sectarian humanitarian programs, said those not often exposed to Jews and Israelis gain a great appreciation for them when they see the work being done by Jewish groups.

"The work itself speaks volumes," he said. "They see we have no horns."

"I've never felt more warmly welcomed as a Jew" than at any other time while doing humanitarian work, Heyman added.

Lutherans move on Israel boycott

CHICAGO — The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has taken a step toward a partial boycott of Israeli goods.

At its 2007 Churchwide Assembly in Chicago earlier this month, the church's top legislative authority urged "consideration" of economic options, including the refusal to buy Israeli products or invest in activities in Israeli settlements, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. The church also resolved to work toward a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for investment in the Palestinian Authority.

The assembly rejected a call for divestiture from Israel.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center blasted the assembly's "mixed message" of rejecting divestiture but "studying" a boycott.

"This marks the first time a mainline American Protestant church has moved toward a possible boycott of Israel," said the Center's associate dean, Rabbi Abraham Cooper.

"ELCA delegates would have made a stronger contribution to the quest for peace and justice in the Holy Land had they also raised the ransacking of Christian places of worship and [the] recent forced conversion of a Christian professor in Gaza, as well as the unrelenting targeting of Israeli civilian communities by Palestinian Qassam rockets," Cooper said.

U.K. profs warn of damaging ties

LONDON — A number of British academics have renewed their plea for the immediate recall of a proposed academic boycott of Israel.

The added urgency comes in the wake of a full-page ad threatening a retaliatory boycott of British institutions that appeared in the Aug. 8 issue of the *New York Times*. The ad was signed by more than 300 American university and college presidents.

Prof. Mark Pepys, head of the department of medicine at the University of London's Hampstead Campus and a member of the University and College Union sponsoring the proposed boycott, warned that British academic institutions must distance themselves from any boycott of Israeli academia or risk seriously damaging ties with U.S. colleges and universities.

A letter to be distributed to British universities by the joint chairs of the Stop the Boycott campaign will request each institution to clarify its position on the boycott. Universities such as Cambridge and Oxford have come out in opposition.

In the letter, Pepys noted that "American academia, with its depth, breadth and scale, has enormous impact in the U.K. at all levels of academic life."

Later, he said, "There is now an immediate imperative for all British universities to take an equally rigorous and unequivocal public stand so that they are not tainted by association with those individuals who propose a boycott."

Pepys said before even more damage is done to British universities and the country's reputation, universities should announce their opposition to the boycott.

Jeremy Newmark, chief executive of the Jewish Leadership Council and joint chair of Stop the Boycott Campaign said, "We will be writing to every university in the country urging them to clarify their position so that they do not become unfairly associated with the boycott."

He applauded the clear rejection of the boycott by Oxford and others, and said, "It is time for every major U.K. campus to declare themselves boycott-free zones."

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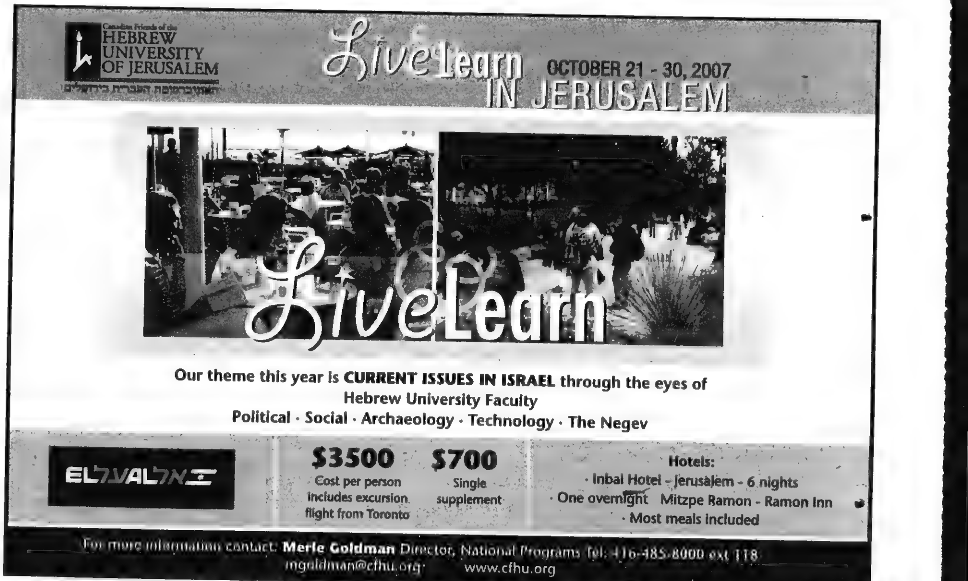
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Adaptation of Michaels' *Fugitive Pieces* opens film fest

By SHLOMO SCHWARTZBERG
Special to The CJN

Jeremy Podeswa on the set of *Fugitive Pieces*

It's always an honour to have your film open the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival.

But for local filmmaker Jeremy Podeswa, the opening at the festival on Sept. 6 of his adaptation of Anne Michaels' much-praised novel *Fugitive Pieces* will also remind people that he's not just the A-list TV director he's become in recent years.

While Podeswa's first two feature films, *Eclipse* and *The Five Senses*, have hardly been minor accomplishments, Podeswa's renown of late has stemmed from his helming of such critically acclaimed, controversial and often cutting- edge cable television shows, including *Dexter*, *Rome*, *Nip/Tuck* and *Six Feet Under*.

"I kind of feel like I have two parallel careers in a way," says the 45-year-old Torontonian over the phone from Los Angeles, where he is shooting a new episode of Showtime's *Dexter*, "one as an independent filmmaker and one as a television director.

"They do dovetail with each other very well, but it's very important for me to sustain that other career of mine, which is really where I started, as an independent filmmaker."

In fact, when he began shooting feature films, Podeswa had never even contemplated working in television. "I never imagined that I was going to be directing television, but then I also never imagined that television would be so interesting," he says.

Nevertheless, he is happy to be making movies again and excited by having met the challenge of adapting the complex *Fugitive Pieces* to the screen. The film tells the moving story of a young Polish-Jewish boy, Jakob, who is rescued from the Holocaust by a Greek man and brought, first to Greece, and then to Toronto after the war. There Jakob makes a new life for himself, while trying to deal with the pain of his scarred past.

Podeswa, however, doesn't consider the movie to be a Holocaust film.

"It's more a film about loss and memory and history and how we deal with the past – the vehicle that she [Anne Michaels] uses to tell that story is [about] someone who has been through the World War II experience. But what I really appreciated about the book, among many other things, is the fact that it's really universal in what it's dealing with," he says.

"It's really about a lot of different things, and it's not specifically about one historical experience. That being said, if I hadn't read *Fugitive Pieces*, I'm not sure that I would have touched the subject in any way at all. If I hadn't found the vehicle that dealt with it in a way that I thought was truly original and hadn't been done, I wouldn't have."

Coincidentally, the somewhat similarly themed *Emotional Arithmetic*, directed by Paolo Barzman, adapted from the late Toronto author Matt Cohen's novel, is closing the Toronto International Film Festival.

Podeswa admits that another attraction to the project was its relation to his father's experiences during the war. The Polish-born Yehuda (Julius) Podeswa also lost his whole family in the Holocaust.

"In some ways, there are parallels between his story and the story of Jakob in the book, but it's really not so much the specifics of their experiences but more the issues that it raises, the general thematic things that come of that experience [which] Anne deals with very sensitively [in the book]," Podeswa says.

Michaels, who lives in Toronto, has been very supportive of his project, says Podeswa, adding that he feels he has done justice to her book.

"So far in test screenings that we've done, people who knew the book have responded very, very strongly to the film. I think people who love the book are going to really love the movie."

Of course, any film that touches on the horrors of the Holocaust, even in the non-explicit way that *Fugitive Pieces* does, will be have to contend with the label of "Jewish" film and by extension, its creator will be tagged as a "Jewish" filmmaker.

Podeswa knows that. "I have a strong feeling about identity politics. I think people are a lot of different things. Your gender, your religion, your nationality, all kinds of things come into play as to what kind of filmmaker you are," he says.

"So I'm a lot of things, not just a Jewish filmmaker, but I am also Jewish and I think that certainly has a role to play in me wanting to make this film very badly and feeling it was an important film to make. I embrace the label [of Jewish filmmaker], but I'm not limited by that label."

Fugitive Pieces will be released commercially this fall.

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Ashkenaz presents klezmer/Yiddish concert at Earl Bales

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

A free concert featuring internationally renowned klezmer and Yiddish musicians takes place in Toronto's Earl Bales Park on Aug. 28.

Performers from Israel and the former Soviet Union take to the stage at the park's Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre for the event, which is part of the Ashkenaz Festival's year-round programming.

"The idea with the concert is outreach for Ashkenaz programming, particularly to the northern regions of the city, where many Russians and Israelis reside," says Eric Stein, Ashkenaz's artistic director.

"Last year's event was an unbelievable success… and we hope to create something as spectacular as it's been in the past."

At the 2006 event, the concert drew more than 2,200 people show to a venue that seats 1,500.

Stein notes this year's concert, titled East Meets West, will showcase a folksy, traditional style with a mix of bands, virtuosos and singers.

The all-star group of musicians includes Oy Division, an Israel-based klezmer band with youthful, punk influences; the duo of Efim Chorny and Susanna Ghergus from the former Soviet Union; Yiddish singer Vira Lozinsky; clarinet virtuoso Alexander Danilov, who is the leader of the Presidential Orchestra of Moldova; and Sasha Luminsky, a star accordion player originally from Ukraine who now lives in Toronto.

Aside from Luminsky, all the performers are making their Canadian debuts.

"Between them all, we'll be hearing an interesting and unique repertoire performed by top-notch musicians," says Stein.

Over the last three decades, Yiddish and klezmer music has experienced a renaissance across Europe and North America.

In the cities of former Soviet republics where significant Jewish populations still live, Yiddish performers are a burgeoning breed.

"Under communism, [Jewish] identity and nationality was suppressed in the former Soviet Union. But since the fall of communism, there's been an incredible renaissance and flowering of interest in this culture," says Stein.

"People are trying to recover what was lost and suppressed."

The situation in Israel has generally been different.

In an effort to embrace Hebrew and nurture a culture linked with its Middle Eastern context, Israel has ignored the Ashkenaz roots of a large portion of its population.

The tide does appear to be turning as a younger generation of Israelis are discovering the richness and dynamism of Yiddish culture.

"For me personally, connecting with this music has made me more tuned into my cultural identity," says Stein.

"And it's great, high-quality music."

The next Ashkenaz Festival takes place at Harbourfront Centre on Labour Day weekend in 2008 and features performers from as many as 10 countries, working in music, film, theatre, dance, literature, crafts and visual arts.

Admission to East Meets West is free, but tickets are required. They are available at the Zukerman box office from noon on Aug. 28. Doors open 5 p.m., concert starts at 7 p.m. There is no reserved seating. For more information, call 416-635-2883, ext. 150, or visit www.ashkenazfestival.com.

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Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

IRVING BERLIN MUSICAL *AS THOUSANDS CHEER* FOCUSES ON LIFE IN 1930s

The Civic Light Opera Company presents *As Thousands Cheer*, **Irving Berlin**'s musical revue of the 1930s, based on sketches by **Moss Hart**. Featuring hit songs such as *Easter Parade*, *Heat Wave* and *I Love a Piano*, *As Thousands Cheer* was based on newspaper headlines of the day.

"This charming, delightful, witty, trenchant satire on the press and society is as fresh and relevant today as it was in 1933," wrote a critic after seeing an off-Broadway revival in 1998. Fairview Library Theatre, 35 Fairview Mall Dr. $25-$20. Sept. 6 to 22. 416-755-1717, www.CivicLightOperaCompany.com.

* * *

***Jewtopia* in Performance:** Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University and Camp Solelim present *Jewtopia*, the New York and Los Angeles smash-hit comedy about dating, religion, family and life. *Jewtopia* is a light-hearted look at old stereotypes as two 32-year-old friends search for the perfect wife.

Proceeds to provide scholarships for Israeli students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and for campers to attend Camp Solelim. Diesel Playhouse, 56 Blue Jays Way. Thursday, Oct. 11, 2007, 7:30 p.m. $136 - $75. 416-485-8000, or e-mail tor@cfhu.org

A separate performance of *Jewtopia* has also been arranged to raise funds for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's 2008 campaign. Centrepointe Theatre, Ottawa, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. 613-798-4696, ext. 241

* * *

Grandmother and Child Reunion: *Lick Salt*, a "no-budget feature-length personal documentary," by Toronto independent filmmaker **Ryan Feldman**, focuses on his relationship with his previously estranged grandmother over three years; the two met at his grandfather's funeral after not seeing each other for 15 years. The film has been or will be screened at festivals in Paris, Ireland, Montreal and Japan. Brunswick Theatre, Aug. 29, 7 p.m.

* * *

Names in the News: The U.S.-based Anti-Defamation League has honoured American conductor **James Conlon** with its Crystal Globe Award for his efforts in championing the works of composers silenced by the Third Reich.

"With its systematic suppression of Jewish musicians, artists and writers, the Third Reich silenced two generations of composers and, with them, an entire musical landscape," said the influential conductor and musical director, who has worked to raise public awareness about composers whose lives and compositions were affected by the Holocaust, by programming their music throughout North America and Europe.

* * *

Arts in Brief

- Soulpepper Theatre Company continues its relationship with **Chekhov** with a new adaptation of *Three Sisters*, the Russian playwright's crowning dramatic achievement. The play "speaks profoundly to all of us who have ever loved or longed for that which can't be grasped." $32-$59. Young Centre for the Performing Arts, 55 Mill St., Building 49. Aug. 30-Sept. 29. 416-866-8666
- **Norene Gilletz**, the leading authority on kosher cooking in Canada, has always guided her culinary career by the motto, "Food that's good for you should taste good." She discusses healthy eating and launches her new cookbook, *Healthy Kitchen: Eat Your Way To Good Health*, at a free informative evening. Israel's Books & Judaica, 870 Eglinton Ave. W. Thursday, Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m. 416-256 5983

Norene Gilletz

- Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts has announced a series of free concerts in its Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre, to which the public is invited. "Brown bag" lunches are noon-hour concerts; others begin at 5:30 p.m. 145 Queen St. W. (at University Ave.) Sept. 18 to 27. Details at www.coc.ca.
- Producer **Jake Lebow** presents *An Evening with Mort Sahl*, the iconic comedian who recently turned 80. With his intellectual banter and willingness to delve into politics, Sahl was said to have sparked a comic revolution and his influence was widespread; he was on the cover of *Time* magazine and appeared frequently on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Leah Posluns Theatre, Sunday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m. $42.80. www.ticketmaster.ca or 416-870-8000
- The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive, on the Internet at www.spielbergfilmarchive.org.il/, at the Hebrew University has completed a major upgrade and expansion of its "virtual cinema" project. The archive has launched a new, contemporary and user-friendly portal, now containing more than 400 films from its collection.
- *Chicken Soup and Scouse* is a newly made documentary about the Liverpool Jewish community. For details, visit the producer's website, www.chickensoupandscouse.com.

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Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Chicken Matzo Ball Soup
Roast Chicken
Roast Brisket of Beef
Chicken Fingers
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Music Reviews

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Little Birdie
Cinematic Way
(Local Distributor)

A fusion of bluegrass, folk and country might be the last thing you'd expect from a young Jewish singer from Montreal.

But that's exactly what you get with Little Birdie's debut disc *Cinematic Way*.

Led by singer-songwriter Orit Shimoni, Little Birdie is one of the star bands emerging from Montreal's vibrant alt-country scene. Joined by Ottawa native Andre Kirchoff, the band has recently performed in showcases in Montreal and Toronto, including at Canadian Music Week, and at the recent Mariposa Folk Festival in Orillia.

Shimoni, who wrote the 11 songs on the CD, started playing while attending high school in Calgary, before spending six years in Jerusalem and then moving to Montreal.

This CD showcases her songwriting talents. The country-fused acoustic rock and folk songs remind me of Neil Young, Blue Rodeo and Cowboy Junkies, although they're hard to pigeonhole.

The band says it's influenced by such versatile performers as Leonard Cohen, Gillian Welch and Neko Case.

Lyrically, the songs run the gamut from love and heartbreak (*Foolish Thing*, *It's OK*) to the spiritual (*The Temple*, *Oh Abraham*).

Standouts are *Consider This*, a fast-paced, melodic arrangement that is very radio friendly, *The Falcon* and the rockier *The Temple*.

But don't take my word for it. Listen to some of the songs at www.myspace.com/weelittlebirdie.

The CD is available at cdnow, amazon.ca and at Archambault and Music World in Montreal.

CINEMATIC WAY

PUTUMAYO PRESENTS
ISRAEL

***

Various Artists
Israel
Putumayo World Music

The Israeli music scene has always been a vibrant one. This is especially true today as decades of immigrants have made Israel one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world.

Next month, Putumayo World Music is releasing *Israel*, a collection of 12 songs of contemporary Israeli music. From Yemenite chants to Jamaican reggae, this collection represents some of the diverse sounds of modern Israel.

Among the more notable artists are David Broza, the popular singer who makes his home in Israel and New Jersey; Idan Raichel, one of the standouts on this album, who's become one of the most inspiring success stories in Israeli popular music; and Tea Packs, who gained notoriety as a controversial choice for the 2007 Eurovision Song Contest.

Other standouts include Sheva, a group of seven Jewish and Muslim men (not to be confused with the Canadian singer of the same name) who fuse reggae and world music, and my favourite discovery on this album, Amal Murkus, a Palestinian living in Galilee, whose beautiful voice soars on the melodic Arabic tune *Ta'alu*.

Overall this is a good sampling of Israeli music, however, I can think of at least a couple artists missing here such as Noa and Aviv Geffen.

Israel should be in record stores in late September. To find out more about Putumayo releases, visit www.putumayo.com.

The Simpsons is Cohen's dream job

Continued from page 1

With 15 full-time writers and five part-timers, *The Simpsons* has the largest writing staff of any television show.

"It's demanding – with 22 episodes a season and each taking nine to 10 months to complete – there's a fair bit of work," Cohen says.

The Simpsons is Cohen's dream job. He got an MBA from York University in 1992 and went to work at a film distribution company in Toronto, where he moved up the ladder from sales to vice-president in five years.

But writing was his passion. With no work in sight, he headed to Hollywood to write scripts.

"I was here in L.A., extremely bored in my corporate gig working for Turner Broadcasting in the ad sales department. It was very difficult to land a writing job," Cohen says, "but I met Kathy Griffin, the comedian.

***Simpsons* writer Joel Cohen [Sheryl Wachtel photo]**

"When we became friends, she hired me to write for her for award shows. At the time, she was working on *Suddenly Susan*, so she helped me get the job as writer on that show," .

One year later, *Suddenly Susan* was cancelled and Cohen was out of work.

But not for long. The well-known *Simpsons*' writer George Meyer is the boyfriend of Cohen's former boss at *Suddenly Susan*, Maria Semple.

"She [Semple] gave me a really good recommendation, having worked together for a year, and then 13 days later, I started here at *Simpsons* and they've regretted it ever since."

Hardly. Cohen is responsible for some popular *Simpsons* episodes, including *Today I Am a Clown – Krusty's Bar Mitzvah*, with guest stars Mr. T and Jackie Mason.

"Mr. T was phenomenal, very cool. At one point, I was coaching him to read Hebrew – whispering in his ear," Cohen recalls. "When he said the Hebrew back, it was the most religious experience I've ever had."

Cohen's writing is inspired by situations in his life.

"I have kids, so a lot that happens I translate into the writing, like the bar mitzvah episode. Some element is taken from my own life, but Mr. T wasn't at my bar mitzvah. I invited him, but he didn't show."

Cohen attributes *The Simpsons'* success to its appeal to a wide audience.

"It's a cartoon, so younger audiences enjoy that. Then I'm always impressed with the jokes, where some involve physical humour of Homer banging himself in the head that both kids and adults respond to. There are references to 16th-century literature in certain segments," he says.

"There's certainly something for everybody – some goes over people's heads and others hit right on."

What's new on *The Simpsons* next season?

"If I know Canadian Jews, they'll want to know about our great guest stars. We have Steven Colbert, Stevie Wonder, Jack Black, Glenn Close, Placido Domingo, Jon Stewart, Dan Rather," Cohen says.

"I'm sure I'm neglecting hundreds of millions of others. There are tons of great episodes, really funny ones with great guest stars, and it's better than ever."

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A sociological portrait of Orthodox Judaism in the U.S.

***Sliding to the Right: The Contest for the Future of American Jewish Orthodoxy* by Samuel C. Heilman, University of California Press.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Thirty years ago, American sociologist Marshall Sklare expressed amazement that Orthodox Judaism in the United States had not yet withered away.

"Orthodox Judaism at the dawn of the 21st century has decidedly not melted completely away," observed Sklare, who had predicted its demise. "Orthodoxy has refused to assume the role of invalid."

Indeed, he added, Orthodoxy had become a growing force.

Sklare had reason to believe that Orthodoxy was in a state of decline. During the Holocaust, Orthodox communities and their synagogues and institutions had been destroyed by the Nazis and their local collaborators.

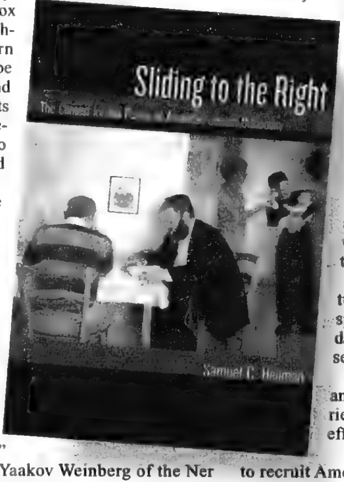
Rather than succumbing to despair, the survivors regrouped and turned further inward, having concluded that the values of western secular society were worthless and untrustworthy.

For Orthodox Jews, the only constant was Judaism in its traditional form, with its set of unchanging and rigid requirements, codes and obligations.

But in recent years, American Orthodoxy has evolved to the point where such certitudes evoke a measure of debate and disagreement, a development that is echoed in Canada.

As City University of New York sociologist Samuel C. Heilman writes in the paperback edition of *Sliding to the Right: The Contest for the Future of American Jewish Orthodoxy*, the Orthodox community, comprising about 12 per cent of American Jewry, is torn by a schism of some significance.

Heilman, an expert on the topic, says that this ideological confrontation pits haredim against accommodationists. In his view, they are engaged in a struggle "to define the essence of the movement authoritatively."



The accommodationists represent a majority of Orthodox Jews in the United States. Otherwise referred to as modern Orthodox Jews, they subscribe to the belief that they can and should adapt to certain aspects of American society while remaining steadfastly loyal to Jewish traditions, law and customs.

The haredim view the modern world not as an opportunity but as a threat and seek to keep it at arm's length.

As Heilman puts it, "Here the goal is not to fit Orthodoxy to the surrounding culture but rather to ensure that all insiders conform… no matter how retrograde it may seem. Here the received wisdom is that yesterday is superior to today…"

As enunciated by Rabbi Yaakov Weinberg of the Ner Israel Yeshiva in Baltimore, the haredim embrace the position that they are defined by a sense of "otherness" that cannot be bridged.

The modernists, as exemplified by Rabbi Norman Lamm, one of the former presidents of Yeshiva University, hold that Orthodox Judaism should be adaptive, based on an equally firm commitment to Torah and the values of contemporary culture.

However this battle plays out, Heilman is convinced that the Orthodox community at large has moved to the right, driven by several imperatives.

They believe that American culture has declined, given the sexual revolution, the trend toward intermarriage and the challenge to authority.

"To many Orthodox Jews, including the modernists, the liberal tradition suddenly seemed dangerous, and they recoiled from it, even though they did not abandon the idea of higher education and a professional career," says Heilman. "It really did not take too much to get Orthodox Jews culturally anxious. Even the modernists among them were after all fundamentally conservative in their outlook."

The shift to the right, Heilman states, also turns on decisions by families to bestow responsibility for their children's education to day schools and yeshivas, which are more conservative than secular schools.

The emergence of study in Israeli yeshivas and women's seminaries as an essential experience in the Orthodox way of life has had an effect as well.

As early as the 1950s, yeshivas in Israel tried to recruit American Orthodox Jews in the hope of using them as foot soldiers to combat secular culture.

Very few Americans joined these programs, but in the wake of the Six Day War, they began to catch on.

Heilman estimates that about two-thirds of New York day school graduates attend such programs today. In some schools, the figure is closer to 90 per cent.

These programs, which are intrinsically right-wing in outlook, promote and exalt the controversial Jewish settlement drive in the territories and universally regard settlers as the new Jewish heroes.

Haredim send their children to Israel, too, and their youth mark their identity by external symbols.

Heilman writes: "Among the boys, this might include donning the black hat, white shirt and dark jacket that (has) become the uniform of the haredi yeshiva or, in the case of the national religious yeshivas, the knit yarmulke."

Women committed to such Orthodoxy took to wearing long sleeves and extra-long skirts.

According to Heilman, graduates of haredi yeshivas in Israel hew to certain postures of prayer. They display piety by prolonging prayers and tend to gesticulate during worship.

In general, Heilman seems in no doubt that Orthodox Judaism is prospering.

Forty per cent of the synagogues in the United States are Orthodox in orientation, and in New York City, the proportion rises to 57 per cent.

Further, Orthodox Jews have assumed leadership positions in many top-flight Jewish organizations, including the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations.

Historically, Orthodox Jews had the lowest per capita average income, but of late, they have become wealthier.

Heilman's discussion of kosher food, the staple of the Orthodox diet, is interesting. In a word, the billion dollar kosher food industry is booming, with more than 41,000 kosher-certified products currently in the American retail market.

"All this has led to an infusion of confidence and assertiveness in American Orthodoxy, in contrast to the timidity that often characterized it in the past," he notes.

In closing, Heilman argues that Orthodox Jews, like America itself, will continue to reinvent themselves in the face of modernity, secularization and technological advances.

But even he cannot divine the future. "Today, frum leads to frummer, but tomorrow – who knows?"

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New Baycrest boss puts focus on clients, research

Baycrest's new president and CEO visits with Alex Ship and Marguerite Markowski, two Apotex nursing home residents who are enjoying an afternoon of watercolour painting in the Art Studio.

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Dr. William Reichman, new president and chief executive officer of Baycrest, has a very specific goal: to make the institution the best in the world for research and for care of the elderly.

"I want Baycrest to become the Sloan-Kettering [Cancer Centre] of what we do – bringing good science and excellent care together to maximize the well-being of the aged all over the world," he said.

His particular focus (although by no means the only one) is to help people with dementia, Alzheimer's and other mental disorders – hardly surprising, since he is a psychiatrist and an authority on mental health care.

Reichman was formerly professor of psychiatry and neurology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey, where he also served as senior associate dean for clinical affairs and president of the Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Group.

He said he left this prestigious post because of Baycrest's reputation in the aging field, in long-term care and in dementia.

"Globally, everyone knows about Baycrest. There are few places like it, that combine a strong research element with excellent clinical care."

The issue, Reichman said, is how to intervene to maximize the functioning of the individual, physically, psychologically, spiritually.

Drugs, while important, should not be the only means of doing this. "For example," he said, "we have lots of medications for heart disease, but we know that exercise and diet are also vital."

Of course, he said, any facility is only as good as the people who work there.

"We want to work with the best and the brightest. We already have some of the world's best scientists and clinicians. But we want to seize every opportunity to recruit other people to bridge the gap between the clinician and the researcher."

Reichman said he plans to work with community leaders to get the resources needed to fulfil this goal.

In his less than two months in his new position, he has worked hard to acclimatize himself. He has had informal meetings with staff and residents. He takes time to do what he calls walkabouts, where he literally walks around the halls, seeing what is going on, talking to staff, residents and families he meets, and generally making himself known to them and getting them to know him.

He also uses a structured approach, meeting in small groups with housekeeping staff, nurses and doctors.

"I go floor by floor, meeting the residents and, with their permission, greeting them at meals and visiting them [by invitation] in their rooms."

What he especially enjoys, he said, is that many greet him and share their life experiences with him.

The term "permission" is significant to him. "I don't want to intrude on their personal times, for instance at lunch or while they are in their rooms. I respect their privacy and dignity. After all, Baycrest provides a home, not just health care."

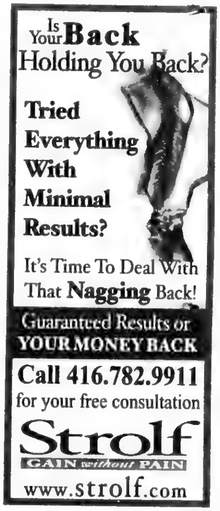
Since he has been in Toronto for such a short time, he is still waiting for his Ontario medical licence. Once it comes, he said, "I want to to see patients, to consult, not only in psychiatric matters, but in any aspect I am asked, and to work in the memory disorders clinic."

Reichman is conscious of the non-medical aspects of Baycrest life – the high proportion of Holocaust survivors, the importance of maintaining faith traditions, the results of illness and increasing frailty.

"It's not just that we can't fulfil our own expectations, not just that we don't want to be a burden, but that we feel we have lost our role in life."

He stressed that Baycrest must never lose sight of the absolute imperative to always put the needs of the residents at the forefront of whatever happens.

Reichman said he is pleasantly surprised at the warmth with which he has been welcomed here, by the medical community generally at Baycrest and by people in the community.



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Feature

Child's Yiddish book survives over 75 years

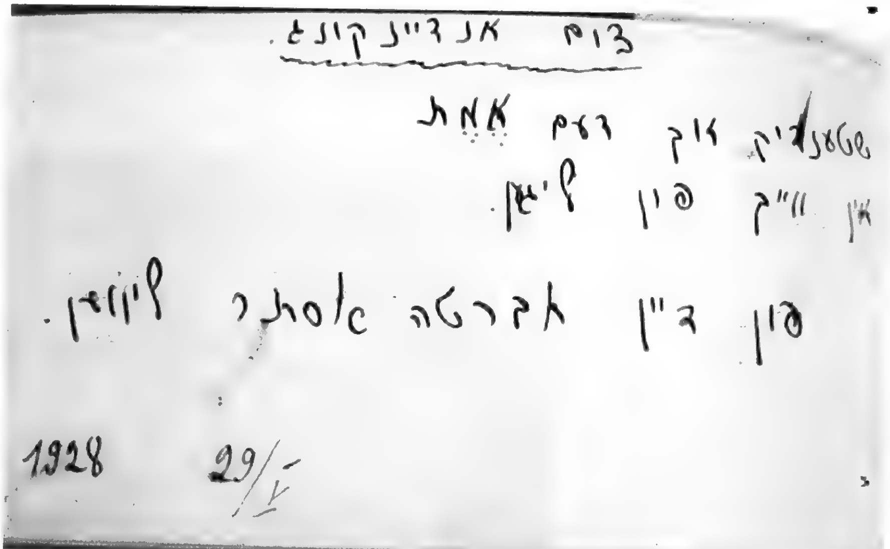
By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

When Sarah Pantel née Spungin arrived in Halifax on the freighter Roussillon in 1929, she brought a small piece of her Latvian childhood with her.

An autograph book signed by her classmates and teachers wished the nine-year-old well on her journey. Mostly written in Yiddish, the book is filled with "Yiddishisms," whose deeper meanings or pithiness are often lost in translation.

Pantel emigrated to Canada from a small Latvian shtetl called Liva Mussa with her parents and three siblings, leaving pogroms and other terrors behind to settle in Montreal. There she met and married Alec Pantel and, a few years later, started a family.

In the last years of her life, before her death in 1998, Sarah moved in with her daughter, Terry Pantel.



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Translation: As a remembrance/Always speak the truth/Be far from falsehood./From your friend/Esther Levin/May 29, 1928.

While Terry was helping her pack for the move, Sarah asked her to root through a bedroom drawer and find a pad that looked like it contained a bunch of scribbles. She told her daughter to make sure it was not thrown out.

The small rectangular book is not more than eight inches wide by four inches long. It has about 15 pages of signatures, with handwriting that is impressive for children. Many of the pages have Yiddish anecdotes and most wish Sarah good luck on her journey. Some pages are decorated with sticker-like transfers.

The book, its pages yellowed but still legible, is now in the hands of Jamie Finiffter, Sarah's grandson. Finiffter, 38, wants to publish as many names as possible that are in the book so that anyone with a connection to it or the small Latvian shtetl can come forward and take part in this living snapshot in time.

"My main concern was just to get those names out there," he said.

"I didn't want this beautiful piece of history just sitting in our house, as much as it is an attachment to my grandmother."

Finiffter contacted a Yiddish teacher at Bialik Hebrew Day School who, along with her husband, orally translated the book so Finiffter could hear the gist of what it contained.

"It's just an amazing piece of history and when you think about everything that has happened since [1929], I can't even imagine the horror they went through before… I just want to know if any of them had made it out, and if not, this is probably one of the only living testimonies to these kids."

Finiffter said that little is known about his grandmother's shtetl life. While her father was the town's kosher butcher, and the family lived a nice life, pogroms made circumstances difficult.

He said that Sarah was highly affected by her past – for instance, her hands shook from the time she was a young child.

As well, her mother, Goldie Spungin, had screaming fits every night until the end of her life and couldn't be comforted. Terry Pantel once saw her grandmother's face during one of these episodes and said that the only thing she could think of when she saw it was Edvard Munch's painting *The Scream* .

"It's weird – it's not Shoah, it's not the Holocaust, it's a part of life that just before everything fell apart, here were these people just trying to live their lives," Finiffter said about what the book encapsulates.

"It's just a very unique snapshot of a life, of a lifestyle, that's long gone off the face of our earth. To me that's a very unique thing, and to me that's very precious. I can't even put a value on it for what it is to me emotionally and otherwise, but it deserves to be seen."

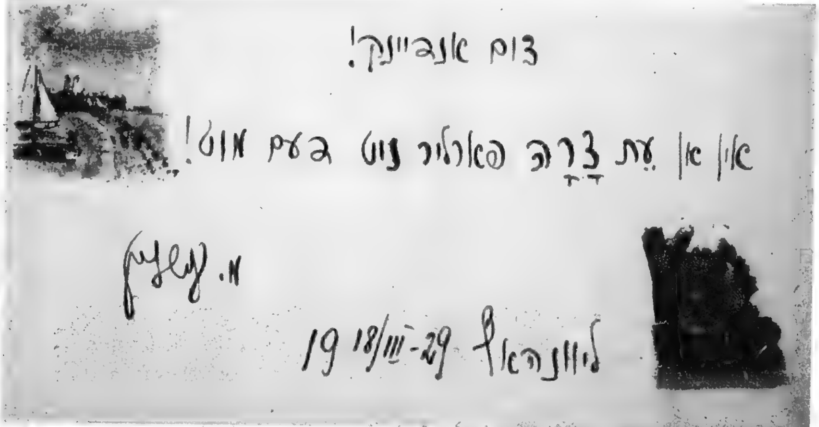
Finiffter has donated the autograph book to the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles, where head archivist Adaire Klein has taken an interest in it and will make sure the pages are translated.

He personally delivered the book to Los Angeles at the end of July to ensure its safe arrival.

"They'll scan it properly and they'll make a concerted effort to get it out there," Finiffter said.

He said Yad Vashem, the national Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, has expressed interest in the book and wants copies of its pages.

Anyone with any connection to the names in the book, from which more pictures will be posted to *The CJN*'s website at www.cjnews.com, can contact Jamie Finiffter at 416-598-0777.



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Israeli duo reaches semi-finals at Montreal tennis open

By **MARVIN GLASSMAN**
Special to The CJN

Israeli doubles players Jonathan Erlich, left, and Andy Ram celebrate a win at the Rogers Cup in Montreal.

MONTREAL – The Israeli Davis Cup doubles tennis team of Jonathan Erlich and Andy Ram may want to consider Montreal as their second home, judging by their outstanding play at the Rogers Cup Canadian Open, held earlier this month at Jarry Tennis Stadium.

Although Erlich and Ram didn't match their runner-up finish in doubles the last time they competed in Montreal in 2005, the duo played superb tennis to finish as semi-finalists.

Erlich and Ram, seeded sixth, started with a gift of a walkover win when the team of Rafael Nadal and Lleyton Hewitt withdrew due to their success in singles play.

Erlich and Ram then upset the second-seeded team of Jonas Bjorkman and Max Mirnyi 6-1, 7-5 with excellent net play and a high percentage of first serves won. The Israeli duo broke the second seeds twice in the first set, then followed with a crucial break in the 12th game of the second set to win the match.

But they couldn't follow up with a win in the semi-finals.

The Israelis were broken twice in both the first and second sets in losing to the third-seeded team of Paul Hanley and Kevin Ullyett 6-2, 6-3.

"We would have loved to finish as strong in Montreal as we did in 2005, but it was not meant to be," said Ram after the semi-final loss. "Jonathan and I loved the support we get in Canada. We will definitely be back and hope to win in Canada in 2008."

Erlich and Ram have now finished as semi-finalists or better in three of the past four Rogers Cup tournaments held in Montreal and Toronto.

Overall, they have finished as finalists three times in 2007, and they've raised their ranking from 18th to 17th in doubles tennis rankings after their semi-final finish in Montreal.

Since they started playing together in 2003, Erlich and Ram have won 10 doubles titles.

Both immigrated to Israel as children from South America: Erlich, 30, was born in Argentina, and Ram, 27, in Uruguay. Both grew up loving soccer, but ended up playing tennis because of their success winning junior tournaments in Israel.

"Andy and I thought it would be fun to play together five years ago, and we enjoyed each other's company, which is one of the many reasons we play so well together," Erlich said.

Ram also excels in playing with female partners and is the first Israeli to win two mixed doubles Grand Slam titles. In June, Ram teamed with Nathalie Dechy of France to win the French Open mixed doubles title. In 2006, Ram teamed with Vera Zvonareva of Russia to win the Wimbledon mixed doubles championship.

"It meant so much to me to win both the French and Wimbledon titles because I represent Israel. The country gets positive publicity for my achievements. I received congratulations from [Israeli] Prime Minister [Ehud] Olmert and many telegrams from friends around the world," said Ram.

"Andy and I were so overjoyed and surprised to win the French Open mixed doubles title," said Dechy, who competed at the Toronto Rogers Cup this year.

"Andy only played with me because his regular partner, Zvonareva, was injured. Andy is very good at the net, and we really jelled as a team. He really showed how good he is in doubles by winning titles with different partners."

Ram had 600 guests to celebrate his wedding to Shiri Zlotikman in Tel Aviv last September. Erlich was his best man.

"I have every reason to enjoy life and I never thought that I would have so much success in tennis. I am grateful to Jonathan and my mixed doubles partners for the many titles we won," Ram said.

Erlich and Ram hope to win the U.S. Open men's doubles title next month in New York, where Ram will also be seeking a third mixed doubles title.

To follow the results of the Israeli duo, go to www.atptennis.com.

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Nevada bachelor blues

ALMOST FAMOUS
By Jacob Medjuck

It's only 336 days until summer camp! Fantastic. Unless, like myself, you find yourself not at camp anymore, to which I offer you a sombre nod as you continue from inside a cubicle to mark off on your Royal Bank calendar the number of days until you die.

Mother Nature, I've decided, must have a devious but sympathetic relative, whom we'll call Uncle Matrimony, who has created a clever series of training-wheel activities to shuttle us into adulthood, while the seasons of our lives go round.

Bridging our school years with summer camp was a genius move: it provides emotional support from many and emotional assaults from many others. Camp. Not ideal, but perfect; several hundred training wheels around us.

Then, as we move through high school, university and away from camp, layers of training wheels peel off. We are whittled down to our last support trusses, and we make our way into the workforce.

Busy, stressed and nostalgic, I often find myself longing for the days of the grand group assembly. And that's usually when Uncle Matrimony calls with the promise of forthcoming bachelor parties.

A series of events, the schematics of which no collection of commandments or mitzvahs will protect you from, follows – the "dark arts" and crafts – stuff they don't prepare you for but still involving paint, Popsicle sticks and tying knots.

And, is it still considered tzedakah if you tuck the folded bill into a g-string?

Women aren't left out either, as this month's bride I'm told has no less than four pre-wedding shower events. That's a lot of crystal bowls and furry handcuffs.

Last year, I flew down to Las Vegas for what can only be described as an "Area 52"-like event, the bachelor-inspired transgressions of which are kept so guardedly secret that it would make the quiet activities of Nevada-based neighbour Area 51 seem public and petty knowledge. I'm permitted, however, to share in that upon my late arrival Friday afternoon.

The best man was in a hospital, having suffered a brain bleed, the victim of a surprise dispute. That itself, though serious enough, is not where sanity collapsed. The best man, it turned out, was just sorry to miss out on two interim days, and joined us again Saturday night.

So eager was he not to miss out that he offered this comforting sentiment while climbing half naked from his hospital bed, "It's all right boys," he said. "I have an MRI machine where I'm doing my residency. I'll just scan myself at home." His eyeballs, looking a shade of cherry tomato, suggested that the matter should be addressed sooner. All said, the comment seemed far too casually absorbed by our travelling caravan of radiologists and lawyers. Ah, for the company of spinster Jews.

Slowly but defiantly, these events will sour us of training-wheel needs and point us toward parenthood on our own steam.

Rashi, who comments on everything else, fails to address that while Moses had several wives, nothing is revealed about his several bachelor parties. If the adage, "What happens in Sinai, stays in Sinai," holds true, then it's probably a more accurate explanation as to why Moses was denied entry into the Holy Land. I wouldn't be surprised if the participants in our Vegas debacle aren't stopped at the U.S. border for years to come.

Even so, warned and wary, I'm still likely to accept an occasional outing with the boys, though I've learned to say *Tfilat Haderech* (the prayer for travel) while grabbing my coat.

In the dwindling days of summer, I wish you all wellness and refreshment. Say hello to old friends. And if you find yourself en route to debauchery, have insurance with the Lord, and if you can, Blue Cross, too.

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2 tblsp brown sugar mixed with1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 onion, sliced and sauteed

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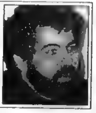
The warm and chilly summer

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER



This is the most pleasant summer I can remember. Almost every day was sunny and the humidity was low, so even those without air conditioning didn't suffer.

I stepped outside after writing this article and was greeted by a balmy wind that embraced me as an old friend might.

This summer's weather, however, was also metaphorically fraught with some chilly winds – those of war and strife in our consistently shrinking world. I could feel them while I sat on a cottage dock listening closely to the silence. Within the silence, however, I heard the voices of the captive Israeli soldiers and the children of Sderot hiding while rockets rained down on their unhappy city. The stillness was shrill.

Judaism says we must take advantage of the majesty of our world. Enjoy life. When you come upon a merry lake, dive in. Pick the apple about to fall from the tree and taste it with eyes closed, appreciating the sweetness of such a faultless creation.

Judaism also says that while the community is suffering, it is forbidden to go home and feast. One must fight the inequities.

What does one do then? Do we dangle our feet in the soothing waters of Georgian Bay, ignoring the unbearable pain Jews and non-Jews are going through? Do we remain forever aware of the dying, the tortured, the starving, fearful that we are indifferent to the plight of the millions, and to our fellow Jews surrounded by falling rockets, in a war zone?

I am a Jew and therefore frequently canoe with guilt. The sun tans my nose and a novel sits at my fingertips waiting to be read, but my mind flits off to Israel, Sudan, Congo and the homeless. I'll dive into the water, the one we spoke of, and be mesmerized by the underwater world – the schools of fish and the shimmering rocks – and then the realization of the rest of the world will reawaken inside of me. I will then surface.

Sometimes I'm able to forget about the Iraqi children whose limbs have been blown off by wicked bombs and evil men, and then boom! But then the images reappear and once again I remember the world's pitiful predicament.

I don't know. Tell me. Is it okay for us to enjoy and celebrate while the world is in this whirlwind of lunacy? Was it okay for our grandparents to do so in the '40s when lunacy would have been acceptable, when the world was shrouded in insanity?

Some of us look for the balance. We do this through ritual that encourages us to remember the troubles while enjoying and feeling pleasure. For this reason we break the glass under the chupah, symbolizing our recollection of the destruction of the Temples and ensuring that even at our most joyous moment we consider those who suffered and those who are in turmoil now.

Others are consistently aware of the troubles and rarely, if ever, relax. The reality that women are being raped, one per minute in our world; that kidnapped South Koreans are being executed by those mutant Taliban – these things they can never hide from.

These people are blessed. They are the cursed. Blessed because when you are plagued by awareness at that level, you can't help but respond. Cursed, because when you are aware at that level, the lake is never placid and the sky is neither blue nor grey. Its colours are insignificant to them as they seldom look up to the heavens unless questioning or praying to God.

It is the summer of 2007. Do we frolic or do we fight? Did we do both?

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JEWISH COMMUNITY FOCUS

The Canadian Jewish news

Section B

We're thinking green…

Editorial

These days, it's hard to avoid thinking green, whether or not we are taking personal steps to reduce our environmental impact.

As in most areas of life, Judaism has something to say about this issue. Rabbi Yossi Sapirman notes in his article on synagogues that "much of what being Jewish is about is being considerate for the environment."

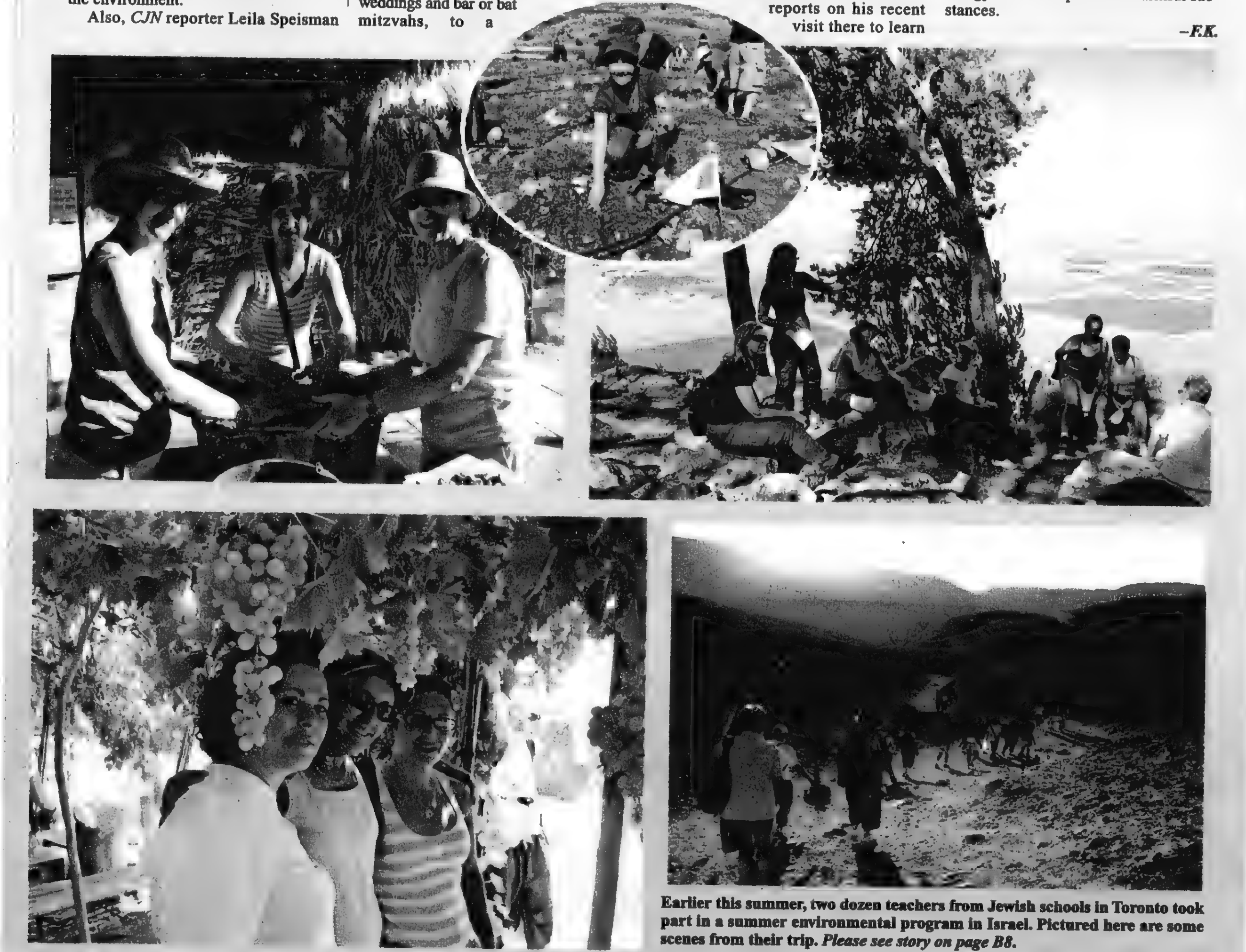
Also, *CJN* reporter Leila Speisman examines the relationship between Jewish sources and our responsibilities to the environment.

This Community Focus supplement looks at a number of ways that increased environmental awareness is playing out in the Jewish community, from creative ideas for weddings and bar or bat mitzvahs, to a Jewish environmental bike ride and a summer program in Israel for teachers from Jewish schools. We also look at hospitals, cemeteries and commuting, all with an eye to environmental impact.

In Israel, a major concern for environmentalists is the pollution of lakes and rivers. Sheldon Kirshner reports on his recent visit there to learn about the issue.

It may not be easy being green, but the "carrot" – organic, of course – is a healthier planet for us and for future generations, as well as, on a more immediate basis, the possibility of saving money and improving our health by reducing our reliance on expensive sources of energy and our exposure to harmful substances.

–F.K.



Earlier this summer, two dozen teachers from Jewish schools in Toronto took part in a summer environmental program in Israel. Pictured here are some scenes from their trip. *Please see story on page B8.*

Canadians pedal to help the environment

By **CAROLYN BLACKMAN**
Staff Reporter

When Canadians Noam Dolgin and Dianne Saxe get on their bikes on Labour Day weekend, they'll have their own private cheering section.

Dolgin, a 31-year-old environmentalist originally from Vancouver, and Saxe, 54, an environmental lawyer based in Toronto, are taking part in the seventh annual New York Jewish Environmental Bike Ride, sponsored by Hazon, an organization that works to create a healthier and more sustainable Jewish community.

Both are bringing along family members who are among the 100 volunteers handing out food and drinks, and encouraging riders along the route that extends 120 miles from Connecticut to New York City.

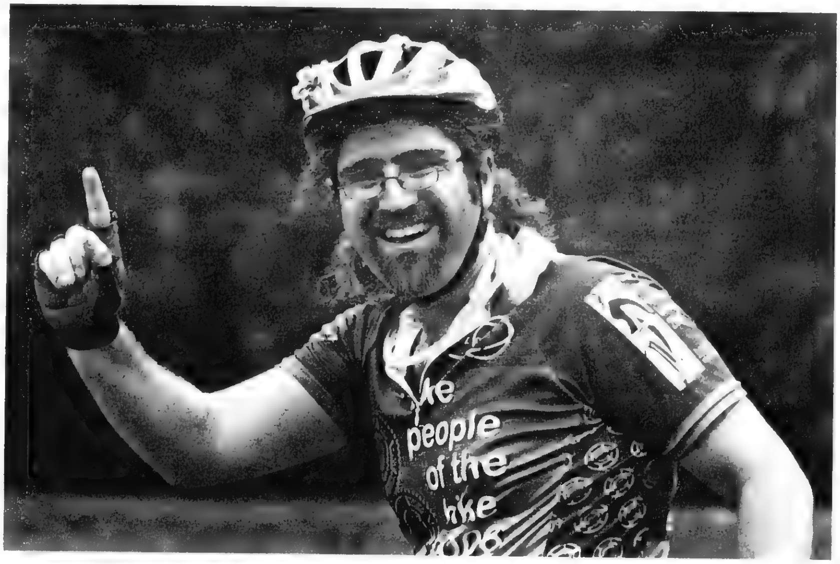
The four-day event – the bike ride takes two days – includes a Shabbat retreat at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Centre in Connecticut, where riders and volunteers will take part in panel discussions, cooking demonstrations, yoga, challah baking and a warm-up bike ride.

Dolgin, whose mother Ruth Hess-Dolgin is travelling from Vancouver to take part in the event, has been helping out on the ride since 2002, and is riding for the second year.

A former associate director of Teva, an environmental learning centre in New York City, Dolgin is now executive director of the Green Zionist Alliance – both organizations are among Hazon's grantees – a lobbying group that works to influence the World Jewish Congress to protect Israel's environment.

"My interest in the field runs deep, and I'm excited to teach about it during the Shabbaton."

Continued on page B4


the people of the bike

Noam Dolgin [Donna Foster photo]

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Bike rider is committed to the environment

Continued from page B2

The ride is an important networking opportunity, he said, and it's an opportunity to learn, to spread awareness, and to fundraise.

"It's also a great personal challenge for me. Last year, I moved from being part of the crew to actually riding, so I'm excited about that as well."

Hess-Dolgin credits her son with influencing her to be part of the ride. "Our tradition teaches us to take care of the earth, or else future generations will suffer. We cannot ignore that. Jewish environmentalists are trying to teach us what the sages taught a long time ago."

Dianne Saxe is looking forward to having her mother Gloria Shulman, her daughter Rebecca, and her daughter's fiance Allan Adams, cheering her on and telling her jokes during the ride.

"There is a part of the route that goes uphill for a number of hours, and I'll certainly need encouragement then. Last year, I went alone, so I'm happy to make this a family affair."

She's taking part, she said, because of her lifelong commitment to the environment, and because of her passion for building environmental bridges in Israel between Jews and Arabs.

Funds raised from her ride are going to the Arava Institute for environmental studies in Israel, a centre situated on Kibbutz Ketura in Israel's Southern Arava Valley near the Jordanian and Egyptian borders and the Gulf of Aqaba/Eilat that prepares future Arab and Jewish leaders to co-operatively solve the region's environmental challenges.

In preparation for her ride, she said, she's done "lots of cycling, weights and swimming, and I walk up the 15 flights of stairs to my office while carrying my dog."

Dianne Saxe

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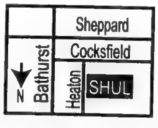

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Synagogues should 'model a community that is sustainable'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Based on Jewish principles, being environmentally friendly and environmentally sensitive is "the only right way to consider building a synagogue," says Rabbi Yossi Sapirman, a nature photographer as well as a pulpit rabbi.

"So much of what being Jewish is about is being considerate for the environment. Our calendar is based on the seasons. Our celebrations are seasonal. Everything is tied to the agricultural cycle. There are more blessings for natural events than anything else in Judaism."

Rabbi Yossi Sapirman

Beth Torah Congregation, which Rabbi Sapirman leads, is still in the planning stages of expanding and renovating its 42-year-old building. "Synagogues, as models of community, should model a community that is sustainable and considerate," he said.

The $4-million Beth Torah project – which will include a new, 350-seat sanctuary and a new chapel, foyer and reception area – is mandated "to go green where possible, where it's not going to cost us more but less, and where we can make a difference," said Harold Wolkin, the building project's co-chair.

Certain items, such as solar panels, are still not cost-effective for smaller buildings, said Wolkin, who is in the solar energy business. "They fit beautifully on large commercial properties like seniors' residences," he said.

Solar energy, he noted, has been a "slow mover" in Canada, although even in winter months in Toronto there is enough sun to make it viable.

Other ways to make the building more efficient range from the type of glass used in the windows to low-energy light fixtures and low-emission finishes, he added.

Rabbi Sapirman agrees with Wolkin that it's important to be practical. "[A synagogue] doesn't have to be the ultimate model, but it has to be visibly aware and considerate," the rabbi said.

Environmental activities at Beth Torah in the past include planting plants and trees for Tu b'Shvat, hosting Environment Day for the city of Toronto and running clothing drives for Jewish Family and Child's Just a Second shop.

Beth Torah's architect, Cindy Rendely, said that often "green" building involves a larger initial cost and is the first thing to go once a budget is put together. However, she noted, there is also a long-term gain in terms of cost savings and "a better green world."

One of the options being discussed at Beth Torah is a "green roof," occupiable space on top of the building that would be able to support earth and plantings. Another is a "green living wall" – a structure built and layered up in a way that supports live green plantings growing vertically on its face.

The latter option, which often features a water element, is not only attractive from an esthetic standpoint but also triggers a cycle of cleaning the air, she said.

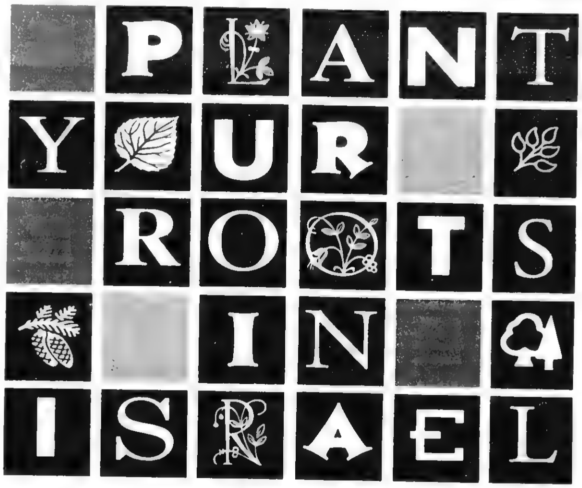
"I would say there's a trend in general, first of all in the entire world, and in architecture particularly [to be environmentally sensitive,]" said Rendely. She has noticed a stepped-up interest in the last six months to a year.

* * *

Other synagogues that are thinking green – or moving in that direction – include Beth Tzedec Congregation, Holy Blossom Temple, Congregation Darchei Noam and the First Narayever Congregation. The latter two shuls are working with Faith & the Common Good, a national organization that facilitates interfaith action on matters of social and environmental concern.

- Darchei Noam, Toronto's only Reconstructionist congregation, is renovating and expanding the 1970s-era building that used to belong to Adath Sholom Synagogue. Environmentally sensitive changes, according to the congregation's website, include a high degree of insulation, energy efficient windows, new plumbing systems and motion detection fixtures that minimize water use. Also, there will be a maximally efficient nine-zone heating and cooling system with separate controls for different parts of the building, including heat recovery and carbon dioxide sensors to minimize energy use.
- Holy Blossom, the largest Reform congregation in Canada, is housed in a 1938 building with "virtually no insulation," said Benjamin Applebaum, the synagogue's executive director. An extensive renovation project is planned and the intention is that the building will be a LEED building," referring to the internationally recognized Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards. "We just haven't worked through the details to know at what level of LEED we will comply… It will be a more efficient building," he said.

Continued on page B6



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Equipment today is 'so much more advanced'

Continued from page B5

• Beth Tzedec started looking into renovating its mid-1950s building in 1999, along with United Synagogue Day School, whose southern campus is housed in the building. However, because of rising prices for renovation and a demographic shift resulting in fewer students at the school, the synagogue has been re-evaluating its original plans and deciding which aspects to go ahead with, according to Lawrie Lubin, co-chair of the construction subcommittee of the building expansion and renovation committee.

Seen is a rendering of Beth Torah Congregation's proposed exterior.

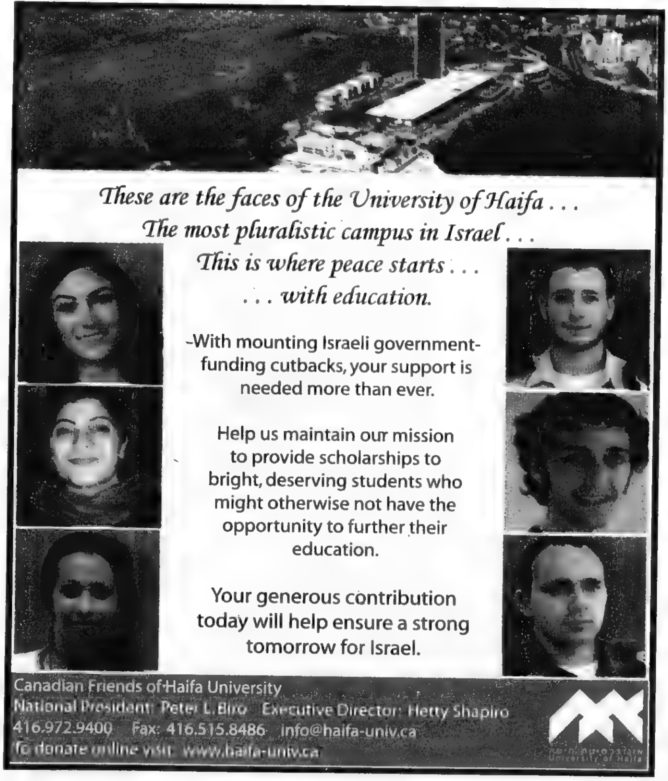
One change that has been implemented, he said, is a switch from electricity to gas for the ovens in the main kitchen, which was rebuilt about a year ago. "It's something very simple," he said, noting that the electric ovens "just sucked power."

Other planned changes include improving indoor air quality, and finding ways to air-condition only areas of the synagogue that are in use, to reduce energy consumption. "Equipment today is so much more advanced" than when the synagogue was built, he added. "We have good consultants who will help us achieve a much better cost benefit and at the same time will be much more environmentally friendly."

Also, said Lubin, Beth Tzedec has an ongoing program of replacing existing lights with more energy-efficient bulbs and "trying to have lighting that is task-oriented" to reduce the amount of overall lighting that is needed to illuminate larger areas.

Although it is too early to know the exact materials that will be used, "it's clearly on the radar that you look for paints that do not give off gases and carpets that are not made of certain synthetic components that give off fumes," Lubin said. "There are all kinds of environmental materials that are beneficial, or at least not detrimental, that have only recently been identified."

Although price is "always an issue," increasing demand has made environmentally friendly products much more affordable than they used to be, said Lubin, who is in the real estate development business. "It's becoming far more the norm."



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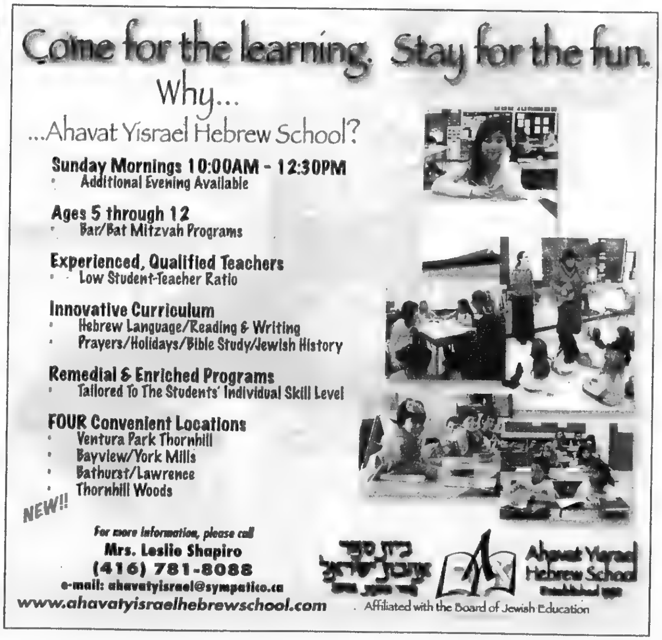

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Teachers learn environmental lessons in Israel

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The day after Esther Etigson returned home from a summer environmental program for teachers in Israel, she went shopping for environmentally friendly light bulbs.

A junior high Judaic studies teacher at Associated Hebrew Schools, Etigson was one of two dozen participants who represented four Jewish day schools and nine supplementary programs.

The 10-day environmental program, From Here Everything Grows, now in its second year, is run by Toronto's Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education (the Mercaz), formerly UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Board of Jewish Education. The environmental program includes pre- and post-trip components in Toronto – even a field trip to the ravine behind the Lipa Green Building.

The followup component this month focuses on how to implement what participants learned and how schools can work together, as well as how participants can become "ambassadors" on the subject of environmentalism within the community, said the Mercaz's Silvia Eilath, a program co-ordinator.

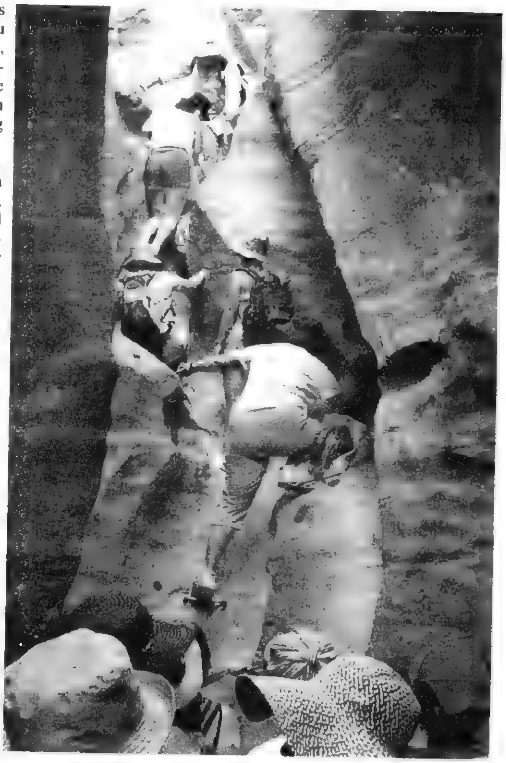
The itinerary included visits to a bird sanctuary in Eilat, two nature reserves and a stay at Kibbutz Ketura, home to the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and Keren Kolot, an educational institution that combines text study with hiking and learning about the desert. The participants also went on mountain hikes and met with environmental educators and activists.

"Through Torah you learn how to preserve the earth that God has given," said Etigson, who loves nature and is vigilant about recycling at home. "Kids know when you believe in something, because you're consistent about it. One of my top things in the school is being consistent."

"A trip like that… makes it even more a part of you," she said, adding that she would like to step up recycling efforts at her school, which has blue boxes in the classroom but little in the way of a formalized recycling program.

Etigson said it was valuable to bring together educators from different schools who could learn from each other. She noted that there were three teachers from the Toronto Heschel School, which is particularly advanced in its environmental practices. She also said that, because there were five teachers from Associated, the school now has a strong team of environmentally aware educators.

Cont'd on page B9



Educators on an environmental program in Israel hike in the Red Canyon near Eilat.

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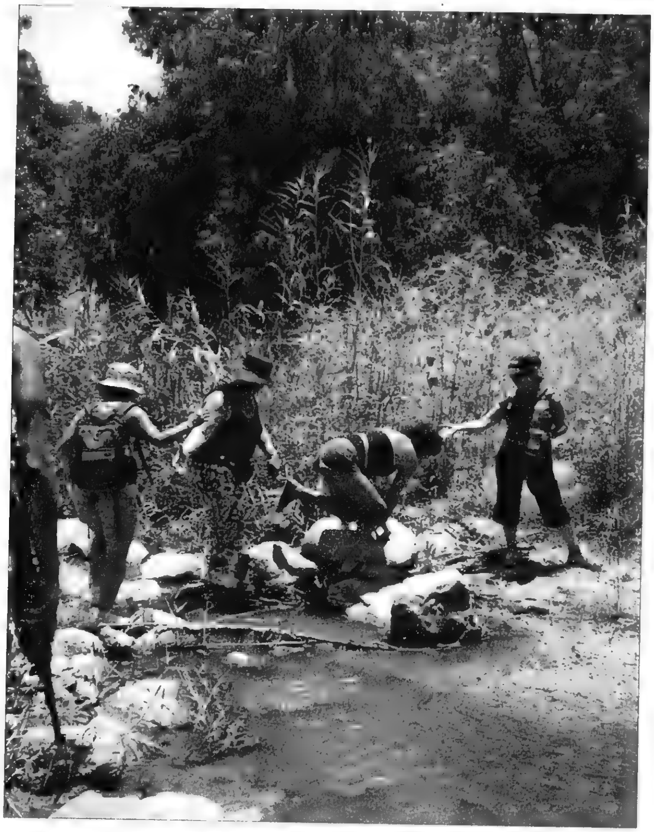

Participants in the teachers' program cross the Harod, a stream rehabilitation project of the Jewish National Fund.

Jewish values offer basis for green classes

Continued from page B8

While she would love to see Associated have its own hothouse – similar to one she saw at a school in Israel – a more immediate goal for Etigson is to bring plants into her classroom and have her students participate in taking care of them.

In addition to raising educators' environmental consciousness, the program aims to convey a love of Israel through the environment, said Eilath. The participants got "to know the environment and appreciate it," she added.

"One more focus for us was to integrate concern for the environment based on Jewish values," said Ruth Rohn, the Mercaz's other co-ordinator of the program.

A session with author Jeremy Benstein during the trip addressed the subject of consumerism, said Rohn. "The environmental crisis is a crisis of human attitudes and behaviour… We have to look at ourselves. Of course, the Torah is a wonderful guide for that. The 10th commandment says we're not supposed to covet. Our society has created a culture of covetousness. This is something we have to be aware of and work against."

Concern for the environment is "a human issue that knows no boundaries" and brings people together, she said, citing co-operative Jewish-Arab ventures she learned about in Israel. "This to me was extremely inspiring."

Karen Goodis, principal of the Beth Sholom Hebrew School said, "Personally, the trip made me far more environmentally aware."

Concern for the environment is 'a human issue that knows no boundaries'

She plans to ask her students to bring their snacks in reusable containers and to look for recyclable packaging when buying items for the school, she said. If necessary, she will bring the packaging home to recycle.

Goodis also noted that anything printed for students is printed on both sides of the paper, but that the bulk of school communication is done by e-mail instead of using paper.

The message she has for students now is that they are caretakers for the environment [the Jewish concept of *ba'al tashchit*], she said. "We have a responsibility. If each individual does one less energy inefficient act, it will make a difference."

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Israel's water resources are being sullied

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A sombre anniversary was marked recently. Ten years ago last month, four Australian athletes taking part in the Maccabiah Games in Tel Aviv were crossing a footbridge across the Yarkon River when it buckled and collapsed. Two athletes drowned and two more later died from infections caused by toxins in the murky waters.

Apart from exposing appallingly shoddy workmanship, for which the engineer and contractors were subsequently convicted and sentenced to relatively short prison terms, the incident underscored the fact that many of Israel's precious water resources are heavily polluted.

In a generally arid land where every drop of water should count, the Maccabiah disaster was an indictment of short-sightedness on the part of the government and a commentary on its priorities.

To find out more about this patently unacceptable situation, I spent several days touring the country to better understand what ails Israel's environment.

My hosts were Zalul, the Association for Environmental Protection, an eight-year-old non-governmental organization that is dedicated to protecting the rivers and seas of Israel, and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), which has been around for decades and accomplished much in educating Israelis about their natural patrimony.

Moshe Shemma – a senior SPNI official who took me to an improbable bird sanctuary on the grounds of a salt factory in Atlit and to a SPNI field school facing the Mediterranean Sea near Nahariya – said Israelis are conscious of the damage they have steadily inflicted on the environment, and that further delays in fixing it will not be tolerated. "We realize we can't wait until our problems with the Arabs are resolved. We just can't wait any more."

Swimmers enjoy a dip in the northern part of the Jordan River.

[Sheldon Kirshner photos]

Matan Konwitz, the director of SPNI's field school in Gesher Haziv, which resembles a kibbutz and faces a lagoon, was blunter. "The government, given our scarce resources, has to be much tougher in enacting laws to combat water and air pollution."

I basically heard the same complaint from Ezer Fischler, Zalul's representative in the north. To accentuate this point, he drove me to the sweeping beach at Acre Bay, one of Israel's beauty spots.

Once a promising tourist mecca, ideal for bathers and surfers, Acre Bay is forlorn and neglected today, its sandy beach littered with debris carried by tides from Lebanon and its waters sullied by the discharge of heavy-metal industrial wastewater from nearby factories.

Fischler, a trained environmentalist who takes his job seriously, lamented that a pipeline from factories in the Galilee dumps 5,000 cubic metres of sewage into the bay on a daily basis.

"This is one of the most polluted areas in the Mediterranean Sea," he observed. "It was once a rich fishing ground, but no more."

He turned toward the concrete shell of a half-built hotel some 50 metres from the beach. "They stopped construction when they realized that tourists wern't coming here anymore," he said.

Continued on page B11

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'A lot of work' remains to be done

Continued from page B11

He does not merely wring his hands in despair. Zalul will sue the ministry of the environment if the status quo is maintained.

A few days later, I spoke to Zalul's managing director, a lawyer named Yariv Abramovich.

"Acre Bay can be restored as a tourist destination if the government acts," he declared. Abramovich is hardly a fanatic. All he asks is that potential polluters be moved at least 10 kilometres away from the bay.

Fischler next took me to Haifa's Kishon River, one of the most despoiled rivers in Israel.

Chemical plants in the vicinity have dumped tons of sludge, two metres thick, into the river. It is so dirty that Israeli frogmen who trained in its waters years ago have contracted cancer.

> Jordan River is badly contaminated

When Fischler was a navy diver, he would have to continually scrub the oily residue of the sludge off his body.

The Kishon is currently being cleaned up by dredgers, but the sludge is being disposed of in a site in the Mediterranean Sea.

Not surprisingly, Abramovich is outraged. "We want the sludge to be properly treated before it is dumped," he said. "We're trying to convince the government to do this. Right now, the problem is being transferred from one place to another."

Several years ago, the city of Haifa built a recreational area, with picnic benches, along the banks of the Kishon. But the park remains empty, foul odours having discouraged people from using it. "There is a lot of work to be done here," said Fischler.

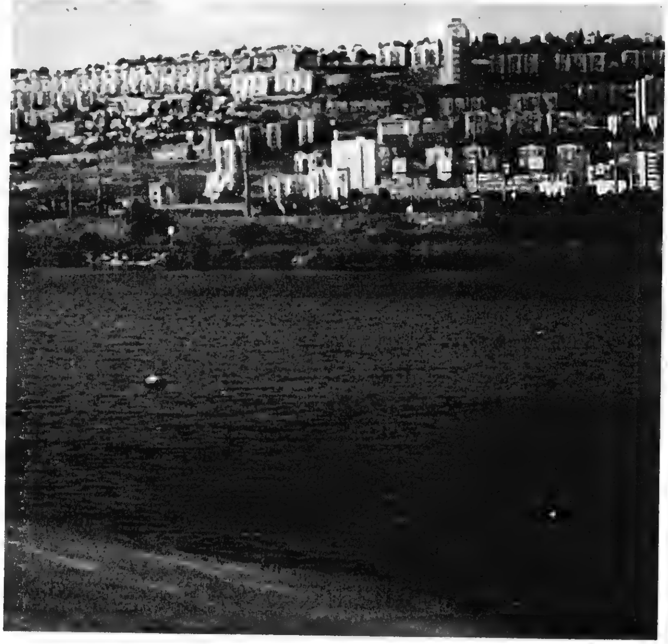
We then drove northward toward the storied Jordan River, Israel's longest river and its only one with a permanent year-round flow.

Supplying Israel with approximately 50 per cent of its potable water, it is formed in the mountains of eastern Lebanon. Its four tributaries – the Hasbani, the Banias, the Dan and the Ayoun – merge near Kibbutz Sde Nehemya, in the Huleh Valley.

Demarcating Israel's border with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, its longest with any of its Arab neighbours, the Jordan River is relatively clean in its upper northern reaches. Indeed, the National Water Carrier, which was built in the early 1950s to develop the country, transports water from the Jordan and the Sea of Galilee to the Negev.

But in its downstream stretch, from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea, the Jordan River is badly contaminated, its ecosystem having been virtually destroyed, and looks remarkably like a drainage ditch.

Continued on page B12



The Kishon River in Haifa

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Pollution levels growing worse

Continued from page B11

To Fischler, the southern portion is nothing less than a mess.

"It's really a sewage canal," he said indignantly. "Since this part of the river is not regarded or utilized as a source for drinking water, it is not seen as important."

As a result, pollution levels grow worse by the day, and the wastewater carried by the Jordan River ends up in the Dead Sea, which is shrinking.

According to a report issued by the Friends of Earth-Middle East this past June, the lower section of the Jordan River, having been diverted by Israel, Jordan and Syria for domestic and agricultural use, is a study in ecological devastation.

The World Monuments Fund, which draws attention to threatened cultural sites around the globe, has also described the southern route as endangered.

The problem came into clearer focus as we left Tiberias and headed into the sultry Jordan Valley. Fischler stopped at the Hazor, a muddy, meandering stream cutting through a deep gorge bristling with vegetation and dribbling into the Jordan River.

Walking across a bridge under a blazing sun, I looked down at the placid water, catching the sight of a glinting mini-waterfall cascading down rocks and of fat turtles swimming in the shallows.

To my untrained eye, everything seemed quite normal. But to Fischler, the Hazor is symptomatic of the depths to which the lower Jordan River has sunk.

Ezer Fischler

"The waterfall you see," he said, "is made up of wastewater. It is totally polluted. We have laws against pollution, but they're not being enforced. It seems as if our water inspectors are not dealing with this issue."

Abramovich suggested that the Jordan River can be rehabilitated, but only if Israel and Jordan co-operate.

Under the 1994 peace treaty, the two countries are required to protect the river against "any pollution, contamination [and] harm."

In practice, Israel and Jordan are not living up to the ideals of the treaty, thereby dooming a river sacred to both Jews and Christians.

Please see related stories on page B24

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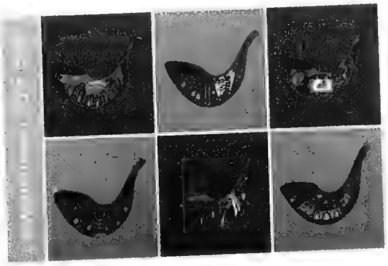

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Community Focus

It's easy to plan an environmentally friendly wedding

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

When most girls envision their wedding day, they picture their princess-like wedding dress, beautiful flowers and memories that last a lifetime. But when Aviva Allen began planning her October wedding, having an environmentally friendly event was at the top of her priority list.

Although environmental issues such as climate change and conservation have been hot topics for years, taking the steps to minimize waste and make eco-friendly choices for her Toronto wedding was a challenge, said Allen, a nutritionist, environmentalist and author of *The Organic Kosher Cookbook*.

"There were a number of things that I had in mind when I first started planning, and I guess a lot of them aren't going to be able to happen, unfortunately, because there is not a lot of availability for these things in Toronto. You look online and you see all these articles about green weddings and all of that, and there are a lot more resources in the States," she said.

"Even looking for a ketubah and asking for one on recycled paper – they look at me like I'm crazy… No one has ever asked them before. And the same for invitations and for benchers. That's definitely been a struggle."

Aviva Allen

Despite the challenges, however, Allen was able to make decisions for her wedding that will minimize the impact it will have on the environment.

"I was able to do a lot for the engagement party because it was smaller and at our house. We printed the invitations ourselves and I bought paper… from Grassroots [a Toronto-based environmental products store]. Some was made of hemp and some was made of coffee beans. It's expensive paper, but because it was a smaller [event], it was OK. We also got these compostable plates – they're like paper plates, but they're not even made from paper and you can put them in the compost," she said.

"For the wedding invitations, it wasn't going to work… [But] I was finally able to get sort of a compromise. The part that the actual writing is printed on is semi-recycled paper and the outside is natural paper."

As for the ketubah, Allen said she would print it herself on recycled paper.

Perhaps the most important aspect of planning a wedding is the menu, and as a nutritionist, Allen wanted to make sure that she would provide her guests with quality food.

She chose GMB, a catering company that provides gourmet kosher cuisine, and she made special requests about what would be served.

"I wanted it to be vegetarian actually, but not everyone was on board with that," she said with a laugh.

Continued on page B15

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Bride requests organic, seasonal and local food

Continued from page B14

"The compromise is going to be that there will be a vegetarian buffet, but we'll have a fish dish. I don't think that is going to make the people happy who are expecting [meat], but it's something. I couldn't justify having all those chickens die just for my wedding," Allen said, adding that she is not a vegetarian – she does eat organic chicken – but decided that it would be too expensive to order enough organic chicken for 250 people.

Allen said it was a challenge for her to find caterers who specialize in organic food.

"I requested from the caterer to do as much organic and seasonal and local as they can. In terms of choosing the menu, I played a large role in making sure that there were a lot of seasonal foods involved."

Allen said ordering the wine she wanted was also an issue.

"There is some organic wine that is kosher … We tried getting some in, but because there are only certain brands available with certain distributors in the city, some of them were not very co-operative with our special request. It was difficult. There aren't really any kosher organic wines that are mevushal, so it wouldn't be allowed in the synagogue anyway," said Allen, the daughter of Rabbi Wayne Allen of Beth Tikvah Synagogue in Toronto, where she's getting married.

"What we may end up doing is, I found out that Baron Herzog makes their wine with grapes that are grown sustainably, like with sustainable growing processes, and they're certified, so it's not as good as being organic, but it's better than other options."

She said when it comes to the shul, as the rabbi's daughter, she is always making suggestions about how to make the building more sustainable, but her ideas aren't always received with enthusiasm.

"We don't really have a lot of control over the facility, but believe me, I've tried to make our shul a bit greener in the past. But there is resistance. It's not easy. There are a lot of synagogues in the States now that are going green and are looking into better energy saving methods," she said.

Her options also seemed limited when it came to ordering organic flowers, and she said the company they chose wasn't able to get her order together in time.

"They weren't really on the ball and we weren't able to go with them because we had to book it and they couldn't get us the information in time. I really did want to use them. We're using minimal flowers. We're not having large arrangements near the chupah and that sort of thing. I wanted to use a lot of other things to decorate. It's going to be a fall wedding, so I'm going to use leaves and squashes and things to decorate it, and candles and stuff."

Above are samples of invitations printed on recycled paper.

Continued on page B16

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Community Focus

Local designer means dress won't be shipped

Continued from page B15

As for her dress, Allen considered buying off-white hemp and silk blend fabric, at about $20 a metre from the Toronto Hemp Company, and having the dress custom made.

"I was going to do that, but then I started trying on dresses and saw how difficult it was to find one that fits so well, and I thought that if I tried to have one made from scratch, it might not come out right, so I was too nervous about that. I ended up finding one in a store, and the designer is local, from Toronto, so it didn't need to be shipped from somewhere far away, and the material is raw silk, so it's a natural fibre. So that was my compromise there."

For those who are interested in making eco-friendly choices but want to ease into it, Allen suggested asking that recycled paper be used for anything that needs to be printed.

"That's something that anyone could do. It might mean that you're more limited in terms of where you can go to get it, but more printers can print on recycled paper now and the invitation person that I went to, she had never done it before, but when I asked for it, she looked into it and she was able to get it," Allen said.

"If I had my way, I would have done an e-vite, not a formal invitation. I think that when I have kids, the first simchah I do, the bar or bat mitzvah, I would do an e-vite, but the older generation wants to have that formal printed invitation. You can have no paper at all or you can have a phone RSVP instead of a printed response card."

An armful of organic roses make a beautiful bridal bouquet.

She said another energy saving method is to have the reception in the same place as the ceremony so that people don't have to travel.

While Allen has made many eco-friendly choices for her wedding, she said she was not getting exactly what I wanted.

"It's not my ideal, but I'm trying to do the best that I can with what I have to work with in the city… I think we're just behind."

On the other hand, Allen is confident that Torontonians will catch on to these trends.

"Now, Jewish environmental organizations are popping up here in Toronto that are doing some great things."

But the key to making sure that Torontonians have just as many environmentally friendly options as their American counterparts is to demand it from those who are in the wedding business.

"When I ask for something on recycled paper, they look at me like I'm the first person who has ever asked for it, but the more people who ask for it, the more people will want to accommodate that... If people are asking for it, the companies will supply it."

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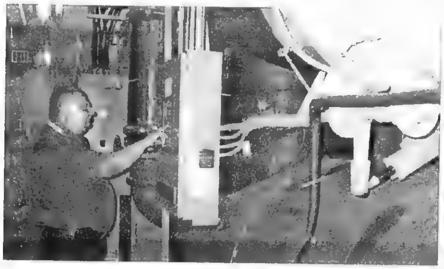
Jewish hospitals go green

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

These days, hospitals aren't just concerned with the people inside their walls, they're also trying to help those on the outside.

The environment is on everybody's mind, and Toronto institutions such as Mount Sinai Hospital and Baycrest have taken steps to reduce their carbon footprints for the good of the community and their bottom lines.

At Mount Sinai, a forward-thinking vision of cost efficiency and environmental friendliness has led the hospital to begin the shift toward new, "greener" technology.



Robert Marcinkiewicz, Baycrest's manager of plant operations, checks the 770-tonne chiller that cools the main building, including the nursing home and hospital. The high-efficiency chiller was installed in 1999 during construction of the Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged.

Altaf Stationwala, Mount Sinai's senior vice-president of operations and development, explained to *The CJN* how, within two years, his hospital will be saving close to 90 per cent on its air conditioning bills and reducing its drain on the city's power grid.

Rather than continue to rely on traditional air conditioning technology, which sucks up many kilowatts to keep its building cool, the hospital will soon be connected to a "cooling loop" that has been set up in the downtown core by Enwave Energy Corporation, a Toronto company that siphons off frigid water from the depths of Lake Ontario and uses the water's ambient 4 C temperature to help chill buildings in the city.

"We [currently] have a cooling tower on the roof. It's fed by compressors that consume electricity that cool the water which goes into our heat exchanger for the air-handling units," Stationwala said. "[With Enwave], instead of requiring electricity to get cold water from the coils, we take the cold water from the lake and it consumes no electricity."

Enwave will connect Mount Sinai to its system over the next two years.

"The [Mount Sinai] connection is a further connection to a system that's already in place all the way up to Queen's Park. We have water supply and return lines that go up Bay Street," said Kevin Loughborough, vice-president of major projects for Enwave.

Stationwala didn't say how much the project would cost Mount Sinai, but based on cost estimates, he predicted that "in about seven or eight years, the [investment] capital will be paid for and it will be ongoing savings on utility costs to the hospital."

Over at Baycrest, hospital management has instituted a formal "green plan" that follows strict guidelines of energy conservation.

According to spokesperson Kelly Connelly, Baycrest has reduced its electrical needs by working closely with Toronto Hydro and by implementing many cost-saving and environmental initiatives such as retrofitting lights, upgrading boilers, replacing old thermostats, re-caulking the hospital's infrastructure and replacing old computer screens with new, energy-efficient flat screens.

And Baycrest has also paid attention to the little things that help the environment.

For instance, Baycrest's housekeeping department has switched to environmentally friendly cleaning products and will only change garbage bin liners when they's soiled.

Its efforts have been successful. The hospital has seen its energy usage drop over the last decade, reducing its energy consumption by 10 million kilowatt hours for what it estimates to be $900,000 in energy savings overall.

But Baycrest is not content to rest on its laurels.

"Can Baycrest improve its [environmental] efforts?… Absolutely," Connelly said. "We know we can do a better job."

To address this, in the fall, Baycrest will introduce a revised green plan to help the hospital continue perfecting its "three Rs" philosophy: reduce, re-use and recycle.

Baycrest's Green Living Roof is part of the newly installed Spiro Family Garden, adjacent to Baycrest Hospital and accessible from the second floor. The roof, with low-maintenance plants and a specialized drainage system, acts as an insulator that helps reduce energy costs in both winter and summer.

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Agency conjures greener pastures from gridlock

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Harry Potter and climate change are two of today's hottest topics, says transit advocate Brian Shifman. I rode the rocket to visit the executive director of Smart Commute North Toronto, Vaughan (a.k.a. Smart Commute NTV) at his office on York University's Keele Street campus.

There were no wizards in sight, however.

He used the Potter-climate parallel in jest – referring to a *Time* magazine spread that parodied the famous book series with the possible sequel idea, "*Harry Potter and the Specter of Global Warming*: Something is afoul at Hogwarts when the Ministry of Magic fines the school for excessive owl emissions" – but Shifman is serious about stopping climate change by taking cars off the road.

"We're trying to help employees get to and from work more easily," he explained.

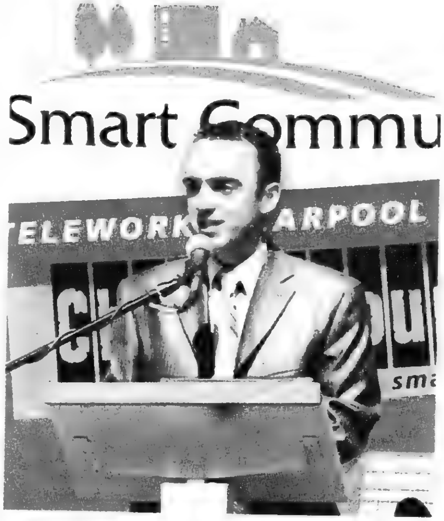
Smart Commute is a non-profit group that aims to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality by working with business and government to reduce the use of single occupancy vehicles.

And with an estimated 85 per cent of commuters in the Greater Toronto Area driving to work alone, the need for smarter commuting choices is a no-brainer.

85 per cent of commuters in the GTA drive to work alone

Appropriate to the subject matter, our interview took place outside in a grassy area ringed by a roadway that's used by hundreds of TTC, GO and York Region Transit buses each day.

Like public transit, some commuting alternatives are obvious, including cycling, walking or carpooling, the latter of which, in addition to saving gas, allows cars to take advantage of high occupancy vehicle lanes on highways.



Brian Shifman, executive director of Smart Commute NTV, addresses a crowd of 200 business people, political representatives and area employees at Unlock Gridlock, an event organized by the agency last September, held at Enbridge Gas Distribution in North York.

Less obvious possibilities include teleworking – working from home or a virtual office close by – and van-pooling, where up to eight people plus a driver commute together in a larger vehicle.

Smart Commute NTV handles two of seven Smart Commute regions in the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton. Its north Toronto section is responsible for the northeastern part of the city, while its Vaughan division oversees the northwestern and York University areas.

The agency's programs raise awareness about alternative transportation options, Shifman said.

The choices are more mundane than, say, Harry, Ron and Hermione's commute to Hogwarts by train from Platform 9¾, or "disapparating" – magically disappearing from one location only to reappear in another.

But they can make a difference here in our warming muggle world.

One transit idea is the carpool zone (www.carpoolzone.ca), which allows users to find carpool buddies in their geographic region or place of employment. Other programs include the Clean Air Commute and Commuter Challenge, short-terms projects that encourage commuters to break out of their daily routines.

"It could be something as simple as inflating your tires to create less carbon dioxide emissions, or, more likely, taking transit or carpooling or van-pooling for a week," Shifman said.

Last year, through its various programs, Smart Commute NTV helped to eliminate 5,000 daily vehicle trips, which equalled about 1.2 million trips in 2006.

Shifman added that the non-profit was responsible for 61 million fewer vehicle kilometres travelled last year and 14,000 fewer tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

These numbers boil down to fewer cars on the road, and, eventually, cleaner air, he said.

Last year,… Smart Commute NTV helped to eliminate 5,000 daily vehicle trips

"I think often changes like that take a few years," he said.

"That's something Smart Commute is particularly good at – showing people what their options are, encouraging government to match people's needs for transportation to what actually exists, and enabling people to actually make that change," he added.

But the advantages are more than just environmental.

"There's a real lifestyle benefit to being on transit and being able to read a book or do your work instead of sitting in traffic all stressed out," Shifman said.

"You will arrive to work and be more productive if you haven't been stuck in traffic."

Smart Commute NTV started in 2001 as the GTA's first Smart Commute branch.

Shifman came on board in 2005. While he originally drove alone to work from the Lawrence and Bayview area, he recently moved downtown and now takes a combination of subway and bus to get to work.

Eventually, with the planned extension of the Spadina subway line to York – Shifman is also a member of the Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee – he'll just take the subway.

"It isn't because I'm executive director of Smart Commute that I moved. It's because I wanted a lifestyle change that enables me to take transit and to be near an urbanized community. I enjoy urbanized life. But I think it also sends the right message."

The interview ended, and Shifman walked me from the grass to a waiting TTC bus, which he noted was one of about 1,600 public transit vehicles that come to York every day.

As I sat down to start my journey back to *The CJN*'s office across town, I cracked open my hot-off-the-press edition of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, hoping to enjoy the last adventures of the boy wizard on my stress-free and environmentally smart commute.

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Outdoors club celebrates 10th anniversary

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

The Mosaic Outdoors Club of Ontario (MOCO) has been canoeing, hiking and schmoozing for 10 years.

"This is our most amazing year ever," said club president Norm Abrams. "We're all about the outdoors. We enjoy the outdoors. We do it better than anybody."

MOCO offers a different event almost every Sunday, as well as the occasional weekend getaway. Events run the gamut from hiking to bowling to kayaking to dancing.

The club currently has 153 members, its largest number yet, up from 120 last year. It is affiliated with the Mosaic Outdoors Clubs of America, founded in 1988 and named after Moses, the first outdoor Jew. Toronto-based MOCO is the only Canadian club of about 20 across North America, and one of the five largest.

Abrams is in the middle of his third and last term as president. On a sunny summer day, seated at a picnic table in the spacious area behind his office at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, the architect discussed the club and his love of the outdoors.

"I absolutely adore this," he said, gesturing to the foliage around him. "Being at one with nature, for me, is amazing.

"I think the people who love the club most are the people who share these four things – Judaism, nature, the outdoors and being active."

Annual membership in the not-for-profit MOCO is $30, plus admission cost for events that require fees. Non-members pay $6 per outing. Events are led by members, aided by how-to-lead templates available on the club's website, www.mosaictoronto.org.

The club is always looking for new members and volunteers to help with events and lead the organization.

Abrams said it is difficult to recruit more members because of challenges in getting the word out, and because there are misconceptions about the club.

"There is a perception that a Jewish outdoors club is a bit of an oxymoron, but I don't believe that," Abrams said, referring to the stereotype that Jewish people are not athletic.

"I actually think that there's a perception in the Jewish community that we're too rugged. And the fact of the matter is, in our club, we have about 20 to 30 hard-core folks who like the canoe trips [and] don't mind tenting it for a three-day weekend… but we have 153 members.

"We have a huge array of people, from those that are really experienced and rugged to those that will only go on a city walk, and everything in between," he added.

He would like to see membership grow substantially, ideally by adding a zero to the 153 people he referred to.

In addition to exercise, adventure and the outdoors, MOCO members also enjoy the many opportunities that the club offers for socialization.

"It's so non-threatening; it's an amazing way to meet people," Abrams said.

He recalled his first hike with the club. Sixty people came out, and it was an easy way to chat with many people in a short amount of time and a great environment.

"It sure beats J-Date," he joked.

MOCO would also like to see more young people join. While there are a few younger members, the majority are in their 40s and 50s, and he feels this may be something of a deterrent for younger newbies checking out the club. The group is looking into hosting a youth-only event.

.Also on the agenda for the club's future is emphasizing environmental activism more "rigorously and vigorously," Abrams said.

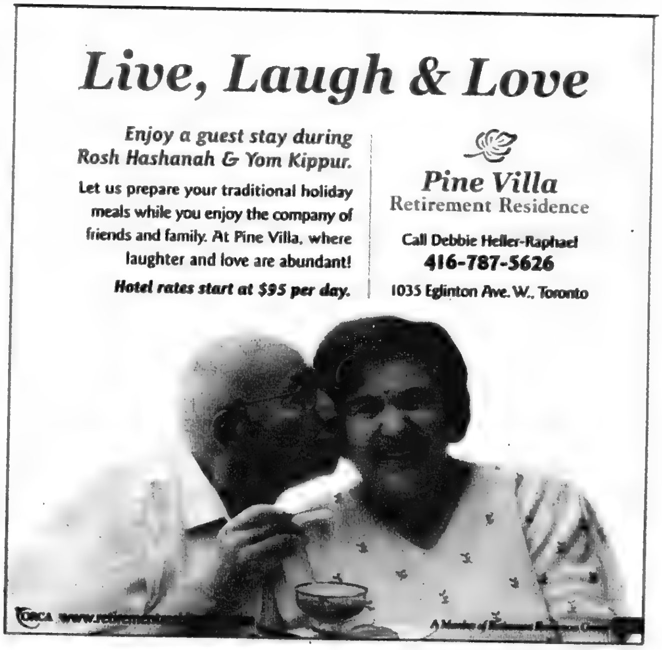
The club already takes part in annual tree planting activities with the Evergreen charity and garbage pick-ups around the city.

"We wear our environmentally consciousness hat reasonably well, but we could do better," he said. The board plans to discuss this issue at a fall retreat.

Involvement with MOCO is very rewarding, Abrams said. At a recent board meeting, one of his colleagues stood up unprompted and thanked him for his hard work as both president and event leader.

"I had tears in my eyes. You know the expression that something is worth a million bucks? That is worth a million dollars. I would rather have that than a million dollars."

Club members on a recent canoe trip to Barron Canyon in Algonquin Park. Pictured from left are Bernie Feder and his daughter Cassandra, Robin Kachuk, Louise Sherman and Norm Abrams.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Hillel rabbi raises awareness of Jewish environmentalism

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Environmentalism on campus may not be a new phenomenon, but Aaron Levy, Hillel of Greater Toronto's campus rabbi, has been trying to bring more of a Jewish flavour to the issue.

Just last spring, Rabbi Levy and Hillel joined forces with Torat Hatevah, the Jewish Nature Centre of Canada – an organization that promotes ecological awareness and provides models for spiritually and ecologically sustainable Jewish living – to organize the Jewish Environmental Conference and Eco-Shabbaton, which was the first of its kind in Canada.

The conference, which was held at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto, included lectures, workshops and panels that were meant to give participants a platform to discuss important Jewish environmental issues.

"The conference was about the intersection of Judaism and the environment," said Rabbi Levy, who has been working at Hillel at U of T for a year.

"Within Jewish text and tradition, there is a long-standing concern for the environment, not usually expressed in the same language that modern environmentalism is expressed, but it is certainly there in a different idiom," said Rabbi Levy, who added that he had been interested in environmentalism since he was in grade school and first learned about recycling.

"There is a biblical prohibition on unnecessary waste of any material, concern for the well-being of people's health and animals as well, to diminish pain and suffering for them."

"There is an overarching ethos in Judaism that the earth is the Lord's and the humans live temporarily on the earth and we do not own it and therefore it is not ours to do with it what we please. We have to have concern for keeping the earth sustainable for future generations," he said.

The conference, which was attended by about 200 students, gave them the opportunity to address issues such as local Jewish activism versus Israel environmental activism, the Jewish response to the current environmental crisis, and how to create a community network that will facilitate grassroots activism in the Jewish community.

The second part of the program, the Eco-Shabbaton, offered students the opportunity to explore the benefits of eating organically grown food, and it also featured discussions, workshops and panel discussions on topics including vegetarianism and Judaism, Kabbalah and ecology, and halachic perspectives on environmental and ecological issues.

Continued on page B21

תורת הטבע
The Jewish Nature Centre of Canada

Organizers of of the Jewish Environmental Conference and Eco-Shabbaton pose with a banner at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life. From left are Rabbi David Seidenberg of Los Angeles, Alon Weinberg of Winnipeg, Ahuva Goldshmidt of Toronto, Noam Dolgin of Vancouver, Stuart Schoenfeld and Shai Spetgang, both of Toronto, and Rabbi Aaron Levy, director of the Wolfond Centre.

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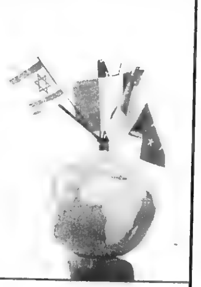

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Many students are involved on a secular level

Continued from page B20

Nora Saks, 21, a fourth-year U of T environment and society student who is originally from Maryland and is spending her summer there working on a family-owned organic fruit and vegetable farm, attended the conference last spring.

She said she has been interested in environmental issues since she was a young girl, but became active in high school.

"I always liked being outside, and animals and plants. In high school, I got involved in a small, local, student-run environmental group, which is where I learned about environmentalism with a capital E," Saks said.

She said she wanted to participate in the conference because, coming from an affiliated Jewish family, she is interested in what the religious position is on environmental issues.

"I've been wondering more in the past few years about what the religion has to say about it, or what the evolving message is… I want to know what Judaism has to say, but it's not like I'm waiting for a verse in the Bible to tell me what to do," she said.

"[It's interesting to see] how you can make long-lived Jewish traditions still meaningful by looking at the world around you."

About three months before the conference, in January 2007, Saks was first introduced to Jewish environmentalism when she was accepted to go on a green-themed Hillel Israel trip.

"It was the first of its kind run [by] Hillel, and essentially the idea was to bring back people who had already seen Israel on one level and look at resource and environmental issues within the Israeli context. That involved us trekking around for 10 days.

"We talked to people in the government about plans they had, policies they were working on, we talked to people bringing Palestinian and Israeli kids together through recycling campaigns, we visited the forest that had been bombed out during the [Second] Lebanon War… it was just looking at problems and looking at solutions and seeing how Israel was dealing with it," Saks said.

Nora Saks, far right, poses with two other participants on the green-themed Hillel trip to Israel last January.

Although Saks was open to learning about the environment from a Jewish perspective, Rabbi Levy realizes that many Jewish students are involved on a secular level.

"Aside from Jewish students who express their interest in environmental issues, through a Jewish angle, there are plenty of Jewish students who are involved in environmental groups on and off campus and who are working on projects," Rabbi Levy said, "but not necessarily looking at it from a Jewish angle."

Continued on page B22

Who is YCT?

Rabbi Yonatan Cohen. Born in Tel Aviv. Student of Reb Nachman of Breslev, Abraham Joshua Heschel, and Yehuda Amichai. United observant and secular teens at Israeli camp. Teaches together with wife, Frayda. Poet and storyteller. Rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel, Berkeley, CA. Yeshivat Chovevei Torah alumnus '06.

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'No shortage' of environmental campus groups

Continued from page B21

Saks said, "I'm a classic example. I never had a lot of friends at Hillel, and it never really struck a chord with me, but in my classes and other groups I come in contact with, there are always a ton of Jews, and pretty involved ones, who don't prefer to make [Judaism] their number 1 identity, but are Jewish and active nonetheless," said Saks, who is also the volunteer co-ordinator for a campus group that raises funds for environmental projects.

She also helped organize a campus cooking group called the Hot Yam after the campus vegetarian café closed down.

"We were all confused and hungry for non-crappy food on campus… We started cooking vegan, mostly organic meals for about 100 people a week. It was really fun. We even had a Passover-friendly Hot Yam lunch one day."

On most other university campuses, there is no shortage of environmental groups. In fact, at U of T alone, there are at least 10 eco-groups that a student can choose from.

But Rabbi Levy is interested in moving forward with the concepts brought forth at the Jewish Environmental Conference and is in the process of organizing a grassroots Jewish-student-led group called Eco-Jews.

"It is basically at the level of having a general interest meeting to see who is interested… This year, we'll be going ahead in earnest and trying to attract attention to it and really get it started."

Rabbi Levy said that when they came together for the initial general meeting, the students were interested in three basic themes: outings, education and action.

Students were interested in three basic themes: outings, education and action

"The outings are basically doing programs to get Jewish students outdoors more, going camping or hiking, canoeing, walking around the city, exploring different parks… and looking at problems and seeing what needs to be done.

"In terms of education, the goal is to create a variety of programs to educate Jewish students and the broader Jewish community about environmental issues from a Jewish perspective," he said, adding that he hopes to initiate projects such as greening the Wolfond Centre, to try to improve the building's sustainability.

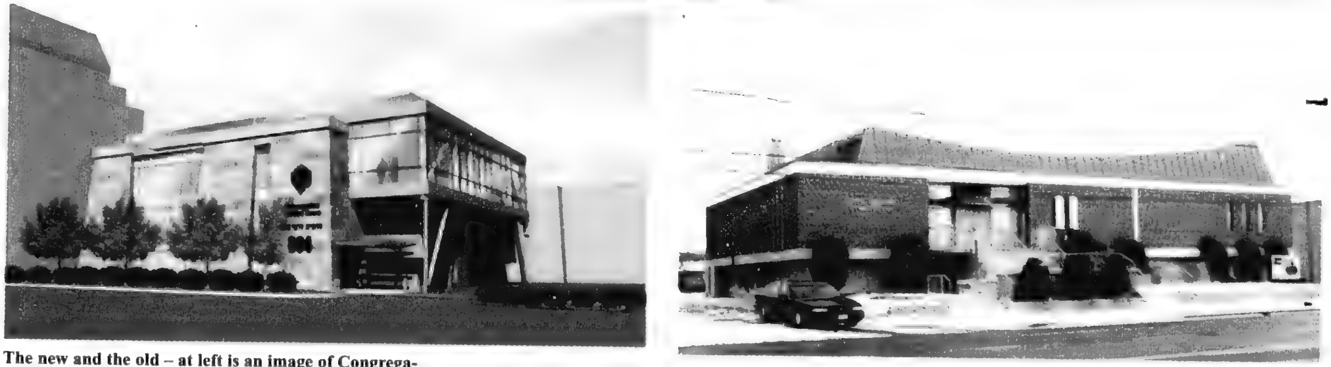
He said he hopes that Jewish students will also join forces with non-Jewish students throughout the university who are engaged in environmental advocacy so that there is a Jewish voice included in those projects as well.

Saks, who hopes to be involved with Eco-Jews next school year despite her many other commitments, said that even though there are many secular environmental groups on campus that many Jewish students are involved with, it can't hurt to create a Jewish group to reach out to students on another level.

"It would be good to have a presence at Hillel for Jewish people who wouldn't make the connection [to environmentalism] otherwise."

Nora Saks

Community Focus



The new and the old – at left is an image of Congregation Darchei Noam's projected environmentally friendly renovation; at right is the building as it looked before the congregation bought it.

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Even in death, there is life

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

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A section of Pardes Shalom cemetery

Most people don't think about cemeteries when they think of environmental conservation. Yet the desire for calm, esthetically pleasing surroundings to help ease family and friends of the dearly departed remains.

While Halachah remains rather silent on "green" preservation of the environment at Jewish burial grounds, most people agree that visitors prefer a serene experience at a cemetery.

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, president of the Toronto Vaad Harabonim, suggests that while no halachic imperative exists in this regard, there is a baseline that should be upheld.

"Cemeteries, being holy ground, should be kept in a respectful looking manner," he said. "The grass should be maintained… clean and shouldn't be used for things other than for the honour of the deceased."

Stephen Speisman, executive director of Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park cemetery (Pardes Shalom), knows visitors prefer greenery, and he ensures that when they come to the community cemetery, it's a green experience.

"Pesticides are generally banned from lawns [in Toronto]. But cemeteries, in general, are excluded from these restrictions," he said. "Because there would be a tremendous public outcry… if the grass was allowed to go to seed."

But Speisman notes that Jewish burial rituals have a potentially positive environmental impact below the ground.

"The preference for Jewish burials… is to have a simple, plain casket. While that isn't [intended] for environmental purposes, it does have the advantage of being more environmentally friendly than a finished casket that looks like furniture," which could leech small quantities of toxins into the soil as it begins to degrade, Speisman said.

Continued on page B25

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Environmental group lists Israel's most polluted rivers

JTA

An Israeli environmental protection group has compiled a list of the country's most polluted rivers earlier this year.

According to Zalul's list, issued before Earth Day on April 22, the Lachish River, which runs between Ashdod and Ashkelon and flows into the Mediterranean Sea, is Israel's most polluted. Though most of the river is dry, what remains is primarily sewage and runoff from nearby factories and municipal waste management plants that have left bacteria and chemical levels in the river well above legal levels, the report said.

The Hadera River, near Caesarea, has been affected by wastewater treatment plant sewage, industrial pollution and contamination from the Palestinian territories, the group claims.

Others on the list included the Ayalon River near Tel Aviv, the Bsor River in the Be'er Sheva region and the Yarkon River, which runs through Ramat Gan, B'nei Brak and Tel Aviv.

Sixteen major rivers flow to the Mediterranean and 24 to the Jordan River, Lake Kinneret and the Dead Sea, and most are polluted, Zalul said.

Jordan River named one of world's 100 most endangered ecological sites

JTA

The Jordan River has been named as one of the world's 100 most endangered ecological sites. An environmental group blamed the poor co-operation between Israel and its Arab neighbors as one reason for the river's demise.

"The region's current policies treat the river as a backyard dumping ground," Friends of the Earth Middle East said in a June statement, blaming Israel, Syria and Jordan for diverting 90 per cent of the river's natural flow for domestic and agricultural use, replacing it with sewage.

Munqeth Mehyar, the organization's Jordanian director, told the *Jordan Times* that Israel and Jordan are not working together to preserve the river, as they promised in the Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty. The river has significance in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Meyhar said the two nations shift the blame.

"When we talk to Jordanian officials they tell us if the Israeli side gives the go-ahead, then we will follow suit and vice versa," he said. "Meanwhile, nothing is done and the two countries continue to dump their waste into the river and divert water for agriculture."

Book interprets Bible text from an environmental perspective

Continued from page B24

He added that another environmental problem commonly associated with burial is the seepage of embalming fluid into the earth as a body decomposes.

But since embalming is not part of Jewish practice, it's not an issue at Jewish cemeteries, he added.

No specific Halachah re: cemetery maintenance

Even if there is no specific Halachah regarding the environmental maintenance of cemetery grounds, there are those who continue to push the community to interpret various biblical references in an environmental manner.

Canfei Nesharim, a New York-based group of Orthodox Jews dedicated to environmental education, continually interprets Halachah this way.

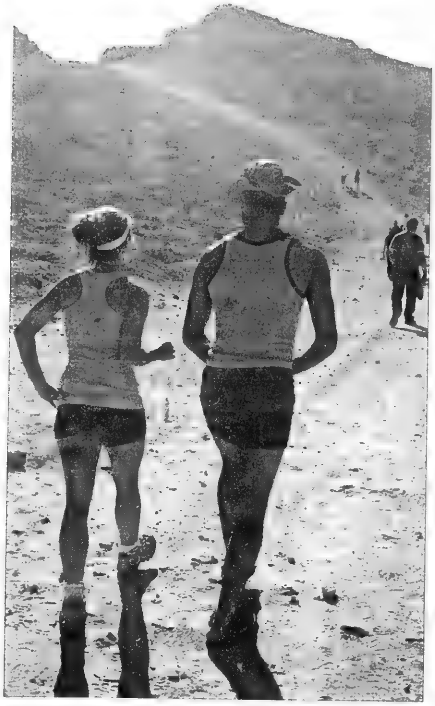
Its 2006 *Compendium of Sources in Halachah and the Environment* contains dozens of quotes and source material by rabbis and talmudic scholars for Jews wishing to follow a green code by interpreting Bible text from an environmental perspective.

One of the earliest quotes in the compendium, taken from the book of Genesis 1:28, casts an environmental light on the Torah, "And the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to till it and keep [guard, protect] it."

Canfei Nesharim interprets this as an environmental tenet of Judaism.

"We must make use of the Earth's riches, but do so responsibly. And at the same time, we must appreciate our gift," writes Ilana Stein, a conservationist, and one of the compendium's contributors.

In the end, the group asserts, the Earth is humanity's "inheritance," to be diligently protected and cultivated according to God's directive. And a cemetery is likely no exception.



Birthright israel participants trek in the desert earlier this year.

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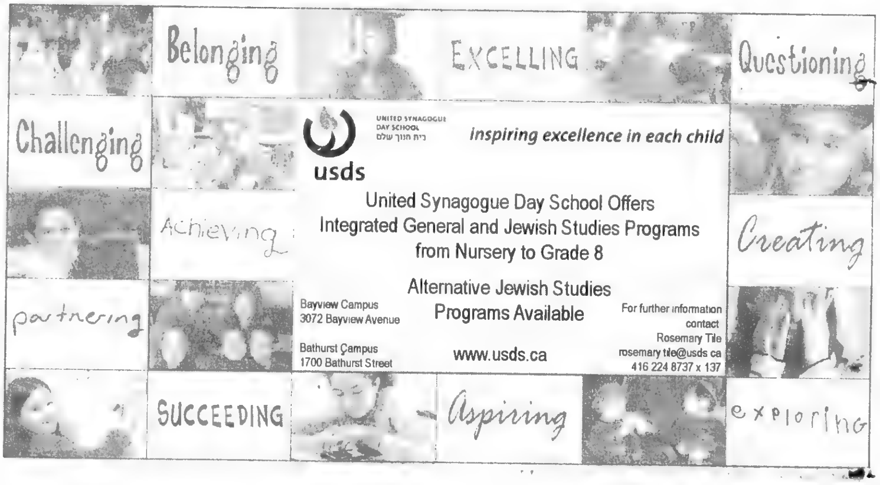

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God created a perfect world that we must care for

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

And God said, "Let us make Mankind in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Genesis, 1:26

"Behold My works, how splendid they are. All that I have created I created for your sake. Do not ruin or destroy my world. For if you do, there is no one to clean it up after you." Kohellet Rabba, 7:13

Compendium of Sources in Halacha and the Environment

These two statements, one from the story of creation in the Torah and the other from a midrash about God taking Adam on a tour of the Garden of Eden, show the two sides of the Jewish theological view of the relationship between man, God and the natural world.

On the one hand, God created a beautiful, perfect world and gave it to man, not only to enjoy but also to be in charge of. On the other hand, human beings, God warns, must care for it and make sure that this great gift is not squandered – that it will remain as a legacy for future generations.

While the above quotations speak in generalities, the Torah and commentaries have a good deal to say about the environment.

Toronto environmental consultant Shai Spetgang said that the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century has made the Earth less susceptible to some of the forces of nature.

For example, as Israel becomes more industrialized, and more land is covered with concrete, less rain can get down to the Earth, and the water table gets contaminated, Spetgang pointed out.

"From a purely selfish perspective, we all want clean air and water, and to eat non-poisonous food. This is not only for us, but for those who come after," he said.

It behooves us, then, to follow the precepts of the sages, which point us in the right direction, said Spetgang, the manager of membership services and the program development staff person at the Ontario Environment Industry Association and the executive director of the Canadian Environmental Markets Association.

The Messiah will come in time, but in the interim we need to do something about our environmental problems, Spetgang stressed.

Certain issues have surfaced in recent years. There are increased incidences of asthma in children, and people worry about the number of toxins they are exposed to.

Is a tomato infused with fish genes kosher? Some say that it is, since the fish genes bear no similarity to actual fish. The bigger issue, though, is whether we are allowed to manipulate nature.

Continued on page B27

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Halachic sources are adaptable to today's world

Continued from page B26

It is important to note, in this regard, especially since the Human Genome Project deciphered the genetic code, that the manipulation of genes for medical or therapeutic purposes is not, by and large, considered problematic.

While halachic sources do not deal directly with such modern concepts as acid rain and recycling plastic, they are surprisingly adaptable to today's modern world.

The laws of schchitah, ritual slaughter, decree that animals must be killed in the most pain-free way possible, with one stroke of a specially sharpened knife by someone skilled in the process.

Canfei Nesharim, an organization of Orthodox Jews dedicated to teaching the importance of protecting the environment from the perspective of Jewish tradition and Halachah, has published a fascinating book, *Compendium of Sources in Halacha and the Environment*, edited by Spetgang and Ora Sheinson. It not only discusses how Judaism views the environment and our responsibilities but also gives extensive background and sources.

Shai Spetgang

Schchitah falls directly in the purview of the laws of *tza'ar ba'alei chaim* – kindness to animals. One must feed one's animals (including pets) before eating oneself; one must not cause them pain; and a hunter must not take a mother animal together with her offspring.

This recognition that animals have rights and needs not only ensures the welfare of the animals, but, the Torah says, several times, that if one observes these rules, "it will be good for you and it will prolong your life." (Devarim, 22:6). Being kind to animals, Halachah says, elevates both your physical and spiritual souls.

Bal Tashchit, the injunction not to waste or destroy, is particularly significant in terms of environmental responsibility.

From Deuteronomy 20:19-20, which says, "When you besiege a city for a long time… you shall not destroy its trees by forcing an axe against them," we get many rules. We are enjoined to not tear our garments in mourning more than the mandated amount or to destroy things wantonly – either belongings (such as clothes), food or natural resources.

While we wash for ritual purposes (such as before eating bread) or for cleanliness, we should not use more water than required or needed. Use low-flow toilets and taps, take shorter showers and always be conscious of the importance of conserving the world's natural resources.

The coming year is a shmittah year in Israel. The land must lie fallow, and what does grow we are not allowed to use. While this is basically a *chok*, that is, a law for which no reason is given, nevertheless it serves the purpose of renewing the health of the soil. Those experienced with farming know that farmers rotate the fields they use so that each year, one is fallow – much the same idea as shmittah.

We have a responsibility, say Maimonides, the Mishnah and other codes of law, to not throw stones on a public thoroughfare; to place dead animals, cemeteries and tanneries outside cities, and not the side that the wind comes from; and to work in such a way that dust or ash is carried out away from other people.

One must not, Maimonides says, soak flax near vegetable patches (the flax will destroy the vegetables) or dispose of dangerous objects where they will possibly hurt others.

There are even such seemingly modern considerations as keeping a greenbelt around a city and refraining from building in the public domain where the structures will obstruct traffic or block sunlight. Builders, the Torah commentator Rashi says, must begin to work immediately after construction materials are brought to the work site.

We must be conscious of both authority and responsibility, Halachah says – to be grateful to God for His goodness and to care for that which His goodness gives us.

Hadassah takes up environment mantle

By JACOB BERKMAN
JTA

Renowned for its work providing state-of-the-art medical care in Israel, Hadassah at its national convention last month focused on keeping people healthy by going green.

The Women's Zionist Organization of America urged the 2,500 members attending its annual assembly in New York to take up simple actions that could help save the environment and stave off global warming – for instance, turning off lights and buying more trees from the Jewish National Fund.

At the Hilton Hotel parley, several sessions on the environment included a talk by Rabbi Lawrence Troster of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life.

"We brought to this convention the opportunity to become an activist on a personal level," convention chairwoman Barbara Spack said.

The organization's national director of advocacy, Shelley Klein, said the convention "was the start of mobilizing our grassroots to take this situation seriously."

"We have over 300,000 members in every state and every district, so for us, our strength is our people and our members," Klein said. "For us, the touchstone of our advocacy is our grassroots."

She said the nearly 100-year-old organization used the convention to see if global warming and the environment resonate with its members. The organization is working on position papers and starting to look at the issue on a policy level, Klein said.

Hadassah is also a partner in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, an effort to provide education that would improve eight pressing areas by 2015: hunger, primary education, gender equality, child mortality rates, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, environmental sustainability and global development.

Klein called the environment a natural fit for Hadassah because of the biblical responsibility to use the earth's resources properly and a reduction in the dependence on oil would benefit Israel.

A reduction in the dependence on oil would benefit Israel

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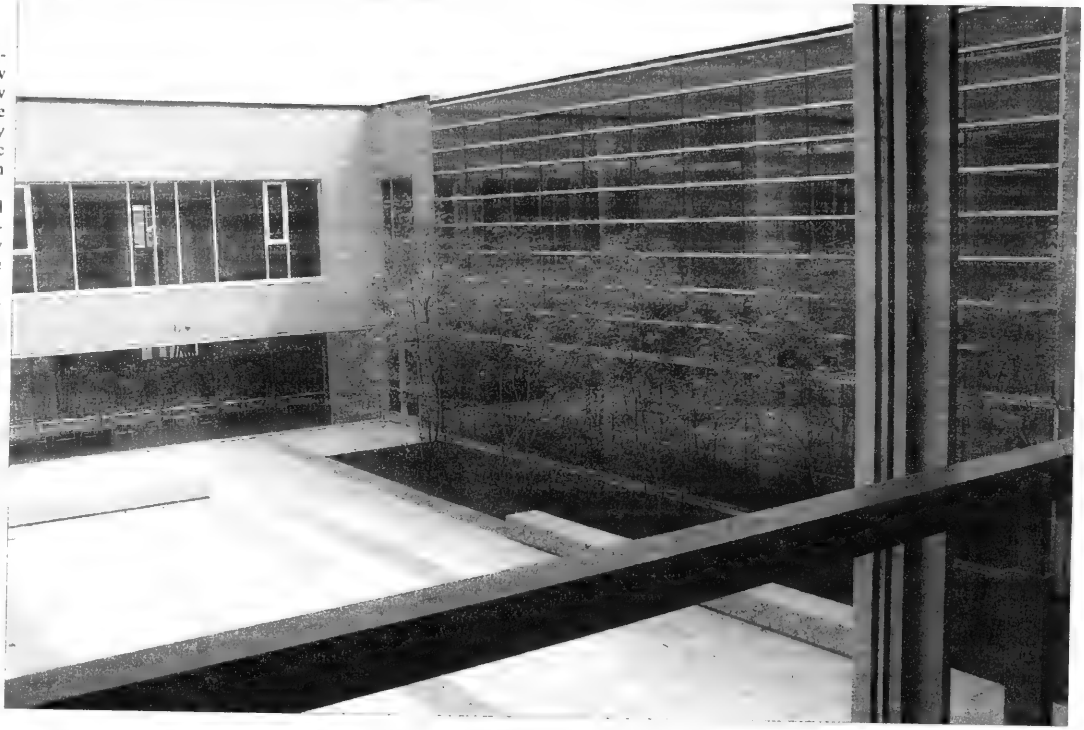
Community Focus

New CHAT building will be 'economical to run'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter



A view of the new school's interior courtyard **[Frances Kraft photo]**

The Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's new northern branch has become a de facto template for environmentally friendly design on the new Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan.

TanenbaumCHAT's Kimel campus – or TCK as school administrators have dubbed the new branch –will open its doors to more than 600 students on Sept, 4.

As the first building to be completed on the new campus, it's a sort of prototype for the environmentally friendly designs to be seen in other buildings slated to be built there in the coming years.

According to Lebovic project architect Guela Solow-Ruda, the idea of sustainability is "the essence of environmentally friendly design," and serves as a common thread throughout the campus. She said the complex has a central mechanical electrical plant and rooms that are designed to be shared to avoid duplication of facilities, so that they will be in use from early morning until late at night.

"It's allowed us to have great economies of scale, and this variety of use means that there's a great flexibility in design. On a more technical side, we have followed principles of LEED design [the internationally recognized Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards] so that we have received a grant from the government for exploiting energy efficiency and cost savings from that point of view," she added.

"And we have taken advantage on the technical side of all kinds of opportunities like in the design of lighting," Solow-Ruda said. "Certainly the design of the building puts us in a position where we're eligible to apply for LEED accreditation."

Lebovic is one of three Jewish "campuses" in various stages of development by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. The northernmost of the three, located at the southwest corner of Bathurst Street and Lebovic Campus Drive (the continuation of Weldrick Road west of Bathurst), Lebovic will also include other schools, a Jewish community centre and organizational offices.

The boxy, rectangular, two-storey TCK building looks even larger than its approximately 110,000 square feet, because of an inner courtyard that the school is built around.

However, according to TanenbaumCHAT's director of education, Paul Shaviv – who has both a bachelor of arts and a master of arts degree in architecture from the University of Cambridge in England (predating his master's degree of philosophy in Jewish studies from the University of Oxford) – "we anticipate that even though it's a large building, it will be quite economical to run."

Continued on page B29

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Materials are 'low-maintenance, hard-wearing'

Continued from page B28

As well, he noted, none of the capital costs of the building are being added to existing tuition fees.

The materials used in the $30 million building are all low-maintenance and hard-wearing, Shaviv said in an interview in his new office last week, as workmen hammered in the background, readying the school for opening day.

Heating, ventilation and electrical systems run on automatic controls, so that, in many rooms, when nobody is in them, heating, lighting and ventilation all drop down to minimal levels or go off completely, he added.

Entering one classroom, Shaviv triggered its overhead lighting and explained that the lights and heating are sensitive to motion.

Also, he added, the lights nearest the windows don't turn on unless it's dark outside.

The school is light-filled with large windows, and, "wherever you are, you always see from your space into another space or another program," said Solow-Ruda. "You constantly see views into the library, which is the heart of the school."

In that way, the architecture reflects the builders' and educators' philosophy.

Continued on page B30

The library at TanenbaumCHAT's new Vaughan site is 'the heart of the school.'

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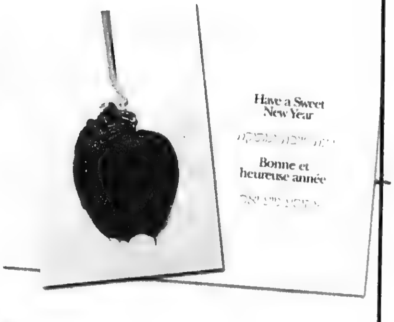

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UJA Federation is going green at Central Square too

Continued from page B29

"It's a light, airy, open school," said Shaviv. "We believe that echoes the philosophy and approach we wanted. We wanted the kids to come to an open, inviting, spacious area and transmitted that sort of message to the ethos and the environment."

From the inception of the planning process seven years ago, the whole Lebovic campus has been designed for minimum energy consumption, Shaviv said.

* * *

At federation's 26-acre "Central Square" campus, currently the home of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and the Lipa Green Building on Bathurst north of Sheppard Avenue, plans are also afoot to implement green principles when building a new community centre and other buildings on the site, including a new Koffler Centre of the Arts.

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3. Adopt a strategy to smart meter the building based on tenant occupancy to encourage energy efficient operating practices.

4. Select exterior light fixtures to limit light pollution.

5. The incorporation of a plant-filled "living wall" is being explored to improve interior air quality and enhance green awareness.

6. Maximize interior daylight to limit reliance on artificial light sources.

7. Select materials available locally wherever possible.

8. Consider life-cycle performance and longevity of all materials

9. Utilize indigenous plant materials in re-landscaping the site.

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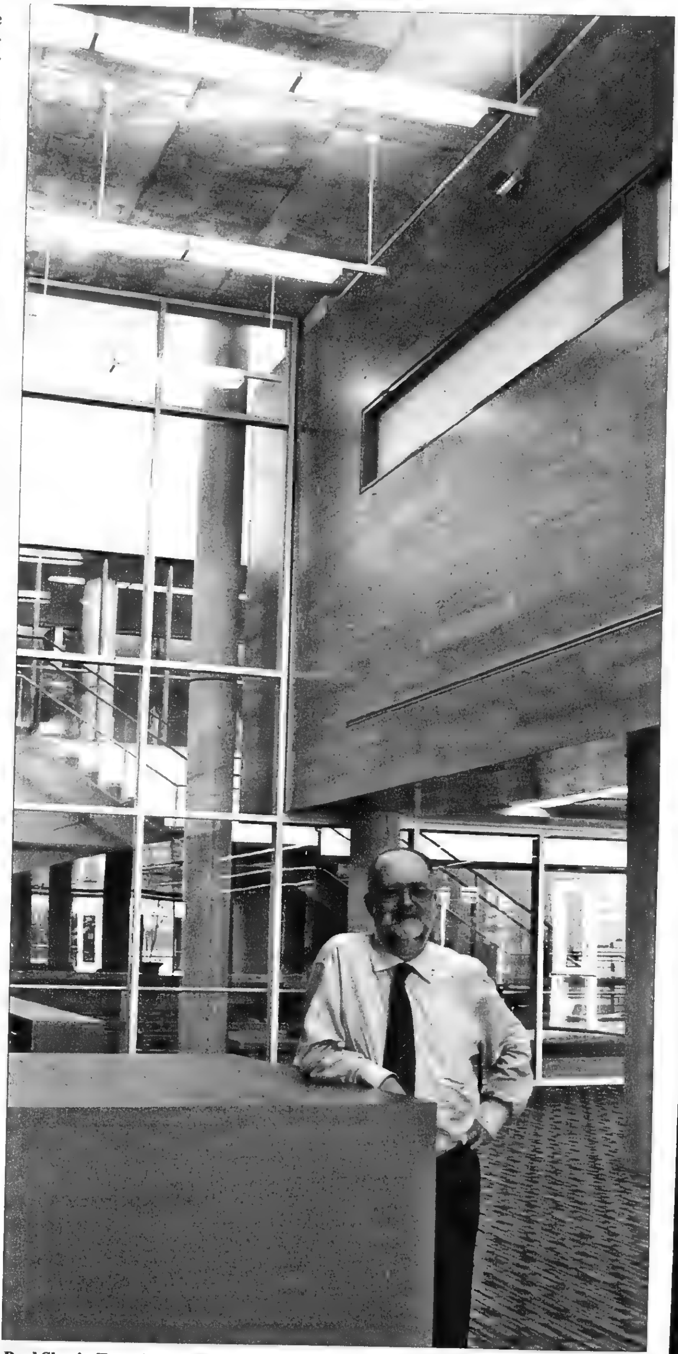

Paul Shaviv, TanenbaumCHAT's director of education, pauses for a moment in the new school library.

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Lessons from a long-gone lake

By ZAFRIR RINAT
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With all the attention devoted to green cars, solar energy and the greenhouse effect, it has been somewhat forgotten that the main environmental threat affecting most Israelis directly is the loss of nature and landscapes.

It's a process that takes place almost daily when bulldozers bury a sand dune or churn up another swath of natural woodland to make way for a road, or destroy a winter reservoir in favour of a shopping centre.

The significance of this loss and the difficulty in correcting it are underscored in one of the saddest and most beautiful books published this year – the 50th anniversary edition of photographer Peter Merom's *Song of a Dying Lake*, reissued by the Israeli Defence Ministry. The book of black-and-white photographs, with texts edited by Yedidya Peles, documents the glory of Lake Hula and its loss.

Lake Hula – its southern section a lake, its northern section large swamps – was drained in the 1950s in the interest of agricultural development. The drainage operation was carried out without conducting a comprehensive study of its ecological, environmental and emotional ramifications.

Draining the lake later proved problematic for agricultural development as well: it caused fires on peat lands, sent ground pollutants flowing into Lake Kinneret, generated dust storms, and led to the spread of weeds and voles that damage crops. Neglect by farmers, because of assorted difficulties, exacerbated the situation.

'The desert offers no escape'

Numerous scientists have depicted the lake's animal life and vegetation, which was far richer than those in the Kinneret.

Merom describes this in his photographs, and the notes he made with Peles: "In the springtime the lake would transform. It would flood cultivated fields along its shore, cover them with fertile silt, and recede. The sun would come out and ripen the sediment-enriched cereals and corn. The water fowl would come and claim: this patch is ours, and the coastal birds would counter: it belongs to us."

Merom and Peles describe the draining and destruction of the lake with heartbreaking resignation. The photos document plants shrivelling up and dying, the carcass of a terrapin and birds desperately in search of water.

"Death got most of them – the desert offers no escape," the book says. "Cracked, parched earth cried out, as the lake's millions of creatures died with their mouths gaping open."

Merom thanked the lake for the days of its youth, and bid it farewell.

Today the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) takes pride in the Hula reserve, a remnant of the original lake salvaged by the founders of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, led by the late zoologist, Prof. Heinrich Mendelssohn (a fact the INPA neglects to mention at the visitor centre there).

The Jewish National Fund maintains the adjacent Lake Agmon, an area of the original lake that was re-flooded last decade.

These are undoubtedly important nature sites, but they can't take the place of more extensive ecological preservation activities that would bring back to life a substantial part of the lake.

Lake Hula can be further rehabilitated by flooding additional lands, which would restore at least part of the lost beauty. One of the ideas previously suggested by landscape designer Motti Kaplan, and rejected, was to restore the original state of a swampy northern region and partially reconstructed lake in the southern region.

Several scientists recommended in the past linking up the springs surrounding the Hula Valley with the areas to be reflooded, as well as to deliver better-quality water to the nature reserve.

Continuing to rehabilitate Lake Hula would make partial amends for the tragedy Merom depicted, and befits the statement appearing on the final page of his book: "Once upon a time there was a lake. Its story is over now, but not done with."

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The Jordan river

International scientists learn how Israel combats desertification

By AVI HEIN

When Mark Twain visited Israel in 1867 he described it as a "desolate country whose soil is rich enough but is given over wholly to weeds – a silent mournful expanse… we hardly saw a tree anywhere."

Making the desert bloom has been a core component of the Zionist ethos throughout the decades, and visitors to Israel in 2007 witness a landscape much changed over the 140 years since Twain's sojourn. Today, what was once desert is now forest, and where barren landscape once marred the horizon, flora and fauna fill up the landscape thanks to the Jewish National Fund.

Globally, however, fertile soil is rapidly turning into desert, and desertification – the degradation of land and the expansion of desert – is a significant global environmental concern.

Caused by natural climate change and human action, desertification leads to biodiversity loss and causes significant ecological damage.

Desert presently covers approximately 36 million square kilometres (22 million square miles) of the earth's surface area. It affects a combined population of 1.2 billion in more than 100 regions and has become a global problem looming over human subsistence and development.

In an attempt to combat the overall damage, scientists convened in Jerusalem earlier this year to learn Israel's techniques for making the desert recede.

The international conference, whose theme was "Forests to Combat Desertification," was sponsored by the Jewish National Fund, the Agricultural Research Organization of Israel, The U.S. Forest Service and two international consortia of forest scientists.

More than 150 researchers and foresters from Israel, the United States, Spain, Hungary, France, Japan, Germany and Australia held discussions, worked together and attended lectures in Jerusalem and the Negev to learn more techniques to combat desertification.

Aside from Israel, the only country succeeding in "shrinking the desert" is China.

"We're not the only ones to [combat desertification], but we definitely are the ones who really started it much earlier than anyone else," said Dr. Nir Atzmon of the Volcani Center and chair of the conference's scientific committee.

Topics covered during the conference included "Joint Efforts of Research and Demonstration in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands," "Nursery Techniques and Forest Establishment in Arid Zones," "Trees in Towns Improving the Quality of People's Lives," and "Livestock Grazing Management Tool vs Desertification Agent."

"We all agree that the main cause of desertification is human activity – the pressure on the land, the expansion of the population," Atzmon told ISRAEL21c.

Continued on page B33

Water supply plays a key role in reversing the process

Continued from page B32

He explained that land abuse causes land degradation, which leads to desertification. As a result of human activity, land that used to be productive becomes barren. Consequently, greater swaths of land are needed to produce agricultural yield or vegetation. Most desertification and forestry researchers are committed to the principle of sustainable development.

"We are trying to find ways that, on one hand, allow people to live and exist in this area, but on the other hand, don't allow them to abuse the land," Atzmon said.

Following lectures and practical classroom application, conference participants visited several reforestation sites in the Negev. On their journey from Jerusalem to the desert, the transformation from fertile farmland to dryland was apparent as soil and foliage grew sparse.

An hour into the ride, however, participants witnessed vast expanses of farmland and greenery. The guide told the group that prior to 1948, that area had been dry desert.

"Negev means desert," he said, "but today this entire area is green."

The secret to Israel's success, Atzmon said, is, as is the case with many other "success stories" in the Jewish state, that there is no alternative.

"We are a small country. We don't have much land. We know that we must take very careful care of it because we don't have anything else. This is what we have to live with, so we should take very good care of it."

Turning the desert into forest

In 1965, Joseph Weitz, then-director of land and forestry for JNF, stood in the Negev looking out over the surrounding desert and envisioned a vibrant forest. Those in his vicinity thought he was mad.

"How can you build a forest here in the desert?" he was asked. Today, his vision is called Yatir Forest, and it is Israel's largest forest.

According to Prof. Dan Yakir of the Weizman Institute of Science, the Yatir is the driest and harshest forest in the world. But despite the challenges, it is also one of Israel's most beautiful forests.

"This is afforestation, not reforestation," Prof. Uriel Safriel, a professor of ecology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, told conference participants. "There has never been a forest here. There has never been a woody ecosystem."

Because deserts lack water, the question of water supply plays a key role in reversing the tide of desertification and harvesting agriculture in arid regions.

One of the major sources of water for the Negev is recycled wastewater piped in from Tel Aviv. Whereas many other countries pour reclaimed water into the sea, in Israel, the water is used for agriculture and irrigation.

In addition to treated waste water, researchers are also using saline water from an underground reservoir for crop irrigation, although the high level of salt content makes it usable only for certain crops and plants. Flood water, diverted via a unique system of pumping and canals, is also used to water trees.

"The 21st century is going to be the water century for everyone in the world. Places have water shortages," said conference participant Dr. Dan Neary, a researcher with the U.S. Forest Service in Arizona.

Atzmon said Israel is a global leader in water harvesting and often sends experts abroad to teach others how to conserve and manage water.

"Israel has a lot of a lot of experience which we can really teach many others," he said.

Neary concurred, saying he has gained a great deal of knowledge from visiting Israel. "I'm just immensely impressed with your agriculture system, the way you're utilizing the desert," he told ISRAEL21c. "I mean, you have a small land area. We have a huge land area. I'm impressed with the conservation issues with your water – the use of different waste water practices. We don't tend to do that as much."

"A lot of people in the U.S. have read about Israel and its history, but until you see it, you just don't understand it," he said.

Avi Hein is a staff writer for ISRAEL21c, a media organization focusing on 21st-century Israel.

EMUNAH WOMEN - FRONT AND CENTRE

Emunah's presence in Israel is quite amazing and your support is what keeps it strong. Emunah's daycare centre in Beit Shemesh was awarded the Government Prize for being the best in Israel. In addition to the existing Crisis Centre, The Israeli Government has requested that Emunah establish a crisis centre for teenage girls. The daycare centre in Ashkelon is a multi-purpose centre, open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and accommodates 40 welfare children, among others, and teaches mothers parenting and coping skills.

In Sderot, Emunah has established a trauma centre to help children and families in these critical times. Thirty-five families from Sderot are currently housed at Neve Michael. Emunah has also established two centers at Yad Binyamin for the evacuees of Gush Katif; seventy percent of the evacuees are still unemployed.

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Regional science fund proposed for Middle East

By BRETT KLINE
JTA

Ilana Meallem and Mazen Zoabi left a recent morning meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II smiling. The king had just proposed the formation of a regional science fund, and they were certain they would have access to that fund.

The two Israelis, project managers at the Arava Institute, an environmental study and research centre in southern Israel, were among a small group of people in their 20s from Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and other Arab countries, attending a conference of Nobel laureates in Petra, Jordan.

Most of the media attention had focused on Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and other political leaders who came to the conference held in Petra in May and sponsored by Elie Wiesel's Foundation for Humanity and King Abdullah's Fund for Development.

King Abdullah, who had opened the gathering with a plea for more regional co-operation outside the realm of politics, saw this group as a good example.

"The king told us that we are the core of a new organization for youth exchange in the Middle East, and that there will be funding to organize regular meetings," Meallem said. "Israeli youths are full members in this organization. We have our full place here, and this is fantastic."

Indeed, some of the Nobel laureates and invited guests seemed to be more interested in the presentations by the young people, who fielded questions and took compliments, than in Israeli-Palestinian politics.

"We are the soldiers of tomorrow fighting for a healthier environment," Meallem told the conference. "We need you Nobel Prize laureates, and you need us."

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The Arava Institute has about 40 students, including three Palestinians from the West Bank and 10 Jordanians. They all live and study at the kibbutz centre on Kibbutz Ketura, about 25 miles north of Eilat. The institute is under construction to house up to 100 students in the near future.

The 10-year-old institute has graduated more than 400 students from its year-long program. It receives extensive funding from the Jewish National Fund and other American Jewish groups.

Among its graduates is the son of Jordanian Prime Minister Ma'roof Al-Bakeet.

The Israeli students are in a master's program at Ben-Gurion University in Sde Boker. Institute members organize an annual fundraising bike ride from Jerusalem to Eilat. This year's ride along the Dead Sea brought in $800,000 for the institute.

Until now, the Jordanians have not sponsored their own students at the Arava Institute, but at the conference, Jordanian Education Minister Khaled Toukan seemed open to the idea.

"Will the funding from Jordan follow?" Zoabi wondered. "I don't know, honestly, but I think it is in everyone's interest that [it does]."

Programs at the institute include examining pollution levels in trans-border rivers touching Israel, the West Bank and Jordan, probing air pollution in Jordan and a special two-year project with Morocco to cultivate argan almond trees that, until now, have grown wild only in southern Morocco.

Meallem, originally from London, England, and Zoabi, a Technion graduate from an Arab town near Nazareth in the Galilee region, are headed to China for three months. They will bring back technology for turning small-scale organic waste into energy, to be used in Bedouin villages in Israel, and later in Jordan and possibly the West Bank. The technology, known as biogas energy, is not uncommon, but apparently has been best developed for small-scale use in China.

"We don't yet have a partner for this with the Palestinian Authority," Zoabi said.

He and Meallem spent much of the conference networking.

Continued on page B35

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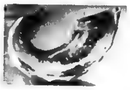

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Young people 'are fighting for a healthier environment'

Continued from page B34

"Perhaps we could do projects with you and get more Palestinians involved in your institute," Sari Nusseibeh, a leading Arab moderate and the president of Al Quds University outside Jerusalem, told them. "Maybe your generation can go beyond the politics that have dragged us all down."

In the air-conditioned, temporary conference hall not far from the path leading to the spectacular Nabatean ruins that have put Petra on the map, Nusseibeh was busy chatting with Yigal Carmon, the head of MEMRI: The Middle East Media Research Institute and a counter-terrorism adviser in the administration of the late Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin.

'Maybe your generation can go beyond politics'

"These environment projects are great for everyone because it is a win-win situation for all sides," Carmon said. "You see here that Jordanian politicians and various prize laureates and funders are very quick to speak with… others because it gives them a sense of doing something good for people in a concrete way. I think we have seen enough sessions on conflict resolution; the answer is more real projects."

Wiesel, the conference moderator and winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize, said his foundation was ready to put up or raise $10 million for the regional science fund that was proposed by King Abdullah. The fund would sponsor projects proposed by groups throughout the region.

"I think the Arab countries are taking scientific co-operation with Israel very seriously," Wiesel said. "His Majesty the King is a true associate in this endeavour with the young people. He knows, and I know, that some of them will be the leaders of tomorrow."

Kholouel Al Dorghan, who is in her 20s and works in the Bank for Trade and Finance in Amman, said she was excited by the possibility of working in Israel.

"I met Israelis for the first time in my life here at this conference, and I felt a real buzz in the air here from the young people and the delegates," she said. "I would be happy to do research in the Arava Institute or anywhere in Israel."

Still, several young people who had been invited from other countries in the region preferred to remain anonymous.

"I would love to work with Israelis," one said, "but my government would not like that at all and would harass me and my family. There must be a way for us to participate as well. I am angry about this, but what can I do?"

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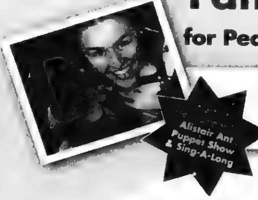
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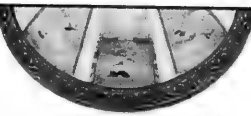

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A green bat mitzvah in time for Tu b'Shvat

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Jordi Klein doesn't want just another bat mitzvah party. The 12-year-old's birthday is in April, but she chose Jan. 26 as the date of her bat mitzvah because it's the closest date to Tu b'Shvat, the holiday of the trees.

Though plans have not been finalized, Jordi said her passion for environmentalism will shine through in every aspect of the event.

"Everything at my party will have a purpose and a meaning, and everybody can still enjoy it," she said.

At the bat mitzvah service at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, Jordi plans to tie in the Tu b'Shvat theme to her dvar Torah. Guests will wear eco-suede kippahs, which feel like suede but are made from recycled cardboard.

For the party, Jordi's mother, Sandy, is working to have prizes and giveaways handed out in personalized enviro-friendly green bags by President's Choice, which can later be used for grocery shopping instead of plastic bags, and users can earn PC points.

Jordi became interested in the green theme after being dismayed by the waste of paper in flashier bar mitzvah invitations.

"These invitations were gorgeous – and they were – and my daughter would go, 'What a waste of trees,'" Sandy said.

"In our quest to find recycled paper, we found that [the Jewish National Fund] has invitations on recycled paper, and with every invitation, they donate a tree in honour of the guest. The money we would have spent on an expensive invitation, we spend on trees in Israel," she added.

"All my friends, they're interested in dancing or gymnastics… not that there's anything wrong with that. But this is what I'm into," Jordi said.

The Grade 7 student at Glen Shields Public School in Thornhill is active in Roots and Shoots (the children's branch of the Jane Goodall Institute), and is a scout with the Seventh Thornhill Scout Troop.

Continued on page B37

Future bat mitzvah girl Jordi Klein with her rabbit Happy, adopted from an animal rescue program

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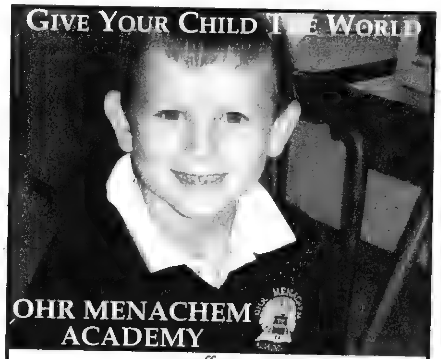

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Bat mitzvah plans include eco-friendly invitations

Continued from page B36

"I thought if there's a chance that I could make my bat mitzvah as environmentally friendly, or as *me*, I guess, as possible, I wanted [to do it]."

"I wasn't surprised at all," Sandy said of her daughter's bat mitzvah ideas.

"She's interested in the environment and also interested in not doing what all the others kids do. She's the opposite of most kids who just want the party."

Heal the Planet

Jordi Klein holds accessories for her environmental bat mitzvah, including her invitation and label for the eco-suede kippot.

Jordi has attended Camp Shalom for the last three summers. Last year, she wrote a lengthy article for the camp's newspaper about how to respect the environment and keep the camp tidy.

"I was surprised how little my friends knew about the environment and easy ways to keep clean," she said.

"After [the article came out], it was actually really great everybody had recycling bags and garbage bags."

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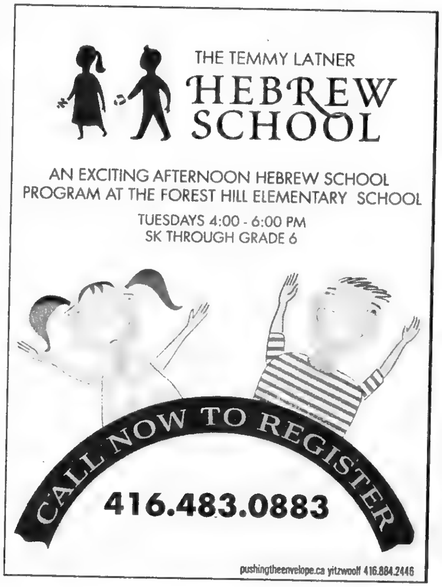

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Community Focus

Riding a bike and saving the planet

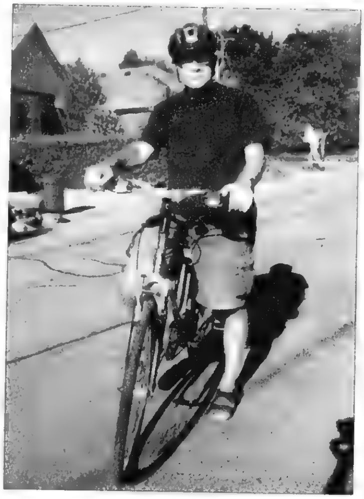
By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

When I was eight years old and summer was in bloom, my father bought me my first bicycle, a British-made Raleigh that he, as an immigrant tailor from Poland, could barely afford.

On the afternoon of his purchase, I accompanied him to Mount Royal Park in Montreal, my brand new, shiny bike in tow.

I got on the seat, and he pushed me off into the unknown. Being a neophyte to cycling, I feared I might crash. Luckily, my worst fear did not materialize as I rode into the distance, giddy in the knowledge that I had not failed.

In fact, I enjoyed this flight of freedom.



Cyclist Sheldon Kirshner
[Etti Kirshner photo]

Although I've forgotten many details of my childhood, I distinctly remember this incident, which stands as a watershed in my life. Since then, I have been cycling more or less regularly.

When I was a young father, in my late 20s and 30s, and domestic responsibilities seemed endless, my bike gathered dust. But since my two daughters have grown to maturity, I have had much more time to indulge in my passion for cycling.

In this environmentally conscious era, cycling is fashionable, all the rage. Everyone seems to be doing it, from your sister to your grandmother.

But for a long time, until about a decade ago, cycling seemed to be the preserve of mainly high-toned athletes or pimply nerds.

No more.

Now that we're attuned to the need to cut down on fossil-fuel emissions and nurture the environment, cycling is definitely in.

But as I just said, cycling has been second nature to me since I was a fuzzy-cheeked boy.

When I lived in Montreal, I would cycle all over the place. During that halcyon period, I also joined organized cycling tours in the Eastern Townships and Vermont. I recall these weekends with immense nostalgia.

For inescapable reasons, I never bothered to cycle in London when I was a post-graduate student there in 1969 and 1970.

And after moving to Toronto at the end of 1974 to take a job, I neglected cycling, being preoccupied by more pressing concerns and priorities.

In the mid-1980s, however, I rediscovered cycling, and have been an ardent cyclist ever since, having cycled not only in Canada and the United States but in Israel (where cycling is finally catching on), Vietnam, Laos, Germany, Austria and France as well.

Toronto weather being what it is, I can only cycle for about four months of the year.

I usually start in May, when the first real glimmerings of spring appear, and pack it in by early October, when the chill of autumn sets in.

By June, pedalling my silver Marin hybrid and leaving my Honda Accord in the garage, I'm in full swing.

Depending on the forecast, I ride to and from the office virtually every day, a combined distance of almost 30 kilometres. The trip from my home in the Casa Loma district to my office in Don Mills takes approximately 45 minutes.

Donning shorts, a jersey, sandals and a helmet, I pedal on quiet, tree-lined streets after negotiating the stop-and-start traffic of St. Clair Avenue East. Don Mills Road, the homestretch, is also invariably busy.

I cycle on flat roads, but occasionally there are hills to conquer. The drivers are usually considerate, but some are jerks, honking their horns, riding too close or, rarely, cutting me off.

I like the ride, the breeze caressing my chest, the fragrance of fresh leaves and wildflowers teasing my nostrils, but I could do without the acrid fumes from cars, buses and trucks.

As I swing into the parking lot area, where I lock my bike (Toronto, unfortunately, is the bike-theft capital of North America), I'm wet with perspiration.

But I feel strong and alert, eager to begin my day.

I'm not the only one in the office who cycles to work. My editor and colleague, Mordechai Ben-Dat, often rides in, as does reporter Paul Lungen. Occasionally, Vera Gillman, the advertising and assistant general manager, shows up, too.

I don't know how much I save in gasoline bills, but it can't be much after annual tune-ups and sundry repairs.

So let's be clear.

I don't pedal to beef up my bank account or retirement savings fund, but because I enjoy it and because it's good for my health and the environment.

Cycling is a synonym, really, for absolute freedom.

In the city, I'm like a king. I ride everywhere without being burdened by undue restrictions and traffic jams. When I'm in good form, I feel defiantly fit, as if I'm on a cushion of air. Sometimes, when the planets are perfectly aligned, I imagine that I've sprouted wings.

Two years ago, after having been diagnosed with borderline diabetes, I resolved to lose excess poundage. In this spirit, I went on a diet and picked up the pace of my cycling.

The regimen worked.

I lost about 20 pounds, and now I'm down to where I should be.

The state of the environment is also a consideration. If more of us cycled and left our cars in the garage during the summer, air pollution levels would surely be lower.

I'm pleased to say that my daughters, Mia and Lauren, are cyclists, too, though not to the degree that I have been in recent years. I take credit for their affinity to cycling. Maybe, in due course, my wife, Etti, will discover the joys of cycling.

We cyclists will not make any significant difference in rolling back the ravages of pollution. The automobile is simply too entrenched in our culture. But if more of us use our bikes to get places, we may yet make a humble contribution to saving the planet.

TWO FACES OF ISRAEL: **A recycling drop-off in downtown Tel Aviv, top, and an ibex roaming far from the city.**

[Gary Laforet photos]

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Toscana Banquet Hall is Vaughan's most sought-after location for hosting elegant and memorable occasions. Our spacious facilities offer the perfect setting for weddings, reunions, bar or bat mitzvahs and receptions. Our kosher kitchen is available for use by your caterer of choice. Guest rooms available at our Hilton Garden Inn, conveniently adjoining.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

BAYCREST TRIBUTE CARDS
3560 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2E1
Tel: 416-785-2875 or 1-800-223-2087
Fax: 416-785-4296
E-mail: donations@baycrest.org
Website: www.baycrest.org

Now you can wish family and friends a happy holiday, birthday or special occasion with the unique Baycrest tribute card service. Supply us with your information and we'll do the mailing. Every card you buy helps to enrich the lives of elderly! A tax receipt will be issued upon payment.

THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE
#313 Promenade Mall,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 4P8
Supervisor: Fran Chodak
Tel: 905-882-8509 Fax: 905-882-2355
E-mail: info@thefamilyresourcecentre.ca
Website: www.thefamilyresourcecentre.ca

The Family Resource Centre is a warm, caring, lively environment for parents/caregivers and their children aged 0-5 to play, laugh and learn together. Our drop-in program includes kosher snack, crafts, daily music circle and weekly Shabbat celebration. Resources include parenting information, workshops, toy library and Jewish holiday programs.

JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD
4600 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 3V3
Tel: 416-638-7800 Fax: 416-638-7943
E-mail: info@jfandcs.com
Website: www.jfandcs.com

Supports healthy development of individuals and families in Greater Toronto and York Region through prevention, protection, counselling, education and advocacy, within the context of Jewish values. Child welfare; foster care; adoption; counselling; financial assistance; group therapy; domestic violence services; Diamond Adolescent Centre; hospice; family life education; volunters; Chaplaincy; Just a Second Shop; speakers.

JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS OF CANADA
4600 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 3V2
Contact: Melanie Simons
Tel: 416-635-2883, Ext. 252

Our main goals: To represent Jewish Holocaust survivors with a unified voice, to work on behalf of survivors and help disseminate information by representing Canadian Survivors at the Jewish Claims Conference.

MAŻON CANADA
788 Marlee Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Executive Director: Shira Lester
Tel: 416-783-7554 Fax: 416-783-5470

MAZON Canada is the National Jewish Response to Hunger. We raise funds primarily within the Jewish community and make grants non-denominationally to front-line organizations battling hunger. Our programs and events include: An Evening of Kosher Delicacies, Gimmel Project, greeting and holiday cards, Passover placemats, simcha place cards and table toppers.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF CANADA, Toronto Section
4700 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 1W8
Tel: 416-633-5100 Fax: 416-633-1956
E-mail: info@ncjwc-ts/org

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section is a non-profit organization committed to enhancing the lives of indiviuals within our own community and in the broader muticultural community through education, service and social action. It is recognized for its leadership and action through its initiatives and support of service, advocacy and awareness programs on behalf of the people and communities it serves.

REENA
Toby & Henry Battle Developmental Centre
927 Clark Ave. W.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8G6
President & CEO: Sandy Keshen
Tel: 905-889-6484 Fax: 905-889-3827

Reena is a non-profit social service agency supporting individuals with a developmental disability, and their families through residential and social work programs. Community day, evening, respite and Sunday programs focus on recreation, education, life skill/vocational training, support and leisure. Charitable donations can be made through the Reena Foundation at 905-763-8254, ext. 3033, or toll-free 877-324-4141, ext. 3034.

UJA FEDERATION
4600 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 3V2
Tel: 416-635-2883 Fax: 416-635-9565
Website: www.jewishtoronto.com

No matter where Jews live in the GTA, UJA Federation and its community partners - donors, volunteers, agencies, schools and other organizations, are working on behalf of every community member. Through the Annual Campaign, the Tomorrow Campaign and the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, UJA Federation, backed by nearly 30,000 contributors, raises millions of dollars to support an extensive network of educational and social service agencies and the development of new campuses for Jewish life. UJA Federation also serves as a catalyst for innovative, new projects that meet emerging needs. In addition, it provides a strong Jewish voice on issues of urgent concern together with CIJA (Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy), Canadian Jewish Congress and the Canada Israel Committee. UJA Federation fundraising expenses are among the lowest in North America.

EDUCATION

ADATH ISRAEL NURSERY SCHOOL
37 Southbourne Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 1A4
Educational Director:
Wendy Steinberg-Himmel
Tel: 416-635-5340 Fax: 416-635-1629
Website: www.adathisrael.com

Adath Israel Nursery School provides a nurturing learning environment that supports the growth of the whole child: socially, emotionally, physically, cognitively, spiritually and creatively. Nursery for 3 yr. olds, 5 mornings, pre-nursery for 2 yr. olds, 2 or 3 mornings. Coming September. 2008.

ASSOCIATED HEBREW SCHOOLS OF TORONTO
Director of Education: Dr. Mark Smiley
Executive Director: Arthur Landa
Administration Office, 252 Finch Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 1M9
Tel: 416-494-7666
Website: www.agreatschool.com

Bet Hayeled (Nursery, JK, SK)
Vice-Principals: Eynat Katz,
Rickie Glickman, Ora Shulman
Tel: 905-889-3998, x2

Kamin Education Centre (Nursery-Gr. 5)
300 Atkinson Ave., Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A2
Principals:
Kathy Friedman, Sandy Rabinowitz
Tel: 905-889-3998

Posluns Education Centre (Nursery-Gr. 5)
18 Neptune Dr., Toronto, Ont. M6A 1X1
Principal: Eric Golombek
Tel: 416-787-1872

Danilack Middle School (Gr. 6-8)
Hurwich Education Centre, 252 Finch Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 1M9
Principal: Sheldon Diamond
Tel: 416-494-7666

Associated is a truly great school offering its students an excellent educational program rich in scholarship and imbued with Jewish values. Associated has a proud history of making Jewish Education accessible, opening its doors to children from across the community and meeting the individual needs of a broad spectrum of learners. For 100 years, Associated graduates have become leaders in their respective fields and role models to the community.

AHAVAT YISRAEL HEBREW SCHOOL
54 Glen Park Ave.
Toronto, Ont. M6B 2C2
Director: Mrs. Leslie Shapiro
Tel: 416-781-8088 Fax: 416-781-4458
Website:
www.ahavatyisraelhebrewschool.com

Ventura Park Middle School
121 Worth Blvd., Thornhill
Principal: Mrs. Leslie Shapiro

New! Thornhill Woods
Stephen Lewis Middle School
555 Autumn Hill Blvd., Thornhill
York Mills Collegiate Institute
490 York Mills Rd., Toronto
Principal: Mrs. Suri Nulman
Bais Yaakov Elementary School
15 Saranac Blvd., Toronto
Principal: Mrs. Esther Cohen

Provides a creative, enjoyable learning experience for those interested in a once or optional twice a week program. The school, in its 16th year, offers an enriching curriculum of reading, writing, language, prayers, Israel and holidays taught from a Traditional perspective. Remedial and enrichment reading programs. Special events include challah baking, Purim Carnival and Passover seder. Affiliated with Board of Jewish Education.

BETH RADOM CONGREGATION
18 Reiner Rd.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2K9
Rabbi Steven Schonblum
Cantor David Rosen
Tel: 416-636-3451
E-mail: myinfo@bethradom.com

Beth Radom's new ***Jumpin' for Judaism*** offers a unique and innovative approach to Jewish Education. Students will build a foundation of knowledge in Jewish Studies, Jewish Culture and Hebrew Language and develop core values through our vast Jewish tradition. Join us for Art, Music, Prayer, Drama, Cooking & Community Involvement. For information contact **Miriam: 416-636-3451, ext. 24**. E-mail: **m.sharpe@bethradom.com**

BETH SHOLOM HEBREW SCHOOL
1445 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 2E6
Principal: Karen L. Goodis, RJE
Tel: 416-783-6103 #225
E-mail: karen@bethsholom.net

Beth Sholom Hebrew School offers small classes, Hebrew language and prayer skills; Judaica, music and outstanding Family Education programs. Enrichment for former day school students; full time special education class for students with special needs and a dedicated professional staff.

BETH TORAH CONGREGATION - HEBREWS' COOL
47 Glenbrook Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 2L7
Youth Programming Director:
Dan Goldberg
Tel: 416-782-4495 Fax: 416-782-4496
E-mail: hebrewschool@bethtorah.ca
Website: www.bethtorah.ca

Beth Torah's Hebrews' Cool: the values of living Jewishly. 1 day a week for Grades 1-6, Sunday or Tuesday. Experience Judaism in one of the most innovative programs in the city! Contact our Director of Youth Education at 416-782-4495 ext. 25. Don't just study Judaism ... celebrate it!

BIALIK HEBREW DAY SCHOOL
2760 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3A1
Education Director: Shana Harris
Tel: 416-783-3346 Fax: 416-785-8287
Website: bialik.ca

Bialik cultivates the mind and nurtures the spirit, focusing on the whole child in our enriched, intellectually academic environment. Students learn Hebrew, English, Yiddish and French within our challenging Jewish and General Studies programs. We offer before and after school care, as well as financial assistance from JK to Gr. 8.

DOWNTOWN JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL (in the new Miles Nadal JCC)
750 Spadina Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
Principal: Joan Schoenfeld
Tel: 416-924-6211, Ext. 112
Fax: 416-924-0442
E-mail: joan@djcs.org
Website: www.djcs.org

Community school, 200+ students, providing sense of appreciation, enjoyment in Judaism; including concepts and skills necessary to live a Jewish life and feel comfortable in a Jewish setting. JK-1: Sunday morning delightful activity-oriented program. Grades 2-7: Sunday only or Sunday/Wednesday options. New: High School (Grades 8-10), Sunday brunch/discussion group once a month.

EITZ CHAIM SCHOOLS
Dean: Rabbi I. Pliner
Menahel Girls' School:
Rabbi M. Gewirtz
Menahel Maharal Track:
Rabbi Y. Rennert
Directors, Early Childhood:
Mrs. N. Cohen, Mrs. Rivki Goldstein
Executive Director: Mr. Elias Levy

Viewmount Campus
1 Viewmount Ave.
Tel: 416-789-4366
E-mail: view@eitzchaim.com

Patricia Campus Business Office
475 Patricia Ave.,
Tel: 416-225-1187
E-mail: patricia@eitzchaim.com

Spring Farm Campus
80 York Hill Blvd.
Tel: 416-764-6633
E-mail: spring@eitzchaim.com

Yeshivas Eitz Chaim is dedicated to instilling within its students the foundations for living a Torah observant life and to provide the skills to understand and succeed in today's world in accordance with Torah values and ideals. Eitz Chaim strives for excellence in education in all areas of its curriculum. Rooted in tradition with over 90 years of history, Eitz Chaim continues to provide its students with the finest Torah and general education in an environment filled with the love of Yiddishkeit and the Jewish people.

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
1950 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3K9
Education Director: Debbie Spiegel
Tel: 416-789-3291, ext. 239
Fax: 416-789-9697
E-mail: dspiegel@holyblossom.org
Website: www.holyblossom.org

Offering programs from Grades JK-10, we create an atmosphere of love of Judaism and Israel, by acquiring skills, knowledge and values of life-long Jewish learning and Tikun Olam. Experiential and didactic experiences build a community and a sense of belonging to Holy Blossom and the greater Jewish community. Students gain skills in Hebrew, prayer,and the study of Torah.

KEREN HATARBUT INSTITUTE
788 Marlee Ave., Ste. 312,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 3W5
Executive Director: Joseph Klinger
Tel: 416-787-0197 Fax: 416-781-3166

Offers courses for adults and teenagers in conversational Hebrew and Bible and prayers for beginners, intermediate and advanced students.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS

EDUCATION CONT'D

All classes are conducted under the guidance of skilled Israeli teachers. The promise is that beginners will speak, read and write Hebrew in 13 sessions.

THE LEO BAECK DAY SCHOOL
Director: David Prashker
Tel: 905-709-3636 Fax: 905-709-1999

North Campus,
36 Atkinson Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8C9
Principal: Howard Laderman
South Campus
1950 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3K9
Principal: Eric Petersiel
A Reform Jewish day school; sensitive to the educational needs of its children; providing for individual learning styles; music, art, drama and computers enrich a curriculum integrating Hebrew/Judaic and general studies. Students are prepared to be knowledgeable, practicing Liberal Jews and contributing Canadian citizens.

MONTESSORI JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
55 Yeomans Rd.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 3J7
Principal: Regina Lulka
Tel: 416-784-5071 Fax: 416-784-2049
E-mail: info@montessorijewish.ca
Website: www.montessorijewish.ca
The Montessori Jewish Day School unites the Montessori method with Jewish studies to inspire a lifetime of love and excitement for learning. MJDS is inclusive, pluralistic and egalitarian. We provide an engaging Jewish educational experience that embraces the diversity of Jewish practice, integrates Hebrew and responds to a child's natural search for spiritual and intellectual growth.

OHR MENACHEM ACADEMY
8808 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Administrator: Mark Abramsohn
Tel: 905-881-1800 Fax: 905-881-7173
E-mail: info@tjaom.org
Website: www.tjaom.org
A Jewish Day School in which children reach their optimum potential. Ohr Menachem offers superior instruction in both Judaic and Secular Studies. Small numbers in each class guarantees the luxury of individual attention. Enrichment programs in all subjects, Kindergarten to Grade 2. Daily extra-curricular to 6 pm - chess, art, music, etc. Hot, catered lunches. Transportation at nominal rates.

PAUL PENNA DOWNTOWN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
750 Spadina Ave., Miles Nadal JCC,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
Principal: Janet Nish-Lapidus
Board President: Aviva Rajsky
Tel: 416-928-3537 Fax: 416-533-7471
E-mail: info@djds.ca
Website: www.djds.ca
Founded in 1998 to address the growing need for Jewish educational alternatives in downtown Toronto, The Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School is committed to academic excellence in a dynamic environment. Celebrating our 10th year, our SK to Gr. 8 integrated curriculum weaves together the Jewish and general facets of children's lives to develop a meaningful Jewish identity. Through an arts enhanced approach and commitment to social justice, students grow to be responsible citizens and compassionate, confident human beings. Registering now for SK to Gr. 8. Subsidies available.

THE RENANIM YOUTH SINGERS
at The Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Rd.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 3J7
Director: Susan Michaels
Tel: 416-449-2296 Fax: 416-449-5926
E-mail: susan.michaels@rogers.com
Website: www.renanimchoirs.com
Considered the voice of musical Jewish youth, this multi-award winning, pluralistic choir represented Canada in Israel this year. Divided into Junior and Senior Ensembles, these auditioned vocalists earn community hours enhancing functions throughout the GTA. During weekly rehearsals students develop vocalization and musicianship skills along with self-confidence and the essentiality of community service.

TANENBAUMCHAT CHAT
(Anne & Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto)
Director of Education:
Paul J. Shaviv, MA, M.Phil
South Campus: 200 Wilmington Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 5J8
Tel: 416-636-5984 Fax: 416-636-7717
E-mail: info@tanenbaumchat.org
Kimel Family Education Centre:
9600 Bathurst St., Vaughan, Ont. L6A 3Z8
Tel: 905-787-8772 Fax 416-787-8773
Toronto's community high school (Gr. 9-12) providing courses leading to university entrance. A comprehensive Jewish Studies program is an integral part of our school, including a community service requirement. Our reputation is based on individual care for every student. We offer an extensive program of sports and extra-curricular activities. Please visit our new website www.chat-edu.ca - be sure to click on The CHAT Experience.

SHAAR SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
2 Simonston Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4L1
School Supervisor: Hava Greenberg
Thornhill location: Brownridge Public School (behind Promenade Mall)
Tel: 905-889-4975, #26
Fax: 905-889-1575
Website: www.shaarshalom.ca
Highlights: Two days a week. Intensive Hebrew reading program; Excellent Family Education; Special Theme Days; music; dance & bible content; synagogue skills; remediation available. We are committed to helping children develop the skills and tools they need to become committed adult Jews. SK-Gr. 8. Classes meet Sunday and Wednesday. Affiliated with BJE and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

TEMMY LATNER HEBREW SCHOOL
446 Spadina Rd., Ste. 203,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3M2
Principal: Rifky Karfunkel
Tel: 416-483-0883 Fax: 416-483-6712
The Temmy Latner Hebrew School is an afternoon Hebrew school program at the Forest Hill Elementary School. Your child will love our exciting, stimulating environment, where Hebrew school is fun, without compromising solid learning and growth. Tuesdays 4-6 p.m. SK-Gr. 6. Call now to register!

THE TORONTO HESCHEL SCHOOL
819 Sheppard Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2T3
Principal: Ms. Gail Baker
Tel: 416-635-1876 Fax: 416-635-1800
E-mail: office@torontoheschel.org
Website: www.torontoheschel.org
Ideology: pluralistic. Affiliated with the BJE. The Toronto Heschel School offers a challenging, innovative and integrated curriculum. Children are taught to think creatively and consider global, environmental and ethical issues through a Jewish lens. Small classes and low student-teacher ratios ensure high academic achievement within a positive and nurturing learning environment. We inspire our students to make a difference.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE DAY SCHOOL
Administation House:
3072 Bayview Ave.
Admissions Co-orinator:
Rosemary Tile
Bathurst Campus, 1700 Bathurst St.
Bayview Campus, 3080 Bayview Ave.
Tel: 416-224-8737, ext. 137
Fax: 416-225-9108
E-mail: rosemary.tile@usds.ca
Website: www.usds.ca
For over 40 years USDS has offered a program of academic excellence. Integrated general and Jewish studies programs from nursery to grade 8 emphasize technology, creative arts, music, physical education and Jewish values. Progressive teaching strategies respect individual learning styles. Alternative Jewish studies programs now available. Member of the Solomon Shechter Day School Association (Conservative Movement).

YESHIVAT CHOVEVEI TORAH RABBINICAL SCHOOL
475 Riverside Dr., Ste. 244,
New York, NY Zip Code: 10115
Tel: 212-666-0036 Fax: 212-666-5633
E-mail: office@yctorah.org
At Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, we train open & modern Orthodox rabbis for the Jewish community. Our rabbinical school cultivates a love of Torah, a passion for leadership and a philosophy of inclusiveness. We integrate an intensive four-year Halachah and Jewish Studies curriculum with an unparalleled professional development and pastoral counselling program.

FUNERAL CHAPELS

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Contact: Michael Chas Benjamin
Tel: 416-663-9060 Fax: 416-663-9417
E-mail: info@benjamins.ca
Website: www.benjamins.ca
Since 1922, Benjamin's has been part of the fabric that binds together the Toronto Jewish community, even in times of sorrow and stress. Four generations of the Benjamin family have provided support to bereaved Jewish families. We devote ourselves to upholding Jewish law and traditions, a responsibility we regard as a sacred trust.

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL
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Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3
Contact: Lawrence Scheinman
Tel: 416-780-0596 Fax: 416-780-0638
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STEELES MEMORIAL CHAPEL
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Thornhill, Ont. L4J 1A1
Managing Funeral Director:
Carol P. Saucier
Tel: 905-881-6003 Fax: 905-881-8539
The Toronto Jewish community has, for over 70 years, entrusted us with its most sacred and important task. We accept your trust with a measure of humility and a great sense of responsibility. As a community run organization we have established a tradition of tzedaka towards organizations in the city and in Israel.

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Website: www.genuwear.com
Painful feet? Custom orthotics, brand name shoes. Referral to specialist available. We carry Naot, Advance, Bite, Brooks and more! Free brand name shoes with order of custom made orthotics.

DR. LES PRIEMER
40 Sheppard Ave. W., Main Floor,
Toronto, Ont. M2N 6K9
Office Co-ordinator: Rona
Tel: 416-224-9998 Fax: 416-224-9960
E-mail:lpriemer@rogers.com
Dr. Les Priemer, general and cosmetic dentistry, treatment of snoring and obstructive sleep apnea. Non-surgical oral appliance therapy. 40 Sheppard Ave. W., St. 100, Toronto, Ont. M2N 6K9. 416-224-9998

STROLF
881 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 2C1
Owner: Isaac Levy
Tel: 416-782-9911 Fax: 416-782-2439
Website: www.strolf.com
STROLF is the leading edge, Health, Wellness and Fitness Centre, unique in its' multi-disciplinary and hands-on approach. Strolf offers: core strengthening and conditioning, athletic therapy, trainer assisted stretching, rehabilitation, physiotherapy, pain management, acupuncture, weight loss/gain, nutritional counselling, chiropractic services, massage, adolescent self-esteem building, yoga and pilates. Call for complimentary session!

L'CHAIM CANCER SUPPORT GROUP FOR JEWISH WOMEN
21 Midvale Rd.,
North York, Ont. M3H 3H8
New Contacts Co-ordinator:
Clara Shore
Tel: 416-630-0203 Fax: 416-785-8285
E-mail: lchaim_group1@hotmail.com
L'Chaim is a support group for Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment. L'Chaim's volunteers are Jewish women cancer survivors trained to provide **confidential** support via phone or visit. L'Chaim is also dedicated to raising cancer awareness through events and our educational DVD entitled "What Every Jewish Woman Should Know About Cancer".

ISRAEL BASED ORGANIZATIONS

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF LANIADO HOSPITAL
3101 Bathurst St., Ste. 600,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6
Executive Director: Rachel Sochaczewski
Tel: 416-785-8946 Fax: 416-785-9236
E-mail: friends@laniado.ca
Laniado Hospital serves over 250,000 people in Netanya and is the only Israeli hospital with a no-strike policy. Laniado's highest standard of medicine is practiced with compassion and kindness. Help provide state-of-the-art equipment by supporting Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital.

CANADIAN SHAARE ZEDEK HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
3089 Bathurst St., Ste. 205
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A4
National Executive Director:
Jeff Bicher, CFRE
Tel: 416-781-3584 Fax: 416-781-6439
E-mail: foundation@hospitalwithaheart.ca
Website: www.hospitalwithaheart.ca
Receiving no direct government funding, Shaare Zedek Medical Center is a unique facility in the centre of Jerusalem, attending to patients of every race and religion. Through the generosity of our Canadian supporters, the hospital is able to provide the highest levels of medical care and conduct world-class, world-renown research.

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM
The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 211,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
National Chair: Hank Rosenbaum
Tel: 416-785-1333 Fax: 416-785-4536
E-mail: yadvashem@bellnet.ca
Website: www.yadvashem.ca
Representing Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, we promote Holocaust education and remembrance. Funds raised support the new Yad Vashem History Museum, Jerusalem. We also send educators, annually, to study the Holocaust at Yad Vashem's International School. Families are encouraged to inscribe Holocaust victims on our Wall of Remembrance, Earl Bales Park, Toronto.

CANADIAN TECHNION SOCIETY
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 206,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
Ntl. Exec. Director: Cheryl Koperwas
Tel: 416-789-4545 Fax: 416-789-0255
E-mail:cheryl@cdntech.org
Website: www.cdntech.org
National fundraising and education arm for Technion - Israel Institute of Tech-nology, Israel's oldest university. Supports faculty recruitment and promotes academic exchange between Technion and Canadian universities, provides information for undergraduate and graduate studies, raises funds for scholarships and research projects.

CHW TORONTO
638 Sheppard Ave. W., Ste. 209,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2S1
Executive Director: Laurie Siegel
President: Marla Dan
Tel: 416-630-8373 Fax: 416-630-2370
E-mail: info@hadassahwizoto.ca
Created in 1917, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO is the largest women's Zionist organization in Canada, dedicated to the support of health care, social service and educational programs in Israel, and promoting women's issues in Canada. Toronto is CHW's largest regional centre with 50 chapters and over 2500 members. Known for our annual Bazaar, volunteers raise funds for women, children and youth at risk. Bazaar supports 3 renowned hospitals Hadassah Hospital, Assaf Harofeh Medical Centre, and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

EMUNAH WOMEN OF TORONTO
3768 Bathurst St., Ste. 308,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 3M7
Office Administrator: Alana Rubin
Tel: 416-636-0036 Fax: 416-636-0039
E-mail: emunah@kwik.net
Website: www.emunahcanada.org
Emunah is the largest religious Zionist Women's organization in the world. Provides care for 8,000 children in over 127 day care centres and nurseries across Israel; educates more than 2,000 girls in 6 high schools; supports 5 children's homes and youth villages for more than 600 children

ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND
1881 Yonge St., Ste. 616
Toronto, Ont. M4S 3C4
Executive Director: Joy Wagner
Tel: 416-487-5246 Fax: 416-487-8932
E-mail: research@icrfonline.org
Website: www.icrfonline.org
ICRF continues to be one of the largest sources of private funds for innovative cancer research in Israel. ICRF has contributed more than $33 million US for over 1,600 research grants involving all major hospitals, universities and cancer research projects throughout Israel. The results of ICRF's research have a significant impact in Toronto, across Canada and throughout the world.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
700-1000 Finch Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M3J 2V5
President: Jerry Werger
Executive Director: Ben Prossin
Administrative Co-ordinator:
Lil Jacobson
Tel: 416-638-7200 Fax: 416-638-7345
E-mail: tor@jnf-canada.org
Website: www.jnf-canada.org
Best recognized as the organization which has planted forests, parks and trees in Israel. It really does much more - builds roads, constructs dams and reservoirs, develops land infrastructure for new immigrant housing, prepares recreation and tourist sites and conducts research with regard to various ecological concerns. JNF is now embarking upon major developments in the Negev in order to ensure that the barren and desolate landscape becomes habitable and productive and able to accommodate a growing Israeli population. JNF will truly *"make the desert bloom"* with the help of its supporters worldwide. Donors to JNF receive receipts for income tax purposes.

NA'AMAT CANADA
272 Codsell Ave.,
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Tel: 416-636-5425 Fax: 416-636-5248
E-mail: na'am@bellnet.ca
web: www.naamat.com
A dynamic fighter for women's rights in Israel and Canada. Na'amat Israel, with 350,000 members, has dramatically affected the lives of women by providing child care, high schools, shelters and counselling centres for family abuse and legal advisory clinics. In Canada, Na'amat sponsors Bialik Hebrew Day School, Camp Gesher, Habonim-Dror Zionist Youth Movement, a Free Legal Aid Advisory Clinic and provides school supplies for children living in shelters.

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Toll-free (in Canada) 1-800-387-3894
E-mail: weizmann@ca.inter.net
Eastern Region: 14-2340 Lucerne Rd.
Montreal, Que. H3R 2J8
Tél: 514-342-0777 Fax: 514-342-0502
E-mail: susan@weizmann.ca
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E-mail: bernie@adathisrael.com
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Box 18, 80 Bradfrod St.,
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Synagogue Administrator: Denise Jacobs
Tel: 705-792-3949 Fax: 705-792-3982
E-mail: amshalomcongregation@bellnet.ca
Website: www.amshalom.ca
Am Shalom, Barrie's only synagogue offers something for everyone. We have weekly Shabbat services, a Hebrew School, including Bar/Bat mitzvah training, adult education courses, social events, an active Sisterhood and Brotherhood and a youth group. We are proud to have as our clergy, Rabbi Ilyse Glickman and Cantor Audrey Kaufman.

BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE AND SCHOOL
Synagogue Services: Reena Battle Centre, 927 Clark Ave. W.,
Thornhill, Ont.
Mailing address: 209-1118 Centre St., Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7R9
Future home: The Joseph & Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus
Shul Administrator: Fran Isaacs x31
School Administrator: Claudia Griner x32
Tel: 905-770-7639
Synagogue: Our "House of Friends" has a warm, haymishe, atmosphere with programs and activities for all ages. Our song filled, participatory, services are led by Rabbi David Eligberg and Cantor Eli Bard, and reflect our being the only *Conservative, egalitarian* congregation serving York Region. Our USY, Kadima, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and Hazak (Seniors) groups offer educational, social, cultural and recreational programs.

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Toronto, Ont. M3H 3J7
Tel: 416-633-5500 Fax: 416-633-1740
E-mail: info@bethdavid.com
Website: www.bethdavid.com
Beth David is a vibrant, family oriented Conservative synagogue. Our dynamic and award-winning family and youth programs are second to none. The Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and senior group 'Club Chaverut', make our synagogue a great place to pray and play. Join us for a unique Jewish experience.

BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE
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Executive Director: Pearl Grundland
Tel: 416-633-3838 Fax: 416-633-3153
E-mail: execdir@beby.org
Website: www.beby.org
More than just a synagogue, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda (BEBY) is a vibrant centre of Jewish life. We are bound by our commitment to synagogue, community and Israel. Our mission is to be the focal point of the Jewish lives of our members.

BETH RADOM CONGREGATION
18 Reiner Rd.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2K9
Rabbi Steven Schonblum
Cantor David Rosen
Tel: 416-636-3451
E-mail: myinfo@bethradom.com
The Beth Radom Congregation caters to conservative families seeking an alternative to the larger synagogues. Our 'haymishe' environment encourages 'women inclusive' participation in every aspect of Jewish life. Please join us for prayer, celebration and community. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Weddings, Affrufs, Baby Namings for members and non-members.

BETH SHOLOM SYNAGOGUE
1445 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 2E6
Executive Director: Barbara Berke
Tel: 416-783-6103 Fax: 416-783-9923
E-mail: barbara@bethsholom.net
Website: www.bethsholom.net
We are a warm, friendly traditional, Conservative "family" synagogue where the Rabbi knows your name, the Sanctuary is warm and inclusive. Innovative programming for all ages. Adult education & social programs. Special memberships for young marrieds, young families and young singles. Reserved seating for High Holy Days. 416-783-6103. www.bethsholom.net

BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE
3080 Bayview Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M2N 5L3
Director of Administration:
Lillian Cornfield x307
Tel: 416-221-3433 Fax: 416-221-1602
E-mail: info@bethtikvah.on.ca
Website: www.bethtikvah.on.ca
We're a full service synagogue in the north end of Toronto. Our beautiful services and life cycle events are led by Rabbi Wayne Allen and Cantor Tibor Kovari. With children's programming beginning at 18 months through to seminars for seniors, the synagogue has something for everyone. For over 40 years, Beth Tikvah sports a proud past and a bright future.

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47 Glenbrook Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 2L7
Executive Director: Nicole Toledano
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E-mail: director@bethtorah.ca
Website: www.bethtorah.ca
Beth Torah Congregation: our membership is open, but not for long.- Beth Torah Congregation continues to be a vibrant, traditional and growing. shul with dedicated and warm clergy. There are a limited number of membership opportunities available. To apply, call or e-mail: 416-782-4495 ex. 24 or director@bethtorah.ca.

B'NAI SHALOM CONGREGATION OF HALTON-PEEL
Tel: 905-901-9958
E-mail: info@bnaishalom.ca
Website: www.bnaishalom.ca
B'nai Shalom Congregation of Halton-Peel is a conservative egalitarian congregation. Monthly Shabbat Services, Holiday programming, Adult Education, affordable Membership dues.

BOROCHOV CULTURAL CENTRE & KOL YISROEL CONGREGATION
272 Codsell Ave.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 3X2
Contact: Dale Noble
Tel: 416-630-9444 Fax: 416-630-9451
A Conservative synagogue situated in the Borochov Cultural Centre. Weekly Shabbat services are held in a warm, friendly atmosphere, apparent during the kiddush when everyone socializes. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and other special occasions are held. No membership fee. High Holy Day services are held in the main hall in the Centre.

CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFORM JUDAISM
3845 Bathurst St., Ste. 301,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 3N2
Director: Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel
Tel: 416-630-0375 Fax: 416-630-5089
E-mail: ccrj@urj.org
Website: www.urj.org/ccrj
Canadian national office of the Union for Reform Judaism, representing over 950 synagogues throughout North America, promotes liberal Judaism through synagogue support, outreach, youth programs, Jewish camping, adult and child education, social action, leader development.

CONGREGATION BINA
(A Community of Jews from India)
PO/CP 92127, 2900 Warden Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M1W 3Y8
Contact:
Reuben Jacobs, 905-660-6027;
Neel Joseph, 416-293-9700
The main objective of Congregation BINA, a non-profit organization for Jews from India, is to assist, maintain, and promote traditional religious, social, cultural, and educational activities among its members. Each year, High Holy Day Services and social gatherings are held. A quarterly news bulletin, "Contact", is published.

CONGREGATION DARCHEI NOAM
15 Hove St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 4Y8
Offices at 183 Cocksfield Ave., Ste. 4
Rabbi Tina Grimberg
President: Lisa Charendoff
Tel: 416-638-4783 Fax: 416-638-5852
Website: www.darcheinoam.on.ca
Reconstructionist community is vibrant, egalitarian and inclusive. Religious services are traditional in form and progressive in content. Members participate equally in synagogue life, regardless of gender or family composition. Award-winning social action and stimulating adult learning programs. New Education Director committed to quality Hebrew School, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Teen and Family programs.

CONGREGATION SHIR LIBEYNU
***Mailing Address:* P.O. Box 62, Stn. P,**
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2S6
Ritual/Spiritual Leader: Aviva Goldberg
Contact: Eden Nameri
Tel: 416-465-5488
E-mail: shirlibeynu@yahoo.ca
Website: www.shirlibeynu.ca
Shir Libeynu is a progressive, egalitarian and inclusive congregation. We hold our High Holy Days services downtown at Cecil Community Centre. New this year: regular Shabbat services and other holiday events at the MNJCC, as well as study groups and dinners at other convenient locations and in members homes. Elements of both tradition and Jewish Renewal infuse our joyful, meaningful services, where you may do more than just congregate - you can participate!

DANFORTH JEWISH CIRCLE
283 Danforth Ave., Ste. 125,
Toronto, Ont. M4K 1N2
Contact: Kathryn Miller
Tel: 416-580-6303
E-mail: info@djctoronto.com
Website: www.djctoronto.com
A progressive egalitarian community based in Riverdale, inclusive of interfaith and alternative unions. We're a friendly, family-oriented group committed to nurturing Jewish life and traditions through holiday and life cycle celebrations, monthly Shabbat services, and education and social action programs.

FIRST NARAYEVER CONGREGATION
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Toronto, Ont. M3H 6A7
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Celebrate 5768 High Holy Days with the First Narayever Congregation at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (750 Spadina at Bloor). Experience the warmth of our community, our traditional, egalitarian services and creative children's programming. For details visit **www.narayever.ca** To buy tickets please phone 416-927-0546 or visit the MNJCC.

LODZER CENTRE CONGREGATION
12 Heaton St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 4Y6
Rabbi Matthew Kaufman
Cantor David Edwards
Tel: 416-636-6665 Fax 416-636-8861
E-mail: lodzerrabbi@rogers.com
This modern Conservative congregation has a dynamic young Rabbi - Matthew Kaufman, a talented Cantor - David Edwards and 300 families waiting to welcome you! Wonderful Young Family programs, educational and social events for all ages plus a great venue for Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations. Call today, 416-636-6665.

OR HADASH SYNAGOGUE
17665 Leslie St., Unit 14
Newmarket, Ont. L3Y 3E3
Spiritual Leader:
Cantor Martin Steinhouse
Tel: 905-898-2220
E-mail: info@orhadash.org
Website: www.orhadash.org
Or Hadash, a small Reform synagogue in northern York Region, brings families and traditional values together in a liberal, non-judgmental, and warm setting. Join us for: Jewish education for children & adults, Shabbat Services & Torah Study, High Holy Day and Festival Observances & Services, and Social & Community Events.

ORAYNU CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM
Contact: Roby Sadler
Tel: 416-385-3910
Oraynu celebrates holidays, history and culture from secular, humanistic Jewish perspective. Join us - Jewish Holidays, Onegs, adult education, social/cultural events, older singles and youth groups. Intermarrieds welcome. Acclaimed Children's School, B'nai Mitzvah program. Oraynu - a welcoming congregation where members express their Judaism in a manner consistent with their beliefs.

SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE
2 Simonston Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4L1
Administrator: Marlene Rosen
Tel: 905-889-4975 Fax: 905-889-1575
Website: www.shaarshalom.ca
Shaar Shalom Synagogue, under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Martin Berman and Cantor Ben Silverberg, is a Conservative congregation in Thornhill. We offer full services on Shabbat and holidays, daily minyanim, catering services, active sisterhood, brotherhood, young adults, singles, seniors, youth groups and an afternoon Hebrew School (SK-Gr. 8).

SHAAREI-BETH EL CONGREGATION OF HALTON
186 Morrison Rd.,
Oakville, Ont. L6J 4J4
Contact: Rabbi Stephen A. Wise
Tel: 905-849-6000 Fax: 905-849-1134
E-mail: bobbie.sbe@bellnet.ca
A Reform congregation with traditional orientation. We offer Hebrew and religious classes under the direction of Ran Salamon, Bar/Bat Mitzvah instruction, youth activities and adult education and conversion. Many new members of all ages have recently joined from Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Mississauga, Hamilton and Toronto. Interfaith families welcome.

SHAAREI SHOMAYIM CONGREGATION
470 Glencairn Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5N 1V8
Executive Director: Jessica Pelt
Tel: 416-789-3213 Fax: 416-789-1728
E-mail: pelt@shomayim.org
Website: www.shomayim.org
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation is a modern orthodox centre of Jewish life with approximately 800 member-families providing the means for the fulfillment of religious, educational and social needs. We offer 3 distinct services every Shabbat with the main Service led by Rabbi Asher Vale and Chazzan Avraham Sultan, the Downstairs Minyan led by Rabbi Elliott Diamond and a Hashkama Minyan. Special reductions for New Members, and Under 30. For information, please call 416-789-3213, ext. 209 or e-mail pelt@shomayim.org

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E-mail: office@solelcongregation.org
Website: solelcongregation.org
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11 Sultana Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 1S9
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120 Old Colony Rd.,
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Membership Chair: Phil Rudolph
Tel: 416-449-3880
Website: www.temanuel.com
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7360 Bayview Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 2R7
Executive Director: Karen Grimm, ext. #4
Tel: 905-889-2252 Fax: 905-889-2258
E-mail: information@templeharzion.com
Website: www.templeharzion.com
Temple Har Zion is a Reform congregation with music-filled, engaging Shabbat, Tot Shabbat, daily minyan and Family Services. Our education programs include Religious & Hebrew School from Junior Kindergarten through to Confirmation (grade 10) and a varied adult education program. Our youth participate in exciting programs offered by Junior and Senior Youth Groups.

TEMPLE KOL AMI
8777 Dufferin St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8W3
Tel: 905-709-2620
E-mail: info@templekolami.ca
Website: www.templekolami.ca
250-family egalitarian Reform congregation led by Rabbi Daniel Gottlieb with Cantorial Soloist Dawn Bernstein. Wide range of religious, social and educational programs from JK to confirmation and beyond. Educational Director Chari Schwartz. Interfaith families, Jews by choice and persons with special needs welcome.

THORNHILL COMMUNITY SHUL
949 Clark Ave. W.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8G6
Contact: Rabbi Avram Rothman
Tel: 905-764-1818
E-mail: theshul@aish.com
Website: www.thornhillshul.com
A growing community of friendly, warm people with the desire to grow in Jewish knowledge and spiritual awareness. The Shul welcomes Jews of all backgrounds and make a sincere effort to make all visitors feel welcome. The mission of the TCS is to create a caring, warm community of people who pray, celebrate & grow together in their Jewish life. The TCS is the place to be for all types of Jewish & religious activities, classes & events

YACHDAV
Contact: Marty Kaplan
Tel: 416-483-3363
E-mail: info@yachdav.ca
Website: www.yachdav.ca
Yachdav is a small, participatory minyan. We meet regularly in the Wolfond Centre for Shabbat services, 9:30 a.m. on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month. We follow traditional liturgy, but are egalitarian in men's and women's involvement in all aspects of the services. Also see our High Holyday ad in this feature.

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E-mail: info@circleofcare.com
Website: circleofcare.com
Circle of Care was established by the Jewish Community to meet our community's home health care needs. We provide a full range of social work, volunteer and home services - including personal care, caregiver relief, Kosher Meals on Wheels (COR). Subsidies may be available for eligible clients.

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Toronto, Ont. M2N 6N4
Contact: Regional Corporate Office
Tel: 416-408-0076 Fax: 416-408-0068
E-mail: inquiries@amica.ca
Website: www.amica.ca
Amica Mature Lifestyles Inc. is Canada's most innovative operator of seniors' retirement residences. Bringing a superior quality of life to seniors, Amica's reputation for comfort and security make it the premier destination for mature living. Visit the new Amica at Thornhill Presentation Centre this fall at 546 Steeles Ave. W.

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784 Centre St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 9G7
Marketing Mgr.: Reesa Soto
Tel: 905-771-1013 Fax: 905-762-9196
E-mail: constantia@chartwellreit.ca
Website: www.chartwellreit.ca
Conveniently located in the heart of Thornhill's Jewish community at Centre St. and New Westminster Dr., Constantia boasts amenities such as an elegant dining room, theatre room, beauty salon, greenhouse, activity room, fitness room, lounges and landscaped grounds. We offer 3 meals daily, 24-hr. assistance, housekeeping, laundry, and emergency response. We also offer a host of services and planned activities to suit your lifestyle and make your retirement years as enjoyable as possible. We're here for you!

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111 Avenue Rd.,
Toronto, Ont. M5R 3J8
Marketing Manager: Leslie Westlake
Tel: 416-928-0111 Fax: 416-428-0118
E-mail: info.hazelton@diversicare.ca
Website: www.hazelplace.ca
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718 Sheppard Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2S5
Director: Judy Cohen
Tel: 416-398-7898 Fax: 416-398-3909
E-mail: lchaimretirement@rogers.com
Website: www.lchaimretirement.com
L'chaim Retirement Home offers an intimately unique home living environment with 30 private units. For one all-inclusive price, residents receive meals, supervision, daily social and recreational programs, housekeeping and laundry, as well as personal assistance for showering and dressing, physiotherapy, full time RN on-site, and weekly doctor's visits. We say L'CHAIM to life!

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1035 Eglinton Ave. W.,
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Contact: Director of Marketing
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E-mail: pinevilla@cplodges.com
Website: www.retirementresidences.com
Pine Villa offers renovated private studio and 1 bedroom apartments surrounded by boutiques, restaurants, banks and synagogues. Our warm and caring staff are available 24 hours a day to cater to your needs. Services include 3 delicious meals daily, housekeeping, laundry and physiotherapy, in addition to daily activities, live entertainment & outings. Hotel and respite stays are welcome.

TERRACE GARDENS RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
3705 Bathurst St. (at Wilson),
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2E8
Contact: Director of Marketing
Tel: 416-789-7670 Fax: 416-789-3372
E-mail: terrace@cplodges.com
Enjoy quality living at Terrace Gardens. Whether it's for a short term, trial stay or for permanent accommodation, Terrace Gardens provides the comfort you deserve while you enjoy delicious kosher (COR) meals, 24 hour supervised care, and full activities program. Ask us about our New Enhanced Living Area for special care needs. Terrace Gardens, your first choice in Jewish Retirement living.

THORNE MILL ON STEELES
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National

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Hezbollah arsenal larger than year ago

By SHAHAR ILAN
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Defence Minister Ehud Barak told the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee that Hezbollah has more rockets today than it did before the Second Lebanon War last summer.

According to a source who was present at Monday's meeting, Barak was referring to both long-range and short-range rockets, and said that the rockets are situated north of the Litani River, but within striking range of Israel.

Hezbollah fired almost 4,000 rockets at northern Israel during the 34-day war in 2006, and Israeli land and air assaults caused heavy damage to Lebanese towns and neighbourhoods.

The war was sparked by a Hezbollah attack on an Israeli border patrol in which three soldiers were killed and two taken captive. The fate of the captured soldiers remains unknown. More than 1,000 Lebanese and 158 Israelis died in the fighting.

Regarding the tense relationship between Israel and Syria, Barak said that he senses the tension between the two countries is beginning to dissipate.

An associate of the defence minister said it appears that Israel's tireless efforts to calm Syrian fears of an imminent conflict have finally taken effect, and now the Syrians view Israel as less aggressive.

Barak told the Knesset panel that he can see "similarities between the young [current Syrian President Bashar] Assad and his father [former Syrian president Hafez] Assad."

This was Barak's first appearance before the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee since he was appointed defence minister.

Barak outlined before the panel his general outlook on Israel's security, saying it was based on five major principles. They include operating an active anti-rocket defence system; improving the Israel Defence Forces' ability to manoeuvre in the realm of defence and protection; extending the IDF's logistical stamina in terms of supplies; increasing the number of training exercises, including live-fire training; and tackling the issue of the IDF's ability to operate deep within enemy territory.

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak

Israelis in Peru to help quake victims

LIMA — IsraAID, the Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid, has sent a medical mission to Peru in the aftermath of the hurricane that struck the country earlier this month.

The seven-member IsraAID/First medical team is based in the village of Cerro Azul in the earthquake-affected region of the country, working in co-operation with the Catholic relief organization, CARITAS.

On Aug. 22, the team began its work in Canneta, and from there, branched out to various disaster sites. The group visited the town of Bella Vista and opened a medical clinic in a local school where 120 people were treated.

A field clinic was opened the next day in the village of Santa Barbara, where more than 150 people were treated. Water and electricity supplies were badly damaged in the village, and most of the houses in the area were destroyed, leaving families with only tents as shelter. The team also proceeded to Santa Cruz and opened the clinic in a local church, where they treated another 120 villagers and distributed food and water.

In the first 48 hours after the IsraAID team's arrival, close to 400 people affected by the earthquake were provided with medical treatment and emergency relief.

The team is working with volunteers from the Jewish community in Lima, who are escorting the Israeli delegation and helping with the logistics of the operation, including access and delivery of basic medical and relief supplies. The Jewish volunteers are also assisting with translations and contacts to local officials and aid groups.

IsraAID co-ordinates Israeli and Jewish organizations and other interested parties based in Israel who are active in development and relief work and are concerned about global issues.

At left, a camp set up last week in Cerro Azul for the many displaced victims of the Peru earthquake; right, an Israeli nurse ministers to a young Peruvian child. [IsraAid photos]

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Possible Durban hatefest sequel worries community — see page 50

The News in Brief

CANADA

1,900 Sign Petition

WATERLOO — The German Canadian Congress (GCC) has collected 1,900 signatures on an online petition urging the federal cabinet to change its mind and restore the citizenship of convicted Nazi collaborator Helmut Oberlander. It was revoked in 2000, but a Federal Court review overturned the decision and ordered cabinet to reconsider. He had his citizenship stripped for the second time this past May. A retired developer, Oberlander, 83, is accused of serving in a Nazi killing unit during World War II and lying about his past when he entered Canada in 1954. His supporters say he was a 17-year-old translator who didn't take part in killings. Oberlander's lawyer told the Kitchener-Waterloo *Record* he doubts cabinet will change its mind, but perhaps the petition will dissuade Ottawa from trying to block an attempt to have the decision judicially reviewed. The GCC hopes to collect 5,000 signatures by October, the *Record* reported.

Rappelling Rabbi

EDMONTON — Rabbi Daniel Friedman of Beth Israel Synagogue in Edmonton will be rappelling from the city's 27-storey Sutton Place Hotel on Sept. 10 to raise money for children and adults with disabilities. He had raised $1,600 as of last week.

WORLD

Documents Shared

BERLIN — The German-based International Tracing Service has given digital copies of millions of Shoah-related documents to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The documents, from the archive at Bad Arolsen, come from 50 million records of deportation files, arrest records and concentration camp documents whose release had been sought for years. The museum received the files on behalf of the United States, one of 11 nations that control the archive. Yad Vashem received Israel's copy. But no documents will be available to the public until all 11 countries have consented, and France, Italy and Greece haven't done so. Though materials had been technically available to Nazi victims or their families, privacy laws in member states made it difficult to release documents to scholars and the public. Though the documents won't be immediately available, the museum said a list of their contents will be available on its website.

War Criminal Ordered Deported From U.S.

BOSTON — A Massachusetts man who belonged to a Nazi unit that helped liquidate the Warsaw Ghetto will be deported from the United States.

Vladas Zajanckauskas, 92, of Sutton, Mass., served at the SS base in Trawniki, Poland, and took part in the April-May 1943 operation dubbed "Operation Rinhard."

In a ruling this month in the case, which was litigated by the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, Boston Judge Wayne R. Iskra wrote that Zajanckauskas "admitted that Trawniki men sent to Warsaw stood in the cordon to prevent Jews from escaping."

They also "guarded the transit square where captured Jews awaited transportation to labour and concentration camps, conducted house-to-house searches for hidden Jews, skirmished with resistance fighters and took part in the shooting of some captured Jews."

Zajanckauskas was one of the "top-ranked" individuals in his sub-unit, the judge wrote.

Teen Attacked

MELBOURNE — A yeshiva student was the victim of an apparent anti-Semitic attack in Australia. Alon Tam, 17, was walking home from a kosher restaurant in a heavily Jewish suburb of Melbourne Aug. 18 when two men with baseball bats confronted him, then yelled, "Jew, you deserve to die," as they beat him. Tam sustained injuries to his torso, arms and shoulder. The incident began at the restaurant about 45 minutes before Tam was attacked. A worker said the men threw a chair through a window and punched a customer, then returned later and attacked Tam. More than 440 anti-Semitic incidents in Australia were logged in 2006.

Bank Removes Eagle

LONDON — An eagle emblem has been removed from the building of one of Britain's largest banks because of its Nazi connotations. Barclays removed the 3.5-ton eagle from atop its building, where it stood for 30 years, amid reports its new Dutch partner, ABN Amro, opposed the emblem.

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Canadians mark Sar-El's 25th anniversary

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Working in a dust-filled warehouse with no air-conditioning in the middle of an Israeli summer hardly seems like a life-altering experience, but for one Sar-El volunteer, that's just what it was.

Last summer, Toronto lawyer Jack Copelovici and his wife Ida decided to put everything on hold and spend three weeks in Israel doing grunt work as volunteers on an Israeli army base. They greased guns, loaded tanks, swept floors, categorized and grouped army uniforms.

Their volunteer stint coincided with Israel's battle with Hezbollah and fulfilled a promise that Copelovici made nearly 25 years before during an earlier war in Lebanon, when "I said to myself that when there's another war in Israel, I'll go over and see what I could do."

Copelovici raves about that experience and reprised it this summer. He and Ida travelled to Israel and met up with a number of friends they had made the year before through Sar-El, the national project for volunteers for Israel. Many of the people who were there in 2006 kept in touch over the year and planned a return visit together. The Copelovicis now count among their new friends Sar-El volunteers from the United States, Britain, Denmark, Finland and Australia, and they reconnected this summer at a new base – this one air conditioned – near Ramle.

Ida Copelovici, right, and South African volunteer Hannah Smolders working at an Israeli army base.
[Photo courtesy Ida Copelovici]

There's now a group of 20 to 30 volunteers in their Sar-El community who co-ordinate their visits to Israel and who hope to meet again next year, Copelovici said.

While in Israel this summer, Copelovici also participated in the Aug. 9 celebration marking the organization's 25th anniversary. Jerusalem's Binyanei HaUmah convention centre was packed for the event, and participants were treated to a stirring program of song, dance, music and a tribute to Sar-El's founder, retired Gen. Aharon Davidi.

Len Berk, president of Sar-El Canada, has volunteered on Israeli army bases 10 times. He, too, was at the 25th anniversary celebration and, on behalf of Sar-El Canada, presented Davidi with a plaque indicating 100 trees had been planted in his honour at a Jewish National Fund forest in Israel.

Sar-El's 25th year has been one of the organization's better ones, Berk said.

"We're 60 to 70 per cent above last year. We might hit 200. That's my goal. I've decided that when we hit 200 volunteers a year, I'm retiring. So people can sign up and get rid of Len."

For Copelovici, the attraction of Sar-El is at least twofold.

"We felt we were actually contributing to an important war effort," he said. "Sar-El tells us the volunteers free up reservists and soldiers who can go to more active duty."

What's more, "the people you meet want to be there and have all kinds of different backgrounds. They want to work and do something for Israel. It's a very good feeling, a satisfying feeling. You're doing something concrete for Israel, even though it's a 'Joe job.'

Continued on page 17

"If fad diets really worked, they wouldn't be a fad."

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Greater Toronto Area

In the heat of the day

From the editor's desk

The smoothly cut Jerusalem stone that paves all of the sidewalks and part of the roadways, and comprises the exterior of most buildings, was like silver paper reflecting back and magnifying in all directions the rays of the very hot sun over Jerusalem last week. By mid-morning, the thermometer had reached the mid-30s. It was very hot outside.

Air-conditioned sanctuaries such as shopping malls and hotel lobbies were abuzz with human traffic. So, too, were the roads, as most of the cars were also portable temples of cool-blowing air.

Yet the heat didn't seem to get in anybody's way.

In any event, as anyone who has ever navigated in and among the crowded, open-air stalls of the Machane Yehuda market off Jaffa Street knows, Israeli life does not appear to lend itself to the slow paces of heat-induced torpor.

There is simply too much going on at any given time – politically, diplomatically, economically, militarily, scientifically, socially and culturally – in this tiny country. And all of it is endlessly covered by the many highly competitive and diverse media outlets.

Moreover, the national temperament, if there is such a thing, is antithetical to tired, turgid movement.

But the same is not necessarily true when it comes to the thinking and analysis of policymakers and news commentators.

The national news page of a leading daily newspaper one day last week was illustrative of the country's loopy "political" thinking, in which everything old is new again and circles of logic are left perpetually unclosed.

There were four quite distinct but obviously related stories on the page, each leading to the next, and with the last leading back to the first in a through-the-looking-glass, head-scratching, I-must-have-missed-something kind of way.

The first story, highest on the page, informed readers that Fatah's armed wing, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, had launched a shooting attack the previous day against an Israel Defence Forces patrol near Ramallah in the West Bank. Less than 24 hours earlier, we read, the Brigades had abrogated the forswearing-of-violence-for-non-prosecution quasi-amnesty agreement they had made with Israel some weeks earlier.

The second story informed readers that the IDF had become more actively aggressive in the Gaza Strip these past two months under Israel's new defence minister, Ehud Barak, in trying to prevent acts of terrorism against the civilian population adjacent to the Gaza border.

In the preceding 72 hours, the article said, 12 Gazans had been killed in a series of IDF ground and air attacks. In the past three months, the IDF had undertaken some 80 operations against the squads of Qassam rocket launchers.

"Around 160 Palestinian gunmen have been killed since the beginning of the year," we read.

The article also informed us that IDF intelligence has concluded that "Hamas and Islamic Jihad have smuggled unprecedented amounts of weaponry into Gaza."

A third article dealt with a visit by the state comptroller, Micha Lindenstrauss, to the communities bordering Gaza.

"Lindenstrauss 'very worried' about security in Gaza periphery after tour of area" was the headline.

The headline suggested a broader exploration by Lindenstrauss into the general security situation along the Gaza border. In fact, however, his tour of the area was to examine the state of readiness of local schools to withstand Qassam attacks. The schools are slated to re-open Sept. 2.

Lindenstrauss was not impressed with what he saw. "The central government must do what it should be doing in a more substantial way. We must do more to save lives," the comptroller general told reporters.

At the end of his visit, he said: "We are leaving very troubled."

The cumulative news impact of the preceding three articles thus rendered somewhat incongruent the headline on the fourth story: "Peres says Olmert, Abbas in 'serious' discussions."

In advance of the American-backed regional conference to be held in November, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas have apparently been trying to conclude an agreement of "fundamental principles" regarding the possible shape of a final peace arrangement.

The article goes on to say that most officials downplay the likelihood of the two leaders being able to reach agreement on anything other than the "need to keep talking."

While Abbas' Al Aqsa Brigades were shooting at the IDF and while he was trying to assert his "government's" control even throughout the West Bank, what ability, one might ask, does Abbas have to enforce any agreement?

And while a substantial majority of Israelis continue to have very little, if any, confidence in Olmert, what moral – albeit not legal – authority does he have to negotiate "fundamental principles" of a possible final peace deal?

The heat does appear to have affected some of the political thinking.

– MBD

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paramedics

HAPPY REUNION

Paramedic Jason Benaim holds baby Summer Cohen last week at an ambulance station at Bathurst Street and Finch Avenue. Summer's parents, Sheri and Marc, and their four other children were there to thank Benaim and his partner, Carole Smith, for helping to deliver Summer on July 25. The parents called 911 when they couldn't make it to Mount Sinai Hospital from their home in Thornhill. Benaim and Smith, who were featured in an Aug. 16 Heebonics story in *The CJN* on young Jewish paramedics, were called to the scene on Bathurst just south of Finch, and Benaim delivered the baby less than two minutes after arriving. It was his fifth delivery.

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Rabbis set up committee on kashrut concerns

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The Toronto Board of Rabbis has struck a committee to deal with concerns about the service provided by the Kashruth Council of Canada.

Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich, spiritual leader of Beth Sholom Synagogue and president of the board, made up largely of Conservative and Reform clergy, said the committee, chaired by Rabbi Steven Saltzman of Adath Israel Congregation, was established in response to issues raised by local Conservative congregations.

Complaints about the council – commonly known by its hechsher COR, an acronym for Council of Orthodox Rabbis – run the gamut from access to service to the quality of mashgichim, he said.

For example, Rabbi Flanzraich said, some congregations have received phone calls from COR on a Thursday evening informing them it would be unable to provide mashgichim for Shabbat, and the synagogues may have been expecting hundreds of people for a bar or bat mitzvah.

"Eventually the problem was sorted out, but it created an air of unpredictability to an important aspect of congregational life," he said.

Armed with those concerns, he said, the committee was formed in order to speak to COR about these and other issues.

Rabbi Flanzraich said the committee, which has yet to meet with COR, believes that diversity and pluralism shape the fabric of religious institutions, and that it's not in their best interest to be served by an unrepresentative monopoly.

"We do appreciate and respect what COR does, but we would like to see it achieve a sense of transparency," he said.

This could be achieved, he added, by having a COR board of directors that represents a broader cross-section of the Jewish community.

"There is no transparency if the board's values are based on the standards of a single person or single organization. The idea behind transparency is compromise and reasonable balance. The board should not be led by the right or the left."

The nature of a communal organization is that it lends itself to a standard that is reasonable and rational, and based on Halachah, Rabbi Flanzraich said.

He also said he sees no problem in welcoming new hechshers into the city, "provided they are reliable and halachically trustworthy.

"New York has hundreds of hechsherim, and people do their research. They are well informed as to what best suits their level of comfort."

Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich

Many people have accepted a new local hechsher, Mehadrin Kosher, supervised by Rabbi Moshe Levy of Nachal Yisrael, a small shul and beit midrash near Bathurst Street and Wilson Avenue, Rabbi Flanzraich said.

"He is supervising [at least] six establishments and it does not sound like he is providing a lesser form of kosher supervision. People should be free to make their own decisions without the fear of public ridicule."

Rabbi Flanzraich stressed that he has a lot of respect for COR, "but having a number of [kashrut] organizations will not imperil anybody."

The Toronto Jewish community has grown tremendously, and it's far more diverse than it ever was, he said.

He noted that as the community has grown, most of its institutions have had to re-evaluate their procedures so that they fit the new reality.

"Almost every [Jewish communal] organization has gone through an internal audit to see how it can best serve the broader community."

Calls to COR for comment were not returned by *The CJN*'s deadline.

The Canadian Jewish news

Early Advertising Deadlines

September 12th issue
Display-Wed. Sept. 5, 12:00
Real Estate- Wed. Sept. 5, 11:00
Organizations-Tues. Sept. 4, 12:00
Classified- Tues. Sept 4, 4:00

September 20th issue
Display-Mon. Sept. 10, 3:00
Real Estate- Mon. Sept. 10, 2:00
Organizations-Mon. Sept. 10, 12:00
Classified- Fri. Sept. 7, 2:00

October 3rd issue
Display-Mon. Sept. 24, 3:00
Real Estate- Mon. Sept. 24, 2:00
Organizations-Mon. Sept. 24, 12:00
Classified- Fri. Sept. 21, 2:00

October 11th issue
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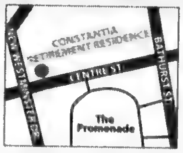

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Greater Toronto Area

Jewish union local quits CUPE over Israel stance

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Members of a union local representing workers at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Canadian Jewish Congress have quit the Canadian Union of Public Employees in protest over CUPE's political stance on Israel.

After what the Jewish unionists characterize as a year of acrimony and fruitless negotiations, the 72 former members of CUPE 2063(a) finally de-certified from the national union on May 1, citing resentment and bitterness stemming from CUPE Ontario's Resolution 50, passed at the Ontario union's May 2006 general assembly.

The motion called for "boycott, divestment and sanctions to end Israel's apartheid practices."

The Jewish local had previously severed ties with the provincial wing of CUPE in 2003 over budding pro-Palestinian sentiment in the provincial union's delegation to CUPE's national conference that year.

Ninety-eight per cent voted to leave

It later affiliated itself directly with CUPE national, but it was unsuccessful in its efforts to have the country-wide body rescind the Ontario resolution.

This summer, Lil Nobel, former president of the Jewish CUPE local, helped re-organize her members into a new, self-contained union, the United Employees Association, and is its new president.

"They tried to get us to stay," Nobel told *The CJN.* "But as a membership, we couldn't stay in an organization that is against what we work for [at the federation and CJC]... Jews and Israel. Ninety-eight per cent of our membership voted to leave."

She added that the decision to quit CUPE was not taken lightly, as the local had been part of the union since 1972.

"The decision had nothing to do with the union's service. We left because of their political stance," Nobel said. "We wanted CUPE national to rescind the resolution... but that wasn't going to happen."

According to her, Paul Moist, national president of CUPE, recently offered to come speak to her local to discuss issues of "democracy" related to union policies in a last-ditch effort to retain the local.

"But it was too little, too late. Why didn't they talk to us before it got to this point?" Nobel asked.

Calls to Moist were not returned by *The CJN*'s deadline.

Sid Ryan, president of CUPE Ontario, said after the resolution was passed that it's "not an attack on Jewish people. It's [an objection to] the State of Israel's policies on Palestinians."

Nobel said her members would have considered staying in the union had the national leadership made Resolution 50 "a fair statement… not just about the Palestinians."

CUPE Ontario's *Action Plan* booklet for 2007 calls for members to continue "to work in coalition with community organizations and other union activists on a variety of struggles including… against the war in Afghanistan, Iraq, Darfur, violent repression in Oaxaca, Mexico, Haiti, Colombia and Palestine."

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Spinning too close to demagoguery

The responsibility of public leadership is freighted with the compelling need to choose wise public policy, and equally, to set standards in elected office that promote ethics, dignity and mutual respect in public comportment as well as in public debate and discourse.

During an election campaign, alas, we generally see far lower standards of behaviour from our candidates for high office. There is as much theatre, and as many grab-the-headlines announcements, ear-pleasing 30-second sound bytes and tantalizing, high-impact photo opportunities as there is discussion of policy options. In addition, the rhetoric often overheats. Candidates and their media advisors spin their messages in directions that incline more to dark caves than to the light of open debate.

Such was the case last week in Ontario when Premier Dalton McGuinty trumpeted his unwillingness to bring qualified faith-based private schools under the public funding umbrella. He was reported to have said: "I'm hoping to grab Ontarians by the earlobes and say it's not just another election, it's not just business as usual, it's about the kind of Ontario [they] want. If [they] want the kind of Ontario where we invite children of different faiths to leave the publicly funded system and become *sequestered and segregated in their own private schools*, then they should vote for Mr. Tory" (emphasis added).

He continued: "If they think it's important that we continue to bring our kids together so that they grow together and learn from one another, then you should vote for me."

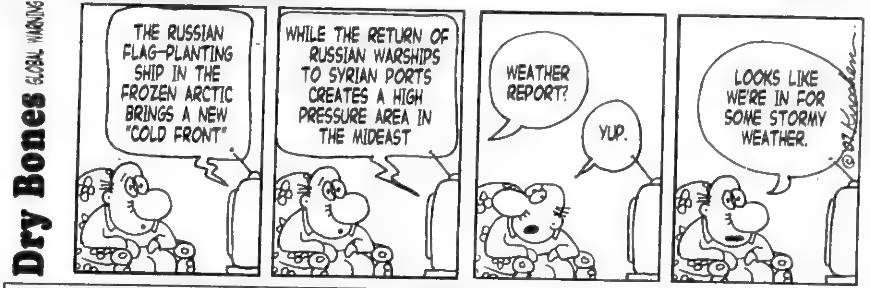
The language McGuinty used was calculated to evoke images of the broad public purse funding quasi-medieval, discriminatory castes of education, and to incite a fear about the dismantling of the current education system. Thus it was also offensive to the families of the 50,000 children currently enrolled in faith-based private schools. For the images the premier painted were a distortion well beneath the integrity of the man and his office.

Are children studying in publicly-funded Catholic schools sequestered and segregated in *their* own private schools? Of course not. Our open, diverse, multicultural society simply does not work that way. Rather, it was intended to work in a way that requires the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to be interpreted "in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians." Nor would the children studying in Ontario's other, non-Catholic, faith-based schools whose general studies curricula would be funded publicly be sequestered and segregated in *their* own private schools. Nor are the children in non-Catholic, faith-based schools in other provinces whose general studies curricula are currently being paid by the public.

One cannot hide unfair, unjust, preferential treatment with the scurrilous spinning of campaign rhetoric. In this case, it spun too close to campaign demagoguery.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat left Beirut by boat for refuge, it was speculated, in either Greece or Tunis. Lebanon had been his main base of operations for 14 years. Meanwhile, former Israeli chief of staff Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev told *The CJN* in Montreal that Israel would stay in Lebanon until a strong Lebanese government could keep remaining PLO and Syrian forces in check.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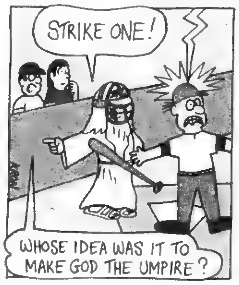
Day school funding and Jewish seniors

Your article "Liberals, NDP are no-shows at seniors' debate" (*CJN*, Aug. 23) provides an opportunity to highlight the often ignored but intense linkage between the issue of equal funding of faith-based schools and seniors' affairs. A solution to the tuition crisis at Ontario Jewish day schools will have a direct effect on the quality of life of the senior citizens of our community.

Currently, $8 million of UJA funds are used annually to subsidize the 40 per cent of parents who cannot afford full fees at day schools, with an equal amount being provided by the full-paying parents themselves for that purpose. This is not to mention the vast sums of potential charitable monies that are simply not donated to a myriad of wonderful causes by the parent body of day school students, as they try to balance their family budgets under the extreme pressure of tuition fees. A very conservative estimate would put the sum total of these funds at $30 million – a full 50 per cent of the amount raised by the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto annual campaign.

A solution to the tuition crisis in Ontario day schools would free up these vast sums of money to be used for the benefit of our seniors, the poor and the vulnerable of our community, and Israel-related causes. This fact alone should give all members of our community ample reason to support the one party that has inclusive public education on its platform, whether or not they are directly affected by the situation.

Jerrold Landau
Toronto


STRIKE ONE!
WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO MAKE GOD THE UMPIRE?

* * *

Day school fees

While the article "Jewish day school fees on the rise – again" (*CJN*, Aug. 23) noted that tuition increases are again higher than the annual rate of inflation and that the heavy financial burden on Jewish families will only be reduced once the Ontario government funds Jewish schools, I was very surprised that the article did not tie in the upcoming provincial election.

Ontario is the only province that funds one religion to the exclusion of all others. To date, only the Progressive Conservatives, if elected, would allow Ontario's non-Catholic faith-based schools to be part of the publicly funded education system in the same way as our Catholic schools are, while the Liberals and NDP support continued funding of our Catholic faith-based schools alone.

Sharon Dagan
Toronto

Improve supplementary schools

The campaign for extension in Ontario (beyond Catholic schools) of public funding to faith-based schools is wrong-headed. Ontario should follow the recent examples of Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador and have the constitution amended so that Ontario Catholic schools are no longer funded by the province. On balance, the Ontario Jewish community will not benefit from the funding of faith-based schools. Such funding will produce home-grown Jew-, Christian- and Hindu-hating, jihad-spouting fanatics at public expense. Jewish education would be better served by concentrating on vastly improving afternoon Hebrew schools.

A. Margel
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

An award-winning Jewish paramedic

Thank you for the article on the Jewish paramedics, although it only touched on the tip of this paramount profession. ("Young Toronto paramedics – sirens, lights and stretchers," *CJN* Heebonics, Aug. 16).

We wish to enlighten you on another one of the "handful of Jewish paramedics," our son, Harry Levinter. Harry has been with Toronto Emergency Services for more than 27 years. He pioneered Toronto's first advanced life-support program at Sunnybrook and Toronto General hospitals in 1983.

Harry's direct services to the public include not only providing the ambulance service, but also bike patrols at Toronto street fairs, the Canadian National Exhibition and any other gatherings where a vehicle can be used only on the venue perimeter.

A few years ago, Harry was asked to help teach a continuing education program that is run by the EMS educational division. Currently, he writes, produces and teaches some of the programs.

Harry received the EMS Exemplary Service Medal in 2005 and the EMS Employee of the Year award in 2006. As a *gitta neshuma* who has always put the welfare of others as a primary concern, he has chosen his profession well.

Just mention Harry to any of the paramedics in the city and behold the reaction. We are so proud of him, our Jewish paramedic, one of the "handful"!

Murray and Adrienne Levinter
Toronto

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Netanyahu confronts the Feiglin factor

'Bibi' seeks to maintain control of Likud as right-wing rival gains strength

By LESLIE SUSSER
JTA

JERUSALEM — After his overwhelming victory in the Likud's leadership primary earlier this month, Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu might have felt that he was well on the way to succeeding Ehud Olmert as prime minister. For months he had been leading in polls for the premiership, and he was now seemingly in control of his party.

But the strong showing of Moshe Feiglin, a radical right-wing rival for the party leadership, who won almost a quarter of the Likud vote, could seriously hurt the former prime minister's chances in the national arena.

The calculation is simple: to regain the premiership, Netanyahu needs to take votes from the centre of the political spectrum. But Feiglin's brash anti-Arab and anti-liberal stance could frighten the centrists away.

Benjamin Netanyahu

[Israenet photo]

Netanyahu's strategy in the face of the "Feiglin problem" is two-pronged: he is seeking ways to eject Feiglin from the party or at least to sideline him and his extremist "Jewish Leadership" group; at the same time, he is trying to forge high-profile political alliances with moderates, such as former finance minister Dan Meridor.

Whether the Likud is identified with Feiglin or with Meridor could make all the difference in the next election.

Netanyahu won the party leadership election with 73.2 per cent of the vote, followed by Feiglin with 23.4 per cent and Dani Danon, chairman of world Likud, with 3.4 per cent. In his victory speech, Netanyahu made it clear that he saw the results as a stepping stone to the premiership.

"Tonight the internal contest is ended and, as of tomorrow, we will focus our efforts on bringing a new leadership to Israel," he declared. But the fact that one in every four Likud voters backed Feiglin means the internal contest is far from over.

If Feiglin is able to control a large segment of the party, the Likud will be forced much further to the right than Netanyahu would like. The end result would likely be a party with a radical right-wing image that most Israelis would not be comfortable with and, more importantly, with a new internal balance of power, in which party leaders and Knesset hopefuls would have to deal with and in some cases defer to Feiglin and his extremist ideology.

"If people need Feiglin's votes to get into the Knesset, the Likud leadership will start speaking Feiglinish. And if it speaks Feiglinish, that will reduce Netanyahu's chances of being prime minister," wrote Nahum Barnea, senior political analyst for the mass circulation daily *Yediot Achronot*.

Feiglin burst onto the political scene in the mid-1990s as one of the leaders of Zo Artzeinu, a protest group determined to block the Oslo peace process. One of his tactics was to stage mass sitdowns on major Israeli highways, bringing traffic to a stop across the nation. He was arrested and convicted of sedition, for which he spent six months in jail.

In 1998, after then-prime minister Netanyahu signed the Wye River agreements with the Palestinians, ostensibly continuing the Oslo process, Feiglin formed "Jewish Leadership," a radical ideological group that advocates holding on to all of the land of Israel, encouraging non-Jews to emigrate, denying Arabs the right to serve in the Knesset, weakening the Supreme Court, pulling Israel out of the United Nations, establishing a leadership of religious believers and creating a "more Jewish" Israel. Feiglin called it a profound expression of the Jewish spirit; his critics denounced it as a form of Jewish fascism.

In 1999, Feiglin played his master-stroke: the movement's members, nearly all Orthodox settlers, joined the Likud en bloc. Aware that an extremist movement of the type he led stood no chance on its own, Feiglin planned to take over a large established right-tending Israeli party from the inside. If successful, he argued, he could even become prime minister.

His progress has been rapid: In the 2002 leadership primary, he polled only three per cent of the party vote; in 2005, 13 per cent; and, now in 2007, more than 23 per cent. Many concerned Likudniks have likened Feiglin's activities in the party to a "hostile takeover."

Netanyahu is well aware of the danger. A few years ago, he was not averse to making deals with Feiglin to embarrass then-party leader Ariel Sharon. Now he is doing all he can to keep the right-wing radicals at arm's length. During his victory speech he gave orders to keep Feiglin and his supporters out of the hall.

Likud authorities have tried to clip Feiglin's wings in the past. In the run-up to the last Knesset election, they passed a regulation to prevent him from appearing on the party's Knesset slate. It stated that anyone who had spent time in jail in the past seven years could not run on the party ticket. Feiglin's jail term for his Zo Artzeinu activities ruled him out.

Now Netanyahu is looking for legal grounds to expel Feiglin and the entire Jewish Leadership group. One possibility would be their support for Israeli soldiers refusing to evacuate settlers, which contradicts the Likud's blanket opposition to refusal. Another is the fact that in the last Knesset election, many of the Jewish Leadership people, although registered members of the Likud, did not vote Likud. In some predominantly Jewish Leadership settlements with well over 100 Likud members, only a handful actually voted for the party.

The Likud, badly hurt by Sharon's breakaway to form the centrist Kadima party in November 2005, won only 12 Knesset seats in the March 2006 Knesset election. But a number of major developments that year restored the Likud's political fortunes: the rocket fire on nearby Israeli towns and villages following the withdrawal from Gaza; the eventual takeover of Gaza by Hamas, and Olmert's poor performance in last summer's war with the Hezbollah in Lebanon. All three developments served to undermine Kadima and make Netanyahu the favourite to win the next election.

Moshe Feiglin

[Israenet photo]

That is until Ehud Barak's election as Labor party leader in July and Feiglin's high-profile performance in the subsequent Likud vote. Where a few months ago polls had Netanyahu well ahead of any rival for prime minister, now he trails both Barak and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, should she take over from Olmert as Kadima leader. In a three-way race, a recent poll had Barak at 32 per cent, Netanyahu at 30 per cent and Olmert finishing last with just 5 per cent. But if Livni becomes the Kadima candidate, she polls 29 per cent, with Barak and Netanyahu both trailing at 24 per cent.

What these figures show is the vital importance of the centrist vote. And if Netanyahu hopes to win his way back into the Prime Minister's Office, he will have to find a way to get free of Feiglin.

Anti-boycott reaction expected

Organized attempts to boycott Israeli academics and the institutions that employ them were first seen in 2002. At the time, two British professors, and the signatories to their petition, called – unsuccessfully – for the European Union to refuse travel and research grants to Israeli applicants, "given Israel's attitude toward the Palestinians."

Lawrence Hart
in Hamilton

Then, in May 2003, a motion promoting an academic boycott against Israel was endorsed by about one-third of eligible voters at the annual meeting of Britain's Association of University Teachers (AUT). By April 2005, AUT's appetite for censuring Israelis had grown, enabling their executive to push through a resolution to boycott Haifa and Bar Ilan universities. However, within just one month, opposition to the association's action became so intense that plans for ongoing sanctions were abandoned.

What distinguishes the current proposed boycott from its predecessors is its relative longevity. Spawned by delegates at a conference of the University and College Union (UCU) in Bournemouth, England, at the end of May, it appears that the UCU governing council may be willing to stay the course even in the face of unprecedented protests both from within the academic community and outside of it.

On Aug. 8, a full page advertisement appeared in the *New York Times*, listing the names of the presidents of 286 American colleges and universities who had come out publicly against the UCU action.

In addition, more than 11,000 academics from around the world have signed an on-line petition, declaring that they would "decline to participate in any activity from which Israeli academics are excluded".

Here in Canada, an initiative to encourage our university leadership to express opposition to the boycott has been remarkably effective. To date, the presidents of 24 universities have issued strongly worded statements, many of them focusing generically on the obvious threats to academic freedoms that are so intertwined with the UCU's boycott demands.

But notwithstanding the principled stances already adopted by the heads of academe in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere, the real test of the anti-boycott movement's backbone will come in early September, when schools reopen after their summer vacations.

Already the Coalition against Racial and Ethnic Discrimination at Queen's University has accused university principal, Karen Hitchcock, of "hypocrisy" for denouncing the boycott, while at McMaster University, president Peter George has been similarly criticized by the group McMaster Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR).

Much more of this should be expected once the usual anti-Israel groups on campus regain their momentum, which they almost certainly will. It will then be up to faculty and students who recognize the idiocy of the boycott call to take a meaningful stand against it – and for university presidents to maintain their resolve and boldly defend the positions they've so recently articulated.

U.K. boycotters ignore facts – and people – on the ground

Nearly 300 American university presidents recently took a bold stand in stating their opposition to the vote by the British University and College Union to urge its members to consider a boycott of Israeli academic institutions.

In a recent ad sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, these university leaders not only threw their support behind their sister institutions in Israel, but they did so by telling their counterparts in Britain that "if you discriminate against Israeli academics, then you effectively discriminate against us."

Nancy Falchuk
in New York

Much has already been said on both sides about the tactics of boycotting Israeli academic institutions. But the one element that has been missing from the debate is the sheer irony of marginalizing and ostracizing those on the ground in Israel who are the only people in the world with the ability to change the situation for the better.

The Hadassah Medical Organization, founded and funded by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is an academic centre in Jerusalem that consists of two hospitals and, together with Hebrew University, runs five academic medical schools. Our university medical institution not only teaches our medical professionals the tools of their trade, they teach them its ethics.

They did not let politics onto our premises when we saved lives of Palestinian suicide bombers who were injured while assassinating hundreds of Israelis during the two intifadahs. They do not let politics in the door when they save lives of Palestinian babies with severe heart defects. They ignore politics when they conduct numerous collaborative research and clinical projects with Palestinian physicians and other health professionals in a variety of medical and health areas.

Hadassah considers it our mission to serve as a bridge to peace by forging links between people of all nationalities, races and religions who come through our doors for healing. Here are just a few ways our teaching hospitals do that:

- The Hadassah Medical Organization has committed itself to train staff and provide expertise to assure appropriate quality oncology services at the Augusta Victoria Hospital, a Palestinian hospital that is developing a cancer center to serve patients from the West Bank and Gaza.
- Some 30 physicians from the West Bank have already completed ongoing training at Hadassah to provide improved medical care in their villages.
- Hadassah has been working to improve trauma care in the region and to improve communications between trauma care professionals by knowing each other as individuals.

Any decision to boycott Israeli academia would include Hadassah, and all its medical and research personnel. These are not just Israeli Jews and Arabs, but Palestinian physicians, nurses, social workers and other health professionals who work at Hadassah and consider it their professional home.

A boycott by the British Academic Union would mean blackballing the small, but real, steps the Hadassah Medical Organization makes every day toward peace in the region.

And Hadassah is not unique: there is not an Israeli teaching hospital that does not do the same.

Just as 300 American universities proudly identify with their colleagues in Israel, the medical and educational personnel at Hadassah Medical Organization identify with their Palestinian partners with whom they collaborate. We strongly urge the members of the British University and College Union to do what academics should do: closely examine the facts, then make an informed decision. We believe if they do so, they will drop their damaging actions and join the family of those who work with each other and empathize with each other to heal the Middle East and the world.

Nancy Falchuk is national president of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

The sabbatical year in Israel

After spending more than 25 years as an Israeli, with the constant pressures and tensions, I find that it's sometimes necessary to take a step back and remember what we – as Jews – are doing here. Watching the news and listening to the obsessive focus on the conflict, the joys of daily life, particularly in Jerusalem, are often neglected or forgotten.

Gerald Steinberg
in Jerusalem

The yearly cycle of holidays provides us with the opportunity do to just that. Every year, at the beginning of the month of Elul in the Jewish calendar, the preparations for Rosh Hashanah and the High Holy Days start in earnest. In many neighbourhoods, you can hear the sound of shofar practice after morning services, a harbinger of the upcoming days of reckoning.

Next year – 5768 in the Jewish calendar – is also the seventh of the seven-year agricultural cycle in the Bible, when, in theory, the fields in the Land of Israel are not worked, and the produce that grows unattended, is to be shared equally among all. During the many generations and centuries of exile, this commandment was simply a historical relic, a reminder of the vulnerability and dependence of the human condition. In modern times, the symbolism of the sabbatical year (shmittah) is also a central element of Jewish environmentalism.

But now, with the revival of Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel, the shmittah year has become a real issue. To live as a free people in our ancient homeland means deciding how to relate to the commandments and practices that have been dormant for so long. Since the beginnings of the Zionist movement and the resettlement of the Land, shmittah has one of the most complex religious, philosophical and economic issues that religious Israelis wrestle with. These discussions and debates dominate the pre-Rosh Hashanah agenda in Jerusalem and elsewhere. It's one of the privileges and joys of being an Israeli.

More than 80 years ago, as Jewish agriculture expanded in Israel, the rabbis agreed that it was impractical to follow the letter of the law and let the fields lie fallow for a year. One solution was to adapt the practice used before Passover, by using a framework of fictitious sales of the fields to non-Jews, so that growing food during the year would not be a technical violation of religious law. Another approach was to import fruits and vegetables from Arabs in the region for the year.

But both "solutions" are inconsistent with Zionism, and violate the environmental and social principles behind shmittah. Indeed, selling the land to non-Jews, or being dependent on them for food, even as a fictitious detour to get around the letter of the law, is precisely the opposite of the core values of Jewish sovereignty.

As a result, many religious (or traditional) Israelis are examining alternative approaches to return to the original purpose, and avoid working (as well as selling) the land during the sabbatical year. Reviving the ancient custom, a national group is signing up kibbutzim and other producers to provide their harvest from seeds planted before Rosh Hashanah and their perennial produce (from fruit trees and similar crops) to co-operative markets, in exchange for modest payment for working as officers of the co-op. The produce, in turn, will be made available to families who have signed up and purchased "shares" in the co-operative framework. Prices will be fixed and volume allocated on the basis of need.

This is a limited solution, and will have to be supplemented by crops from the Golan Heights, Jordan Valley and other areas traditionally exempted from the biblical boundaries, as well as imports. (Most of the wheat and other grains are imported from abroad anyway.) But the important result is to revive the religious, environmental, social and economic principles behind the concept of a sabbatical year in modern Israel.

Shanah tovah.

The Kirshner File

A year after the Second Lebanon War

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Say what you will about his political motives, but Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's recent assertion that the Second Lebanon War restored quiet to Israel's northern border is really true. Olmert, of course, had reason to put a positive spin on things. Last spring, the Winograd Commission issued a scathing interim report about his government's less than stellar handling of the 34-day war, which pitted Israel against Hezbollah and, much to Israel's frustration and concern, ended on an inconclusive note.

It is clear that the conflict – which cost Israel 119 military and civilian casualties, inflicted property damage running into the hundreds of millions of dollars, possibly eroded its deterrent capability and probably emboldened enemies such as Iran and Syria – damaged Olmert.

Yet a year to the month after the Israeli and Lebanese governments agreed to observe United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which was unanimously adopted on Aug. 14, 2006, Israel's heretofore volatile border with Lebanon has been stabilized.

With Hezbollah having been pushed to positions north of the Litani River and no longer maintaining a line of fortified bunkers and posts along the border for the first time since Israel unilaterally pulled out of its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon in May 2000, the residents of northern Galilee can breathe easier.

Add to that the fact that the vacuum has been filled by the Lebanese army and the United Nations' peacekeeping force, UNIFIL. Acting under international pressure, Lebanon now deploys 15,000 troops, while UNIFIL, which has been patrolling the frontier area since Israel's mini-invasion in 1978 (Operation Litani), currently has 13,000 men under arms in a supporting role.

Neither the Lebanese army nor UNIFIL actually enforces the security measures in Resolution 1701, as the Israel Intelligence Heritage and Commemoration Center noted in a report released this month. The region immediately north of the Israeli border has not been demilitarized and Hezbollah still maintains an unobtrusive presence.

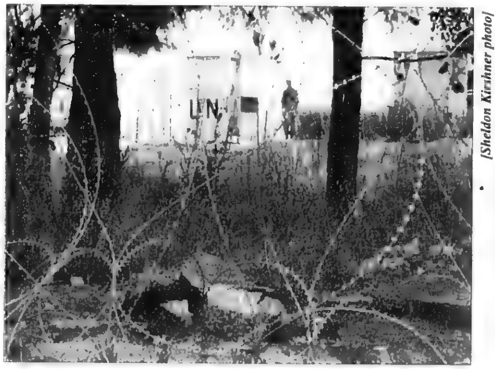
Nonetheless, Hezbollah has not launched a single attack, not even in disputed Shebaa Farms, since last year's truce went into effect. Hezbollah's year-long abstinence is unprecedented, but real peace has yet to be achieved. There was a minor clash between the Israeli and Lebanese armies last February, and a roadside bombing killed six members of a UNIFIL patrol more than two months ago. And this past June, unidentified terrorists fired 107 mm rockets into Israel that landed in Kiryat Shemona, causing property damage. Significantly enough, Hezbollah denied any involvement in the attack. Some observers claimed that it was the work of Al Qaeda's surrogate in Lebanon, Fatah al-Islam, which has fought fierce battles with the Lebanese army in the north of the country.

Prior to last summer's war, Hezbollah irregularly attacked Israeli forces in Shebaa Farms, which the United Nations described as Syrian territory but which Hezbollah insists is Lebanese. In attacking Israel to highlight Lebanon's claim to Shebaa Farms, Hezbollah shelled army outposts, fired at patrols and at reconnaissance aircraft and tried to kidnap soldiers. Israeli casualties were minimal compared to the period before Israel's unilateral withdrawal from southern Lebanon. On average since its 1982 invasion of Lebanon, Israel lost about 20 soldiers per year in combat situations, while losing less than a dozen from May 2000 to June 2006.

Recently, Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, who claims that Hezbollah scored a "divine victory" in last year's war, announced that he has no interest in engaging Israel in another round of warfare. But he warned that nasty "surprises" await Israel should a war break again and boasted that Hezbollah, which hit Israeli urban centres as far south as the outskirts of Hadera, has the ability to strike any city or town in Israel. As he put it, "Even in the months of July and August 2006, there was not one place in occupied Palestine that we could not reach. I stress that we can do this today as well."

Israeli army officers on the northern front share the assessment that Hezbollah is content with the status quo, at least for the present. According to observers, Hezbollah – which lost about 650 of its fighters during the war, according to Israeli estimates – needs tranquillity to rehabilitate its forces without interference from Israel, the Lebanese army and UNIFIL. In addition, Hezbollah prefers to focus on its current struggle with the pro-western Lebanese government led by Prime Minister Fuad Siniora. Hezbollah, backed by Syria and Iran, wants greater influence in the affairs of state, but Siniora is balking, and the impasse has concentrated minds in Hezbollah's leadership.

Yet Hezbollah is quietly rebuilding on all fronts. Last spring, Hezbollah's deputy secretary general, Naim Kassem, admitted that Hezbollah is rearming. Around the same time, Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi – who succeeded Gen. Dan Halutz as chief of staff of the Israeli armed forces following last year's war – said that Hezbollah is trying to restore its prewar capabilities and arsenal.



United Nations peacekeeping observation post in Lebanon, as seen from a road in northern Israel

[Sheldon Kirshner photo]

On the eve of the war, Hezbollah had more than 20,000 Syrian and Iranian-made rockets of various ranges. Israel destroyed hundreds, if not thousands, of them, but now believes that Hezbollah has replenished its stocks.

The resupply effort has reportedly been undertaken by Syria and Iran in direct contravention of UN Resolution 1701. It is possible that Hezbollah has also received Iranian missiles that supposedly can penetrate the armour plating on Israel's Merkava tanks.

Last March, reacting to reports that weapons have reached Hezbollah through the Syrian border, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said, "Such transfers are alleged to be taking place on a regular basis." As a result, the UN sent a team to Lebanon to investigate, and Ban called for the full implementation of Resolution 1701.

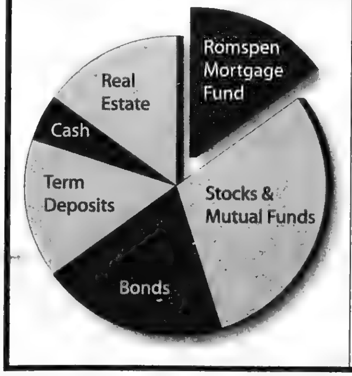
On June 26, Ban, having received the findings of the inspection team, said that Lebanon's border with Syria is completely porous and open to the smuggling of weapons and other goods. He urged Damascus to stop the traffic in illegal arms.

To no one's surprise, Syria denies the charge. But the United States – which has accused President Bashar Assad's Baathist regime of gross interference in Lebanon and permitting anti-American insurgents to cross into Iraq from Syrian territory – is convinced that there is clear evidence of arms smuggling across the Syrian border.

Gen. Yossi Baidatz, the head of the research division of Israeli military intelligence, claims that Hezbollah is rebuilding its forces south of the Litani River. The UNIFIL commander, Gen. Claudio Graziano, has dismissed the claim, saying that Hezbollah has not rebuilt its military infrastructure there. Amid the uncertainty, the *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper published a story in a recent edition claiming that Hezbollah, in an attempt to improve its capabilities, has purchased large plots of land north of the Litani River, where its operatives are undisturbed by the Lebanese army or UNIFIL.

In light of these developments, Israel pressed for new rules of engagement so that UNIFIL would be granted permission to take a more proactive role against Hezbollah and expand its field of operations from open areas to cities and towns.

Since the Lebanese government was staunchly opposed to the idea, UNIFIL was not given such authority. Israel relented, having been informed that neither the United States nor France supported its proposal. This may come back to haunt Israel.



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Kids 'should be happy,' new principal says

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Howard Laderman may be, as he puts it, a "tie guy" who likes to wear suits, but the new principal of Leo Baeck Day School's northern campus in Thornhill believes that his job should be fun and that students at the school should be having fun, too.

"Every time a kid walks out of school at the end of the day, they should be happy, celebrating the things they learned and the friendships they made," he said in an interview last week in his new office. Laderman, who will be 57 on Sept. 7, retired earlier this year from the Toronto District School Board, where he served most recently as principal of Samuel Hearne Senior Public School in Scarborough. He takes over his new position from Jan Lapedus, who has retired.

Laderman, a Toronto native who attended Cedarvale Public School and Northern Secondary School, says that being at the Reform day school is opening the door for him to get back to his Jewish roots (he grew up at Beth Sholom Synagogue) and also to take on new challenges.

After he earned his undergraduate degree in urban studies and geography from York University, his wife Heather (then his wife-to-be) suggested that he follow in her footsteps and become a teacher, because of a dearth of jobs in his field.

Once Laderman started his B.Ed. studies at the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, "the bug hit me" and he found he had an aptitude for teaching.

In 1984, he received his master's degree in education from Niagara University in Niagara Falls, NY., and four years later, after receiving his principal's qualifications from York University, he made the switch from classroom teacher to school administrator.

Laderman describes his administrative style as easygoing. He believes in creating a "warm, welcoming family environment" and an atmosphere of trust among staff and students alike.

He believes in creating a warm, welcoming family environment

At the same time, he believes in setting "high standards for everybody, especially myself. I try to model the behaviour I want from the kids." He also believes that active listening promotes understanding. "I believe that in partnership you can move forward."

As well, he favours "a lot of direct interaction" with students.

Among the photos decorating his office are some shots taken when he left Toronto's Duke of Connaught Junior and Senior Public School three years ago. They show a multi-cultural group of about 1,000 smiling kids, holding large placards that spell out, "We love you, Howard."

"That was my goodbye present," he recalls.

Howard Laderman

At Leo Baeck, which has 500 students at Laderman's branch, he plans to become involved as quickly as possible in as many areas as possible. "I plan to be very visible out in the halls, in the classrooms, at board meetings, sporting events and parents' association meetings, and I plan to be very accessible," he said.

He also plans to be a "supporter and driving force" behind the school's International Baccalaureate program. Last year, the school was accepted as a prospective member of the International Baccalaureate Organization for its middle years program, the beginning of a process of full certification by the prestigious organization.

"I'm coming in to build upon the history of this school and take it where the director [David Prashker] wants to go."

Outside of school, the father of two grown children is involved in diverse endeavours, too.

He has managed youth hockey and soccer teams, and, more recently, has become involved with a congregation in Ajax. A woodworker who has made and sold more than three dozen rocking horses and about 75 mailboxes, Laderman is also into photography, writing, drawing and painting, and playing the drums.

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Shaarei Shomayim welcomes new cantor

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation's new cantor, Abraham Sultan, is also an ordained rabbi, not to mention a mohel and shochet.

But don't call him "Rabbi Sultan" at the shul. "I'm here to work together [with the rabbi] as a team," he said in an interview at the synagogue in late July.

The Modern Orthodox congregation is still in transition following the departure of Rabbi Moshe Shulman earlier this summer for a pulpit in St. Louis. Rabbi Asher Vale – a teacher at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and director of Toronto's Orthodox beit din – is serving as interim rabbi.

Cantor Abraham Sultan

Sultan, a 38-year-old native of Rabat, Morocco, who immigrated to Canada with his family at age five and grew up in Montreal, joined the synagogue in April on a part-time basis, and took on full-time duties at the beginning of July. He is the only staff cantor at a Toronto Orthodox synagogue and will be welcomed officially, along with his family, at a celebratory Shabbat the weekend of Sept. 7.

Like his predecessor, Yaakov Motzen, Sultan comes to Toronto from Montreal's Adath Israel Poale Zedek. Sultan spent the past decade as cantor of the Montreal congregation, served as a hospital chaplain and taught high school Judaic studies at École Maïmonide. The multi-lingual cantor – who speaks French, English Hebrew, Spanish, Yiddish and Moroccan Arabic – has also served congregations in Malaga, Caracas, San Francisco and Jerusalem, where he was ordained.

The father of four boys ranging in age from seven to 13, Sultan received a BA in rabbinics and education from the now-defunct Yeshivat Midrash Sepharadi, which served both Ashkenazi and Sephardi students in Israel.

He started his career in Venezuela as assistant rabbi of the Caracas Sephardi community, head of the local kashrut organization, and cantor.

It wasn't until after he left the position because of unrest in the country that he met his Venezuelan-born wife Raquel, a preschool educator who will be teaching at Netivot HaTorah Day School this year. She was a classmate of Sultan's sister in Montreal.

At Shaarei Shomayim, the cantor believes that his role is not just to perform and serve as shaliach tzibur (messenger of the congregation), but to have a relationship with the congregational community. He favours congregational singing and says it's important to maintain the synagogue's established nusach, the basic melodies used in chanting the prayers.

However, when he sees a diverse group of worshippers, he tries to offer a "candy" to everyone, in the form of a tune they will recognize and appreciate.

"I think a cantor brings people closer to Judaism, because when you sing, you touch the heart."

Sultan, a lyric tenor who began his singing career as a child in the choir of Montreal's Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue, became a chazzan to perpetuate the legacy of his late grandfather, also Abraham Sultan, who was a cantor, rabbi, mohel and sofer (scribe) in Morocco. Sultan's father, who stepped in as breadwinner when his own father died, had dreamed of having a son who would become a cantor.

Years ago, when Sultan was a student in Israel, he was approached by an elderly man after davening at a local synagogue. The man said to him, "In my hometown, there was a friend of mine, Rabbi Abraham Sultan, and your voice reminds me of his."

Sultan called his father in Montreal as soon as Shabbat was over to share the emotional experience with him.

Now, at Shaarei Shomayim, the cantor is talking about instituting a monthly Friday night Carlebach-style service, like the one planned for Sept. 7.

"The greatness of Carlebach is that it's easy tunes, and if you don't know the words, you can just join in, say "ay, ay, ay" and "la, la, la, la… I think it's a great experience. It's very nice and warm."

Services should be "a great experience, an uplifting experience," he believes. They have to "flow, and finish not too late."

His goal for the upcoming High Holy Days is to finish Rosh Hashanah services by 1:15 p.m. As well, he is organizing a one-hour Rosh Hashanah afternoon service – "free, fast, fun" – on the second day of the holiday. It will be open to the community and will feature selected prayers and tunes, shofar-blowing and explanation of the prayers and rituals.

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RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

By RABBI ALAN W. BRIGHT

With the release this summer of the film *A Mighty Heart*, I was reminded once again of the final words of Daniel Pearl. Pearl, a respected journalist, was taken prisoner and brutally murdered by Al Qaeda in Pakistan. While his murder was a heinous and tragic act of anti-Semitism, his final words were a beautiful and powerful articulation of Jewish identity and Jewish pride. His words were, "My father is Jewish, my mother is Jewish, and I am Jewish." As we move into a new year, it's an appropriate time to examine what it means to say "I am Jewish."

While Pearl's murder may cause some to see the fragility of Jewish existence, I am not worried about the survival of Jews and Judaism. There will always be Jews. I am not concerned that we will die out, but rather that we will become irrelevant. Fewer Jews means that Judaism will have less of an impact on a world increasingly devoid of enduring values.

The Jewish people really shouldn't be here. We are so small, and we've been killed, expelled, marginalized and restricted. We could have passed from history without leaving a trace. We could have muddled our way through centuries without creating a treasure of Jewish literature and law. We could have survived without creating cures for many diseases. We could have could have played no role in communications, no role in the entertainment industry. Instead, we helped make our world a better place.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once wrote, "The modern Jew is a messenger who forgot his message." The implication is that if we as Jews have forgotten who we are and why we are here, our survival as a people is meaningless. When we understand that we are messengers with a message, we will recognize that the question "Why be Jewish" and the question of how we can improve the quality of our Jewish lives are much more important than whether we survive.

In the past, we concentrated on how to fight anti-Semitism, how to rescue persecuted Jews, how to feed and clothe the poor, and how to gain political support for Israel. Our work in these areas is by no means done, yet these issues cannot be the foundation of our Jewish lives.

The philosopher Nietzsche noted, "He who has a why to live can bear any how." Our major problem is that many Jews lack the "why." If we want there to be another generation of Jews to fight anti-Semitism and support Israel, we had better teach our children why they should even bother leading Jewish lives.

Why be Jewish? Because the Jewish people has a sacred mission to "repair the world under God's rule." Because we as Jews are bidden to be a "light unto the nations." Because if we allow it to, Judaism can fill our lives with a holiness, a meaning, a joy that is attainable through religious observance and attaching ourselves to the rhythms of Jewish life.

Judaism has distinctive values that, when communicated to the world, reduce human suffering and help to extinguish evil. Judaism can teach us spiritual moral mindfulness, a way of living in this world that promotes joy inside us and encourages ethical actions and social justice. Living a Jewish life means joining a cause that is greater than ourselves. It means contributing to the betterment of the world. It means, as Rabbi David Wolpe writes, "Our true task is to draw the powers of goodness to the world."

Judaism is tied to the past, but it's also deeply concerned about what kind of future we will leave for future generations. If we connect ourselves and our children with faith, practice and tradition, and with confidence and faith in our ability to transmit a culture, religion and tradition that gives us optimism, virtues and vision, we will create a Judaism that looks to the future with hope and determination.

We need to embrace Judaism not just for what it can do for us, but for what it can do for all humanity. Daniel Pearl's final declaration "I am Jewish" was not just a statement of personal identity, it was also a statement of personal responsibility.

I pray that not only do we enjoy a Shanah Tovah Umetukah, a good and sweet new year, but a year in which we move the world closer to redemption.

Rabbi Alan Bright is spiritual leader of Shaare Zedek Congregation in Montreal.

Questions of the season

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

Our lives don't follow a straight line. They turn and then turn again. This re-turn – known in Jewish tradition as tshuvah, also translated as repentance – plays out ritually and halachically in Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The two holidays, so close together in the calendar, are quite different in temperament and symbolism. Rosh Hashanah celebrates beginnings. In the words of the liturgy, it is "the birthday of the world" and also the first day of the Jewish year. It marks a new beginning for our emotional selves and our connectedness to the divine. (It is also, incidentally, around the time when children return to the classroom). We learn on this day that memory is a prerequisite to future imaginings. The Yom Hazikaron, or Day of Remembrance, teaches us that if we can become clear about our origins and hence our life purpose and mission, we can move forward. To be without grounding is to walk on air and, ultimately, to fall.

Yom Kippur, the Day of "At-One-Ment", although it reminds us of the past, of the glorious Temple service of the Kohen HaGadol, is essentially rooted in a vision of the end, that is, the day of our deaths. It's not an accident that we are commanded to wear a shroud (kittel), to refrain from physical necessities (eating, drinking, bathing, sexuality), and to meditate on our shadow-like existence on earth. Death and the possibility of immortality through cultivation of the soul and the admission of our failings are the persistent threads woven through this day.

Judaism, and Jewish education, should be about good questions as much as efficient answers. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur offer up questions of their own that beckon to all who wish to hear and engage with them. Who am I? What is my ultimate value? How should I live my life, both in terms of my personal goals and in my interactions with others? What do I need to know to live successfully? Where do I start? Where does God fit in? Is a spiritual life possible amid the flurry of material strivings and distractions in my hurried and somewhat off-kilter schedule? Can I stop long enough in my endless turnings to plot a straight and true line towards my destiny? Where will I find the will, the courage, the grace to stay focused on that line? Who hinders me in this process? How do I repent of what I have done, my mistakes, my ill-considered decisions, my lazy deflections of reality, my wounded attacks on others? Where do I begin to look for the entranceway to the gate of repentance? Who can help me step over that threshold? What do I fear? Can I convert my inner dissatisfaction, my longstanding ennui, into energy and determination for the new life I want?

The Yamim Nora'im are about that long return from exile and existential loneliness toward the divine being whom we reach for tentatively, haltingly, to revive us from our living deaths.

As Rainer Maria Rilke writes: "We are all falling. This hand's falling too/all have this falling sickness none withstands/And yet there's always One whose gentle hands/this universal falling can't fall through."

Judaism and the environment

***The Creation* by E.O. Wilson, W.H. Norton & Company.**

Books

Bernard Baskin

Ecology is an urgent and immediate concern. But this many-sided problem isn't new – it goes back to biblical times. The need to protect the environment was clearly perceived by early Jewish legislators.

Biblical society was based on agriculture. Its ecological problem was to protect the soil against depletion at a time when artificial fertilizers and chemical soil enrichment were unknown. The laws for the sabbatical year (shmittah) were an ecological measure intended to provide "rest" and recovery for the soil.

"When you come into the land which I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord. Six years you shall sow your fields, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit. But in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath for the Lord; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit. What grows of itself as a harvest you shall not reap, and the grapes of your undressed vine you shall not gather; it shall be a year of solemn rest for the land." (Leviticus 25:2-5)

Ecologists deplore the global implications of defoliation in war and its dire consequences. The biblical law prohibits the destruction of trees.

"When you besiege a city for a long time, making war against it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an axe against them; you shall not cut them down. Are the trees of the field men that they should be besieged by you? Only the trees which you know are not trees for food you may cut down that you may build siegeworks against the city that makes war with you, until it falls." (Deuteronomy 20:19)

The rabbis of the Talmud prohibited destroying or wasting anything that is useful and needed for sustaining life, especially diverting water (rivers, springs, etc.) in war or for private business.

In the Middle Ages and far into modern times, the streets of cities and towns were putrid with human waste poured into the gutters. This was not the case in the Jewish ghettos where the "anti-pollution" laws based on Deuteronomy 23:10 were observed.

The urgency of conserving the limited resources of our planet is now a matter of life and death – and so is the protection of our environment, including the stratosphere. The Jewish tradition has nothing of a technological nature to offer to the solution of these problems; however, it has stated them, defined them, and provides the ethical rational for ecology.

E.O. Wilson, the author of this slim volume, is a world-renowned evolutionary biologist. Unlike his many previous books that were addressed largely to fellow environmentalists, *The Creation* is a persuasive plea to religious-minded members of the community.

Wilson points out that half of all known species – "from the glorious tigers and elephants to the lowlier little things that run the world" – could be gone forever by the end of this century. There will be no lions left to lie down with the lambs.

Wilson insists that this baleful outlook should be recognized by religious leaders of every stripe and brought home to their congregants. He stresses that to protect the beauty of the earth and its prodigious variety of life forms should be a common goal regardless of differing religious beliefs.

A feature of this book is its emphasis on how to teach the love of nature, the basic elements of biology and the dangers to our environment to young and eager minds – the inheritors of the future.

This wise and timely work attempts to reach out to all concerned persons. His message is clear and urgent. "However science and religion wax and wane in the minds of men, there remains the earthborn, yet transcendental, obligation we are both morally bound to share."

Shmittah: a year of fallow fields

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish Highway

"You may plant your land for six years and gather its crops. But during the seventh year, you must leave it alone and withdraw from it." (Exodus 23:10-11) **[tinyurl.com/3y95lf]**

Sound simple? Not quite. Every seven years, residents of Israel are faced with a slew of restrictions based on the biblical commandment to leave the land fallow. As we mark the start of the Jewish New Year 5768 in a few weeks, we also usher in the shmittah year. Shmittah will have an impact on Israeli farmers, the country's economy, and on the eating habits of the followers of this commandment.

The restrictions are wide-ranging, complicated and controversial. Here are just three examples.

- Most watering, fertilizing, weeding and other essential field work are forbidden both commercially and at home.
- Produce that grows on its own may be eaten but cannot be sold.
- Shmittah produce must be treated with a level of sanctity. If a fruit cannot be entirely eaten, there are guidelines for how it may be disposed of. **[tinyurl.com/2hcvsc]** (If you have any questions about the observance of shmittah, please consult your rabbi.)

Because of the economic implications to the agricultural industry, rabbis granted certain leniencies in the early days of Zionism. Since shmittah restrictions apply only to Jewish-owned land within the biblical boundaries of the Land of Israel, farms were temporarily "sold" to non-Jews to allow farming. **[tinyurl.com/2698yc]** Those leniencies are not universally accepted and have come under fire on both religious and nationalistic grounds. Others continue to defend them today. **[tinyurl.com/32wdr9]**

Although shmittah has huge implications today, years ago it was more of a curiosity. In 1951, the State of Israel was marking its first shmittah and *Time* magazine described ceremonies as the year ended. "Pilgrims… cried out in jubilation, dancing and clapping their hands… The next morning Orthodox farmers went out to the land once more to plow their weed-choked fields… There were relatively few of them who had made the sacrifice which the Law called for. Israeli government statisticians estimated the total loss in produce at less than £30,000 ($84,000 US)." **[tinyurl.com/26v9rr]**

Dov Weiss remembers that year well. In The Seventh Year, he tells what it was like to farm – actually, to not farm – on his moshav that shmittah year. The real challenge facing them came at year's end when they had trouble finding wheat seed for the new crop. When they finally did, they couldn't get it sown until November. But because of that year's late rains, the moshav's wheat thrived, while neighbouring farms sprouted only small, weak crops. **[tinyurl.com/239uvr]**

But why all these rules? And why in the 21st century? Rabbi Asher Meir says it reminds us that "man is not the master of the world nor the source of blessing; God is. Our sabbatical rest, like our Shabbat rest, gives us a break from productive activity to remind ourselves that we are not in control. Shmittah is a lesson in Divine providence." **[besr.org/library/shemitta.html]**

Rabbi Zalman Posner adds, "This is a difficult test, undramatic, there is no heroic martyrdom involved. There is no reason for its fulfillment but faith in God, and without faith, its fulfillment is impossible." **[tinyurl.com/yo4oc5]** Rabbi Moshe Bryski puts it succinctly, "Gut-check time can happen in the office, at the bank or in the supermarket." **[tinyurl.com/ys4yaq]**

As the shmittah year approaches, stories have been popping up about how an Israeli market is looking to other sources to fill its supermarkets, including importing food from Cyprus **[tinyurl.com/3d8kax]**, Jordan **[tinyurl.com/2vm5qx]** and even Gaza. **[tinyurl.com/2p42f6]** For the latest on shmittah in the news, go to the following link. **[tinyurl.com/2pe3es]**

So where does all this leave you? As mentioned in this column, there are no restrictions on planting, pruning and growing outside the borders of Israel. At the same time, there is no way for Jews outside Israel to merit from fulfilling the mitzvah of shmittah – until now. The organization Shomrei Shvi't is offering for sale small tracts of land that will lie fallow during the upcoming year. For the sum of $180 (US), you can purchase one year's ownership of a plot 1.35 metres square – in which absolutely nothing will happen. **[shviit.com]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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50-year reunion for Harbord Collegiate grads

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Students who attended Harbord Collegiate Institute between 1952 and 1957 are gearing up for the school's 50th anniversary reunion on Oct. 13.

The school, built in 1892, boasted a 95 per cent Jewish population 50 years ago. Even as families began to move north, many students stayed at their beloved downtown high school.

"There were just so many people who left their hearts at Harbord," said Carol (Davis) Bloom, one of the event organizers.

Bloom has stayed in touch with about 10 people from her 1957 graduating class of approximately 110. She is part of a group of women who have met every Monday night for the past 50 years.

"We were close then, and we're close now. We've gone through the whole life cycle – a couple of life cycles, actually. It started out as a bridge group," Davis explained, but conversation always overrode the game.

"We haven't taken the cards out in 48 years," she said.

Bernie Liebgott, another event organizer, remembers Harbord as special because of the connection between the Jewish students.

"It was a crazy time. We had just come from public schools where we had to do the Lord's Prayer every day, we had to read the Bible… at Harbord they didn't do those things," he said of his own experience.

The kinship the Jewish students felt was really evident at "the Y" – now the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre. It was the hub of social activity, said Liebgott, a professor in the University of Toronto's faculty of medicine.

> ***School was 'the greatest experience that anybody could ever have'***

At school, students, mostly first-generation Canadians, would speak Yiddish in the halls so that the mainly gentile staff wouldn't understand, he said.

"Things were a little bit tense," he said of the teachers. "You'd get the odd remark about 'our people,' that sort of thing, but mostly they were fair. It was a different time. Teachers could indulge in corporal punishment," Liebgott said.

"The fact that [the teachers] weren't Jewish was never an issue. It just didn't matter," said grad Martin Goldfarb.

"The Jewish holidays were sacrosanct. The school was open, but nothing happened 90 per cent of the time."

Goldfarb, a principal at Goldfarb Intelligence Marketing, CEO of Goldfarb Corporation and member of the Order of Canada, said Harbord was more of a club than a school.

"Students understood each other and knew each other. Most of them were Jewish. You had this innate understanding of our values and standards for behaviour, what was expected, what was not expected. The teachers understood it too."

Harbord is known for some prestigious graduates, including the comedy duo Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster; Stephen Lewis, the former UN envoy for AIDS/HIV in Africa and now founder of the Stephen Lewis Foundation; and Dr. Charles Best, co-discoverer of insulin.

Most of the 1957 graduates went into professions like medicine, dentistry, law and accountancy.

Helen Freedhoff (Henchy Goodman) stood out as a female who didn't go directly into teaching, as many of the girls did, but headed into an academic physics career. When she started teaching physics, she said, it was to all-male classes. She is still a physics professor at York University.

"In high school it never occurred to me that I would have to play dumb to get dates," she recalled.

"Nobody ever really discouraged me. The teachers really encouraged me, and nobody taught me that there was anything wrong with having a career."

Stan Kates, who graduated at 16 and was student council president, opened his own advertising agency at the age of 24.

"Stan, the super salesman, will enter commerce and finance and then sell refrigerators to the Eskimos," his yearbook bio stated 50 years ago.

He is now president of Kates Advertising and chair of the Kates Marketing Group, the largest real estate marketer in Canada.

"Harbord, for us who went there in the '50s and '60s, was probably the greatest experience that anybody could ever have," Kates said. "It was an exciting time frame. So many of the kids who went through that period did so well in life. It was a tremendous training ground for us."

For more information or to order tickets for the Oct. 13 reunion, visit www.harbordreunion57.com or call Carol Bloom at 416-491-2845.

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Sar-El volunteers boost Israeli morale

Continued from page 3

"Israelis feel isolated and they take solace from the fact that someone from outside Israel came and does something," he added.

Montrealer Jack Bordan sensed the morale-boosting effect as well. During one of his many Sar-El stints, IDF soldiers asked him how much he was paid for his work. When he told them he had volunteered, paid for his own ticket and kicked in a $100 registration fee to boot, they couldn't believe it.

"At first they think you're crazy. Then they say, 'Kol hakavod' [it deserves respect]," Bordan said.

The vice-president of Sar-El Canada, Bordan said by volunteering, "you feel you are actually doing something for Israel in a hands-on way. People give money, but this is another contribution, even if it's trivial like picking up litter."

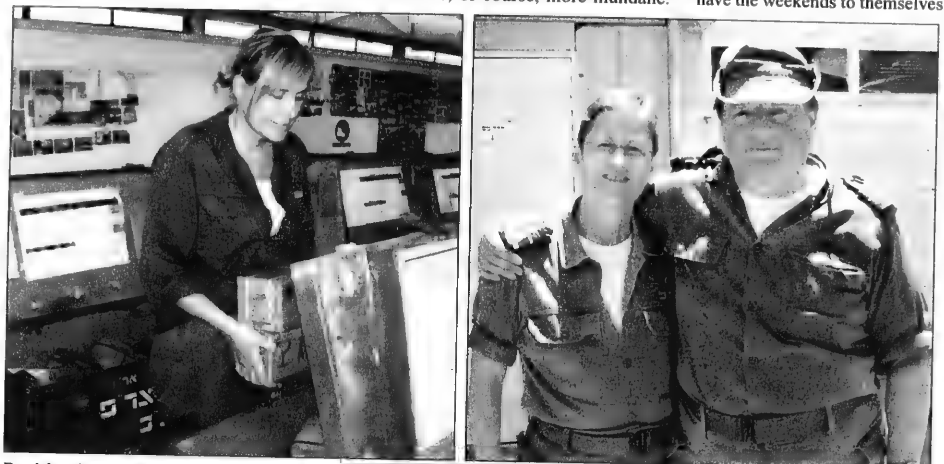
Bordan's first Sar-El experience took place during the 1991 Gulf War, and he vividly recalls wearing a gas mask in a sealed room on an army base during a Scud missile attack. "You really experience the same things as the Israelis," he said. "That was an experience that marked us."

Most Sar-El visits are, of course, more mundane. Volunteers are met at the airport and taken to supply or maintenance bases, where they are given tedious work. On Bordan's last trip in October, the volunteers continued the cleanup after the Hezbollah war, stocking warehouse shelves and sorting equipment.

Volunteers spend Monday to Thursday on base and have the weekends to themselves. A highlight of the day is dressing in their khaki uniforms and participating in an 8 a.m. flag-raising ceremony.

Most volunteers are Jewish, although about 20 per cent are Christian.

Since its inception 25 years ago, Sar-El has attracted more than 100,000 volunteers from 30 countries. The Canadian office of Sar-El was established 21 years ago, and it sends an average of 150 volunteers to Israel each year. France and the United States are the two largest sources of Sar-El volunteers.



Danish volunteer Jeannette Rasmussen, left, working in an Israeli army warehouse. Jack and Ida Copelovici, right, in their army uniforms.

[Photos courtesy of Ida Copelovici]

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Bronfman student believes in interdenominational dialogue

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

After five weeks in Israel this summer on a Bronfman Youth Fellowship, Arielle Lewis has a renewed understanding and love of Israel, increased respect for other Jewish denominations, and a desire to become involved in the greater Jewish community.

The 17-year-old, now entering Grade 12 at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's Kimel campus in Richmond Hill, was the only Canadian among 26 North American students who took part in the program, now in its 21st year. The program, funded by the Samuel Bronfman Foundation, is designed to develop future community leaders committed to Jewish unity.

A graduate of Netivot HaTorah Day School who attended Ulpanat Orot for two years, Lewis is an avid reader who is involved in her synagogue (Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation), the Bnei Akiva youth movement and various school committees.

Her long skirts and the sleeves that extend past her elbows attest to her Jewish observance, as does her being *shomeret negiah* (not having physical contact with members of the opposite sex).

Lewis' Orthodoxy means a lot to her, she said in a recent interview. However, her outlook is pluralistic, and last year she acted on her desire to gain a broader perspective on Judaism by taking part in Genesis, a summer program at Brandeis University that combines study, arts, volunteerism and community-building.

"I thought that going into this environment would strengthen my Orthodox beliefs, and I was right," she said. "It was also incredible because that was the first time I was meeting non-Orthodox Jews my own age that aren't in my [extended] family. The respect I received for what I did [in terms of Jewish observance] was incredible. I was shocked. I felt really empowered."

She also discovered that many of her non-Orthodox peers were "very connected to their Judaism and very passionate about what they do," as well as in some cases very spiritual.

The experience confirmed for her that switching from an Orthodox girls' school to a pluralistic Jewish high school would be a good move, although her level of observance places her in a small minority, she said.

Her friends, however, represent the spectrum of Jewish observance and affiliation.

"After Genesis, I got really inspired to be more involved in the pluralistic community.

"I thought Bronfman would be an amazing stepping stone to get me more involved, because it's a leadership program, and it's in Israel."

Lewis had found her strong Zionism shaken during her first trip to Israel, a family bar mitzvah trip the summer after Grade 9.

Instead of the spiritually uplifting experience she was anticipating, she became disheartened by the conflict between Orthodox nationalist Zionists and secular Israelis over Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. She had been taught, she said, that Israel was the homeland for the Jews and that all Jews are family.

"I guess it was a rude awakening," she says now.

She feels she needed the different perspective offered by the Bronfman program, where participants meet with Israeli and Palestinian teenagers and listen to speakers from across the political spectrum.

Arielle Lewis

"I felt this is really what Israel is about," Lewis said. "Right now I love Israel because I love the struggles that it goes through. There's so much that went into that country."

As in relationships between people, "not everything is happy and great all the time," she said. "It's the bad parts you overcome that make the relationship even stronger."

Also, she said, she "learned so much about other denominations and gained so much more respect for them."

Now that she is back home, Lewis has to figure out what type of community service she will take on for her mandatory program follow-up. There are also two upcoming post-program seminars she plans to attend.

Although she hasn't yet settled on a future career – "My curse is that I'm interested in everything" – Lewis said her biggest interest now is Judaism, and that she would like to spend a year in Israel after high school.

While she understands why some Orthodox Jews "want to shelter themselves" from non-Orthodox influences, "I think interdenominational dialogue and being together with other Jews are so important. No matter how observant we are, we are all Jews. There are so many threats in the world, so many bigger things going on than interdenominational conflicts."

As well, she notes, "if you seclude yourself, you prevent the other denominations from seeing the beauty that exists in Orthodoxy."

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A bus identified by a sign **"PARDES SHALOM"** will depart from the front entrance of the Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., at 10 a.m.

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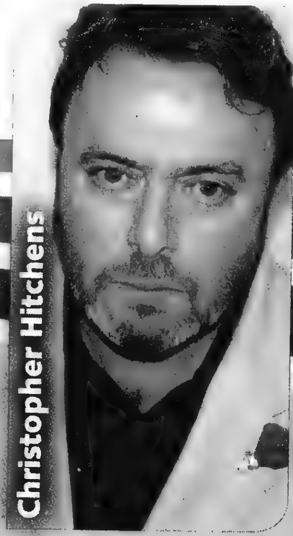

Oct. 9

The author of more than a dozen books, Christopher Hitchens is one of America's leading social critics. His latest bestselling book is *God is Not Great.*

Introduction:
Margaret Wente,
Globe and Mail

Oct. 16

The author of two bestselling books, *To Begin Again* and *Talking to God,* Rabbi Naomi Levy is the founder and spiritual leader of Nashuva, an organization that draws unaffiliated Jews back to Judaism.

Introduction:
Rabbi Shalom Schachter,
Beth Israel Synagogue,
Peterborough

David Wolpe

Oct. 23

The Rabbi of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, David Wolpe is the author of six books, including his most recent, *Floating Takes Faith: Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World.*

Introduction:
Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl,
Beth Tzedec Congregation

Raymond J. de Souza

Oct. 30

Father Raymond J. de Souza is a Roman Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Kingston, Ont. He is also a chaplain and teacher at Queen's University, and writes for several religious and secular publications.

Introduction:
Ken Whyte,
Maclean's Magazine

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Jerusalem Foundation pitches fields of dreams

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Steve Solomon came to Toronto last week from Israel and took in a Blue Jays game. He hopes that soon Jerusalem natives get to watch their own team in a new stadium as part of a proposed multi-sport complex in the Holy City.

It's a dream he shared with investors in Toronto last week.

Though the Jays lost 6-4 to Oakland, Solomon, the Israel-based director of the Canada desk for the Jerusalem Foundation, an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Jerusalem through education, the arts, social programming and sports, hopes he threw out a winning pitch.

Before the Aug. 21 game at the Rogers Centre, Solomon, along with the foundation's Greater Toronto Area director, Ian Leventhal, arranged a private meeting with high-profile members of the Toronto business community to promote the creation of a 25-acre sports complex on a parcel of undeveloped land in the municipality's northern Lifta Valley.

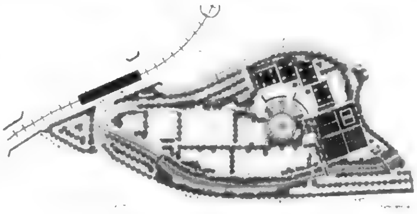
Present were Blue Jays' president and CEO, Paul Godfrey; an executive vice-president with RBC, Charles Coffey; Maccabi Canada Ontario chairman, Bob Guest; and accountant Joel Rubinovich, principal of Rubinovich Shoib LLP.

"It's still a concept at this point, but we believe this project will have a broad appeal to [the Jewish community]," Solomon told *The CJN* as he prepared for his inaugural meeting with potential investors.

Tentatively called the "Sportek," the hypothetical sports complex would house soccer fields (professional sized and children's sized), basketball courts, an inline skating rink, tennis, volleyball and handball courts, an exercise facility and a baseball diamond.

The latter may be the fulcrum on which the whole project rests.

According to Solomon, the fledgling Israel Baseball League (IBL), currently a six-team, semi-pro organization without a Jerusalem-based team, believes the Sportek would be a perfect fit for a future squad – if a field can be built.



Artist's conception of the Sportek
[Jerusalem Foundation photo]

Solomon believes the allure of naming rights and advertising potential would be a heavy draw for a potential IBL investor as well.

Solomon could not say how much the project might cost, but estimated it might require tens of millions of dollars to complete.

"The whole purpose of [the Canada trip] is to get sufficient interest and support to begin the project," he said.

That interest seems to have been piqued.

Leventhal said the guests at the pitch session, held in Godfrey's private box at the Rogers Centre, voiced support and were "very receptive" to the idea.

Though no monetary commitments have yet been made, Leventhal said Godfrey will visit the proposed site this October to see the parcel of undeveloped land for himself.

"Most investors want to see what they're investing in first," Leventhal said. "But this presentation got us off to a great start."

The foundation envisions the Sportek as a place where Jerusalemites of all stripes can gather to play and promote peaceful coexistence and break down stereotypes between Arab, Christian and Jewish youth.

"Jerusalem is the poorest of Israel's large cities and has a heavy concentration of children from lower income families," Solomon said. "Having a municipal land setting to release stress would be a great outlet for these kids."

In his presentation Solomon said the existence of an accessible, community sports complex would go a long way to alleviating frayed nerves in "a city where tempers run high and the powder keg threatens to explode at the slightest provocation."

Though it doesn't yet have guaranteed funding from any level of Israeli government, Solomon said his talks with federal officials have so far been positive, though he remains pragmatic about domestic funding chances.

"[Prime Minister Ehud] Olmert's government has recognized Jerusalem as a priority," he said. "But in Israel, what can be a priority today may not be in six months from now," he lamented, referring to the country being under the constant spectre of war.

Regardless, the foundation has set an ambitious time line to start ground-breaking on the new complex, looking at the end of 2008 as a possible start to building.

"It's our 2008 lead project," Solomon said, adding that he'll return to Canada often over the next year to continue drumming up support for the Sportek.

In the past, the Jerusalem Foundation has worked hand in hand with Jerusalem's municipal government, helping raise funds for city landmarks such as the Jerusalem Music Centre, Teddy Kollek Stadium, the University Botanical Gardens of Jerusalem and the YMCA Peace Kindergarten for Jewish and Arab children, among others.

For more information, visit www.jerusalemfoundation.org.

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Informal Jewish education 'a growing field," CAJE presenter says

By **FRANCES KRAFT**
Staff Reporter

Daniel Held, the 25-year-old director of student activities at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's Kimel campus in Richmond Hill, is at the forefront of three apparently nascent trends that bode well for the future of Jewish education.

His relative youth is unusual in the field; according to statistics from the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) – whose recent annual conference Held attended in St. Louis, Mo. – more than half the teachers in Jewish congregational and day schools are older than 48. However, there were dozens of young teachers and graduate students among the approximately 1,200 conference participants.

Continued on page 27

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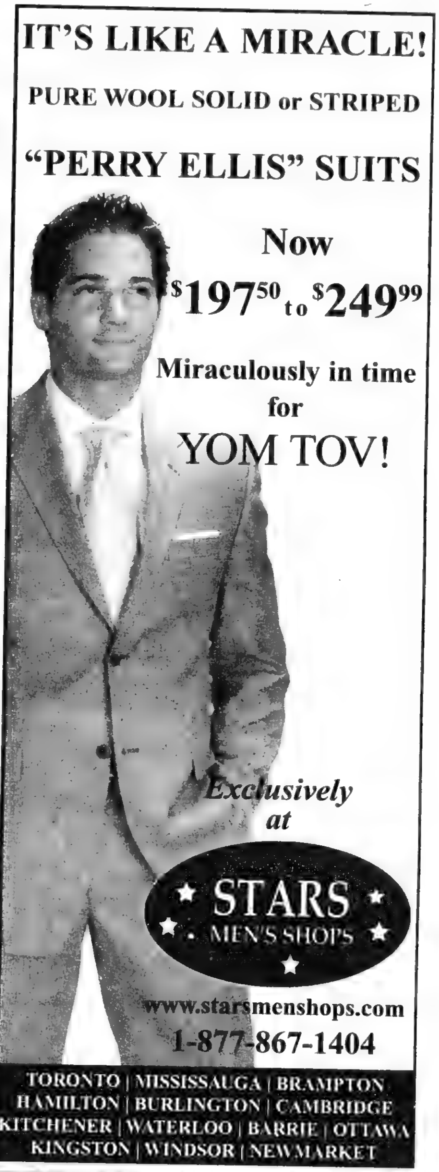

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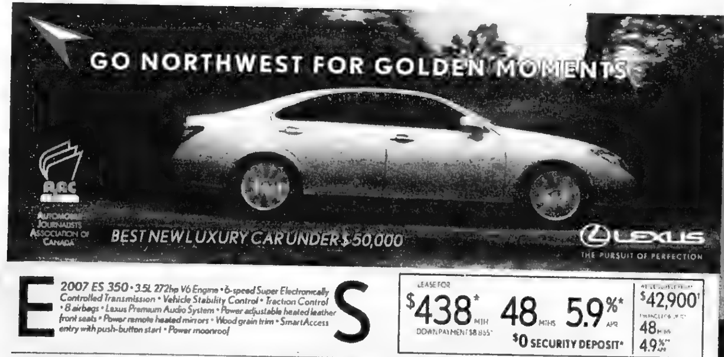

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Jewish Toronto

UJA Federation comes to the aid of survivors seeking restitution

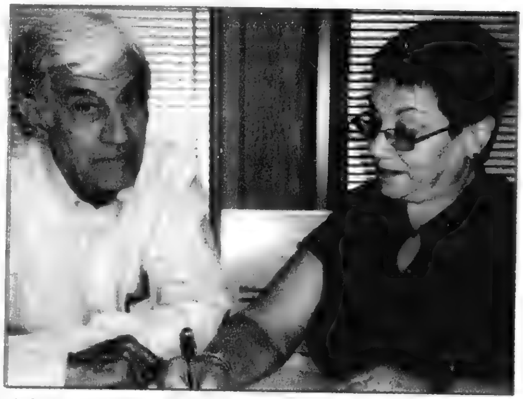
Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto takes over from URO

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA FEDERATION

At the time of the 2001 Census there were 28,000 Jewish senior citizens living in the Greater Toronto Area, close to one half of whom (12,815) were Holocaust survivors.

So, when the United Restitution Organization (URO) – an independent world-wide legal aid organization which assists victims of Nazi persecution to submit financial claims against the German and Austrian governments – decided to close down its last Canadian office, UJA Federation quickly stepped in.

While URO's Toronto office – housed on the third floor of the Lipa Green Building for Jewish Community Services - did, in fact, close on March 31 this year, the service re-opened seamlessly and without interruption the very next day. This time it was under the auspices of UJA Federation's Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto (JIST), part of the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage.



Holocaust survivor Elly Gotz (l) gets a helping hand from Dora Elzbet, a restitution claims officer with Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto's Restitution Service.

"After URO decided to shut down their offices across North America, including Toronto, it was incumbent on us to do whatever we could to keep this essential service operational," said UJA Federation president and CEO Ted Sokolsky. "Our community owes these survivors of the Shoah a deep debt of gratitude as it was those very same survivors who, in rebuilding their own lives, helped create a vibrant Jewish community here in Toronto. We simply could not - and would not - let these important members of our community be stranded with no recourse."

"This is an office that specializes in overcoming barriers," said Elly Gotz, a survivor of the Dachau concentration camp who, thanks to the efforts of JIST, recently received a social security pension for his forced labour in the Kovno Ghetto. "There is such a morass of legal difficulties in getting money from Germany. Only the knowledge and skills of this office make it possible. If this service was not here, it would be virtually impossible to succeed in our quest for restitution."

Without the assistance of UJA Federation, Toronto-area Holocaust survivors like Gotz would have had no alternative but to seek advice on restitution matters from the URO's two other remaining offices in New York and Israel.

"In 2001 JIST helped survivors complete forms for slave labour compensation. Having JIST - with support from the Holocaust Centre of Toronto - take over the functions of URO was the next logical step," said Susan Jackson, executive director, Latner Centre.

"It is wonderful that UJA Federation has stepped forward," said Nate Leipciger, co-chair, Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada. "Working with people locally, survivors and their families can speak with someone face-to-face. It would be very hard to discuss such painful and personal experiences with an unknown voice at the other end of a long-distance call."

For more information about restitution services, call 416.630.2920.

Perspective

Myths and facts about fair funding for education

By DR. SEYMOUR EPSTEIN

In recent letters and articles critical of public support for faith based schools that meet provincial standards, there is a perception that those who favour such funding do not also support the public school system. Nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed we believe that faith-based schools need to be included in the public system in order to make it a more "public" system of education.

During the course of debate on this issue there have been many myths perpetrated. These deserve to be confronted and factually addressed.

Dr. Seymour Epstein

Myth # 1 – **Funding for faith-based schools violates liberal democratic principles.**

Liberal democratic principles permit and require public funding of qualifying faith-based schools. In other Canadian provinces and most western jurisdictions outside of the USA, public funds are given to faith-based schools. In fact, even in the United States where the separation of church and state is a constitutional principle, there is a great deal of government assistance to faith-based schools.

Myth # 2 – **Funding faith-based schools will confer benefits to religious organizations that are not available to non-religious organizations.**

Inclusive Public Education provides those in society for whom religion is all-important with the benefits of general education which are available to the non-religious. No academic logic can turn around the fact that a small percentage of faith-based parents are not receiving the full educational rights they are paying for with their taxes. Ontarians understand that in the year 2007 we cannot discriminate against faith communities. As a responsible pluralistic society that honours and treasures our faith communities we cannot simply "grin and bear" such a serious inequity.

Myth # 3 – **The province already has the power to supervise education at faith-based schools without public funding.**

Although most Jewish day schools already adhere to provincial standards, by law, a private elementary school in Ontario does not have to do much more than obey certain fire codes. Provincial inspection of private secondary schools offering a diploma varies greatly in intensity and depth, mostly at the discretion of the school itself. An inclusive public system would provide universal accountability and oversight to ensure that what is taught at faith-based schools conforms to provincial regulations and Canadian values.

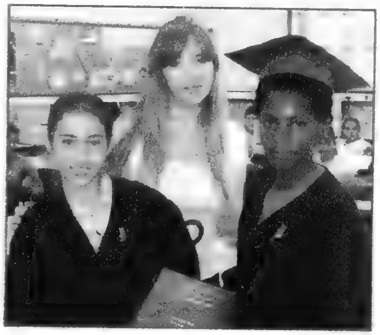
Myth # 4 – **Public funding for Jewish day schools will lead to academic mediocrity.**

There is no evidence that government-funded faith-based schools tend towards mediocrity; not here in Canada and not throughout the world. Clearly, some fear that religious education goes against the grain of liberal society in that it divides more than it unifies. For this, too, there is no empirical evidence. Those of us who believe in and support public education but also want it to be completely inclusive are convinced by what we have seen elsewhere. Children who are reared in one specific environment can more easily appreciate the values of another atmosphere.

What I believe, as a Jewish educator deeply rooted in my own culture, its literature, and its values, and equally devoted to Canadian pluralism is that my perspective allows me to look in the eyes of any other Canadian or citizen of the world and appreciate profoundly how they see the world from their own individual perspective. Canada has always been proud of the mosaic rather than the melting pot, and in a mosaic each colour is magnified by the others around it.

Dr. Seymour Epstein is senior vice-president, The Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Jewish Agency Enrichment Fund for Children and Youth



JAFI's Enrichment Fund for Children and Youth is giving Sderot high school students another chance.

From sports activities to environmental studies, about 50,000 children are participating in a variety of enrichment programs thanks to the Jewish Agency's (JAFI) Enrichment Fund for Children and Youth. The young participants come from 36 local authorities, located in Northern Israel as well as the Western Negev, including Sderot and the Gaza perimeter.

Following last summer's war with Lebanon, it became evident that children in these areas would need long-term rehabilitation towards healing their traumas. JAFI – UJA Federation's overseas partner - turned to United Jewish Communities (UJC) to fund programs during and after school for these children.

The Enrichment Fund is partially supporting the *To Sderot With Love* campaign which enabled thousands of children in Sderot and the Gaza Perimeter to enjoy summer activities in safe areas.

Through the Enrichment Fund, high school students from Sderot were given another opportunity to learn for their matriculation exams. Due to the intensity of Kassam missile attacks during the school term, many had trouble focusing on their studies.

In addition, the dedicated teachers and staff of a special education school in the region enjoyed a day off to recharge their batteries.

Jewish Toronto reaches out to the people of Peru

UJA Federation establishes Earthquake Relief Fund

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA FEDERATION

Shortly after a massive 8.0-magnitude earthquake rocked Peru on August 15, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto responded by establishing the Peru Earthquake Relief Fund.

Proceeds will be distributed to victims - regardless of religion - by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). The JDC is working with other disaster relief agencies including IsraAid, which sent an Israeli medical team to Peru last week.

So far, more than 500 people have been reported killed, close to 2,000 injured, and tens of thousands are homeless as a result of the quake.

The JDC has a century-old history of providing relief to those in need. It collected $19.6 million for the relief effort following the tsunami in Southeast Asia in 2004 and $800,000 for the Pakistani earthquake in 2005.

"Natural disasters are quite indiscriminate and, be it Jew or non-Jew, the amount of human loss in Peru today is so very sad," said UJA Federation board chair David Engel. "We are fortunate to be the conduit for Toronto's generous Jewish community, giving people the opportunity to reach out to the families of those killed, or to those who have been injured or displaced by this tragedy. This is simply UJA Federation honouring its ongoing tradition of *tikun olam*, repairing the world."

According to the *Jerusalem Post*, there had been no injuries reported in the 3,000 member Jewish community in Lima nor to the 130 or so Israelis now in Peru.

After the Second World War, most members of Peru's Jewish community moved to Lima where they were able to establish a few key institutions including a Jewish school which houses 80% of the Jewish community's children. Three synagogues – one Ashkenazi and two Sephardi – were also built, as well as two homes for the Jewish elderly.

An injured boy drinks milk as he sits among other injured at hospital in Ica, 350 kms south of Lima, the day after a massive 8.0-magnitude earthquake rocked Peru on August 15. The powerful earthquake devastated several Peruvian cities killing at least 500 people and forcing the government to declare a state of emergency. (Photo by /AFP/Getty Images)

Even though the Jewish community has been dwindling since 1970 when it reached a peak of 5,200 members, Jews still own many businesses in Peru.

One of those business owners is Toronto's Marvin Zeifman, 52. Zeifman, the owner of Kaita Natural Health Products and the H Wood Flooring Company – travels to Peru every six to eight weeks on business, something he's been doing for 30 years.

"Our offices in Lima are housed in a brand new four-storey office building which, like all new buildings there, are built up to earthquake standards," says Zeifman, who will be heading back to Peru in early September. "When the earthquake hit, our employees – around 50 of them – ran out of the building to the parking lot where all the cars were rocking back and forth. I was caught in an earthquake in Colombia 15 years ago and, believe me, when the ground shakes, you can't quite believe it."

To make a donation visit www.ujadonations.com/Peru. Donations can also be made by calling 416. 631.5705.

TanenbaumCHAT graduate proud to lead fundraising push

By JONATHAN AIN
UJA FEDERATION

When Jordan Gnat speaks about his years as a student at TanenbaumCHAT on Toronto's Wilmington Avenue, his face lights up as though he were speaking more of a beloved child than a high school alma mater.

"I loved TanenbaumCHAT; it's such a great school and such a special place," said Gnat, in a recent interview with *Jewish Toronto* after touring the site of the Kimel Family Education Centre, TanenbaumCHAT's new branch, opening this September at the Joseph & Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in York Region.

The campus is an initiative of UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign, which is both creating and revitalizing Jewish life on three campuses throughout the Greater Toronto Area.

Gnat, 35, began his involvement with the school over five years ago when he was asked to join the school's board and later the school's executive.

Fundraising was a natural evolution of Gnat's involvement and the school's pressing need to find more space to accommodate a burgeoning number of applicants and upgraded amenities to compete with other private schools.

"TanenbaumCHAT's student population has doubled in the last ten years," said Gnat. "A great many were coming from York Region, and the school knew it needed a branch north of Steeles. Eventually, the school rented a former elementary school on Wright Street in Richmond Hill, but that was always supposed to be temporary."

A more permanent solution evolved in 2001 when, through the Tomorrow Campaign, UJA Federation offered the chance to build a new branch on the Lebovic Campus.

Gnat recalled when he was first asked to take on a leadership role in helping to raise the millions of dollars necessary to create a world-class high school in York Region and re-develop the Wilmington Campus.

"I was approached to chair the TanenbaumCHAT Community Campaign and was quite excited about the opportunity," said Gnat. "I felt strongly that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a pioneer and it was an opportunity I could not turn away from. I knew one day in 20 or 30 years that I'd be able to drive by this incredible new building with my kids and say, 'I was a part of that.' How often does a chance like that come around?"

Jordan Gnat

From the start, Gnat was enthusiastic about the school's location. "To be the first building on the Lebovic Campus is a privilege. With the growth of the Jewish community north of Steeles, the location was a natural," he said.

According to Gnat, the integration of facilities on the Lebovic Campus would place the school on par with some of North America's most distinguished post-secondary institutions.

"TanenbaumCHAT has always held the academic gold standard by which other private schools were compared. With the new Kimel Family Education Centre, now it can compete in terms of facilities as well," he added, referring to some of Toronto's other top private schools. "With swimming pools, a theatre, a skating rink and all the rest, this school is second to none. Combining the resources of the other facilities on the Lebovic Campus is just strong vision on the part of UJA Federation and a brilliant use of community resources."

To make a gift to the Tomorrow Campaign, please contact Marilyn Maierovitz at 416.631.5732 or by email at tomorrowcampaign@ujafed.org.

High Society

UJA FEDERAT
Live gene

The Societies Division which represents some of the longest-standing and most dedicated donors to UJA Federation, recently held its annual launch. The division, led by chair Michael Rosenberg and vice-chair Morris Flicht, welcomed 75 members to the launch where they were treated to a moving performance of Yiddish and Hebrew songs by Societies member and performer, Jenny Eisenstein. UJA Federation board chair David Engel spoke about the vital role the Societies Division plays in the Jewish community and Morris Perlis, 2008 Campaign chair, along with Lesley Binstock Offman, spoke about this year's case for giving and its goals.

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

The Staff of
The Canadian Jewish News
extends its heartfelt condolences
to our colleague and friend

Jeff Rosen
and his family, Lisa & Jordana
on the passing of their beloved mother-in-law,
mother and grandmother

Mary Small ז״ל

May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

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The Staff of
The Canadian Jewish News
extends its heartfelt condolences
to our colleague and friend

Shoshana Katz
and her family
on the passing of their beloved mother, mother-in-law
and grandmother

Rivka Pinker ז״ל

May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

---

Rubinstein, William - Canadian Friends of Yeshiva University (CFYU) mourns the passing of William Rubinstein, of Toronto, a revered Jewish communal leader and philanthropist. Condolences are extended to his wife, Judith, to his son, CFYU National President, Robert Eli (and Renee) Rubinstein, and daughter, Rochelle Rubinstein, to his brother Daniel Rubinstein, and to his many grandchildren and great grandchildren. May the entire family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Richard M. Joel, President
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Morry Weiss, Chairman, YU Board of Trustees
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Human rights complaint accuses JNF of racism

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

In recent years, the Jewish National Fund (JNF), the organization famous for those blue tin tzedakah boxes, planting trees in Israel and leasing Israeli land to Jews, has been no stranger to controversy and opposition.

In 1998, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights wrote a report on Israel and concluded that because its lands are "chartered to benefit Jews exclusively," the JNF practises an "institutionalized form of discrimination."

In 2005, Israel's attorney general, Menachem Mazuz, ruled that the Israel Land Authority (ILA) – which has been leasing JNF land to Jews on the JNF's behalf in accordance with the JNF's covenant since 1962 – should cut ties with the organization because it excludes Arab Israelis from leasing JNF property. Mazuz considered the practice discriminatory.

And earlier this month, Ronald Saba, a Palestinian Canadian and the editor of an online magazine called *Montreal Planet Magazine*, which features articles for the Palestinian community in Montreal, filed a complaint concerning the JNF with the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC).

Saba filed the complaint against the "Government of Canada for violating the Canadian Human Rights Act and Canada Revenue Agency Policy Statement CPS-021 by subsidizing racial discrimination through granting and maintaining charitable status for the Jewish National Fund." The complaint also cites the 1998 UN committee report and the 2005 ruling by Mazuz.

But Joe Rabinovitch, executive vice-president of JNF Canada, said that, unfortunately, these kinds of complaints are not uncommon.

"I've seen this 100 times in 100 different ways," Rabinovitch said.

"Every year, without fail, we get two or three of these [complaints], and they also send them out to every MP in Canada, and the fact is, there is no use arguing with them, because there is no common ground on which we can argue," he added.

"These are the same people who demonstrate in front of our Negev dinners, these are the same people who claim discrimination, these are the same people who say there should only be one state and it should be Palestine."

He added that responding to these complaints is a waste of time, because each one thus far has been dismissed by the CHRC, and when Rabinovitch spoke with *The CJN* last week, he hadn't even received any notice about this complaint.

Although Rabinovitch doesn't pay any mind to complaints like these, his organization has had to deal with the aftermath of Mazuz's 2005 ruling.

But Rabinovitch doesn't agree with Mazuz's assessment of JNF practice. He explained that in 1901, the JNF was established to buy land with money raised throughout the Diaspora. Today, it owns about 13 per cent of Israeli land, where about 70 per cent of the population lives.

"What happened after 1948, after the War of Independence, many Arabs left, and after three or four years there was a lot of abandoned land. The government then put [the abandoned land] up for auction, and we bid and paid the highest price for some of this land."

He said that when the ILA was established to administer public land, including JNF land, an agreement stipulated that JNF land would be held "in perpetuity for the Jewish people… If anyone wanted to build on that land, or lease that land, they wanted to make sure that they were Jewish. This is what went to the courts in Israel and this is what the attorney general ruled as discrimination."

Earlier this month, a bill called the Jewish National Fund Law, which would allow the ILA to continue to lease land owned by the JNF only to Jews, was endorsed 64-16 in its first Knesset reading.

Rabinovitch said the JNF practice is similar to Israel's Law of Return, which gives Jews the immediate right to settle in Israel and gain citizenship.

"There are many Jewish organizations that feel that it is discriminatory and there are other Jewish organizations that feel it is not discriminatory, because the Vatican owns land that is only for Catholics and the Arab organization that controls land in Jerusalem, [known as the Waqf] has land that is only for Arabs. However, some people feel that we shouldn't be compared to these other organizations, because Israel is a democratic country and it should be open to everybody."

He said it's hard to predict what the future holds for the JNF, because a number of different proposals are on the table.

One is that if the government rules non-Jews are eligible to lease JNF land, it could decide to compensate the JNF by giving it land in the Negev. The JNF has said it hopes to settle 250,000 Jews in the southern region within five to 10 years.

Another possibility, Rabinovitch said, is that the JNF could become a private organization and end all ties with the ILA, allowing it to do whatever it wants with its land.

"This is all speculation, but in actual fact, the matter is still under debate in Israel, under a lot of discussion, creating a lot of intensity among different Jewish groups and whatever the end result will be, we will follow along," Rabinovitch said.

He said he isn't worried, despite the complaints being filed against it by Canadian citizens, that the JNF will ever lose it's charitable status.

"We conform 100 per cent to Canadian law. In terms of following Canadian law, we're more Catholic than the Pope" he said with a laugh.

"We've made sure that everything is done according to the law and it's done according to the laws that the Canadian Revenue Agency imposes, so we have no concern."

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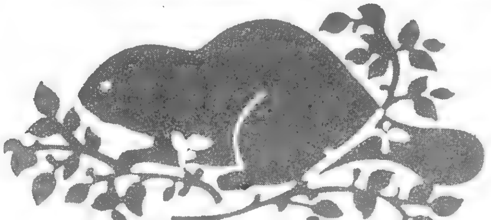

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Greater Toronto Area

Canada summer camp experience for Israeli victims ends

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Israeli Victims of War (IVOW) is a Canadian non-profit organization that brings Israeli children to Canada for summer camp.

The children IVOW sponsors have family members who have suffered because of war and terrorism. Last week, with the end of this year's four-week summer camp getaway, IVOW celebrated another successful year.

IVOW was founded in 1984, and thanks to donations from both Canadian and Israeli communities, it has given hundreds of war-torn children the opportunity to come together with their peers and experience a summer they'll never forget.

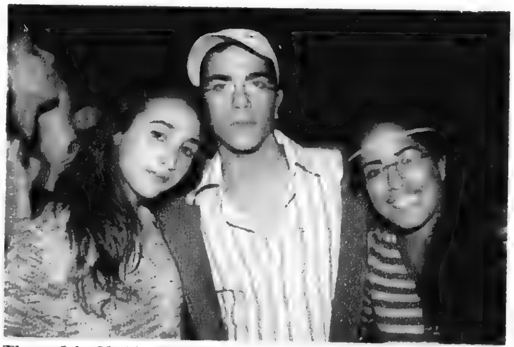
This year, the group consisted of 90 children aged 12 to 14 who have been victims of war themselves, or have someone in their immediate family who was seriously injured or killed during military service or a terrorist attack.

IVOW arranged for the children to come to Canada to spend four weeks at a Jewish overnight summer camp.

And to ensure that they would be sent back to Israel on a high note, Max Benaim, who has been a Sephardi Jewish community volunteer for decades, organized the IVOW farewell banquet at Petah Tikvah Anshe Castilla Congregation, for the sixth year in a row.

Benaim pulled out all the stops for the "future of Israel."

"The children we are hosting this evening are no ordinary children. They represent the future of our nation and will eventually protect and safeguard the principles we all hold dear to our hearts," Benaim said.



Three of the 90 children who were brought to Canada by IVOW pose on the dance floor at Petah Tikvah Congregation. [Joe Cohen photo]

As a thank you to the children who "exemplify the values of courage and strength," all those in attendance at the banquet welcomed the children with a standing ovation that broke into a horah.

The children clearly enjoyed the food, music and the event in general. The bond forged between the kids – who stood arm in arm at one point on the dance floor to sing along to some of the hottest tracks from Israel – was unmistakable.

Ori Nissani, 14, from Kfar Saba, was a participant who spent his four weeks at Camp B'nai Brith of Montreal.

In broken English, he spoke of his father who was injured during military service, when a missile landed near him.

He said that the shrapnel from the missile injured his father's leg.

Nissani said that he was grateful to IVOW for providing him with the opportunity to come to Canada.

"It was very fun and I met a lot of friends, and I want to say thank you to them."

Limrod Ozery, 22, Nissani's counsellor, said he was a camper himself 10 years ago.

He said when a family friend heard that IVOW was in search of counsellors for the program, he decided to apply.

Ozery said that this is an important program because it gives the children a release from their realities at home.

"In Israel, there is a lot of stress on the kids, and they come from families that are victims of terror and some of them from war. Some of the kids themselves are victims."

He also said that Israel doesn't offer anything like this to children.

"Summer camp is something we don't have in Israel. We have youth groups, but we don't have something where they go and sleep in cabins and be away from their parents for a month," Ozery said.

Toronto co-ordinator of IVOW, Fred Stoppel, briefly spoke at the banquet on behalf of the organization and the founder, Moshe Borek, who was also in attendance.

"In five or six years, these children will be our soldiers. This is an important program, this is an important cause," Stoppel said.

"I hope that one day, this dinner will not be necessary and that peace will flourish in Eretz Yisrael. But there remains a responsibility to heed the calls of duty and help every Jewish child in any way that we can," Benaim said.

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Teachers deserve more money and respect

Continued from page 21

Also, while most Jewish teachers are women, a "good number" of the younger teachers and students at the conference were males who see themselves as important role models, showing children that men as well as women value education, according to a *JTA* report.

And as an educator focusing on informal Jewish education, Held said he is in a growing field. "We're no longer simply teaching curriculum," he said. "We're teaching students."

He said there are now more than 20 informal Jewish educators on staff at Jewish high schools in North America.

From a less positive standpoint, a familiar refrain at the conference was that teachers in Jewish schools must be paid more money and respect.

However, says Eric Golombek, one of 10 Canadian educators among the approximately 1,200 conference attendees in St. Louis earlier this month, there "really is a significant difference" in Canada, particularly Toronto.

"Teachers are paid well here, at par with public school teachers, which is very different than in the United States," said Golombek, who two years ago became the principal of Associated Hebrew Schools' Posluns Education Centre on Neptune Drive. "It definitely affects the quality and availability of teachers in the States."

Also, he said, having worked in both Canada and the United States, he has seen "much more of a need to sell Jewish education in the States as a concept. It's not a given that you'll send your kids to afternoon school or day school. For many more families in Toronto, it's a given."

For him the conference was valuable for allowing him to "recharge Jewishly," interact with colleagues who share his passion for Jewish education, and attend sessions about new technology, some of which Associated is implementing this year with the purchase of new "smart boards."

"It really brings another dimension," Golombek said about the boards. "You have the entire World Wide Web at your fingertips. Accessing information becomes instantaneous."

Also, he added, teachers can facilitate shared writing experiences and print the results for everyone, or can e-mail everything that appears on the board to students who are absent.

Anne Andrew, principal of the religious school at Vancouver's Temple Sholom, was also interested in the technology sessions, because of technology's familiarity and relevance to kids, she said.

She noted, however, that the situation for Jewish educators in Vancouver differs from that of their counterparts in Toronto. Although she said she is paid adequately and feels respected for her work, she doesn't believe that is the case across the board.

"[A Jewish educator] isn't considered something that kids aspire to be. We definitely need to work on that."

A veteran of almost a dozen CAJE conferences, Andrew said she attends so she can connect with educators from across North America.

"We are quite isolated in Vancouver," she said. The conference increases her energy and enthusiasm for the upcoming year, she added. "There's a sense of connection to something big and important in terms of what we're doing."

Held, who ran the teen program and was a presenter at the conference, said that Toronto is unique because of its public university (York University) that has a Jewish teacher training program.

"That's almost unheard of," Held said. "Having a program like the one at York creates a structure for Jewish education in the city. That creates a community of educators, which you don't find at that level in other communities."

Rachel Cooper, 21, was one of 26 students at CAJE as part of its Schusterman College program. A social work student at the University of Waterloo who has taken time off to serve as youth director at Toronto's Beth Sholom Synagogue, she returned from St. Louis with programming ideas and "a host of networking ideas. It's very exciting."

Like Held, Cooper believes that informal Jewish education is an up and coming field, and "quite fulfilling."

"I'm seriously considering a career in Jewish education," she said.

With files from JTA

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Active senior continues to walk and raise funds for Israel

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

"Although I live in Canada, one of the best countries in the world, my heart is in Israel where my parents are buried and where all my family live," says Rachel Kanner, who will turn 90 this fall.

Kanner, who supports many Israeli charities and has frequently visited Israel, is proud that at her age, she still participates in the United Jewish Appeal walk-a-thons for Israel, as she has done for 33 years.

A sprightly woman with an outstanding memory and clear, penetrating blue eyes, she says she has "raised a lot of money for Israel. Some years, I raise $2,000 to $3,000 for the UJA."

This, she says, makes her a Chai Walker. "You get a special T-shirt for the walk, and you are recognized at a special ceremony that takes place before the walk begins."

Kanner adds with some regret that since the onset of a spinal problem five years ago, "I don't walk all the way anymore. But I still raise all the money."

Born Rachel Blum in Eden, Germany, in 1917, Kanner recalls the events that began in 1933, when she was a teenager and the boycott against Jewish stores was posted.

Her father, Samuel Blum, a Zionist who founded the Mizrachi organization in Germany, was the chief rabbi for the province. Recognizing the immediate danger, her parents sent her and her two younger siblings to Holland to stay with their aunt.

Rachel Kanner

Shortly after they arrived in Holland, her father came and took her sister and brother back to Germany. Kanner remained in Holland to learn a trade in preparation for aliyah.

She returned to Germany in 1936 to begin training, physically and mentally, at the Hachsharah at Lubeck, an hour from Hamburg, to prepare her for the move to what was then Palestine. Unfortunately, after a medical examination, she was told that she was not physically fit enough to go there.

She recalls the horrors of 1938 and the nightmare of Kristallnacht. The night before Kristallnacht, her father went with a synagogue official to Berlin to purchase religious material. On Kristallnacht, her mother and the children woke up around 4 a.m. to see the nearby shul burning.

They wanted to put out the fire, but the Nazis entered their house and saw her mother trying to lock their glass cabinet. The Nazi officer told her, "You don't need to lock your cabinet, we do not steal because we are not Jews."

They had to leave their house, and when they returned later, all their possessions and hundreds of her father's valuable books were gone.

"Then they came for us and took us to a collection area for Jews," Kanner recalled. "The next day, we could go home, but we found that the house was uninhabitable, for when they hosed the shul our house was also swamped."

They went to the old folks' home, and on Shabbat, the Nazis came looking for her father, who was still in Berlin. They wanted his picture. They found him in Berlin and took him to prison, and 10 days later, to Camp Sachsenhausen.

"My mother acted very quickly," Kanner says. "She went to the authorities and received a certificate for his release and we all quickly left Germany."

The family left for Holland, and then her mother and father and two children left for Palestine. Kanner went to England where her older brother, Hugo Blum, lived, and she worked as a domestic for a rabbinical family.

"Seven weeks after my family arrived in Israel, my mother died of stress. We were sitting shivah in many places," Kanner says.

In 1939, England declared war and Kanner lost her job. She once again began to prepare to go to Palestine as a pioneer. In England, she worked with children from the Kindertransport as a madrichah (leader).

After the trauma of the war years, in 1945, she says, "I was lucky to be one of the first to go to Palestine."

Two years later, she met and married Shimon Zimmerspitz, a survivor who had his back broken during the Holocaust. For health reasons, he was advised to move to a colder climate, and in 1952, they moved to Canada. Their marriage failed, and in 1967, she married William Kanner. He died in 1979.

Throughout the years, Kanner has worked for the restoration office. She went to the Hebrew teachers seminar in Toronto and studied in Israel on a scholarship for a year. She taught at Associated Hebrew Day Schools, Adath Israel and Beth Sholom. After retirement, she taught yoga.

Living on her own, Kanner admits that she has slowed down somewhat, but emphasizes that she will continue to walk for Israel and to raise as much money as she can.

She speaks of her good luck in meeting a Russian family on a trip to Israel two years ago. "I was adopted by them and I now have additional family who look after me as much as possible. I am very grateful for the good things I have in my life.

"And I am grateful that I am here today, and as long as God lets me, I will continue in my way of life and continue to collect money for Israel. And whoever helps me, shares in my mitzvah."

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Liberal hopeful Coulon backpedals on Hamas stance

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — At a meeting with Jewish community representatives last week, Jocelyn Coulon, the Liberal candidate in the Sept. 17 federal byelection in the riding of Outremont, retracted his previous position that the international community should not isolate Hamas.

Coulon, an academic and frequent writer and commentator on international affairs in the francophone media, indicated he changed his view because Hamas has not met three conditions: renounced violence, recognized Israel's right to exist and accepted the Oslo accords.

When he wrote in favour of dialogue with Hamas, "through Palestinian [Authority] President Mahmoud Abbas," he said he believed it was possible the group would adhere to those terms.

"Today, I state that Hamas has not met those conditions and, by that fact, dialogue is not possible with this terrorist group."

However, Coulon cautioned his critics against taking what he has written in the past out of context by selecting "five or six words out of a 1,000-word column.

"Read the column in its totality to understand its logic and argument," Coulon said in response to a question from William Dery, a past president of the Communauté Sépharade Unifiée du Québec.

Coulon later told reporters that his fundamental position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is in line with Liberal policy and that of the Quartet of Mideast peace sponsors (Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations): negotiation toward a two-state solution.

He said he visited Israel in 1993 and got a sense of how close the small country's enemies are. "What is important is to show solidarity with Israel," he added.

As recently as February of this year, Coulon wrote in *La Presse*: "Westerners would have done better by not isolating Hamas, no matter how repugnant its positions on Israel are. They made a mistake. Marginalizing Hamas and trying to prevent it from exercising its electoral mandate won't eliminate it from the Palestinian political stage."

Coulon's earlier writings were strongly critical of Israel and the United States and accused them of excessive force, including against Muslim civilians. For example, in a September 2004 article titled "*The Massacre of the Muslims*," which is still available online, he wrote: "Each day, a billion Muslims see Americans, Israelis and their allies humiliate or pulverize tens of their fellow civilians."

Coulon is a Université de Montréal professor who has written frequently in recent years on the Middle East in *La Presse* as well as *Le Devoir*, and has appeared on television and radio, although he is little known to anglophones.

He was personally named in July by Liberal leader Stéphane Dion, who said he wants him to play a role in moving Canada's foreign policy away from "the current Conservative government's Republican-style approach."

The multicultural Outremont riding is a Liberal stronghold, with the exception of one Progressive Conservative win in the 1980s. About 10 per cent of the electorate is Jewish, many of them chassidim.

B'nai Brith Canada immediately called for Dion to withdraw the nomination because of Coulon's "hostile attitude" and "well-documented anti-Israel bias… that appear[s] out of step with current Liberal policy," the organization said. CJC-QR chair Victor Goldbloom said after the meeting that Coulon's remarks had gone some way toward "clearing the air.

"Whereas in the past he had hoped a dialogue with Hamas could be opened, he now recognizes that is not possible because certain conditions have not been met. It was a clear answer and a helpful one."

He said Coulon's opinions have "caused concern" over the years, but CJC did not object to his candidacy for the pragmatic reason that it is likely that he will win, and the Jewish community will need to have a relationship with him.

Continued on page 30

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Candidate 'appears to have changed view'

Continued from page 29

B'nai Brith legal counsel Moise Moghrabi said that what Coulon now says is different from what he wrote in the past, but he is not completely convinced of his sincerity.

"He appears to have changed his views. He says he has had a chance to rethink the issues, and I am glad to hear that. The next step is to see if he will follow through."

The meeting also heard from other candidates: Conservative Gilles Duguay, a former diplomat; New Democrat Thomas Mulcair, who was a Quebec Liberal cabinet minister; and the Bloc Québecois' Jean-Paul Gilson, a psychoanalyst.

The Belgian-born Gilson, who noted that his family had been in the resistance during World War II, expressed his strong support for Israel, as did Mulcair, who spoke of his wife's Turkish-Jewish ancestry.

"It is not enough to support Israel's right to exist, but to recognize that is the only functioning democracy in the Middle East that can become a beacon to the countries in the region. Israel does not need moral lessons. It is a state of morality… The Palestinians also have the right to live in peace and security."

Duguay lauded his leader Stephen Harper's "courage" in supporting Israel's military response to attacks from Hezbollah in Lebanon last year. He reiterated that Israel has "the right to defend itself by all legitimate means and that sometimes means a military one," he said.

Duguay said the federal government should spend $300 million, if necessary, not only $3 million, on helping communities at risk with their security costs.

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בימים אלה ניטש בארץ ויכוח נקב, האם ראוי הוא שאדמות מדינה (כמו אדמות קרן קיימת) יכולות להימכר רק ליהודים. בישראל, אזרחי המדינה הערביים יכולים להצביע לכנסת, לשרת כשרים (ויש בימים אלה שר ערבי), אך אין ביכולתם לקנות אדמות מדינה. הדבר עומד, ללא ויכוח, נגד חוקי השוויון של כל מדינה דמוקרטית. תארו לעצמכם שבקנדה היה חוק שקובע שיהודים, או ערבים, או נרווגים, אינם יכולים לרכוש אדמות. זה היה מגיע לבית המשפט תוך יום.

אבל.....ישראל איננה קנדה. ישראל מוקפת מדינות מוסלמיות שפועלות יום ולילה בדרכים לא דמוקרטיות להרוס אותה. האם מדינה דמוקרטית שנלחמת על קיומה יכולה להשתמש רק בדרכים דמוקרטיות? על כך ענו המקורות שלנו: "הקם להרגך-השכם והרגו". תארו לעצמכם שסעודיה היתה מקציבה טריליון דולאר לקנות אדמות קרן קיימת - תוך זמן קצר היה מקום לטענות הפליטים הפלשתינאיים שחובה להחזירם.

אבל דווקא משום שיש קטעים שבהם ישראל היהודית איננה יכולה להיות דמוקרטית-עליה להיות דמוקרטית לעילא ועילא בכל עניין אחר שנוגע למיעוטים, כולל שירותים, חינוך וכל שאר זכויותיהם כאזרחים. ולא כך הוא. אבל שישאר בינינו.

חמש עשרה שנה ל-TAILS

בשישי ליולי 1992 הוצגה לראשונה בבית החולים לילדים של טורונטו הצגת הילדים "זנבות", שבה הצוות הרפואי מציג מחזמר לילדים המאושפזים ומשפחותיהם. מאז חלפו חמש עשרה שנה ושבע מאות חמישים הצגות. היו ילדים שראו את ההצגה עטורת הפרסים פעם אחת והיו כאלה שראו אותה שמונים פעם, היו ילדים שגדלו והביאו את ילדיהם לראות את "זנבות", והיו כאלה שנפטרו ממחלתם יום אחרי שראו את ההצגה.

את חגיגות חמש עשרה השנה, החלטנו לציין בפתיחת ההצגה לילדי הקהל הרחב והוריהם.

בשביעי לאוקטובר (יום ראשון) תוצג "זנבות" ב-10:30 בבוקר במועדון הג'ז **Rex** שבדאון טאון, ובחנוכה תוצג ההצגה פעמיים ביום ראשון ה- 9 בדצמבר ב- **JCC** של בְּלוּר וספדיינה באולם מיילס נאדאל. סמנו לכם את הימים האלה, ופרטים יבואו בהמשך.

סרטים שכדאי לראות הקיץ

על פי דרכי מימים ימימה, הינה מבחר סרטים שאהבתי ושיעשו לכם טוב:

Ratatouille הוא סרט מצוייר על חולד שרוצה להפוך לשף במסעדה פריזאית. לא לא לא ! אל תטעו! זה לא סרט ילדים, זהו סרט מהנה ונוגע ללב, שגם ילדים ייהנו ממנו, אבל בעיקר אתם. עשר בסולם קורן.

Paris je t'aime הוא נסיון קולנועי מיוחד: נתנו למיטב הבמאים לעשות כל אחד סרטון בן חמש דקות שמוקדש לאחד משמונה עשר הרובעים של פאריז. התוצאה מדהימה. לא יאומן מה אנשים מוכשרים יכולים לעשות עם חמש דקות סיפור!! עוד עשר בסולם קורן.

Hairspray הוא סרט לפי המחזמר ההוליבודי על תחנת טלביזיה לבני נוער בבולטימור של שנות השישים. אנרגיה נהדרת ושירים מקסימים. שווה ללכת רק כדי לראות את ג'ון טרוולטה שמופיע בתפקיד של אמא. תצאו עם חיוך גדול. תשע בסולם קורן.

גני הג'ז של סיד

אם יוצא לכם לעבור באזור הספריה של נורת'-יורק, שווה להיכנס ולראות את תערוכת גני הג'ז של הצייר ונגן הג'ז הטורונטאי סיד פרס. סיד, בן ה 75 מצייר ציורים שונים, אך ג'ז וגני ג'ז הם המומחיות שלו. ציור מדהים שלו תלוי באולפן ההקלטות שלי, והוא נותן לי הרבה השראה. אך שישאר בינינו.

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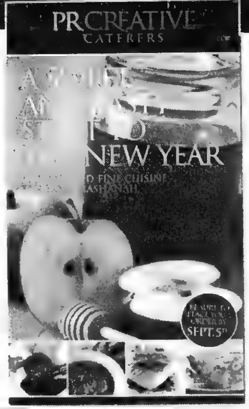

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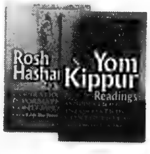

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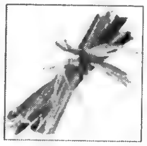

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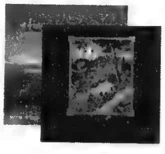

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CBC shines light on Israel's solar power innovations

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

With so much media attention focused on Israel's entanglement in Middle East conflict, it's refreshing when journalists file a story on other, positive developments within the Jewish state, including its booming science and technology sector.

Recently, the CBC honed in on Israel's solar energy industry and important Israeli research that may help countries around the world harness the power of the sun to provide cost-effective, pollution-free energy.

On Aug. 15, CBC.ca ran "Looking to the sun," a feature article by CBC Radio reporter Tom Parry, subtitled "Revolutionary solar power from Israel."

Parry takes readers inside the Ben-Gurion National Solar Energy Research Center, based in the Negev Desert. He writes: "[T]he work going on behind [the centre's] doors is at the cutting edge of solar technology. It could change the way we produce energy – in theory, at least."

Parry interviews the centre's head, Prof. David Faiman, who remarks that "the focus of his work is 'the Dish.' The Dish appears at first glance to be a giant satellite ground station. In fact, it is a giant mirror. And what this mirror does is focus the sun's rays onto one single super-heated point."

Faiman explains: "By concentrating the light a thousand times, we were able to produce 1,500 watts from a cell that normally gives only one watt."

> *'A thousand megawatts is 10 per cent of Israel's present generating capacity… It's enough for something like a million people'*

Faiman's ability to use such concentrated sunlight and capture it on a very durable solar panel has potentially huge implications if his technological breakthrough gets translated into full-scale production.

Parry covers another Israeli company, Solel Solar Systems Ltd., based in Beit Shemesh, near Jerusalem, whose solar technology is producing "formidable amounts of electricity" in California's Mojave Desert.

He notes: "And just recently, [Solel] signed a contract to build another massive expanse of mirrors that will be the world's largest solar generating plant."

Says Solel president Avi Brenmiller: "That's the largest solar plant ever built in the world. It will be supplying power to 400,000 families. And we plan to build more plants of that size."

Solel has also sold its product to Spain, and is looking at India and China as potential customers.

Parry notes: "What disappoints both Faiman and Brenmiller is that while Israel is quickly becoming a world leader in solar technology, Israel has been slow to embrace solar energy on a wide scale. Most Israeli homes are equipped with solar water heaters, but the bulk of Israel's electricity is produced at coal-fired generating stations. Faiman attributes Israel's reluctance to go solar to nervous politicians.

"'There is a reluctance of governments to do anything new,' he says, 'That is a fundamental problem of governments all over the world. No politician wants to risk doing something that nobody's ever done before. Because if it doesn't work, it's the end of his political career.'"

Israeli solar power technology was also featured in an Aug. 21 report by Peter Armstrong for CBC Newsworld and the *National*.

Host Ian Hanomansing introduced the piece as being about "a remarkable energy experiment."

Armstrong also interviewed the Ben-Gurion Centre's Faiman, who "says he would need just 12 square kilometres to create 1,000 megawatts of energy at competitive costs."

Faiman told Armstrong: "A thousand megawatts is 10 per cent of Israel's present generating capacity… It's enough for something like a million people."

Summing up, Armstrong observed: "All of this has dramatically changed the landscape of solar energy, once a bit player, now a realistic, viable, pollution-free alternative to conventional energy sources."

The fact that CBC devoted so much attention to this story indicates the importance placed on Israel's technology sector, which can be of great benefit to a world deeply concerned about the environment, especially, clean sources of energy.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Coast to Coast

Oshawa teacher introduces diversity to her students through *Hana's Suitcase*

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

A 13-year-old girl who was murdered more than 60 years ago in Auschwitz is still inspiring people all over the world to learn about diversity, tolerance and community.

Shawntelle Nesbitt, a teacher who taught at Adelaide McLaughlin Public School in Oshawa last year, headed a year-long study project based on the book *Hana's Suitcase.*

The book tells the story of Fumiko Ishioka, a Japanese teacher and director of the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Center, who, among other artifacts for the centre, once received a suitcase belonging to Hana Brady.

Ishioka, along with her students, decided to investigate the life of the young Jewish girl and her tragic fate. The book, written by Karen Levine, chronicles their investigation and their discovery of Hana's brother, George Brady, who lives in Toronto.

Despite the fact that Nesbitt is not Jewish, and none of her Grade 6 students were either, she felt that this book would be the perfect foundation to create a project that would teach her students about the importance of tolerance and diversity.

Nesbitt said she first introduced her students to the concept by reading the book aloud to the class. She then asked them to create their own suitcases, modeled after Hana's, that would include items showcasing elements of their family history and identity.

"Just like Hana's suitcase told the story of her life, their suitcases told the story of theirs. It involved their grandparents [and] great-grandparents. It was over the course of the year and we integrated it into all my subjects," Nesbitt said.

Aside from creating a suitcase, students also learned about diversity by writing paragraphs, letters, journals, and reports about people living in countries including Sri Lanka, Hong Kong and Ukraine.

Students also created family trees, flags, Ukrainian Easter eggs, and time capsules.

She said that some of the artifacts and documents that the students brought in were from as far back as the 1800s.

"They brought in displacement papers, immigration papers, some kids had photographs of the actual ships their grandparents came in on… And at the end of the year was the big Grade 6 Gallery Opening and we had all of our suitcases displayed, all of our work throughout the year, and about 200 people [from the community] showed up," she said.

Shawntelle Nesbitt

But no matter what country, culture or community Nesbitt's class was studying, Hana was the centre of it all.

"Hana was someone who we talked about throughout the year and I always brought it back to Hana. If there was bullying in the schoolyard, [we applied it]… it became part of our classroom culture."

She said that she got the idea for this project when she was teaching at another school in Peterborough and she sat on the school's multicultural committee.

"We came up with the idea of the suitcase… but I hopefully took it up a notch where we really investigated our heritages and I integrated it into all our subjects and it wasn't just an add-on to the curriculum. I really tried to make it part of the foundation."

But Nesbitt was careful to ensure that the content wouldn't be too graphic for 11-year-olds.

"I know that a teacher of mine did that to us – they presented us with this graphic information and it just shut us down. It just shuts [kids] down and they can't connect to it. They can't see themselves. With Hana, Hana was their age, so they could connect with that, and getting to know their families while they were getting to know Hana was the connection that they needed, that the Holocaust wasn't just an event in the past," Nesbitt said.

"It was something that meant something to them. Bullying in the schoolyard – how is that different? It's not. I hope it gave them a sense of power in the way that 'I can change the world, and the Holocaust matters and it is connected to me and I can do things to change.'"

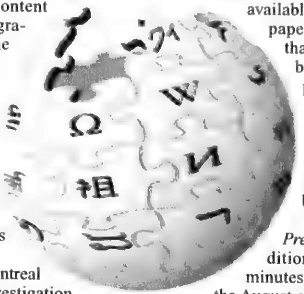
Continued on page 33

Coast to Coast

Defamatory Wikipedia entry not posted by its staff, city says

MONTREAL — Montreal city hall says none of its employees is responsible for a Wikipedia posting last year that the executive committee chair Frank Zampino may be a member of an apparently fictitious anti-Semitic group and a onetime Nazi supporter.

An internal investigation found that the defamatory content added to Zampino's biography in the popular online encyclopedia Wikipedia was not entered from a computer at city hall, as had been reported. The city says one of its computers was used by an employee in the executive offices to remove the offending passage on two occasions in July and August 2006.



The city has asked Montreal police to continue the investigation to find who is responsible. There have been suggestions that a hacker may have been able to make it look as if the vandalism was carried out from city hall.

The tampering with Zampino's entry came to light this month through a new online tool that allows modifications made to the Wikipedia to be traced to the computer used to do so based on a machine's unique IP address.

Anyone can anonymously make changes to Wikipedia entries.

On two days in July and August 2006 someone added to Zampino's entry in Wikipedia that he is an "alleged member of the International Kill-All-Jews Federation, division Montreal, member of Weight Watchers and a former Nazi supporter."

Using WikiScanner, which became available this month, the newspaper *La Presse* discovered that Zampino's entry had been tampered with apparently from a computer linked to the Internet connection on the third floor of city hall, in a conference room near Mayor Gerald Tremblay's office.

According to *La Presse*, the defamatory addition was removed two minutes after it was entered on the August occasion and then, from the same computer address, other non-contentious modifications were made to Zampino's entry.

In a statement, Zampino called the tampering a "smear campaign" and demanded that police get to the bottom of this incident. He also expressed regret for any offence caused to the Jewish community.

At the city's request, the managers of Wikipedia agreed to remove the defamatory material from its archives.

Project has a lasting effect on the students

Continued from page 32

Despite the fact that George Brady, Hana's brother, rarely speaks in public about his story, he was impressed enough with the project to travel to the school last May to speak to the students.

"He told us his story. He talked about before the war, during the war, after the war, and you could have heard a pin drop. It was amazing and it affected the kids so much," she said.

Nesbitt added that the project as a whole had a lasting effect on her students.

"They were so surprised with the diversity in their own families. They were just blown away, and that understanding extended to others. They saw diversity within themselves, diversity within their family and all over the place, and that was the shocking thing."

The students weren't the only ones who benefited from the project.

"It's changed my life. I want to get more into anti-racist, multicultural education. It changed me in a way that everything I said about the kids happened to me as well. It was powerful to see the effect of the contribution that I made."

Since heading the project at Adelaide McLaughlin in the 2005-06 school year, Nesbitt took the year off from teaching full-time and has been writing about and promoting the project in the hope that other teachers will introduce the same project in their classrooms.

Nesbitt has even put together a 20-minute video that showcases all the work her students did throughout the year.

"I think the whole point of multicultural education is not necessarily about studying exotic countries. I think kids working together, learning how to resolve conflict, appreciating each other and appreciating their community is more multicultural education, and that was where I thought it needed to be infused in the curriculum."

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish News

You go girls! Ethel Sparaga and Annie Sadoff celebrate their fun-loving friendship that began on Augusta Avenue 80 years ago. Poo-poo-poo from the kids.

Mazel tov to Edith Barsky on the celebration of her 80th birthday! With love from all your children and grandchildren.

Happy 40th wedding anniversary on Aug. 17 to Aubey & Marilyn Banack from children and grandchildren: Hartley, Iuliana, Bea, Lucia, Marni, Benjy and Bob.

Mazel tov to Jeremy Ansel, who graduated Grade 8 at Netivot Hatorah. Love, Mommy, Daddy, Daphna and Jordana.

Happy second birthday, Elle. May you have much joy and nachas this coming year. Love and kisses, Mom and Dad.

Happy fourth birthday, Jonathan. May you have much joy and nachas this coming year. Love and kisses, Mom and Dad.

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What's New deadlines: NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES. Tuesday, Sept. 4, is the deadline for the Sept. 20 issue; Monday, Sept. 10, is the deadline for the Sept. 26 issue; Monday, Sept. 17 is the deadline for the Oct. 3 issue; Wednesday, Sept. 19, is the deadline for the Oct. 11 issue; and Monday, Oct. 1, is the deadline for the Oct. 18 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0949 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com. I receive calls on deadline days only. This week's What's New was compiled by Carolyn Blackman.

Other News

PRE-SLICHOT PROGRAM

Pre-Slichot program and melaveh malka, Shaarei Tefillah Congregation, Sept. 8, 10:30 p.m, features a special showing of the BBC film *The Disputation*, followed by a discussion and Slichot service at midnight. Everyone invited.

HIGH HOLY DAYS

Join **Rabbi Menachem Leibtag** for an in-depth seminar examining the High Holy Days, Sept. 9, 9:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Or Chaim Yeshiva, 159 Almore Ave., $15 TimPass holders; students and teachers free. www.torahinmotion.org or 416-633-5770

CHORALAIRS

Choralairs of North York start their new season on Sept. 11, 8 p.m. at Earl Bales Park Community Centre. Rehearsals Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m. New members welcome, no auditions. Call **Brian**, 416-631-0029.

AM SHALOM SYNAGOGUE

High Holy Days in cottage country. **Rabbi Elyse Glickman** and **Cantor Susan Baskin** lead services at Am Shalom Synagogue in Barrie. For tickets, call **Denise**, 705-792-3949, or e-mail amshalomcongregation@bellnet.ca. Website: www.amshalom.ca.

KOSHER CRUISE V

Join Beth Jacob Congregation's for food, music and fireworks on their fifth annual kosher Labour Day cruise, Monday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m. $40. To reserve, call 416-638-5955 or visit www.byad.org. For information, call Sunday to Thursday, 9-11 a.m.

MAKIN' MUSIC

Join Beth Tzedec for "Families Makin' Music" beginning Friday, Sept. 7. Mixed ages to five years old, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; children under seven months, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Call **Helen Bauer**, 416-844-5655, to register.

SINGLES CRUISE IN OTTAWA

Singles 35+ are invited to a kosher dinner cruise with a klezmer band on Ottawa River, Sunday, Sept. 9, 4-8 p.m. $65. To reserve, call 613-523-3831 or e-mail cepelinski@rogers.com.

HEBREW SCHOOL

Beth Israel Hebrew Academy offers Sunday or Tuesday Hebrew school in Thornhill for students in senior kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah. Each lesson includes an art component. For information, contact **Lillian Benlolo** at 905-326-8767 or beth_israel@hotmail.com.

JF&CS GROUP

Join a workshop for parents about to separate. Find out how and when to tell the children, and get ideas and strategies to best meet your child's needs. Wednesday, Sept. 19, Promenade Mall, #303, 6:30-9 p.m. Call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215, or visit www.jfandcs.com.

TEMPLE HAR ZION

Join Temple Har Zion for barbecue, Havdalah and Slichot service, Sept. 8. **Rabbi Weiss** speaks on the topic "Bubbie's Recipe for Gefilte Fish and Other Crucial Things Our Children Need to Know." Vegetarian hotdogs and burgers available. BBQ 7:45 p.m., program 9 p.m., dessert 10 p.m., Havdalah and Slichot, 11 p.m. Members $10, children 12 and under $5, non-members $15. Please RSVP, 905-889-2252, ext. 5, by Aug. 31.

Continued on page 35

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Continued from page 34

BOWLERS WANTED

Sunday Night Bowling, 10-pin bowling for singles and couples 50+ meets every second Sunday at 7 p.m. The group also organizes social activities throughout the year. First bowling night, Sunday, Sept. 9. For details, call **Al** and **Rosalyne Federman** (couples) 416-635-0563 or **Hanita Chencinski** (singles) 416-922-1400.

Wednesday night ladies league at Playtime Bowl is looking for bowlers. Call **Charlene**, 416-221-9328.

Maven Bowling, a social league for men and women in their 30s, 40s and 50s, begins Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m. at Wilson ProBowl, 877 Wilson Ave. Come to the annual pre-season barbecue, Sept. 2, 6 p.m. Call 905-889-8333 for address and more information.

Women 40+ League: Join women 40+ for social 10-pin bowling at Newtonbrook Bowlerama every Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 5. For information, call **Elaine**, 416-498-6543, or **Wendy**, 905-707-3499.

B'nai Brith men's bowling league bowls three games on Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. at World Bowl on Leslie Street. Call **Don**, 905-707-3499.

HIGH HOLY DAYS TICKETS

Join **Chabad Markham** for the High Holy Days, 83 Green Lane. Tickets available at 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

Kolel celebrates the High Holy Days with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** at the BJCC. For tickets, call 416-636-1880, ext. 255, or visit www.kolel.org.

YIDDISH CLASSES

The Committee for Yiddish, Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto offer Yiddish language classes for adults at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Conversation, reading and writing are included at each level. All classes take place Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon, beginning Sept. 23. $110/12 sessions. Conversational Yiddish, with materials provided in transliteration, is offered Tuesdays, beginning Oct. 9, 1-3 p.m. $90/10 sessions. A free children's Yiddish class involving language, culture and the celebration of Jewish holidays is offered Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Registration is Sunday, Sept. 23. The first class is Sept. 30. There is a $20 supplies fee. All classes are held at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. For more information, contact **Ethel Cooper** at ecooper@ujafed.org or 416-635-2883, ext. 389.

SUPPORT GROUP

The Caring for Your Loved One support group for those caring for an elderly parent with dementia starts this fall, Wednesday evenings 6-7:30 p.m. at Baycrest, To register, call 416-785-2500, ext. 3587 (**Nira**) or ext. 2998 (**Elaine**).

AMPUTEE SUPPORT

Chazak V'Ematz, outreach support for all amputees to help them adjust to life, meets to discuss new products and prosthetic devices. For information and confidential support, call **Ruth**, 416-783-3717.

WEEKLY CLASSES

The weekly Talmud-Gemarah classes resume Wednesday, Sept. 5, 9:15 a.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda. Newcomers welcome. Class is in English using Hebrew text.

Weekly Bible-Tanach class meets Thursdays beginning Sept. 6 at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am. Newcomers welcome. Class conducted in English using Hebrew text. **Aaron Nussbaum** leads both classes. Call 416-633-8097.

FOR SENIORS

Seniors Weekly Bowling, single and couples, meets every Sunday at 7 p.m. at Bowlerama, Bathurst and Glencairn, for five-pin bowling. First-time bowlers welcome. For information, call **Ben,** 416-633-2428.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Senior social bridge club, Forest Hill Library, two afternoons a week, 12-3:15 p.m. Call **Anne** 416-783-5368.

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park. Sunday dance, Sept. 2 and Sept. 23; Casino Rama. Wednesday, Sept. 5; Casino Fallsview Niagara, Tuesday, Sept. 18. Activities include mah-jong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; duplicate bridge, Wednesdays, 12-3 p.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m. For information, call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 416-395-7881.

Bathurst JCC and Miles Nadal JCC present 55+ tours to Ottawa and 1000 Islands, Oct. 23-25. Includes two nights' accommodation, tours, food and entertainment. For information and registration, contact **Teme Kernerman**, 416-636-1880, ext. 364, e-mail bjcc55plus@bjcc.ca; or **Randi Sokolsky**, 416-924-6211, ext. 154, e-mail randis@mnjcc.org.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

High Holy Days Tickets. Tickets for the Orthodox synagogue as well as our newly renamed Beth Chavarim Synagogue are on sale at the Wagman service desk, ext. 2267. Tickets $80.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Stories from the Heart, Thursday, Aug. 30, 12-1 p.m. $3.

Free classic movies, Thursday, Aug. 30, 2 p.m.

Michelle Cauch talks about "Sex After 60." Thursday, Aug. 30, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free.

Constantia Retirement Residence sponsors a High Holy Days luncheon, Wednesday, Sept. 5. Noon to 2 p.m. Members $10, non-members, $13

Theeba Poopalasingham speaks on "Taking Proper Care of Your Feet," Thursday, Sept. 6. 1:30-2:30 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Red Cross Babysitting Course for 11- to 14-year-olds takes place at the BJCC Sunday, Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. What to do in case of emergency, safety tips for children of all ages, how to cope with common problems and first aid will be covered. Course certificate and workbook will be given to all who successfully complete the course. Pre-registration is required, call ext. 235.

Seniors online computer Internet courses made easy for adults 55+. Personalized attention, low student-to-teacher ratio. With the course Windows - Level 1, take control of your computer by becoming comfortable using the Windows operating system. Begins Sept. 4. Open computer lab, walk-in basis, $1 per hour, Monday and Wednesday noon-1 p.m. in Room 216. For information or registration, call ext. 235.

Join Conversation Café Thursday evenings, a joint program with JIAS, offering newcomers a chance to practise their English in a social environment. Call for information.

jVIAnetwork connects active vision-impaired Jewish adults. The group looks to establish a recreational and phys-ed program, and offer outings and activities that allow for socialization and networking. For information, call **Bess**, 905-508-2892.

Hebrew Club for the Blind: For seniors who are blind or vision impaired. Holds meetings the first Monday of each month and features guest speakers or entertainment. Run by the blind with assistance of volunteers. Call **Bess**, 905-508-2892

Register now for September programs and classes for birth to six years old at the Family Place at Jewish Discovery Museum. The museum offers wide array of classes, including music, Hebrew, nature and cooking. For information, call ext. 390 or to register call ext. 235.

BJCC has a special block of tickets for good seats for the first night of *Jewtopia*, Sept. 23, 7 p.m. at the Diesel Playhouse on Blue Jays Way. Supporting the event will send children to Centre Camp. Tickets $118 gold or $150 platinum seating. E-mail bjcc@bjcc.ca or call 416-636-1880, ext. 271.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

The 2007-08 Miles Nadal JCC program book is now available at www.mnjcc.org. Register for Hebrew classes; Jewish meditation; adult choirs; klezmer workshop with **Eric Stein**; musicianship; pottery; Film Sundays with **Shlomo Schwartzberg**; Music Sundays with **Jordan Klapman**; private music lessons. Children's programs include preschool classes; after school programs; nursery school; Suzuki program; preschool music. Fitness and swimming classes available for all ages and levels. To register, call ext. 0.

Good Age Club meets every Thursday at 1 p.m. Aug. 30, Movie Mania. Annual membership fee of $50 includes one yoga and one aquafit class at the MNjcc per week. For information, contact **Randi Sokolsky** at randis@mnjcc.org or ext. 154.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Learn to be a professional puppeteer and help the Concerned Kids educate children 4-14 about drugs, violence, gangs, multiculturalism and more. If you are energetic and can give four hours a week until June 2008, send a resumé to info@theconcernedkids.com or call **Linamaria**, 416-636-1656. Access to a car preferred.

Circle of Care's hospice program needs caring volunteers to devote about three hours a week to provide companionship and caregiver relief to individuals and their families facing a life-threatening illness. Comprehensive 30-hour training program begins Oct. 11. Call **Gaye Duncan**, 416-635-2860.

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OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Joskowicz, Margaret	July. 29/07	
Eichenbaum, Tema	Aug. 12/07	305 Cummer Ave
Lane, Jenny	Aug. 12/07	7300 Yonge St
Mogilevskaia, Ida	Aug. 14/07	4455 Bathurst St
Tatarski, Samouel	Aug. 14/07	Private
Zohar, Haia	Aug. 15/07	
Knobel, Bella	Aug. 15/07	Private
Frankel, Samuel Nathan	Aug. 16/07	7601 Bathurst St
Kane, Helen	Aug. 16/07	541 Finch Ave. W.
Remez, Emil	Aug. 17/07	3560 Bathurst St
Belady Porges, Irene	Aug. 18/07	
Slutsky, Beatrice Gertrude	Aug. 18/07	306 Finch Ave. E.
Kovbatyuk, Yevheniya	Aug. 18/07	Private
Weinrieb, Sylvia	Aug. 17/07	2 Neptune Dr
Dolgonos, Ayzik	Aug. 18/07	291 York Hill Bl
Morgan, Sam	Aug. 19/07	48 Forest Manor Rd
Kaplun, Victor	Aug. 21/07	Private
Finkelshtain, Sam	Aug. 19/07	108 Forecastle Rd
Rubinstein, Bill	Aug. 20/07	53 Timberlane Dr
Ginsberg, Rose	Aug. 20/07	2005 Lawrence Av W
Small, Mary	Aug. 22/07	6101 Bathurst St

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Bernard Bernikier	Aug 10/07	35 Argyle Road
Daisy Harris	Aug 11/07	85 Skymark Drive,
Lillian Salsberg	Aug 13/07	24 Ridgevale Dr.
Dusia Bien	Aug 14/07	4266 Bathurst Street
Ada Turner	Aug 13/07	645 Castlefield Avenue
Gabor Szekely	Aug 14/07	350 Lonsdale Road
Leonard Schechtman	Aug 14/07	3560 Bathurst Street
Irving Erenberg	Aug 15/07	19 Lower Village Gate
Jack Magder	Aug 17/07	255 West St.

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

Manuela Marcovici	Aug 6/07	5935 Bathurst St
Rakhil Lioubochits	Aug 7/07	100 Antibes Dr
Robert Kernerman	Aug 9/07	10 Ruddington Dr
Annie Benson	Aug 16/07	3 Candice Gate

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

CAROL (CZESLAWA) LEVITAN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, September 9th at 9:30 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Farband of Lithuanian Jews Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

ANNETTE SMILOVIC (SMILEY) ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, September 9th at 11:00 a.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park

Shaarei Tefillah Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

LILLIAN RUBIN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Sept. 9th, 11:30 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Beth Zion Oshawa Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Coast to Coast

Canadian federations gather aid for Peru

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Following the launch of an emergency relief fund by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto to help victims of the recent earthquake in Peru, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg has set up its own website to aid those affected.

Proceeds from the relief campaigns will be distributed via the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), which will work in harmony with various other disaster relief agencies already on the ground.

United Israel Appeal Federations Canada (UIAFC) said all its local affiliates are either using individual sites or the Toronto-based website to spread the word to Jewish communities across the country.

However, all funds are being funnelled through UIAFC to the JDC relief effort.

Gayle Tallman, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, said her organization is referring her community to the Toronto federation's website.

Peru's Jewish community of approximately 3,000 people, most of whom live in Lima, has also contributed with supplies.

The 8.0 magnitude earthquake hit about 200 kilometres south of Lima on Aug. 15, killed 500 people, injured more than 1,500 others, and left tens of thousands homeless.

UIAFC and the Winnipeg federation could not determine last week how much money had been raised in total by Canada's Jewish communities to date, as it was still early on in the relief campaign.

But UJA Federation in Toronto said it had raised $10,000 as of Aug. 24.

To contribute, visit www.jewishwinnipeg.org or www.jewishtoronto.net and click on the "Peru Earthquake Relief Fund" emblem.

STUDENTS LEAVE FOR HIGH SCHOOL IN ISRAEL: From left, students Natalie Halyo, Yael Fridlander, Jenna Greenbloom and Halyo's sister Shiran pose with Liane Sela, regional director of Toronto's Israel Aliyah Centre, at a celebratory send-off. The girls are among seven Canadians who will leave for Israel on Sunday to study at the Elite Academy. The program, sponsored by the government of Israel and the Jewish Agency, offers three years of high school in Israel for free. About 80 North American students will begin the program this year.

On Campus

Israeli school's status upgrade meets with opposition

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Despite public opposition by Israel's Minister of Education, the College of Judea and Samaria in Ariel declared itself a "university center" earlier this month in what may be the first step on the way to full-fledged university status.

The school, renamed the Ariel University Center of Samaria, has since been clouded in controversy, because Israel's Council for Higher Education (CHE) opposes the name change and provisional designation for the West Bank school, as does Education Minister Yuli Tamir, who said the declaration is meaningless, illegal and politically motivated.

But Ariel Ellisman, the executive director of the American Friends of the College of Judea and Samaria, said that school administrators "looked at all the rules and played the game as… it needed to be played and did it thoroughly and completely…

"Our feeling is that it is almost woeful that the person who is in charge of education in Israel made it something political when it should be a matter of education," he added.

Established in 1982, the school, located in the settlement of Ariel, is the largest public college and one of the fastest-growing academic institutions in Israel, with a student body of more than 9,000.

Despite this, the CHE said the research being done there is not up to university standards, and it vowed that its planning and budgeting committee would not grant the school the funding that other universities get.

The controversy began in 2005 when Limor Livnat, then the education minister, pushed through a cabinet resolution that supported upgrading the college to university status, which would allow it to issue post-graduate degrees and apply for more government funding for research.

Many opposed this move because of the political implications – the school is located well beyond the Green Line and the CHE had also decided that it didn't want to create another university in Israel for at least five years.

In July 2006, the CHE rejected the college's request for a status change, but the school found a loophole and applied to the Council for Higher Education in Judea and Samaria (CHE-JS), an independent organization that supervises higher education in the West Bank.

The CHE-JS appointed an evaluation committee made up of celebrated academics to decide whether the college would meet the requirements expected of a university.

"The panel said… in order to justify an approval for university status, we had to establish three more graduate programs. They have to be fully accredited, they have to go through the process. In June, we had approval of our MBA program, so that met the criteria of the graduate programs. When we came in with the MBA program, we had all the elements there," Ellisman said, adding that after the committee reviewed the school's progress, it approved the status change in July.

Ynetnews reported that the school's executive committee chairman, Yigal Cohen-Orgad, said there was nothing illegal about the process.

"This process has passed an inspection by a committee [comprising] four Israel Prize laureates, three of whom are members of the Academy of Science, who inspected the college's data for over a year before making their recommendations," he said.

But Ellisman explained that the school is not a full-fledged university yet. "Now we are authorized to assume the status of what we would call a 'university center,'" he said, adding that the CHE-JS will decide in five years whether to recognize it as a full-fledged university, based on how well it performs and meets certain criteria.

"We were depending upon [the committee], and the world was basically depending on them to make an objective review based purely on academics. The college has tried to sidestep, if you would, the politics of this location and in many ways, rise above that discussion by providing high standard education," Ellisman said.

Continued on page 38

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Join us for our pre-season BBQ at the home of one of our bowlers on **Sunday, September 2**, starting at 6:00 p.m.

MAVEN BOWLING

Please call **Ron** at **905-889-8333** for the address of the BBQ, and for further information on the league if you are interested in joining.

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School doesn't have to be all about homework

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The realization that summer is coming to an end is depressing enough, but coupled with the knowledge that another year of essays, exams, three-hour lectures and all-night cram sessions is just around the corner can make the last week of summer vacation a bittersweet experience.

But school doesn't have to be all work and no play.

For those seasoned university veterans who are going back for yet another year, and for the freshmen who are preparing to venture into a new world, here is a list of Jewish student groups, both social and political, that can be found at universities in the Greater Toronto Area.

Hillel, whether at York University, the University of Toronto or Ryerson University, is a group that aims to provide students with Jewish-themed activities, both social and educational. No membership is required, and involvement is encouraged for all Jews, regardless of denomination. Hillels in the GTA can be accessed through links at www.hilleltoronto.org.

Kulanu Toronto (www.kulanutoronto.ca), the Jewish Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Queer (LGBTQ) social group, is designed for, but not exclusive to, the student community and is funded by Hillel Toronto. Founded in 2003, the organization offers events for the LGBTQ community with a Jewish theme. All of their events are kosher and include Shabbat dinners, barbecues, karaoke nights, movie nights, and pub nights.

If singing is your passion, join the **Varsity Jews**, U of T's Jewish a cappella choir, which is also affiliated with Hillel. The Varsity Jews (www.varsityjews.com) sing anything from traditional Hebrew folk to classic rock "with an added Jewish flavour." By selling tickets to their performances, they have raises thousands of dollars for Jewish and Israeli causes. There is also a Jewish a cappella group at York called **Kol Neshama**.

A year-old group at York called the **Campus Coalition of Zionists**, headed by Jonathan Roth (cczatyork@gmail.com) takes a political stance in support of Israel and against anti-Israel groups.

Betar Tagar (www.betar.ca) at U of T is a Zionist student organization that is based on the ideals and philosophy of Ze'ev Jabotinsky, a pioneer of the Zionist movement, and is dedicated to promoting Israel's right to exist in peace and security.

Shalom – Salam (www.yorku.ca/ssy) is a group that was formed "to create, facilitate and promote an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance as well as peaceful co-existence between pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian students within the York community."

The Canadian Jewish Law Students' Association (www.cjlsa.ca), founded in 1987 "acts as the national voice for Jewish law students." Each year, it organizes a national conference that emphasizes professional development and offers students the opportunity to network.

For a more spiritual approach to Judaism, the **Kabbalah Club** reaches out to people of all backgrounds and faiths to meet, study, discuss and socialize. For more information, e-mail Jacob Kessler at jkessler@rogers.com.

Interested in honing your writing skills? **Notebook**, (http://notebook.sa.utoronto.ca) a journal for students, by students, tackles contemporary Jewish issues with "well-researched, and intellectually provocative" pieces that aim to encourage healthy dialogue on campus.

While universities may be reluctant to recognize these groups on campus, there is no denying the presence of fraternities and sororities. The Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi, better known as **AEPi**, (www.aepi.org) isn't all about womanizing and beer-guzzling. The brothers are dedicated to building a sense of community and raising money for good causes.

Delta Pi, (www.deltapisorority.ca) the female equivalent to AEPi, based at York University, is also dedicated to raising money for causes such as breast cancer.

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School not a full-fledged university

Continued from page 37

"Our standing as an educational institution should not be questioned. Whether or not we are to be advanced to a university, that should be in the hands of academics who can make those kinds of decisions."

Although Tamir and the CHE are vehemently opposed to the school's change in status, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert welcomed the announcement with a letter to school president Dan Meyerstein.

In it, he congratulated Meyerstein and said that the upgrade would benefit Israel's economy and society.

"In some people's eyes, our existence in Ariel is considered to be politically controversial. My personal view and that of many others is that if Jews are going to be in Judea and Samaria, then the real question is, what are we doing there and are we worthy of the position. I can't think of anything more worthy than creating a world-class university… I think it's sad that the top representative of Israeli education is seemingly playing a political card, and my hope is that the dust will settle and the real questions will remain – are they worthy?"

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Holiday Food Ideas

Preparing for Rosh Hashanah

Editorial

In Jewish homes, food is very much linked to tradition, especially around the High Holy Days.

As our grandparents and great-grandparents did before us, we serve apples and honey, slightly sweet round challahs dotted with raisins to make them extra sweet, and carrot rounds to symbolize our hope that we will increase our good deeds in the coming year.

On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, we eat a fruit that we haven't yet eaten this season. Many of us choose pomegranates because it is said that each one contains 613 seeds, equal to the number of mitzvot, and because we hope that the number of good deeds in the upcoming year will be as plentiful as these seeds.

In some homes, a fish head, an ancient symbol of fertility and abundance is placed on the Rosh Hashanah table to symbolize the head of the new year. In other homes, rice is served to symbolize abundance, or spinach to symbolize a green year with plenty of produce.

The one custom that links us all, however, is the gathering of family and friends around the Rosh Hashanah table, and the presentation of food that encompasses the various customs.

Jewish cooks everywhere plan their dinners by digging up old family favourites, swapping recipes with friends, or poring over cookbooks for some new and creative ideas.

Most seek to incorporate the ancient symbols into their meals, and choose such dishes as carrot tzimmes, honey-baked chicken or apple cake.

We have tried to help you in your search for recipes by providing some favourites from longtime *CJN* contributors and from new friends who are happy to share.

From all of us at *The CJN,* we wish you happy cooking and, most of all, a shanah tovah.

–C.B.

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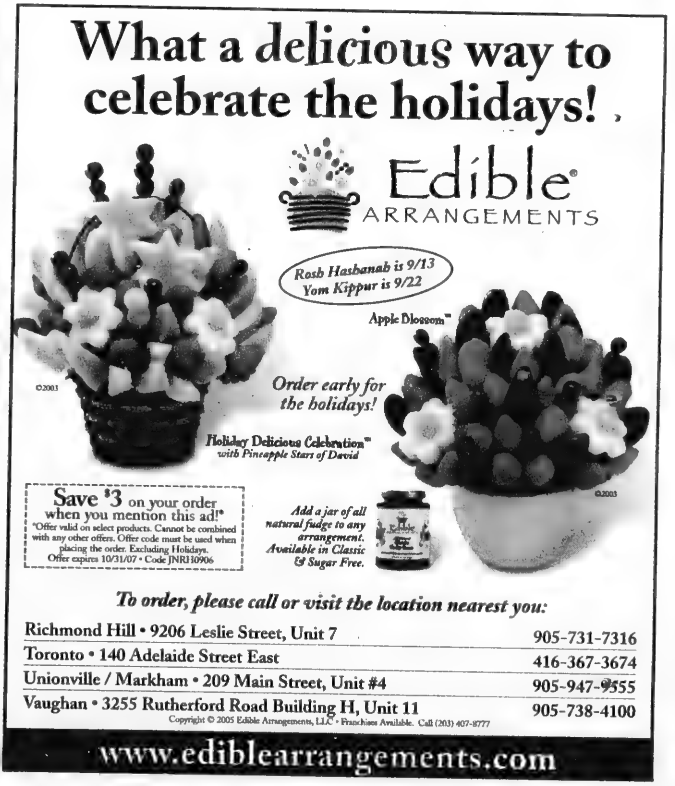

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Sweet beginnings for a new year

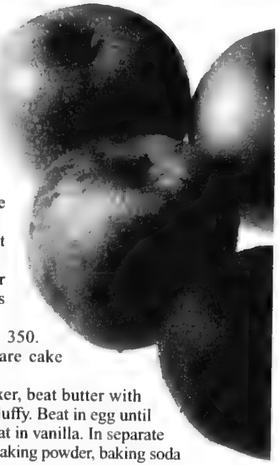
By DAPHNA RABINOVITCH
Special to The CJN

One can never have too many dessert recipes, in my opinion, and certainly at this time of year, that idiom applies to apple desserts as well. Apples pair so wonderfully with so many different flavours such as toffee, cheese, cranberries and of course, cinnamon. These four flavours are highlighted in the recipes below. Try to use apples such as golden delicious or spy, which hold their shape when baked.

TOFFEE APPLE CAKE

A homey cake with huge kid appeal, this cake is super easy to make and just perfect for an after synagogue luncheon.

1/4 cup unsalted butter, softened
1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
1egg
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. each baking powder and baking soda
pinch salt
1/2 cup sour cream
1 cup diced peeled apples
1/3 cup Skor toffee bits



Topping
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 tbsp. packed light brown sugar
2 tbsp. unsalted butter
1/2 cup Skor toffee bits

Preheat oven to 350. Grease an 8-in. square cake pan.

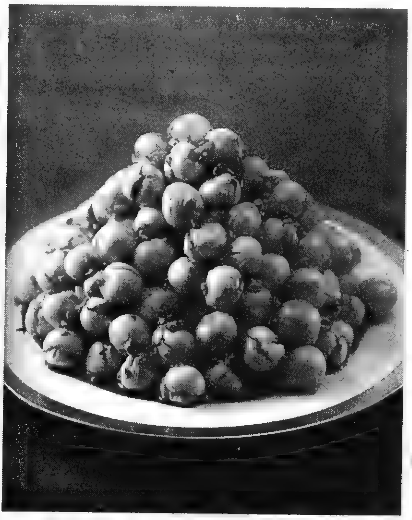
Using electric mixer, beat butter with sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg until well incorporated. Beat in vanilla. In separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Using wooden spoon, stir flour mixture into butter mixture alternately with sour cream, making three additions of dry ingredients and two of sour cream. Gently fold in apples and toffee bits. Spread batter into prepared baking pan.

For topping, mix together flour, sugar, butter and toffee bits until very crumbly; sprinkle evenly over batter.

Bake in centre of preheated oven for 35 to 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean. Makes 12 servings.

Continued on page 41

HONEY TEIGLACH



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Plan a grand finale for your holiday meal

Continued from page 40

DOUBLE APPLE BUNDT CAKE

The apple butter, which is simply cooked down apples with sugar, lends this delicious cake extra moistness. Feel free to substitute walnuts or pecans for the raisins.

⅓ cup unsalted butter or margarine, softened
1⅓ cups packed brown sugar
2 eggs
1 cup apple butter
2 large tart apples, peeled, cored and grated
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. baking soda
¼ tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp.salt
½ cup raisins or chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 10-in. (12-cup) Bundt pan.

Using electric mixer, beat butter with sugar until light coloured, scraping down mixture often. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gradually beat in the apple butter. The mixture will look curdled.

In separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt; gradually stir into butter mixture alternately with grated apples, making three additions of dry ingredients and two of apples. Fold in raisins. Scrape batter into prepared pan, smoothing top.

Bake in preheated oven for 40 to 45 minutes or until cake tester inserted in centre comes out clean. Cool in pan on rack for 10 minutes. Unmould cake and let cool completely. Dust with icing sugar or drizzle with caramel sauce before serving. Makes 16 servings.

HONEY CARAMELIZED APPLE CHEESECAKE

This is indeed a honey of a cake, meant as a grand finale. Even if you're stuffed to the gills, you'll find yourself finishing off a slice of this sublime dessert. Make this the day ahead as it needs to be refrigerated overnight to set.

Crust
1½ cups graham cracker crumbs
3 tbsp. granulated sugar
½ tsp. cinnamon
¼ cup unsalted butter, melted

Apple Layer
3 large tart apples, peeled, cored and cut into eighths
2 tbsp. butter
2 tbsp. each granulated sugar and honey

Cream Cheese Filling
1½ lbs. cream cheese, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
2 tsp. vanilla
3 eggs
¾ cup sour cream

Preheat oven to 325. In bowl, mix together graham cracker crumbs, sugar, cinnamon and butter until crumbs are thoroughly moistened. Pat into bottom and partly up the sides of 9-inch springform pan. Centre pan on a large piece of aluminum foil; press foil tightly to sides of springform. Bake in centre of preheated oven for 10 minutes. Remove; let cool slightly.

Meanwhile, prepare apples. Melt butter in large skillet set over medium-high heat. When butter is bubbling, add apples and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Add sugar and honey. Cook, stirring often, for 10 minutes or until apples are nicely browned. Let cool for 5 minutes.

Arrange apples slices in concentric circles on top of graham base, using electric beaters, beat cream cheese for 2 minutes, until fluffy. Gradually beat in sugar, scraping down sides often. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition and scraping down sides frequently. Beat in vanilla. Stir in sour cream. Pour mixture over apples. Set springform in larger roasting pan; pour in enough hot water to come 1-in. up sides. Bake in centre of preheated oven for 45 to 55 minutes or until shine disappears and edge is set but centre still jiggles slightly.

Turn off oven. Let cake cool in oven for 1 hour. Remove from water bath onto rack and remove foil; let cool completely. Remove sides of springform. Cover and refrigerate overnight or for up to 2 days. Just before serving, garnish with a drizzle of honey. Makes 16 servings.

APPLE-BERRY CRISP

Topping
1 cup all purpose flour
¾ cup packed light brown sugar
¾ cup old fashioned oats
1 tsp. cinnamon
pinch ground ginger
½ cup butter or margarine, melted

Filling
5 apples, peeled, cored and sliced
1½ cup raspberries, blueberries or strawberries
½ cup dried cranberries
½ cup granulated sugar
1 tbsp. all purpose flour

Preheat oven to 375. Lightly grease 8-in. square baking dish or 8 1-cup capacity bowls or cups.

In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, oats, cinnamon and ginger. Pour butter over, mixing until very crumbly.

For filling, toss apples, berries of choice, cranberries, sugar and flour together. Transfer to prepared baking dish(es). Sprinkle topping evenly over the fruit mixture.

Bake in centre of preheated oven for 40 to 45 minutes or until the topping is golden and fruit juices are bubbling. Let rest for at least 15 minutes before serving. Makes 8 servings.

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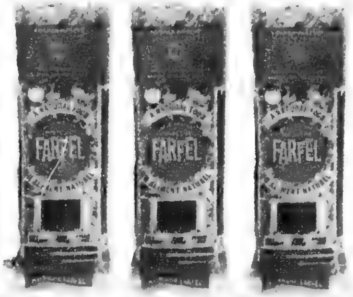
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Holiday Food Ideas

Homemade bread-baking on the rise

By SUE EPSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Homemade bread-baking seems to be on the rise judging from the number of new cookbooks available on the subject. But to Jewish women, challah-making has always been special. It's one of the three special mitzvot given exclusively to women.

A Taste of Challah: A Comprehensive Guide to Challah and Bread Baking (Feldheim Publishers) by Tamar Ansh is one of the most comprehensive books, complete with clear and detailed instructions and more than 350 beautiful full-colour, step-by-step photographs.

It's more than just another bread-making recipe book. I am an experienced bread-maker and have taught classes in bread-making for many years. Nevertheless, I learned so much from this book.

Sitting in Tamar's kitchen, listening to this bubbly, petite woman enthuse about challah baking was a pleasure. Tamar decided that there weren't any cookbooks that offered detailed photographs and instructions for making challah and set about to de-mystify what she calls the art of challah- and bread-making. Every recipe in the book was homemade by Tamar and photographed to prove that the recipes really do work. The different ways of shaping the challahs will amaze you.

In addition to recipes and instructions for everything you ever wanted to know about making and braiding challah, there are wonderful chapters on large challah shapes, small challah shapes, health challah and breads, specialty breads, Middle Eastern breads and accompaniments, and fun and different ideas. Recipes include, in addition to the traditional challahs, Zatar challah, Pecan challah, Yemenite Saluf, flower-shaped challah rolls, kubana, onion croissants and dessert breads and rolls.

Most of the challah recipes begin with Always Perfect No-egg Challah, and then expand on the basic recipe. Many of them, however, are given in amounts to make six or more large, 8-10 medium or 30-35 small challahs with no instructions given for smaller quantities. This won't present a challenge as the recipes can easily be halved.

Whether you're a novice to challah- and bread-baking or an old hand at it, this is a book you'll definitely want to own. It would also make a wonderful gift for your favourite bride. As the book indicates, it was "published to encourage young women, older women, freshly Jewish, oldly Jewish, newly marrieds, oldly marrieds and soon-to-be-marrieds everywhere." I would also add, you don't even have to be Jewish.

ALWAYS PERFECT NO-EGG CHALLAH

Basic white flour challah dough
16 to 17 cups freshly sifted white flour
$4\frac{3}{4}$ to 5 cups warm water
$1\frac{1}{3}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups sugar
75 g fresh yeast (if fresh is not available, you can substitute 3 tbsp. of dry yeast)
1 cup canola oil
1 tbsp. salt

Sift the flour. This can be done the night before and placed in a large garbage bag to save time, although you can certainly sift the flour the same day you plan to make the dough. Close the bag tightly until ready for use.

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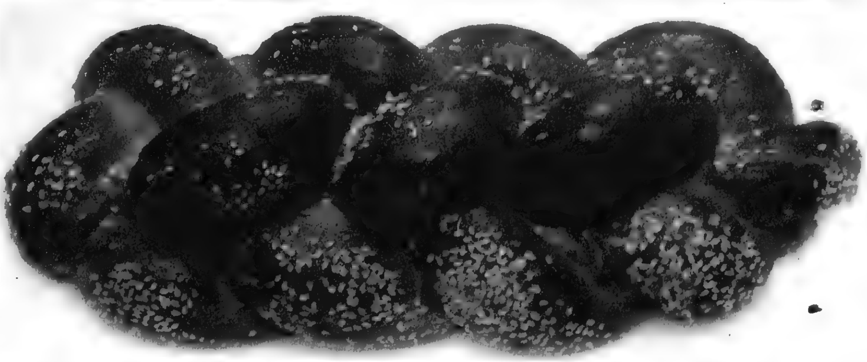

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Continued from page 43

Boil a few cups of the water. In one small pareve bowl or measuring cup, put ½ cup boiled water and 1 cup tap water together. Test with your finger to make sure it is very warm but not boiling. Boiling water kills the yeast activity.

Add ¼ cup of the sugar to this water and then the fresh yeast. Cover this small bowl with a plate and set it aside for 10 minutes to make sure the yeast starts bubbling. This means the yeast is activating. If the yeast doesn't bubble up, it means the yeast is not good; discard, and start again.

In a large mixer bowl (if you don't have a mixer, you can do this by hand), place, in this order: oil, the rest of the sugar, 2 cups warm water, salt and 8 cups flour. Mix it all very well until a thin sort of batter forms. After the yeast mixture has bubbled, add this also and mix again.

Now start adding the remaining flour slowly, one or two cups at a time, until it is all mixed in.

By this point all of the ingredients except for the remaining water should be mixed in. The total amount of water used so far is about 4 cups.

Keep adding a quarter cup of water at a time to the mixing dough until a pliable, smooth and non-sticky consistency is reached.

If the dough is too firm, you need to add a bit more water, and also 2 more tablespoons of oil. If the dough is too soft or wet, add a bit more flour, even if you have to go over the 17 cup limit somewhat. In general, there will be about 5 cups of water total. Climates, different flours and different yeasts all make a vast difference in this stage.

Grease your hands or a large plastic spatula with a fine layer of oil. Scrape down sides of bowl and mix the very bottom of the bowl to ensure that all the flour is well mixed into your dough and that it is uniform in texture all around. You may need to add a bit more oil to the bottom of the bowl before remixing in order to keep the dough from becoming too sticky.

In general, in order to keep your dough pliable, non-sticky and smooth, use small amounts of oil on the outside of the dough, not extra flour. Too much flour dries out the dough in the long run, whereas the fine layer of oil keeps it from sticking and makes it easier to work with, helps it rise better, and enhances its overall taste.

Cover bowl with dough inside – but do not remove from mixer yet – and let rise in bowl for 10 minutes. Uncover and knead, with a drop more oil, for another 5 minutes.

For added smoothness, you can cover the dough one more time for 10 minutes, and then knead by hand the final time for another 5-10 minutes until smooth and workable. Just look at how much nicer that same messy, ugly dough appears now!

Grease your hands lightly and remove dough from mixing bowl. If you are not shaping challahs until later in the day, or if you chose to make the dough at night in order to shape and bake it the next morning, place dough in a very large garbage bag and take out all the air from the bag. Tie at the end, giving dough plenty of space to rise and place in fridge. Remove from fridge 30-45 minutes before you are ready to shape.

If you are shaping right away, leave the dough in the garbage bag or covered well with plastic on the counter for 1 hour before shaping. It will rise at least double its size.

Cut off slices of dough and, with the aid of your rolling pin, roll each one out to a medium thin oval. Roll into a log and set aside for 5 minutes. Braid challahs and allow them to rise for 45 minutes on a baking tray covered with parchment paper. Cover loosely with plastic while rising.

Preheat oven to 375 for 20 minutes prior to baking. Make an egg mixture of 3 whole eggs plus 2 egg yolk and 1 tsp. oil. Mix together and gently brush over challahs.

For large challahs bake 20-25 minutes until they start to turn brown. Lower the heat to 350 and continue baking until done (when they are browned completely on the bottom also). Makes 6 large challahs, 8 to 10 medium challahs, 30 to 35 small challah rolls.

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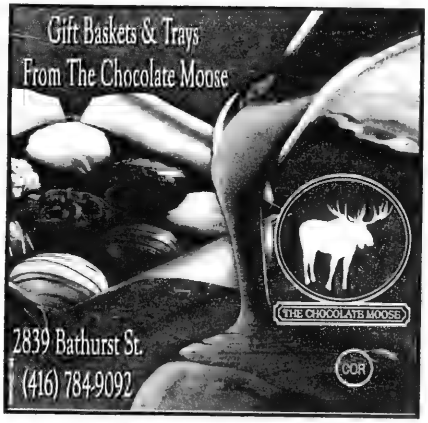

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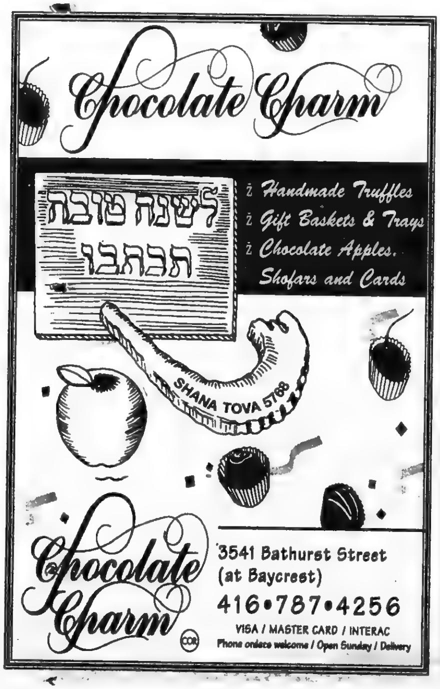

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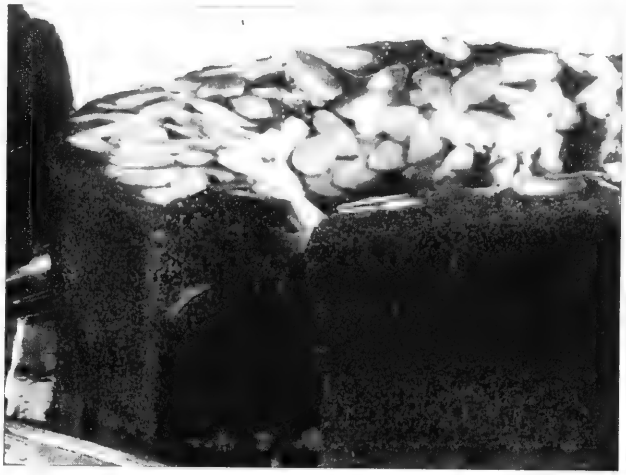
Holiday Food Ideas

Baking traditions too good to keep in family



By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Some families have special recipes that get handed down from one generation to the next.

For instance, Gilda Berger's cinnamon coffee cake has been baked by four generations of her family. She brought the cake to Camp Gesher on visitors' day, and it was such a hit that she kindly agreed to share the recipe, with *CJN* readers.

"I am delighted that my Baba Rhoda's sour cream coffee cake was so appreciated," Berger says. "It is a treasured legacy she left us.

"My daughter Talia has made this cake from my recipe collection. So the tradition continues from my paternal baba, to my mother, to me and my sister, and now to my daughter."

In the Simms family, the tradition of passing on recipes is skipping a generation, says Frances Simms, mother of three, grandmother of seven and great-grand mother of two. She says she never had time to teach her daughters the recipes she learned from her own mother and friends in the Hamilton Jewish community.

"My daughters were too busy with school and music lessons, but they tell me that when they used to turn into our driveway they could always smell my baking."

She says that while her two daughters never had the time or inclination to bake, her teenage granddaughters, Kayla and Tamar, are eager to learn. "They've been coming up to the apartment to bake with me on Sundays during the school year."

Although her daughters are not bakers, Simms says they have decided they do want to know how to make her "amazing" gefilte fish recipe. "This year, they're coming over to learn. They say it's so good I should keep the recipe a family secret."

Like Simms, Freda Schwartz, mother of four daughters and grandmother of six, says so far, it's her 19-year-old granddaughter, Nina Kagan, who's most interested in learning her baking secrets. Very popular with the family at Rosh Hashanah is a honey cake Schwartz learned to make when she lived in Winnipeg. She describes it as lighter tasting and less dense than the more traditional honey cakes.

She says she has not yet had the chance to show her granddaughter how to make the honey cake recipe below. However, she has taught her to make her cheesecake, which she makes for family birthdays and anniversaries.

"Nina called me. She said she made the cheesecake for her friends. She said, 'Bubbie they really liked it. It tasted just like yours,'" Schwartz says.

Continued on page 47

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Try some old time favourites

Continued from page 46

BABA RHODA'S CINNAMON SOUR CREAM COFFEE CAKE

Batter
½ cup butter
1 cup white sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. baking powder
1½ cups flour
1 cup sour cream

Filling
¼ cup brown sugar
2 tsp. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350. Cream butter, eggs and sugar. Add alternately soda, baking powder, flour and sour cream. Blend until smooth. Grease and lightly sprinkle with flour a ring-shaped cake pan.

Spoon half the batter around the cake pan. Sprinkle ¾ of the cinnamon-brown sugar filling over the batter all around. Spoon the remaining batter on top and then sprinkle the sugar-cinnamon on top. Alternatively, all the cinnamon-sugar filling can be put in the middle, instead of using some for the top. Bake for 45 minutes. Test with a toothpick, which should come out dry.

FRANCES SIMMS' MERINGUE COOKIES

2 egg whites
⅛ tsp. salt
⅛ tsp. cream of tartar
1 tsp. vanilla
scant ½ cup sugar
12 oz. package of chocolate chips
¼ cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 300. Line two baking sheets each with a single layer of paper towelling. If possible, use a metal bowl for beating the egg whites. Beat them in mixer until they're foamy. Add cream of tartar and salt. Beat until soft peaks form. Beat on high. Add vanilla. Gradually add sugar. Beat until egg whites are stiff. Fold in chocolate chips and nuts.

Simms uses a tablespoon and pushes the batter off the spoon with her finger onto the baking sheet, placing the cookies half an inch apart. Bake the meringues for 25 minutes or until they turn a tan colour. Turn off oven and let them sit in oven for 2 hours to dry out. Leave the oven door ajar to prevent burning. Peel the meringues off the paper toweling. Freeze in an air-tight bag. Defrost meringues 15 minutes before serving.

FREDA SCHWARTZ'S HONEY CAKE

6 eggs
½ cup sugar
1 cup dark honey
1 cup oil
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
¼ cup of tea, cooled
3 cups flour

Preheat oven to 325. Spray a large 12-in. springform pan with cooking spray. Place honey in saucepan and cook on low heat. Add baking soda.

Remove from stove and let honey mixture cool. In a separate bowl, mix baking powder with flour and set aside.

Using an electric mixer, beat eggs on low to medium speed. Add sugar and then oil. Add cooled honey. Beating on low speed, add flour gradually, alternating with the tea. Pour batter into greased pan. Bake 1½ hours. Cool cake before transferring it to a platter.

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MENU #5
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Falling in love in the Holy Land

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

When most people go on a birthright israel trip, they come back having fallen in love with Israel.

In Jenny Vanderay's case, the country was just one aspect of the trip she'd fallen in love with.

Vanderay, 26, originally from Victoria, B.C., went on a Canada Israel Experience birthright israel trip in 2003, where she met her new husband, a soldier assigned to her trip named Beni Meir.

When she first met Meir, who was one of 25 soldiers from his Israeli air force unit that was assigned to join her trip for four days, Vanderay felt like she had found the person she was supposed to be with.

"We really started talking when we were hiking down from Masada, maybe the second day that he was there. I had an overwhelming sense of contentment. There wasn't a language barrier for us. His English was quite good and I just felt like home. It was my first time in Israel and I felt like I found my heart.

"I felt like I was with my other half, like even at that time, I knew that we would be together," Vanderay recalled, adding even though his unit was only assigned to her trip for four days, Meir would make special trips to see her and participate in the hikes and other activities.

As of August 16, Vanderay and Meir are husband and wife. They were married near Akko.

While Vanderay speaks of Meir as her soul mate, she wanted to make sure that her decision to leave her life and family behind in Canada would be made for the right reasons.

She said that after the birthright trip, she knew she wanted to make aliyah to Israel.

"People ask me, 'Did you immigrate for Beni? 'And I always say 'No, but I can't separate the two.' That's how I felt. That both Israel and he was my home. It happened all at once. Being in Israel and meeting him, I had that reinforcement and I think it reinforced me wanting to be here to start a generation in Israel. All of those emotions were mixed up in our meeting."

She said that what helped her feel connected to Israel, independent of her meeting with Meir, was the interaction she had with Israelis her age.

"For birthrighters in general, even though you're in Israel, you're still in your Canadian environment or box and one thing that really broke that for me and a lot of people on our trip was getting to know Israelis our own age. It's one thing to go around and see all the history and culture and that's enough for some people, but for other people it's having that connection with someone our own age and to see what they're going through," Vanderay said.

Despite the instant connection she felt with Meir, she said she didn't have any expectations of a relationship, but she knew that she wanted to return to the Holy Land.

"I wanted to work with orphans and I knew that I wanted to come to Israel for that," she said.

"I had no expectations when I met him, and even today, we never really talk about the status of our relationship because it was so strong that it was just kind of understood. That was only after five days, so I think that's quite rare. When I went back to Canada we were talking on MSN, email, the telephone and then I came back six months later. That is when I started to have expectations because by then we had established a relationship."

She said that because she wanted to work with orphans, she joined the ulpan kibbutz Ma'agan Michael in Israel for six months in 2004 so she could learn Hebrew.

"When that was over, I wasn't ready to leave him. I felt like I had been on a kibbutz for six months and I wanted to see more of Israel. I ended up volunteering with Magen David Adom and I did that for another six months in Haifa. During that time, Beni changed units. He went from an air force unit to a ground force unit. In that year, a lot of things happened with him and we grew closer and closer." Afraid that her ability to decide whether she really wanted to make aliyah would be clouded by her feelings for Meir, Vanderay travelled back to Canada to gain perspective.

"I knew that I had to go back to Canada because I thought that I didn't just want to immigrate strictly for him. I think that because my feelings were so strong for him, I was afraid to make a mistake. It wasn't until I went back to Canada that I knew that Israel was my home. Everything put together, him, Israel, my future. When I'm here there is nowhere else in the world I would rather be."

Vanderay remained in Canada for a full year in 2005, before she immigrated to Israel in 2006 with Nefesh b'Nefesh, an organization that charters flights and offers assistance to North Americans making aliyah.

Just last April, Meir proposed in a style fitting their relationship.

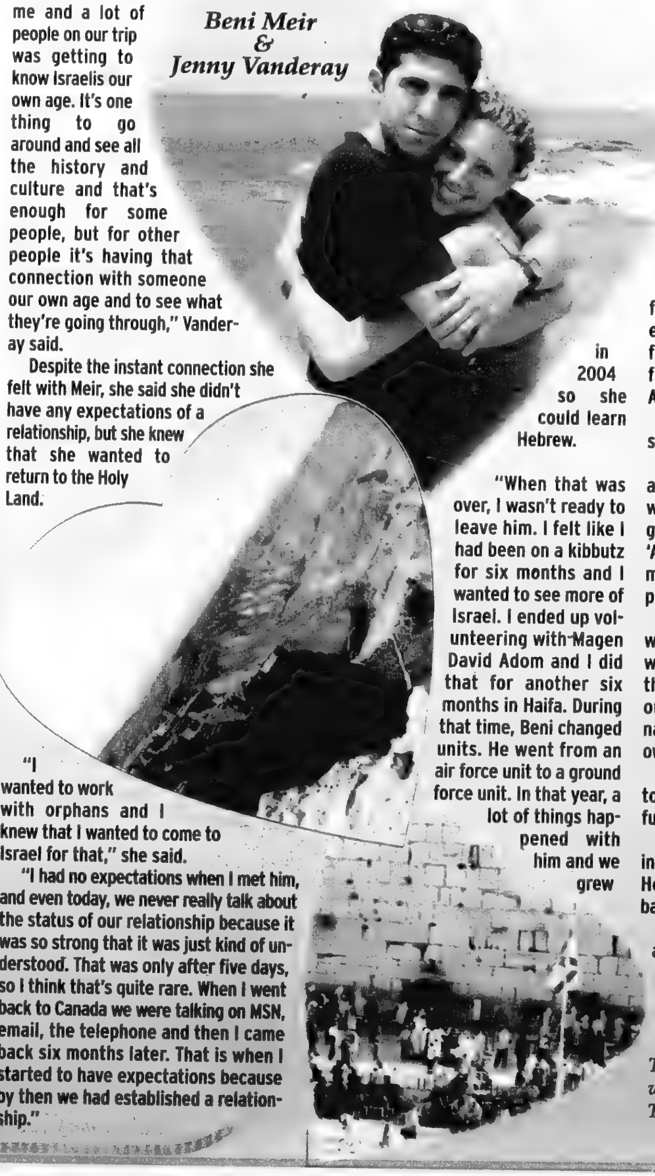
"Like I said, we don't always talk about the status of our relationship so we were talking about having kids and getting married and so he said to me, 'Are you sure that you want to marry me?' and I said, 'Well, that's one way to propose,' and that was really it.

"The next weekend, we decided that we were going to tell his family. So it wasn't on Masada with a ring or anything, but I think that really describes our relationship because it is very natural and it just flows and it has its own rhythm to it."

Now that the happy newlyweds are together in Israel, they are building a future together.

Vanderay said her Hebrew is improving and after working at the King David Hotel for a year, she has plans to go back to school to study dentistry.

Meir, is still serving in the army as an officer in the Givati brigade, an Israel Defence Force infantry brigade.



Beni Meir & Jenny Vanderay

The view from a top the Masada, where Beni and Jenny first connected, The Kotel in Jerusalem

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Hamas in Syria plans suicide bombings: Shin Bet

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JERUSALEM — Security services are increasingly concerned that the Hamas leadership in Syria is intensifying efforts to undermine the diplomatic dialogue between Israel and the Palestinian Authority through a series of spectacular terrorist attacks.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas were scheduled to meet in Jerusalem Monday as part of their push toward an "agreement of principles" ahead of the regional summit organized under U.S. auspices for November.

At an intelligence briefing during the cabinet meeting yesterday, the deputy head of the Shin Bet said the Hamas leadership in Damascus has instructed West Bank-based militants to attempt a large-scale attack inside Israel.

"There are efforts by Khaled Meshal [Hamas' political bureau chief based in Damascus] and the Hamas leadership abroad to formulate a plan to undermine the diplomatic efforts between PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas and Israel," Y., the deputy head of the Shin Bet, told the ministers.

However, Hamas officials offered differing opinions yesterday on the question of renewing terrorist attacks in the West Bank and Israel.

A political adviser to Hamas leader Ismail Haniyyeh, Ahmad Yousef, told *Ha'aretz* that the Shin Bet's assessments are inaccurate.

"There is no change in the Hamas position. Israel is threatening us and attacking us – we are only responding to provocations. But we do not intend to initiate any action, like the resumption of suicide bombings," Yousef said.

However, Fawzi Barhum, spokesperson for Hamas in Gaza, told *Ha'aretz* that the organization intends to use any means to achieve its aims. He refused to confirm or deny the charges by the Shin Bet deputy head.

The Shin Bet officer said that Hamas is frustrated by developments in the Gaza Strip and the losses the group has suffered in operations recently by the Israel Defence Forces.

Hamas is also dissatisfied with the results of its attempts to gain international legitimacy, especially among countries in the European Union.

The officer also pointed to Fatah's steadfast refusal to resume negotiations with Hamas and the continuing pressure on Islamic militants in the West Bank as other factors creating anxiety among the group's members.

"According to intelligence, Hamas is frustrated by the fact that the Rafah crossing [on the border with Egypt] has remained closed, and there are those within the organization who are considering an escalation of operations against Egypt to force the opening of the crossing," Y. said.

The fact the organization is being blamed by many people in the Gaza Strip for the deteriorating living conditions there and the internal Palestinian crisis is posing a strategic challenge for Hamas.

The Shin Bet official said this increases the likelihood that Hamas will have to change its policy on carrying out attacks, shifting its weight from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank and possibly also abroad.

In spite of Israel's successes at countering Hamas, Islamic Jihad militants in the northern West Bank continue to pose a serious threat.

Referring to the condition of the Gaza population, Y. said that although there is no immediate danger of a humanitarian crisis unfolding there, the private sector has suffered a near fatal blow because of the closure of the enclave.

The renewed suspicions that Hamas' Damascus-based leadership is planning to escalate the conflict is not contributing to an easing of tensions between Israel and Syria.

The IDF forces on the Golan Heights are still on a relatively high level of alert, and the army is holding large-scale training exercises.

A number of positions along the border have recently been reactivated, and the IDF has postponed the replacement of a number of senior officers. Among those whose replacement has been postponed are the deputy chief of staff, Moshe Kaplinsky, and the chief of operations at the General Staff.

Defence sources told *Ha'aretz* they believe that Syria's intentions are likely to become clear in a few weeks.

Among the issues that Israel is concerned about are the close ties between Syria and Iran, and the growing transfer of advanced weaponry to Syria and Hezbollah.

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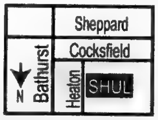

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Possible Durban sequel causes concern

By BEN HARRIS
JTA

NEW YORK — Jewish groups are keeping a watchful eye on the first preparatory meetings for what some are calling Durban II, the follow-up to the infamous UN-sponsored conference against racism in 2001.

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, on the eve of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, was a scandal of global proportions, according to Jewish officials who were present. Representatives of Jewish non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were harassed, sometimes physically, while anti-Semitic propaganda – including copies of *Mein Kampf* and the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* – were freely distributed. The Israeli and American delegations walked out in protest,

Governments were to meet in Geneva on Monday to begin preparations for a follow-up conference, due to be held in 2009. Some groups are worried that a repeat of the 2001 debacle is in the works.

"What we saw emerge from there is the script that the Jewish world is struggling with right now," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. "Apartheid was consecrated there. Divestment, apartheid, sanctions – in some ways also the first sort of introduction of an approach in which it was no longer a matter of where Israel's borders should be, it was an assault on Israel's right to exist."

Several decisions to be taken this week are considered key determinants of whether the 2009 conference will follow the lead of Durban I – among them, the conference's size and location, the extent to which NGOs will participate, and whether the final document from the Durban conference, known as the plan of action, will be reconsidered.

Some developments are worrying Jewish activists. Libya has been selected as the chair of the planning committee, which also includes Iran and Cuba. The UN Human Rights Council, the body deemed by many in the Jewish world to be even worse for Israel than its discredited predecessor, the Commission on Human Rights, was designated to oversee the preparations. And the United States, which could potentially blunt the worst anti-Israel excesses, will not officially participate in the planning meeting.

Last Thursday, the United Nations released a list of NGOs wishing to participate in the 2009 conference. It includes a number of Palestinian and Arab groups known for their vigorous opposition to Zionism and the Jewish state.

Adding to the anti-Israel atmosphere is a second conference, due to open this week, on Aug. 30, in Brussels, organized by a UN committee on Palestinian rights that pro-Israel activists view as unfailingly hostile to the Jewish state. The United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace is being held at the European Parliament, adding the imprimateur of the European Union to what some Jewish leaders say is certain to be two days of vilification and condemnation of Israel.

VIVA ARAFAT
VIVA ARAFAT
VIVA ARAFAT
ARA

South Africans show their antipathy for Israel in Durban in 2001. [Reuters/RNS]

"We're very concerned," said Sybil Kessler, director of UN affairs for B'nai Brith International, of the Durban preparatory conference. "The composition of the bureau is problematic. The legacy of Durban is hanging above us. This session is going to decide potentially whether this is going to be another fiasco or whether this is going to help redirect the UN agenda on racism and move beyond the problematic legacy of Durban."

While Jewish observers widely agree that co-ordination among Jewish groups and outreach to sympathetic allies will be crucial, there is little evidence that such co-ordination is in the making. Groups already differ on how seriously to take the conference that starts this week, with the Anti-Defamation League and the World Jewish Congress electing to lie low and watch while UN Watch, an American Jewish Committee-affiliated watchdog group, and the Wiesenthal Center will have delegates on hand for the Geneva meetings.

Groups also differ on strategy. Some are calling for reaching out to NGOs, which were responsible for some of the fiercest anti-Israel language to emerge from Durban. Hillel Neuer of UN Watch says the Europeans are the key actors, given the absence of the United States. Anne Bayefsky, the director of the Touro Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust and editor of *Eye on the UN*, says attention should be directed to Washington – not Geneva.

"Congress holds the purse strings," Bayefsky said. "Congress decides whether or not its foreign operations budget is used for the funding of UN meetings, and which UN meetings. We can't do anything in Geneva."

Shimon Samuels, the Paris-based representative of the Wiesenthal Center, who says he was thrown off an NGO steering committee related to the first Durban conference because he was Jewish, thinks little can be done to stop a recurrence of 2001.

"I don't think we can avert a recurrence," said Samuels, who intends to be in Geneva next week. "I think what we can do is be informed. We can reach out this time, because there are many, many frustrated NGOs who are brought in at their own cost to exotic places with money they don't have to be window dressing. They are cheerleaders. We did not take advantage of them last time."

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Israel Briefs

Hezbollah launches game

Hezbollah launched a video game based on its war last summer with Israel. Special Force 2 – launched this month in Arabic-, Persian- and English-language editions – awards points for killing Israeli soldiers. It retails for about $10 (US). "This game presents the culture of the resistance to children: that occupation must be resisted and that land and the nation must be guarded," a Hezbollah media official told Reuters. Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed, Lebanese-based terror group, launched the war in July 2006 with a surprise raid into Israel, killing eight Israeli soldiers and capturing two.

Surfboards given to Gazans

Palestinian youths will be hitting the waves off Gaza thanks to a donation arranged by an elderly Jewish American surfer. Watersport firms in Israel got together last week and donated 10 surfboards, each worth $450 (US), to children in Gaza at the behest of 87-year-old Dorian Pascowitz, a Hawaii resident who is one of the world's oldest surfers. *Yediot Achronot* reported that Pascowitz, having heard of the great waves off Gaza, contacted an Israeli friend to find ways of cultivating a generation of Palestinian surfers.

U.S. to train PA troops

U.S. State Department officials will train troops assigned to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. "The course work and practical exercises will enhance the abilities of the Presidential Guard to carry out their primary function – VIP protection," a department statement said. "This training is part of a series of courses that will be offered this fall through early 2008." The training stems from a deal signed this month by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

Hezbollah threat examined

Hezbollah may have biological or chemical weapons, a top Arab pundit says. Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, said in a speech this month that, should Israel again go to war in Lebanon, it would face a "surprise that will change the fate of the region." The unspecified threat prompted Abdul Bari Atwan, editor of the London-based newspaper *Al-Quds Al-Arabi* newspaper, to argue that the Iranian-backed Lebanese group may have weapons of mass-destruction, which could be fitted on missiles that can reach Israel. "Nasrallah is a person who does not lie," Atwan wrote in the influential daily. Hezbollah didn't respond to the article. Israeli officials have not publicly speculated on Nasrallah's threat, made on the anniversary of the ceasefire that ended the Lebanon war.

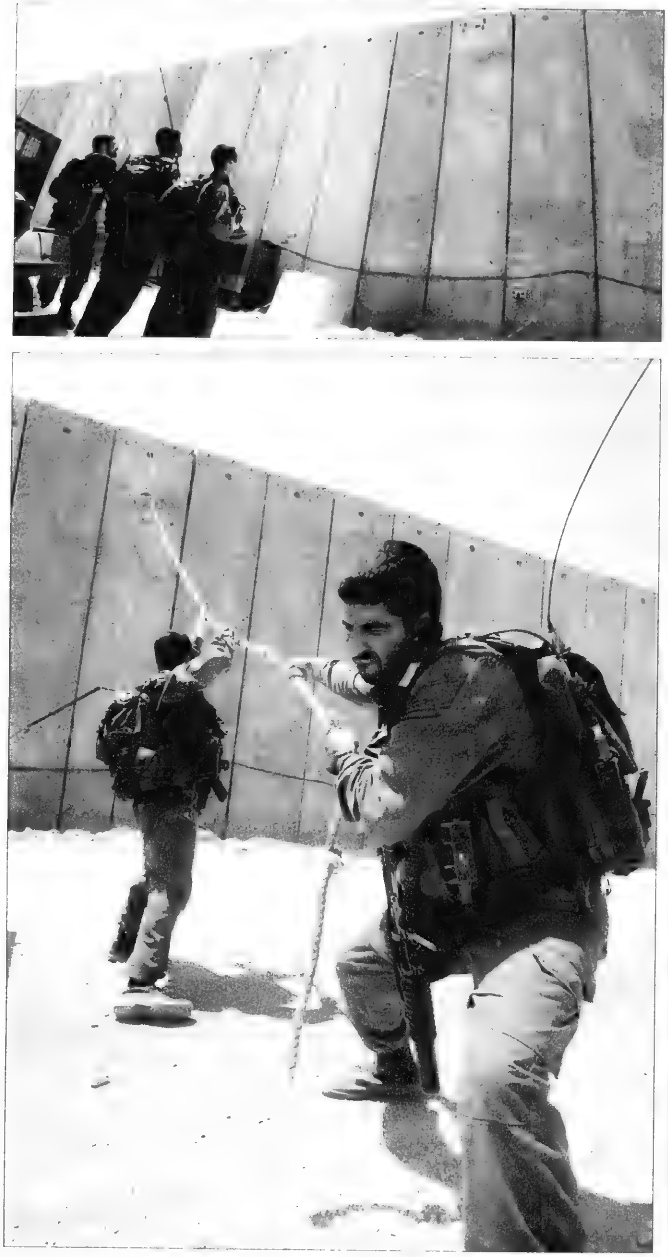
Families' lawsuit denied

A Kiev appeals court has turned down four Israeli families seeking compensation for a 2001 plane crash. The families had filed lawsuits seeking $1.1 million (US) each from the Ukrainian government for their relatives killed when a Siberian Airlines jet crashed en route from Tel Aviv to Novosibirsk. The plane went down in the Black Sea in October 2001, killing all 66 passengers and 12 crew members. A Moscow air safety group found that the plane was unintentionally shot down by a missile fired by Ukrainian forces during military exercises on the Crimean Peninsula. But on Aug. 21, Kiev's appellate court upheld a Ukrainian lower court's January ruling that disputed the air safety group's findings.

Crematorium torched

Israel's only crematorium was torched. Unknown arsonists set fire Aug. 22 to an outdoor oven belonging to Alei Shalehet, the only Israeli mortuary to offer cremation as an alternative to burial. The attack took place hours after the crematorium's previously secret location, on farmland outside Tel Aviv, was published in a haredi newspaper. Alei Shalehet's owner blamed religious zealots angered at the availability of cremation, which is against Jewish law, in Israel. Police had no initial comment on suspects.

– JTA



TERRORISM THWARTED

Israeli forces narrowly thwarted a killing spree by armed Palestinian infiltrators from the Gaza Strip. Using a rope ladder, two terrorists clambered over a 30-foot-high security barrier on Gaza's northern border with Israel early Saturday. The infiltration went unnoticed due to heavy fog. The Palestinians intended to attack the Israeli border village of Nativ Ha'asara but, thanks to a navigation error, opened fire on a nearby military position instead. They were shot dead in the ensuing clash. An Israeli soldier was lightly wounded. The Popular Resistance Committees and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the infiltration. In the above photos, Israeli soldiers bring down the rope ladder left behind by the terrorists.

[Israel Sun photos]

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Arts & Travel

Emotional Arithmetic focuses on power of Holocaust memory

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Max von Sydow and Susan Sarandon in *Emotional Arithmetic*

Adapted from the novel by the late Canadian novelist Matt Cohen, Paolo Barzman's *Emotional Arithmetic* turns on the power of memory as juxtaposed against the backdrop of the Holocaust.

Slated as the closing night movie at the Toronto International Film Festival, which starts on Sept. 6, it is as pensive and complex as its topic.

Taking place on a farm near a beautiful lake in Quebec's bucolic Eastern Townships, it unfolds over the course of what seems like a few days and through the medium of black-and-white flashbacks set in the French transit camp of Drancy. In a typically graphic flashback, a man affixes a yellow star of David on a young woman's lapel and says with dripping irony, "You're now officially one of God's chosen people."

This melancholy film opens as Melanie Winters (Susan Sarandon), a social and political activist who describes herself as a "crazy bitch," readies herself for a special guest, Jakob Bronski (Max von Sydow).

During the German occupation of Paris, Melanie's Jewish American parents disappeared, never to be seen again. Rounded up, Melanie was sent to Drancy, a way station to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland. Bronski – a Polish Jew – protected Melanie and her 13-year-old friend, Christopher Lewis (Gabriel Byrne), a non-Jewish Irish boy who was taken to the camp by the French police in error.

When Drancy was liberated, Bronski lost touch with Melanie and Christopher. But now, decades later, Melanie re-establishes contact with Bronski, who, branded as a malcontent, spent the postwar years in Soviet prison camps and mental institutions.

Out of gratitude for his saving her life, Melanie invites Bronski to Canada. Unexpectedly, Bronski arrives with Christopher, an unmarried, Paris-based entomologist who still loves Melanie after all these years. All three – Melanie, Bronski and Christopher – have been damaged by the Holocaust.

Wracked by panic attacks, breakdowns, impulsive behaviour, survivors' guilt and flashbacks of Drancy, Melanie rues her status as a supposed "second-rate survivor." She believes that, compared to Auschwitz and Dachau, no one has ever heard of Drancy.

Christopher, a solitary, self-contained figure, seems tortured by the past as well, but misses the "sheer joy" of having bonded with Melanie in Drancy. Bronski, once known as the Poet of the Gulag, has stopped writing, the words having dried up, and has fallen prey to bouts of depression during which he fires a rifle into the air.

As suggested by its title, *Emotional Arithmetic* is also about relationships. Melanie's husband, David (Christopher Plummer), is a cynical and bitter history professor who was forced into retirement by his university. She refers to him as a "moral bankrupt" because of his philandering. His marriage to Melanie has withered, and he is none too pleased by Bronski's and Christopher's presence.

Decrying his wife's "good intentions," David speaks disparagingly of "death camp humour." Resentful of Melanie's obsession with the Holocaust, he flippantly mentions the "six million Jews" who metaphorically inhabit their attic. In another insensitive dig, he observes that she is not a saint simply because she was the victim of a "terrible, apocalyptic event."

David wants Melanie to move on, to shelve the Holocaust, but she cannot. At Drancy, she was an official witness to history, having recorded the names of new arrivals in a notebook. And this she cannot forget.

Benjamin (Roy Dupuis), their doleful son, empathizes with his mother, but feels that she has barely told him anything about her wartime ordeal.

Emotional Arithmetic, propelled by Jefferson Lewis' usually taut, plausible script, grapples realistically with the demons that haunt Holocaust survivors.

The performances, particularly those of Sarandon and Plummer, rise to the occasion. Luc Montpellier's cinematography, whether of a serene lake in autumn or of Drancy at dusk, is evocative and exquisite.

The film loses a measure of its momentum toward the end, but on balance, it retains its spell and remains true to Cohen's vision.

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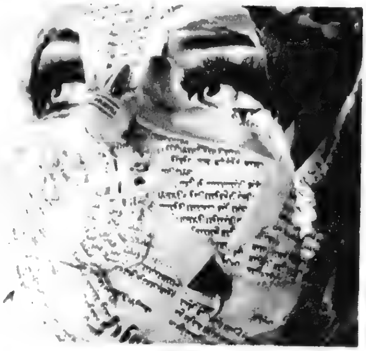
A look at "A Light Unto the Nations" exhibit at the Miles Nadal JCC. [Ezra Michaels photo]



Lamya Gargash's image, titled *Censorship.*

Photo exhibit sheds light and understanding

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Eight photographers – four Muslim and four Jewish – are using their cameras to fight intolerance in a new exhibit titled "A Light Unto the Nations," which opens at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre on Sept 9 and runs until Oct. 12.

The exhibit first ran at the Contact Toronto Photography Festival in May, and then moved to the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre from July 26 until Aug. 31.

While surfing the Internet in 2004, Rochelle Michaels came across some anti-Semitic Jewish conspiracy and Holocaust denial sites. They inspired her to contact Muslim and Jewish artists and create an exhibit that tries to break common assumptions about the quest for peace in the Middle East and show that peace is truly desired by everyone.

> ***An exhibit that tries to break common assumptions***

"I'm not a reader," Michaels said. "For me, the most impactful thing is the image – glancing at the image above the fold on a newspaper will make the most lasting impression."

While not all the works in the exhibit deal directly with the topic of peace, they revolve around ideas of tolerance, freedom, hope and the consequences of intolerance.

One striking, two-part image set by Jewish photographer Gilad Benari features a sleeping infant, labeled *Peacemaker*. Below it, a second image called *Combat DNA* depicts a double helix constructed from bullets.

Another powerful image by Muslim photographer Lamya Gargash shows a close-up of a woman's face, with only her large eyes visible. The rest of her face is covered with newsprint-style paper full of Arabic words.

In a description of the piece, Gargash explains that the photo deals with censorship in the Middle East, and the conflict and tension that arises from the desire for westernization while maintaining cultural and religious values.

Continued on page 54

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Exhibit may tour university campuses

Continued from page 53

Gargash writes that the photo is "utilizing the notion of the extreme in a manner where it is still represented in a fashion-like approach and where the femininity of the subject is still clear."

Touring JCCs is just the beginning for Michaels, who wants to bring the exhibit to university campuses.

She said campuses are often politically left-leaning, to the point of "demonizing" Israel. Michaels believes that aiming the exhibit's messages of peace, hope, freedom and tolerance at students will have positive consequences for the future, because they are our future leaders, she said.

"It just felt right," she said about targeting her exhibit at young people.

"Adults will go to the library, or read a newspaper, with their ideas more or less formed. This isn't meaning to say the exhibit can't help others understand a different perspective." However, Michaels said she believes the exhibit will have more of an impact on youth.

She said she has received extremely positive responses to the exhibit so far, many of which are encapsulated in guest books.

She said that everyone who sees the exhibit has a different favourite piece, highlighting the diversity and intricacy of the works on display.

"If someone is going to come in and lose an assumption that they have, that means the world to me," she said.

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Oklahoma! currently graces the stage at Stratford's Festival Theatre. [David Hou photo]

Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

OKLAHOMA! AT STRATFORD IS AN EXUBERANT TREAT

It's well worth the drive to Stratford to see the wonderful and unabashedly old-fashioned production of *Oklahoma!* currently gracing the stage of the Stratford Festival's Festival Theatre.

The simple but well-constructed story focuses on Laurey, a farm girl torn between two beaus, one angelic, the other demonic, with only a wise old aunt as guide. Just as Laurey tries to tame and domesticate her demon lover, so, too, the good-hearted folk of the territory try to tame and domesticate the land in readiness for statehood. Fortunately, goodness wins out and Laurey chooses the beau she was meant to have all along.

This lavish production seems to present an authentic version of what audiences encountered when the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical debuted on Broadway in 1943. Suffice to say that the original broke box-office records with a run of more than five years, then broke other records with a three-year run in London and a national tour that lasted a decade.

Strange that *Oklahoma!* appeared in 1943, since its optimism and imagery of exuberant abundance (corn "as high as an elephant's eye") seems more in keeping with the postwar boom than the difficult and strapped wartime years. However, its theme of "innocence dallying with evil" might be regarded as a veiled allegory for what America was encountering overseas.

If the emotional drama is too light to win us over on its own, the dazzling stagecraft, music and dancing soon do the job. Director **Donna Feore** and the exceptionally strong cast have given us an outstanding theatrical experience. At Stratford's Festival Theatre until Nov. 4. www.stratfordfestival.ca

* * *

Rarely Seen Film: The Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Bye Bye Braverman*, director **Sidney Lumet**'s rarely seen absurdist comedy from 1968, featuring **George Segal** and **Jack Warden**. The film is a bittersweet adaptation of **Wallace Markfield**'s coldly cynical novel *To an Early Grave*, about four men who spend the day driving across Brooklyn to their friend's funeral. (They never make it.)

The film, to be introduced by **Stuart Hands**, is being screened in the Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. Sunday, Sept. 24, 4 & 7:30 p.m. Tickets ($15) are available at the door. www.mnjcc.org or 416-924-6211, ext. 606

* * *

Theatre Centenary: The Royal Alexandra Theatre marks its 100th anniversary with a public street party and open house. Celebrations include a medley of musical performances and self-guided tours through both the public and private spaces of the Edwardian building, including all four levels of dressing rooms and the legendary "paint room" (said to be haunted) at the top of the fly tower.

Royal Alex Theatre, 260 King St. W. Sunday, Aug. 26, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Official ceremonies, 2 p.m. All events are free. 416-872-1212 or www.mirvish.com/100th

* * *

Arts in Brief

- Two years to the day after hurricane Katrina touched down in Louisiana, History Television broadcasts *High River Blues*, a documentary about the catastrophe by Toronto-based writer-director **Alan Mendelsohn**. Wednesday, Aug. 29, 9 p.m.
- Food guy **Marty Galin** from the TV show *The Moveable Feast* was recently featured at Ontario Place, where he created "the world's largest fruit bowl" with support from the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation.
- "Shifting Borders," an exhibit of works by **Margaret Glew**, is at the Engine Gallery, 1112 Queen St. W., Aug. 30 to Sept. 18. Opening reception, Thursday, Aug. 30, 7 to 10 p.m.

Duo gets seniors fit as a fiddle

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

A guitar, fiddle, drums, spoons, two voices and a boa can bring a surprising amount of fun and entertainment to a group of seniors.

Margot Glatt and Aidan Mason are the brains and performers behind Fit as a Fiddle Canada.

For the past two years, they have been bringing entertainment and fitness into retirement homes with their upbeat, diverse one-hour performances.

"It's fun – we do it for the fun," Glatt said. "It's extremely gratifying to look out and see how the spirits in the room are just lifted."

Glatt has a background in music as well as in teaching fitness. In her Fit as a Fiddle Canada shows, she sings, dances, plays spoons and drums, and also leads an eight-minute "light fitness" set.

At a recent Forest Hill Place performance, her solo Charleston dance really got the crowd excited.

The group of seniors in the audience joined in for rousing choruses of classics such as *You Are My Sunshine*, *Que Sera, Sera* and *Has Anybody Seen My Girl?*.

Mason, who has been playing guitar professionally for decades, also sang and fiddled in the show. The crowd particularly enjoyed his Elvis medley and lively rendition of *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*.

He explained during the show that the song actually originates in South Africa, where Mason, who is Chinese, grew up.

In fact, the show featured dance and music from around the globe, with songs such as *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*, the Italian classic *That's Amore* and a hula set during which some brave seniors joined in, complete with leis.

Margot Glatt and Aidan Mason perform for seniors at Forest Hill Place. [Abigail Bimman photo]

Mason and Glatt met five years ago. Mason, who had never played fiddle, saw one at Glatt's house and taught himself to play, just for the purpose of creating an act together.

"We thought, 'How could we best combine our talents?'" he remembered.

Fit as a Fiddle Canada has several different shows and tries to adapt to their audience, said Glatt. They had seven performances scheduled for the month of August, and both Glatt and Mason agreed that business is picking up steadily.

Glatt and Mason plan to continue developing their act and hope to play more often and for larger crowds. They also have a CD in the works, set for release in the next few months.

To contact Fit as a Fiddle Canada, visit www.fitasafiddlecanada.com or call Margot Glatt at 416-823-8577.

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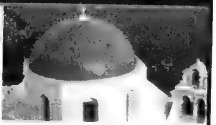

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Writing the religious life

Disobedience by Naomi Alderman, Touchstone.

By NORMAN RAVVIN
Special to The CJN

Religious life is little discussed in postwar Jewish fiction, though a young generation of writers, whose biography often includes an Orthodox upbringing, has recently made it the focus of their work.

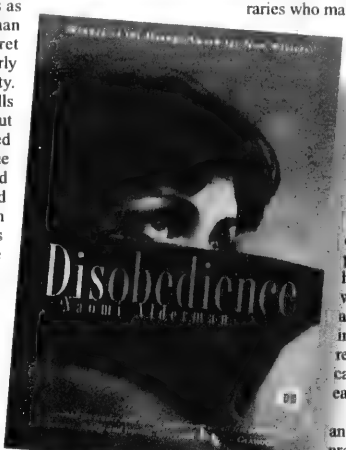
Nathan Englander and Allegra Goodman are the most prominent among these in the United States, while Naomi Alderman's first novel, *Disobedience*, has gained her much attention in her native England, as well as in North America.

Alderman's take on religious themes is unambiguous and provocative: British Orthodoxy, as it is lived in the London suburb of Hendon, is a source of oppressive conformity. Although the novel is told from more than one point of view, its key voice is that of Ronit Krushka, who returns to London upon the death of her father, Rav Krushka. The longtime spiritual leader of a Hendon synagogue, the rav is eulogized in the Anglo-Jewish press as "a giant in his generation."

Alderman is deft at unravelling the details behind Ronit's abandonment of her father's world in favour of the life of a secular financial analyst in Manhattan. Her return trip to England places her at the centre of old emotional entanglements. Most importantly, she must contend with the advances of an old friend – now married – with whom she shared an adolescent love affair.

The old friend is Esti Kuperman, whose youthful love for Ronit continues to guide her life. Esti is, as Ronit sees it, in the closet, quietly estranged from her ineffectual husband, as well as from her own suppressed desires.

In Alderman's Hendon, femininity and gayness are fragile identities, the first constrained by neatly delimited roles, the second entirely prohibited. Ronit considers that "being gay, being Jewish… have a lot in common. You don't choose it, that's the first thing. If you are, you are … The second thing is that both those states – gayness, Jewishness – are invisible… while you don't have a choice about what you are, you have a choice about what you show."



With these predicaments as her guiding motifs, Alderman aims to explore the secret aspects of an otherwise orderly and conventional society. Hendon is a "village," she tells us. It is linked to London, but "in Hendon all that is needed has been provided: Torah-true schools and kosher shops and synagogues and mikvahs and businesses that are closed on the Sabbath and matchmakers and burial societies… Like the turtle, we carry our home with us. We believe that we may soon have to depart for other shores."

Here Alderman presents one of her favourite motifs with regard to contemporary Jewish life – Golders Green High Road, like any other major Jewish centre, is seen to be the haven of an exilic imagination, where inhabitants dwell in relative isolation, only tenuously connected with the broader society.

In a rare evocation of the rightness of such an existence, Alderman allows that "God is in all places, high and low, distant and near at hand. As surely as He is anywhere, God is in Hendon."

Though *Disobedience* is at times introspective and philosophical with regard to Jewish life and belief, its tone is typically satiric, expressing a hip, big-city woman's attitude toward what she sees as the narrowness of her girlhood existence. The young women of Hendon – Ronit's contemporaries who married, raised children and involved themselves in her father's spiritual community – receive particularly harsh treatment. It is this approach to her material that guaranteed what Alderman has called her "worst reviews" in the Orthodox press.

About this reception she has said that no "community likes to see itself written about, especially one which has concentrated as hard on remaining invisible as the Orthodox community in Britain."

This account of her own reception is at once revealing and too easy, since there are particularities in a writer's approach and tone, her intimacy or distance from her material, which affect the way she is read. But just such a critical response has favoured writers' careers in the past, as it lends a note of notoriety and relevance to their work. Philip Roth and Mordecai Richler profited from a similar vilification early on.

Alderman's portraits of English Jewish social and family mores are often caricatures. This approach lends the novel a programmatic quality, as the satire tends toward the obvious and predictable. "It's being here," Ronit muses, "that's the problem. It's being back here with all those little couples sitting in their identical houses producing identical children.

"It was seeing them in synagogue, all those women in their smart Shabbat suits and their perfectly matched hats and each woman appropriately paired to a man, preferably with a child tugging at each arm… the whole set – like Orthodox Jew Barbie: comes complete with Orthodox Ken, two small children, the house, the car and a selection of kosher foodstuffs."

Who among Orthodox readers or reviewers would find anything redeeming here?

But Alderman is more sophisticated in her rendering of the problematics of being gay in Hendon. Here her characters are compelling and the impact of a schoolgirl romance on Ronit and Esti's adult life is drawn in effective, lyrical set pieces. It is the back half of the novel that is most satisfying in its portrait of a renewed but deeply troubled attraction between the two women.

And in this context the neighbourhood is no longer a target of satire, but an atmospheric backdrop for Ronit's confrontation with her past. In these chapters Hendon takes on a softer, less specifically Jewish character: "There are parks in Hendon… sweeping down to the Brent Cross Flyover and the A41. Once upon a time, long ago, there were farms here and farm people. Traces remain: stone-built houses and ancient roads with crooked names… Hendon, lacking age and wealth, remembers the seed and the soil."

The final pages of *Disobedience* depict a kind of accommodation in Ronit's life, between her Orthodox upbringing and her Manhattan lifestyle. This development seems rushed and is not entirely convincing. In the novel's preceding pages, Ronit's feminist and gay inclinations make such an outcome unlikely. But Alderman chooses for Ronit a late recognition that "there is a tiny, tenuous area where good sense intersects with fundamentalist religion. She's trying out how it feels to live in that area, at least some of the time."

To those who know little about contemporary Jewish life, this ending may seem generous. To those who know more about the predicaments that inform Ronit's dual identity, such details will likely seem too thorny for an upbeat outcome.

Norman Ravvin's books include Hidden Canada: An Intimate Travelogue *and the novel* Lola by Night. *He is chair of Concordia University's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.*

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Give your child a great start to the school year!

Life Coach Corner

Judy Siblin-Librach

Back to school is an exciting time of the year – brand new school supplies, freshly sharpened pencils and the crisp autumn air put you in the right frame of mind for a brisk new start and a clean slate to begin anew.

Even if you're not going back to school in the fall, there's something about September that spells new beginnings.

So here is some life coaching advice to kick start your way to a successful new year!

First of all, if you are a parent or grandparent, remind your children that it is very normal to feel a little anxious on the first day of school. Let them know that their teachers are aware of this and will try even harder to make everyone feel as comfortable as possible. But there are also some specific things you can do as a parent to make the transition from the summer months to the school year smoother and more graceful.

Begin by pointing out all of the positive and even exciting aspects of starting school. Talk about how much fun it will be to see old friends and make new ones. Remind the children of the fun they have had in the past at school, and tell them you have confidence in them that they will do their best.

Give your children a toolkit full of tools they can use all year long, and keep replenishing it with new ideas. One of the tools can be how to develop good study habits. You can help your child by creating an environment that is conducive to doing homework. Children need a permanent work area in their bedroom or another part of the house, where they can have privacy.

For some children, sitting around the kitchen table and doing their work with company is the best option. Find out what works well and then stick to it. Set aside ample time for homework and establish a routine. I just heard of a great TV rule. Your children can get five to 10 coupons or vouchers that are each worth 30 minutes of TV. Every time they watch a program, they have to hand in one of the coupons or vouchers. Then, when the five or 10 have been used, they know that their television watching is over for that week. This will teach them time management, planning and responsibility. You can alter the amount of television time depending on the age of the child or time of year.

Try to be available to answer questions when your children are doing homework, but be careful not to do it for them. You can do this if you simply offer suggestions but ultimately let them figure out how to do the work. Also, if your child is struggling with a certain subject, look into a tutor, which can be a great solution. This way you are preventing the cold rather than having to cure it later.

Involve your children in the back to school excitement by shopping with them for school supplies, new running shoes and a new outfit or a new T-shirt for their first day back.

Another great tool is to get into the habit of having them pack up their knapsack the night before and leave it at the door, so that there is no early morning panic. Also, plan fun lunches together and get your child involved in the menu and selection.

As well, get into some healthy bedtime routines so that your children are well rested for school. To break the more relaxed summer schedule, start the new routine a few nights before school starts to give your children a chance to adjust to the new bedtime.

Give your children some icebreakers (not the candy!) for the first day back, for example, a favourite ball, some marbles, a "Skip-it" skipping rope, action figures or playing cards.

Buy a great scheduling tool like an agenda book to help your children stay organized. Help them by colour coding their schedule and their activities. Make the time to talk to your children about their day and ensure they feel listened to. Then they can come to you with their worries and their joyful experiences.

Teach your children to be positive and enthusiastic people. They will feel great and everyone around them will also benefit from their positive energy.

Ask them to choose one area they want to excel in and write down what their goal for the year is. Then take action steps towards that goal and watch this become one of their best years ever!

Circumcision doesn't dull sensitivity, study says

MONTREAL – McGill University researchers using the latest technology may have finally debunked the belief that circumcised men experience reduced sexual sensation compared to those who are uncircumcised.

The study, published in the May issue of the *Journal of Sexual Medicine*, consisted of genital sensory testing conducted on circumcised and uncircumcised volunteers between the ages of 18 and 45. Both groups were tested during states of sexual arousal and non-arousal, and results showed no difference between the two groups in genital sensitivity to touch or pain.

"It was interesting how well-accepted this notion [that circumcision dulled sensation] was, despite the fact that there was no empirical basis for it," said Kimberly Payne, the article's principal author.

Research involving direct measurement of penile sensation had previously only been undertaken in groups of sexually functional and dysfunctional men and never in sexually aroused subjects, said Payne, so there was no data about how arousal affected sensation in the general population.

To address these issues, the test participants were fitted with DVD goggles and placed behind privacy curtains to reduce extraneous stimulation, while alternately viewing erotic and non-erotic control films. At the same time, tiny disposable filaments were applied to different areas on the penis and forearm at five-second intervals to measure sensation.

"There had been self-report studies in the past, where questionnaires were given to people," said Payne. "However, we wanted to focus on producing some observable, measurable data."

In response to the erotic stimulus, both groups showed a significant increase in penile temperature, which correlated highly with subjective reports of sexual arousal. Uncircumcised men had significantly lower penile temperature than circumcised men, and evidenced a larger increase in penile temperature with sexual arousal. No differences in genital sensitivity were found between the circumcised and uncircumcised groups.

Payne, now a clinical psychologist in Ottawa, conducted the study as an adjunct to her doctoral research while working under the supervision of McGill psychology professor Yitzchak (Irv) Binik, director of the Sex and Couple Therapy Service at the McGill University Health Centre/Royal Victoria Hospital.

Binik was co-author of the study, along with graduate students Lea Thaler and Tuuli Kukkonen and Dr. Serge Carrier of Montreal's Jewish General Hospital.

Payne cautioned that although the study's results are very promising, they are still preliminary and don't necessarily resolve many of the longstanding controversies surrounding circumcision.

"This study only measures one sensation, so it questions the held notions, but it does not refute the idea that there may be some differences at some level. No one can deny the anatomical differences between a circumcised and uncircumcised penis."

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ADL causes uproar with recognition of genocide

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ANKARA — Turkey is pressing Israel to help reverse the Anti-Defamation League's new position on the Armenian genocide.

Turkey's foreign minister, Abdullah Gul, reportedly told Israel's ambassador in Ankara, Pinhas Avivi, that Israel could have done more to prevent the ADL's shift, *Ha'aretz* reported.

In a dramatic reversal, the ADL last week described World War I massacres of Armenians by Ottoman Turks as "tantamount to genocide," after declining for years to take a position on the question.

The ADL and its president, Abraham Foxman, had faced mounting criticism in recent weeks for refusing to use the genocide label and for firing Andrew Tarsy, the head of the organization's Boston office, who publicly challenged that policy.

Tarsy's dismissal sparked a furious backlash from local community leaders – including critical statements from prominent Boston Jews, a "community statement" calling for the ADL to change its position, and the resignation of two members of the ADL's regional board.

Along with other major Jewish groups, the ADL has said the genocide question should be resolved by historians rather than by the U.S. Congress. Their position is motivated in part by concern for Israel's close military alliance with Turkey and for the country's Jews, who have warned that a resolution now under consideration by the U.S. Congress recognizing the genocide could create problems for them.

Earlier this year, the ADL – along with the American Jewish Committee, B'nai Brith International, and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs – transmitted a letter from Turkish Jews to congressional leaders opposing the legislation.

But in a statement issued Aug. 21, the ADL said, "We have never negated but have always described the painful events of 1915-1918 perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against the Armenians as massacres and atrocities."

"On reflection, we have come to share the view of Henry Morgenthau, Sr. [the U.S. ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during World War I] that the consequences of those actions were indeed tantamount to genocide. If the word genocide had existed then, they would have called it genocide," the statement said.

The Gul-Avivi meeting, which became "shrill" according to Israeli Foreign Ministry sources, seemed to confirm the seriousness with which the Turks view the prospect of a congressional resolution.

Jewish officials have publicly expressed concern that such a resolution could affect Israel's strategic relationship with Turkey, American interests in the Middle East, and potentially the security of the Turkish Jewish community. The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations is now conducting discussions on the matter.

The ADL had been under fire for for its position and its refusal to endorse the Congressional resolution. After reversing itself last week and calling the massacres a genocide, the ADL almost immediately issued a second statement reiterating its opposition to the resolution and supporting efforts by Turkey and Armenia to resolve this issue by themselves.

Meanwhile, Israeli President Shimon Peres assured Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan last week that Israel has not changed its position on the killing of 1.5 million Armenians during World War I.

In his conversation with Erdogan, Peres reiterated the Israeli position that Turkey and Armenia should resolve the dispute on the nature of the killings through dialogue. Jerusalem is careful not to refer to the killings as a genocide.

Following the ADL's statement, Turkey was feeling "disappointed with its friends," Erdogan said.

Peres told him that Israel does not control U.S. Jewish organizations, which pursue their own agendas.

Foreign Ministry sources told *Ha'aretz* that they believe that Peres' efforts and the calming actions of the Israeli embassy in Ankara have helped ease tensions over the ADL's statement.

Turkish media reported over the weekend that Foxman sent Erdogan a letter stating the ADL has "utmost respect for the Turkish people."

"We had no intention to put the Turkish people or its leaders in a difficult position. I am writing this letter to you to express our sorrow over what we have caused for the leadership and people of Turkey in the past few days," Foxman's letter reportedly read.

Meanwhile, also last week, the Jewish community's main umbrella body on Israel affairs began debating whether or not to take a position on the issue and the related congressional resolution.

Abe Foxman

The Conference of Presidents held a conference call early on Aug. 22 to discuss adopting a position. The call came a day after the ADL's statement, and a day after the executive director of the American Jewish Committee, David Harris, took a similar step in a piece on the website of the *Jerusalem Post.*

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents, confirmed that member organizations were discussing the matter. Sources said that Foxman defended his organization's new position during the conference call.

Despite their public statements last week, both the ADL and the AJC continue to oppose the proposed U.S. congressional resolution that would declare the massacres a genocide. Foxman has cited concerns about harming Israeli-Turkish relations and the security of the Jewish community in Turkey. Harris dismissed those worries, but said a congressional resolution could end up hurting U.S. strategic interests and ties with Turkey, which adamantly rejects the genocide label.

But Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, told JTA that his organization thinks it's "imperative for Jews to acknowledge the truth of the Turkish genocide against Armenians, notwithstanding Turkey's relationship with Israel." He also voiced support for the congressional resolution.

"Acknowledging that truth of a century ago doesn't indict the present Turkish people or the present Turkish government, just like acknowledging the Holocaust doesn't indict the present German people or the present German government," Klein said. He added: "It's high time for Turkey to acknowledge that truth of history and move on."

When asked in a *Boston Globe* interview last month if he believed what happened to the Armenians was genocide, Foxman was quoted as saying: "I don't know." Critics argued that Foxman's remark portrayed the issue as open to debate, with some calling it genocide denial.

ADL insists the change stems from its concern for Jewish unity at a moment of great peril for communities around the world.

"I was just disheartened by how the Jewish community was being torn apart," Foxman told JTA Aug. 21 as he travelled to Boston to meet with community leaders. "We were being criticized by other Jewish organizations. And out of a tremendous concern to keep that unity, because the Jewish community is under increased attack in Europe, Latin America and even in this country, the imperative is to try to find unity."

The turnaround comes just weeks before the release of Foxman's new book, *The Most Dangerous Lies: The Israel Lobby and the Myth of Jewish Control.* Foxman, whose book attempts to debunk claims that Jewish groups stifle debate on Israel and control U.S. foreign policy, said that some advocates of these views were emboldened by the attacks on the ADL.

The ADL had faced a budding rebellion on the part of the organization's Boston leadership, which adopted two resolutions on the issue this month, one expressing confidence in Tarsy and the other supporting legislation in Congress acknowledging the Armenian genocide.

Two prominent members of the ADL's regional board – former chairman of the Polaroid Corp., Stewart Cohen, and Boston City Council member Mike Ross – reportedly resigned in protest over the issue.

The ADL has been under fire since the Armenian community in Watertown, Mass., one of the country's largest, began agitating to have the town rescind its participation in "No Place for Hate," a popular anti-bigotry program that the ADL sponsors.

On Aug. 14, the town council unanimously voted to end its relationship with the program, and other Massachusetts communities were reported to be considering similar moves.

Watertown's Armenian community was piqued by the ADL's longtime refusal to support the congressional legislation, which is vigorously opposed by Turkey, Israel's closest Muslim ally.

Despite the shift on the genocide question, Foxman said he still doesn't support the legislative measure, which he described in his Aug. 21 statement as "a counterproductive diversion" that could threaten the Turkish Jewish community and "the important multilateral position between Turkey, Israel and the United States."

That position is exceedingly unpopular in Boston, where a large Armenian population has developed close ties with the Jewish community. The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, the David Project, and eight other groups signed on to a "community statement" Aug. 20 urging the ADL to reconsider its position.

"We must never forget the Armenian genocide and maintain our guard against those who deny its occurrence," that statement said. "We stand with them and in support of the local Armenian community, who like the Jews, have suffered greatly at the hands of others."

An early version of the statement had also called for Tarsy's reinstatement, but that clause was later dropped.

"Abe Foxman had every right in the world to fire Andy Tarsy," said Nancy Kaufman, executive director of the Boston JCRC. Tarsy "knew what he was doing."

In response to the ADL's reversal, the Boston JCRC released its own statement saluting the change.

Harris, of the AJC, said that his group has long recognized the killings as a genocide, but has not taken a position on the congressional resolution out of concern for U.S. strategic interests in the Middle East. "We know from the experience of France that when the French Parliament tackled this issue not long ago it created a very immediate set of ramifications in French-Turkish relations," Harris said. He questioned if, at a sensitive moment for American interests in the Middle East, it made sense to pursue the congressional route.

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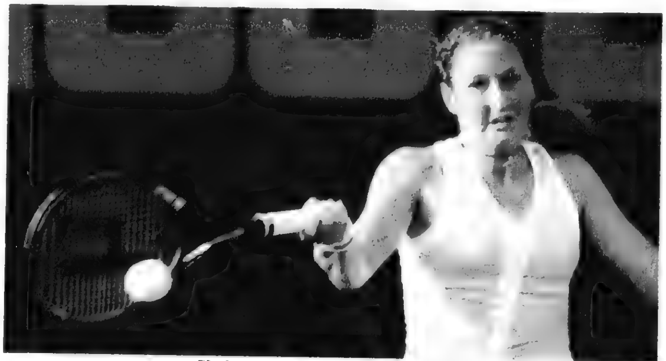
Peer bows out in round-of-16 at Rogers Cup

By **MARVIN GLASSMAN**
Special to the CJN



Shahar Peer [Vidal Keslassy photo]

Israeli star Shahar Peer has never seen a tennis ball she couldn't return.

Peer thrilled fans at Toronto's Rexall Centre during the recent $1.3 million Rogers Cup Canadian Open championships with her hustle and groundstrokes in three matches, ending with a round-of-16 finish.

What made the 18th-ranked Peer's performance breathtaking was her belief that she can prevail no matter the match score.

In the opening round, Peer couldn't capitalize on three break points and trailed Michaella Krajicek of The Netherlands 0-4 before turning the tables.

Peer responded to her sub-par play by winning the next seven of eight games, relying largely on first serves and groundstroke winners to take the first set 7-5. In the second set, Peer lost serve and trailed 0-3 before rallying again by winning six of the next eight and a 9-7 tie-break to win the match.

Against Tathiana Garbin of Italy in the second round, Peer lost serve and trailed 0-2 before winning six of the next seven games to win the first set 6-3.

In the second set, she continued to hit winners on both forehand and backhand, never dropping serve to emerge with a 6-3, 6-2 victory.

Peer's luck ran out under windy conditions in her third-round match against Virginie Razzano of France, losing 4-6, 3-6. Peer held serve only once in the first set and despite breaking Razzano twice, she could not capitalize.

"I often start slow and sometimes make mistakes early in the match. But then I find my rhythm, move better and step into the balls to end the points quickly. I have to play and not think about the score, but how I could win, no matter who the opponent is," Peer said after her second round victory.

"Peer is a great fighter who runs down every shot. Her feistiness and mental strength give her a big edge over most players. I expect Shahar's rankings to continue to rise and that she will be a big star in women's tennis for many years," said former Rogers Cup champion Tracy Austin, the TSN and CBC commentator at the Rogers Cup.

"Shahar is so beloved in Israel that without a doubt she is the most popular female athlete we've ever had," said Miki Sagui, a sports reporter for Israel's Ynetnews website who covered Peer's matches at the Rogers Cup. "Her matches are televised in Israel all the time, and she brings relief to the constant news of security and politics."

This past April, Canadians saw first hand how tough the 20-year-old Peer can be when she won her two singles matches to lead Israel to a Fed Cup win against Canada at Kamloops, B.C.

Peer then won two more single matches in July in Austria to secure another victory for Israel in Fed Cup play. Her victories – she is undefeated in two years of Fed Cup play – have led Israel to its highest ranking ever (eighth among 91 nations) in 35 years. Despite a modest budget for tennis development programs, Israel is currently ranked higher than Canada, Australia and Great Britain.

Peer's achievements include finishing in the fourth round or better at Grand Slam events and earning $1.3 million (US) since turning pro in 2004. Her success has made her a celebrity in Israel and she regularly receives calls from Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, congratulating her on her victories.

Peer has used her celebrity status to draw support to the Shahar Peer Foundation for Ethiopian Jews in Israel.

"Everyone in Israel has been so good to me that I want to give back to others. Ethiopian Jewish children do not have the opportunity to get ahead, and I want to raise funds for them to have a better opportunity to go to school and pursue opportunities for success," she said.

Born and raised in Makabim, a West Bank settlement, Peer took up tennis at age six. By age 14 in 2001, she won the prestigious Orange Bowl 14s title, and in 2004, she became the first Israeli to win the Australian Junior Open.

Peer was one of four Jewish players competing at the Rogers Cup. None of the other Jewish players (Sharon Fichman of Toronto; Israeli Tzipi Obziler and Stephanie Cohen-Alaro of France) survived the qualifying rounds.

Fichman, 16, achieved a personal milestone by becoming the first Canadian Jew to win her first qualifying match at the Rogers Cup since Carrie-Lynn Cohen of Toronto won in 1989. Fichman defeated Cohen-Alaro 6-3, 7-6 (4) before losing 6-3, 6-1 to Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia.

Fichman has taken a three month break from playing international junior tennis.

"I needed the break but will continue to play tennis again. I have a few more years to decide whether to play tennis in college or turn pro. I look forward to continuing to play tennis at a high level, " she said.

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Israel Baseball League has first-ever champion

JTA

JERUSALEM — The first season of the Israel Baseball League drew to a close last week, with the Bet Shemesh Blue Sox shutting out the Modi'in Miracle 3-0 in Petach Tikva for the championship.

Managed by Ron Blomberg, a former New York Yankee slugger and Major League Baseball's first designated hitter, the Blue Sox dominated the title game behind pitcher Rafael Bergstrom.

The Blue Sox led the league throughout the eight-week season. Players, many of them Jewish, were recruited from around the world, including the United States and the Dominican Republic.

As Commissioner Dan Kurtzer bestowed the Blue Sox with its trophy, Blomberg said, "I've been in two World Series with the New York Yankees, and this championship lives up to both."

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Back home putting myself together

Sandie Benitah
20Something

When I first moved out, I found it so tough being on my own, I longed for the days when I lived with 24-hour care and support. But like every overprotected child, I very quickly came to appreciate this new life in which I could finally discover what I was made of.

Throughout the first year of my moving out, I often thought of people who had to move back home to regroup for a while and each time they crossed my mind, I was sooooo positive that would never be me, no matter how hard it got.

I should have known to never say never. Four months after the passing of my boyfriend, here I still am, home at my mom's.

As much as I certainly appreciate living with someone who finds such irrational pleasure in cooking for me and cleaning up after me, I have to admit, it's been a real challenge.

I've been racking my brain trying to figure out what I find so unsettling. It's not my new roommate, as my mom has been more than patient and generous with me. I still have my privacy, though my private space has been reduced from an entire apartment to one room. I'm now closer to family and friends though I have to drive each time I go out, rather than just walk out my downtown building's front door. I'm even eating better than ever considering I now have home-cooked meals instead of my own over-cooked meals at home.

But at least all those burnt meals were my own.

It's absolutely shocking to see how easy it is to get back to old routines. When I moved out, I was Miss Responsibility; grocery shopping on Saturdays, laundry on Sundays, new recipe trial every Monday…

When I moved back here, there was no doubt in my mind that I would pitch in with everything. But of course, since I moved back, I have not used anything but a microwave and have not bought anything for the house other than new shoes to ruin the carpet with.

I guess I should find solace in the fact I still do my own laundry, but I hate that I have let myself regress to this point.

There's something about being on your own that forces you to become a problem solver rather than just a complainer. No matter how hard or hectic life may get when you're on your own, you still have full control over your life.

You don't have to do the dishes if you don't want to, but you have to deal with the consequences of them sitting in the sink for a week. Each decision is yours, yours to take full responsibility for. When you live with your parents, God bless them, they seem all too happy to take on that responsibility for you.

Let me make it clear – I know how lucky I am to even have a loving home to come back to. I have one friend who can never go home, no matter how badly her luck runs out. She spends a lot of time crying with frustration, but even though I wouldn't ever want to trade places with her, I envy that she'll come out of it saying she did it on her own.

Whatever doesn't break you makes you stronger, says that old cliché. How can we ever really get strong if our parents' home is always there to cushion us from breaking too hard?

I guess the fact that we have this unconditional love to fall back on is what makes us stronger because if we did break too hard, chances are we would never be put back together completely the right way.

I'm still putting myself back together my way: it's just that moving back home, I now have a loving guide by my side to remind me where the pieces fit.

EUROPEAN APPLE CAKE

10"Bundt pan

3 c flour
1 tbsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
2 sticks unsalted butter, softened
1 3/4 c sugar
3 lg eggs, separated
1/2 c milk
8 med. cooking apples, cored & diced

Glaze
1/2 tsp vanilla
1 c icing sugar
2 tblsp milk

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease Bundt pan. Sift together flour, baking powder, salt. Beat butter until smooth. Gradually add sugar; beat until light and fluffy. Beat in egg yolks, one at a time. Stir in flour mixture and milk. Beat egg whites until stiff. Fold 1/4 of whites into batter, then gently fold in remaining whites. Pour half batter into prepared pan. Spread with half apples. Top with remaining batter, then remaining apples. Bake 1 hr. Cool in the pan for 20 min.; transfer to rack and cool completely.

Glaze: Combine glaze ingredients, stirring until pouring consistency. Drizzle over cake; let stand until set.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

My 93-year-old dad passed away last month. This has been a very difficult time for me, as we were extremely close. He was my confidant, my pillar and my friend. Although in the last couple of years, he deteriorated physically, his mind was sharp as a tack. I lost my mother when I was quite young, so my father took over the role of both parents.

I found the shivah very difficult. I know that most of the people had good intentions, but many of them made reference to the fact that he was 93 and lived a good, long life, which implies to me that his death is not so tragic. I know in my heart that he did have a long life, but it doesn't hurt any less than if he had been 63. I wanted more time, and just because he was 93 doesn't make it hurt any less. I never quite knew how to respond, but I wanted to shout "He was my father, not a 93-year-old man who was lucky enough to make it to a ripe old age." How do I get my message across without sounding ungrateful for their support?

Wanted More Time

Dear Wanted More Time

Saying goodbye to a parent is never easy. For many people, a shivah is uncomfortable. Often, people don't know what to say or do. People are generally well-meaning, so they look for a silver lining in a tragic situation. The fact that your father was 93 when he died is their silver lining. It doesn't make what they said right, it just makes it understandable.

You not only had a wonderful relationship with your father, you were able to enjoy him and interact with him until the end. This is everyone's wish: to be able to live a long and healthy life, and to have their loved ones do the same. On a subconscious level, they are transferring this wish that they have for themselves to your situation. They are not privy to your deep loss and grief. That's very personal. Just understand that those people who came to the shivah came because they care and wanted to pay their respects and be with you during this difficult time.

There is very little anyone can say or do to take your pain away. Just remember: no one can take away what the two of you shared. You will carry that with you forever.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Peace and love at Camp Manitou

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

The 1960s was a decade when love and peace were in the air and flower power convinced millions that we could change the world forever. It was an idyllic time.

This past summer, I was reminded of some of those tranquil feelings when I visited Camp Manitou.

Camp Manitou is owned and operated by Mark Diamond and Jeff Wilson, two very soulful guys. It is an expensive place to send your children, and I was expecting the stereotypical "rich kids" camp with attitude and wardrobes befitting Paris Hilton. What I found among the campers instead was a deep sense of warmth and caring in which love abounded.

Camp Manitou, meaning "place of great spirit," is indeed a beautiful place with all the amenities one would want. It is described on its website as being "nestled in the great northern forests of Muskoka, carved out along iridescent blue lakes and rivers."

Indeed, Camp Manitou has superlative facilities and activities, including the Manitou Tennis Academy, progressive art programs and theatre, but the attraction to the place seemed to come more from the very positive energy I sensed everywhere.

My re-evaluation of the camp began when I spoke to the campers by the waterfront, helping to launch community week, when campers and staff visit nearby towns assisting in tikkun olam activities.

I spoke about the gift these kids have being able to attend a northern Ontario paradise and reminded them of the impoverished Israeli children and terrified children in Darfur who would never have such an opportunity. They listened closely, and it was evident by their attentive looks that they agreed. Later, dozens of Manitou staff and campers told me with great sincerity that they understood how fortunate they are.

At a counsellor-in-training (CIT) workshop, I listened to story after story from the CITs about their response to our world's humanitarian needs. Not a single voice espoused the view that the homeless are grubby and deserve the life they live. This was unusual, as this hardened view is frequently expressed by some young people in groups I speak with.

The morning after my arrival, I saw a young man sitting by my cabin playing guitar. We played some blues together and soon enough a group of five or so other staffers joined us.

Over the next hour, I listened to their unreserved and honest descriptions of Camp Manitou. They said Mark and Jeff bring a certain tenderness and kindness to the place that can be felt throughout the grounds and within the cabins.

One girl said the first day she arrived at camp, she was terrified at not knowing a single person. To her delight, the campers in her cabin greeted her with hugs and kisses, welcoming her to a summer that would ultimately change her life.

The older campers, I was told, and was witness to, were dedicated to helping the younger ones. It was wonderful to watch a nine-year-old camper run up to a 15-year-old, hug her and then be lifted in the air and spun around. Love was everywhere. I could hear it, see it and feel it.

I think Camp Manitou is the real deal. At the camp, helping others grow seems to be more powerful than raw competition. Things such as scaring the younger kids late at night and drug problems do not seem to be inherent in the fibre of the Camp Manitou experience. Quite the opposite.

I believe that what exists at Camp Manitou is an authentic communal bond, similar to the one of the '60s, that allows young people to learn about love, beauty and understanding. I only wish I could be young again so I could experience it for an entire summer of my own.

Avrum@veahavta.org Sderot?

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This Week

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Pomegranates have special significance on Rosh Hashanah. ***Page 32***

Fall Fashion

It's time to return to the basics of 20th-century design. ***Page 69***

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A passerby focuses on a poster of Gilad Shalit at a 21st birthday celebration for the kidnapped soldier in Tel Aviv last week. *[Israel Sun photo]*

A sad 21st birthday

The family of Gilad Shalit, the kidnapped Israeli soldier, last week organized a public celebration at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv of Shalit's 21st birthday. It was the second birthday the young soldier has spent in captivity. He was kidnapped by Hamas gunmen on June 26, 2006.

Shalit's father, Noam, was critical of the Israeli government's efforts to secure his son's release. "After so many days of Gilad's captivity, and after so many attempts to get him back, we see a clear and utter failure of the system."

"It was important to mark the event in some very modest way," Noam said, "and to show the public that my son has still not come back after two birthdays, 14 months and 429 days."

The organizers of the event gave out stickers that said, "Gilad Shalit, we're waiting at home for you."

Please see editorial on page 8.

Durban II sets off alarm bells

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

There may still be two years to go before "Durban II" convenes as a followup to the infamous World Conference Against Racism held in South Africa in 2001, but for two observers of the United Nations, "alarm bells" are already going off.

Hillel Neuer

Hillel Neuer, spokesperson for UN Watch in Geneva, and Irwin Cotler, human rights critic for the Liberal Party, say the election of Libya to chair a 20-nation organizing bureau and the inclusion of Iran on the committee are ominous signs that suggest the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism will be hijacked by an anti-Israel forces.

Speaking from his office in Geneva, site of the UN Human Rights Council, Neuer said a speech by the Libyan ambassador on racism and human rights given after he was warmly received by UN High Commissioner on Human Rights Louise Arbour "was surreal and revolting."

The Human Rights Council, which is co-ordinating and planning the Durban II conference, approved the Libyan ambassador by acclamation. While the United States and Israel were not participants, some European countries approved the selection, he said, noting "western nations are tripping over themselves to trade oil and weapons with Libya."

Cuba was voted in as vice-chair of the bureau and Arbour will serve as its secretary general.

Even at the planning stage, Islamic countries through the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) are attempting to steer the Durban II conference toward "the issue of religious discrimination and defamation of Islam." It also "wants the spotlight moved to the plight of the Palestinians," Neuer said.

Durban II is supposed to be limited to reviewing implementation of the program adopted at Durban I. Islamic states, however, are attempting to introduce new charges against the West – of Islamophobia, religious profiling, and defamation of religions, Neuer stated.

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Israel's economy is booming — please see page 62

The News in Brief

CANADA

Appeal In Ross Case

TORONTO — The man convicted in May of killing Alicia Ross last summer is appealing both his conviction and his sentence. Daniel Sylvester, 33, said the trial judge, Superior Court Justice Edwin Minden, erred when he allowed evidence about his sexual conduct after Ross' death to be introduced in court, the *Toronto Star* reported. In July, Sylvester, a loner and recluse who a jury heard had fantasized about raping women, was sentenced to life in prison with no parole eligibility for 16 years for the second-degree murder of Ross, 25, who was his next-door neighbour in Markham, Ont.

Women Pack Bags

EDMONTON — Some 30 volunteers spent the last few weeks stuffing hundreds of backpacks for kids who live in Edmonton's women's shelters. Last year, Na'mat Canada's Edmonton chapter filled 425 packs, and this year, it hoped to fill 500, Shoshana Assaraf-Beihse, the co-ordinator of Na'amat's local School Supplies for Kids program, told the *Edmonton Journal*. Office Depot provided the backpacks and solicited donations of school supplies from customers. Na'amat chapters in Calgary, Winnipeg, Ottawa and southern Ontario also pack schoolbags for the program, which began in 1998.

WORLD

YU Names New Dean

NEW YORK — The director of the largest U.S. rabbinical court has been named the next dean of Yeshiva University's rabbinical school. Rabbi Yona Reiss, a Yale Law School graduate who has led the Beth Din of America since 1998, will become dean of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary on July 1, 2008. Rabbi Reiss will replace Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, who has been dean for more than 35 years.

Israelis Fight Fires

ATHENS — An Israeli delegation joined foreign firefighters helping to fight massive blazes in Greece. Fifty-one Israeli firefighters flew out Aug. 27 to Greece, where scores of people had died from forest fires that had been raging since around Aug. 23. The Israeli delegation was expected to spend several days helping local counterparts where needed. Israel acquired enhanced knowledge on fighting forest fires during last year's Lebanon war, when Hezbollah missiles set large swaths of the Galilee ablaze.

Actor Faces Boycott

CAIRO — A popular Egyptian actor faces a boycott in his homeland for appearing in a TV film about Saddam Hussein that stars an Israeli actor as the Iraqi leader. The Egyptian actor's union said it would probe whether Amr Waked violated its rules for agreeing to play Saddam's son-in-law in a BBC production now filming in Tunisia, Agence France Presse reported. Waked plays Saddam's son-in-law and Yigal Naor, an Israeli, plays Saddam. Waked, who appeared opposite George Clooney in *Syriana* in 2005, has been telling Egyptian newspapers he did not know of Naor's participation when he signed on and that the film is critical of U.S. Mideast policy.

Rabbi Advised Gen. Eisenhower in Europe

NEW YORK — Rabbi Judah Nadich, the longtime rabbi at the Park Avenue Synagogue-Agudat Yesharim in New York City, died Aug. 26 at age 95.

He served at the shul, one of the largest Conservative synagogues in the United States, from 1957 to 1987.

Born in Baltimore, Rabbi Nadich was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1937. In 1942 he enlisted in the army as a chaplain and was sent to London, becoming the first rabbi to serve as a chaplain in the European theatre. Two years later, Rabbi Nadich was transferred to Paris, where he conducted the first post-liberation religious services for survivors and Jewish serviceman at the rue de la Victoire synagogue.

In 1945, he became the first adviser on Jewish affairs to the commander of the U.S. forces in Europe, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower. Returning to the United States, Rabbi Nadich worked as a fundraiser and spokesperson for the United Jewish Appeal and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. After holding a post at a synagogue in Massachusetts, he became the rabbi at Park Avenue, which has 1,500 families.

Rabbi Nadich is survived by his wife of 60 years, Hadassah, as well as by three daughters, Leah, Shira and Nommi, and several grandchildren.

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New group calls for faith-based funding

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

A new pro-faith-based-education funding advocacy group has joined the 2007 Ontario election fray.

Last week, the Public Education Fairness Network revealed itself to the press with a news conference at a downtown hotel.

The group insists that rather than creating separate, faith pockets inside the public system, bringing faith communities into the public school system would instead allow "children… their teachers and school administrators to share their cultures through meaningful interaction."

The group is made up of high-profile members of the Jewish, Armenian, Hindu, Sikh and Muslim communities and jointly organized by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

Approximately 53,000 children attend religious schools across these communities, representing about seven per cent of students attending faith-based schools in the province. The other 93 per cent, or 650,000, attend the publicly funded Catholic school system, according to the group's literature.

The group is "working to change this decades-old inequity," it said.

Representing the faith communities at the event were David Koschitzky, federation's vice-chair; Latif Mirza, secretary general of the Islamic Circle of North America; Sivan Karshafian, board member of the ARS Armenian Day School; Shahen Mirakian, a graduate of the ARS Armenian Day School; Pandit Roonpnauth Sharma, president of the Federation of Hindu Temples; Balwinder Singh, a member of the Ontario Sikh and Gurdwara Council; and federation spokesperson Howard English.

Continued on page 13

Please see related story page 12

NESS NETWORK

David Koschitzky, left, Shahen Mirakian, centre, and Latif Mirza answer questions at the Public Education Fairness Network's press conference last week.

[Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf photo]

Proceeds from the 2007 JNF Toronto Negev Dinner will be used toward the restoration and redevelopment of Canada Park, located midway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, hosting thousands of Israelis, students and tourists each month. The project will be known as ***The Miles S. Nadal Environmental Community at Ayalon/Canada Park*** – and will involve a major upgrade of facilities at the Park with the addition of new recreation areas. It will be the largest project of its kind in the annals of JNF Canada. Please help us make the dream a reality!

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Greater Toronto Area

At the Center of it all

From the editor's desk

In the heart of Jerusalem's elegant German Colony neighbourhood, merely metres from the very pleasant yet very busy Emek Refa'im, is the Shalem Center.

The high, arched windows, the raw and the polished locally quarried stone, and the gold-beige-pink colour of the building exude Jerusalem: gravitas, strength, history and charm. It is a profoundly appropriate portal to the thinking and the writing inside the building itself.

Founded in 1994, the centre is already a highly respected institute of research and education. Its main aim, as described in its literature, is "to develop and transmit ideas in the areas most crucial to the intellectual and public life of the Jewish people."

Last week in Jerusalem, *The CJN* met with the centre's president, Dan Polisar, to talk about the present state of public life in Israel and the mood of the people concerning the future.

The sense of popular malaise with the institutions of the state that had set in after the conclusion of the Second Lebanon War has not yet lifted, and in any event, on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, it seemed like an appropriately reflective thing to do.

"The single most important thing to note is that Israeli society is an extraordinarily strong society," Polisar said without even a micro-second of hesitation.

The soft-spoken but unmistakably assertive Polisar emphasized this point. "Pessimism is something we need to overcome. We are a very patriotic society, extraordinarily capable of dealing with difficult challenges, whether the challenges are military, such as the Second Lebanon War, or the surprisingly high level of current diplomatic hostility to our state, or the many economic challenges. Israeli society can rise above and defeat all these challenges."

Though the diminutive scholar spoke with rock-solid confidence about the underlying strengths of Israeli society, he did not, however, avoid pointing to the problematic and painful fact that "within Israel's cultural elite, there is a stream of thought not quite sympathetic to a Jewish national state."

One of the most poignant examples, he pointed out, of an individual who advances this stream of thought is Avrum Burg. The former Labor party Knesset member, Speaker of the Knesset and head of the Jewish Agency was still much in the news for his recent shocking denunciation of the Jewish state and for his personal renunciation of Zionism as his cause.

Polisar said he is troubled by the fact that a leader of Burg's stature would declare himself "no longer a Zionist."

Dan Polisar

"When Burg says he is no longer a Zionist, that he voted in the French election and took out French citizenship, he commits a cultural defection and undergoes a change of world view of a kind unparalleled in modern democratic world.

"It needs to be understood that Burg did not appear out of nowhere. Some of Israel's scholars, such as the late Yeshayahu Leibowitz, the winner of the prestigious Israel Prize, and the renowned educator Moshe Zimmerman helped shape his views."

Thus, Polisar believes there is a heightened urgency and importance at this moment in time to the centre's mission, namely, the development of intellectual leadership committed to critical thinking but also to the idea of a Jewish state.

"The centre is interested in developing thinkers of sound ideas on Israel and on the broader Jewish world who will be able to compete in the marketplace of ideas."

In an effort to expand its ability to fulfil its mission, the centre is boldly trying to build upon its present research and education framework and also become a full-fledged, fully accredited Jewish liberal arts college. The centre is currently working closely with Israel's Council on Higher Education to meet all the necessary standards and other criteria to attain college status.

It is a natural evolution for the centre. In 2004, the centre was approached by a group of university students "who were looking for something additional to what they were getting in their classes."

"After a while," Polisar explained, "we began a pilot teaching program of short courses for these students [on subjects ranging from Jewish thought and tradition to western philosophy, archeology, military and political strategy]. As no academic credits were attached to the courses, they were learning " '*l'shma,*'" that is, for its own sake.

"In the fall of 2005, we offered seven such courses. At least 50 students were enrolled in one or two courses. By the end of 2007, the end of the second full year in which the programs will have been offered, we will have 20 courses and an enrolment of 150 students."

There is clearly a rising demand for the intense, university-level learning on the core subjects that tie Jewish history, culture and tradition to that of western civilization at the Shalem Center.

"The Zionist movement is one of the greatest achievements of the 20th century," Polisar emphasized as our meeting concluded. "Especially before the Yamim Nora'im, we must be focused on the most important issues. We must get past our pessimism and realize the enormous strength of Israeli society." – ***MBD***

SeeJN

CANADIANS IN JERUSALEM

Ten Canadians were among more than 100 students studying at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem this summer. The yeshiva, founded in 1995 and located in the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's Fuchsberg Center, teaches Jews of all backgrounds skills for studying Jewish texts. Front row from left, are Maxyne Finkelstein, Dena Libman, Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl and Samara Zatzman. Behind them from left, are Ashley Isenberg, Jeremy Finkleman, Shira Zeliger, Julia Segal and Rafi Frydman-Kohl. Not pictured is Nicole Greenspan.

UJA plans to raise campaign 'base' to $75 million

By **FRANCES KRAFT**
Staff Reporter

Larry Miller is pretty much a lone voice in Hollywood when it comes to love of Israel, although more and more people are starting to come around – slowly, he says.

The actor, comedian and writer, whose numerous roles have included "the doorman" on a 1995 *Seinfeld* episode, told an audience of almost 1,000 people last week that he became nervous when he was approached over coffee on an "immense" sound stage at Universal Studios in 2002 by someone who said, "I just read something you wrote about Israel."

Speaking at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Community Campaign Launch 2008 at the Fairmont Royal York, Miller said that during the moment he hesitated, someone else said, "I don't have enough information to make a decision about Israel."

Instantly, Miller recovered. "Yeah, you do," he said. "I said, 'Imagine this entire stage is all the countries surrounding [Israel].' I took my cup of coffee, put it down, and said, 'That's Israel. Now you have enough information to make a decision.'"

That encounter motivated him to travel to Israel for the first time that summer, he said. "I saw [victims of terrorist attacks] there who moved me so much, because all they could do was thank me."

A passionate Israel defender, Miller told the UJA supporters, "You are no different from me, and I am no different from you, because we have decided to stand up and say, 'I am a Jew.' "

He said there are two themes that he loves for their dual meanings: "Hineni," in the sense not only of "Here I am" but "Here's where I stand;" and "Am Yisrael Chai" (the Jewish nation lives) referring to both the nation of Israel and the people of Israel.

Giving money to help Israel is a joy, not a burden, Miller said. He encouraged the audience to double their UJA pledges. "When we all have this meeting with God one day, do you really want to say, 'We really wanted to put new tiles in the pool that summer?'"

Morris Perlis, co-chair of this year's campaign with Lesley Binstock Offman, announced a "need to raise our campaign from a base of $60 million to $75 million over the next two years" because of "mounting concerns."

The 2008 campaign will focus on four areas. As listed in the evening's program, they are: "inspiring Jewish identity among our next generation; standing with Israel in a time of great need; transforming lives within our underprivileged populations; and engaging a growing and dynamic community here in Toronto."

Earlier this year, the federation committed $1 million to help the people of Sderot, the beleaguered town near Gaza that has suffered numerous Qassam rocket attacks. A portion of the money was used this summer to bus Sderot children to summer camps in safer areas, said Liora Yakubowicz, chair of Women's Campaign and Advocacy, who introduced the Sderot Youth Choir.

The choir's eight singers and one guitarist, ranging in age from 14 to 19, received a standing ovation for their mix of familiar and more intense versions of tunes like *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav* and *Hinei Matov*. They also sang the poignant *Shir L'Shalom* (Song of Peace) that former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sang in 1995 before he was assassinated at a Tel Aviv peace rally.

The Campaign
for Our Jewish Future
...now, when?

Actor and comedian Larry Miller makes a point during his keynote speech at last week's UJA Federation campaign launch.

[J. Michael La Fond photo]

Choir members' origins range from native Israelis to the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia. It was their first time in Canada and, for some, their first time outside of Israel.

Along with brief remarks by launch chairs Lynn Belzberg and Dale Lastman, David Koschitzky, vice-chair of UJA, gave an impassioned speech about the fight for public funding for faith-based schools.

He also thanked the choir for "reflecting the true spirit of Israel. Despite the tensions they face daily, you see the power of optimism and joy, and that is what makes Israel such a remarkable country."

Koschitzky said education funding is "an issue of paramount importance." The cost of tuition has reached a point where day school education is beyond the reach of even upper middle class Jewish families, he said.

"Today, in Ontario, public education funds 650,000 children who attend within a faith-based Catholic system, but 53,000 in other faith-based schools including Jewish day schools are not part of the publicly funded education system," Koschitzky said. "Simply put, we believe the status quo is unfair and indefensible."

Among other benefits, inclusive public education would ensure that all faith-based schools are accountable for what they teach and that they are consistent with Canadian values and provincial standards, he noted.

He urged audience members to make their voices heard in the Oct. 10 provincial election and, more immediately, by writing letters to the editor, challenging incorrect statements and engaging politicians who are campaigning.

John Tory, leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative party, who supports public funding for faith-based schools, was at the launch and received prolonged applause when his presence was announced.

McGuinty urged to retract 'hurtful' remarks

By **SHERI SHEFA**
Staff Reporter

Jewish groups are calling on Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty to retract his suggestion that the public education system in Ontario would suffer if it were to fund all faith-based schools.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region (CJCONT) issued a press release last week that urged McGuinty to reconsider the idea that funding Jewish private schools, as well as other faith-based private schools, would lead to the "unravelling of social cohesion."

In the release, UJA Federation chair David Engel said that faith-based communities are deeply offended by his remarks.

"Our schools teach respect for all members of Ontario society – not the opposite – and we encourage our students to strengthen the society around us through their volunteer work and their careers," Engel said.

CJCONT chair Frank Bialystock also challenged McGuinty's stance by pointing out that thousands of graduates from faith-based schools contribute to Canadian society.

"The suggestion that our schools are in any way divisive or segregationist is hurtful," Bialystock said.

Ted Sokolsky, UJA Federation president and CEO, said that they felt they had "no choice but to issue this public appeal" because they grew tired of waiting for McGuinty to reconsider his position.

UJA and CJCONT reported that since the premier made his remarks on August 22, they have received many complaints from the Jewish community, which have been forwarded to the premier's office.

"Regardless of how one feels about the issue of inclusive public education, the debate should be conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect, without casting aspersions on faith communities," Sokolsky said.

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New trade official wants Israel on Canada's radar

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In the world of international trade, every country possesses some kind of competitive advantage. Even a country as tiny as Israel, population seven million, has something that G-8 member Canada, population 32 million, wants and can use.

Getting Canadian businesses to recognize Israel as an investment opportunity or trading partner is the task assigned to Israeli trade commissioners, and Jonathan Levy is the latest to hold that title, having taken over from the departed Ephraim Shoham.

On the job for only a few weeks, Levy comes with substantial knowledge of the Canadian business scene, and he believes there is plenty of room to grow the two countries' trade relationship.

Currently two way trade stands at more than $1 billion, and financial investments (such as Israeli purchases of Canadian real estate) add another $1 billion or more.

Nevertheless, Levy said, "we see that Canada has been off the radar of Israel for a long time, and the same goes in the other direction."

Israel is a major player in various high-tech domains and has particular expertise in turning good ideas into commercial products. Canadian companies, he said, face the "challenge of commercializing their research and development and turning research into a viable product. I think this is an area where co-operation with Israeli researchers can be of huge benefit."

Jonathan Levy

Levy, 37, comes to his new posting in Toronto with 13 years experience in the Israeli foreign economic service. With degrees in business administration and law, he served as the official responsible for central and eastern Europe under then-trade minister Ehud Olmert. He served as economic attache in Vienna for four years and more recently as director of the ministry's North American division.

Speaking in his office at the Israeli Consulate, Levy said with its small domestic market, Israeli firms have been forced to look abroad to market the products its scientific and academic community develop.

Israeli businesses "are quite experienced doing business overseas" while the government has created the infrastructure to support that endeavour by signing free trade agreements with Canada, the United States, the European Union and Mexico. "I think a partnership between Canadian companies can be useful in penetrating third countries, like in Europe," he said.

Israel is advanced in information technology, environmental technology (such as "green tech," "clean tech" and water purification), domestic security, life sciences (including stem cell research) and computers. Israel's leadership in the computer realm has been recognized by major players such as Intel, which developed its Pentium IV and Centrino chips there, and Microsoft, which is expanding its operations in Israel to employ more than 500 people.

Giving the Israeli business scene even more credibility were two deals announced last year. Renowned American investor Warren Buffett announced that the company he controls, Berkshire Hathaway, was acquiring 80 per cent of Israeli cutting tools company Iscar Metalworking for $4 billion (US). A few months later, Hewlett-Packard acquired software developer Mercury Interactive in a $4.4-billion deal.

Those deals substantiate the high marks given to the Israeli economy by ratings companies such as Moody's, S&P and Finch, Levy said, adding that Israel's GDP growth (last year around 6.6 per cent) is above the world average and was barely affected by last year's war with Hezbollah.

As trade commissioner, it's his job to bring Canadian and Israelis companies together, to act as a business "matchmaker."

A native of Jerusalem, Levy sees it as a Zionist mission to improve Israel's economic situation and make it stronger in that strategic sense. He also loves being on the ground floor to witness business deals being made, as well as how investors decide where to put their money and how the business world and the political realm interact.

The son of an academic who took sabbaticals in the eastern United States, Levy grew up speaking English even before he could speak Hebrew. Returning to North America with his wife, Shelly, and three young children, is like coming full circle, he said.

"For me, it's very important to make a difference, to provide added value to businessmen and companies in both Canada and Israel," he added.

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Woman sues rabbi, Beth Tzedec over alleged sexual assault

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The Beth Tzedec Congregation and one of its rabbis are being sued for more than $1.3 million in connection with alleged "sexual and emotional assaults" on a student studying to be a shamash.

Legal documents have been filed in Ontario Superior Court alleging Rabbi Tobias Gabriel used his position of authority to coerce a sexual relationship with Yona Nadler, one of seven students studying in the Rabbinic Assembly's Shamashim program. The course for Conservative synagogue beadles (an attendant, caretaker or custodian) was offered last summer at Beth Tzedec, and Rabbi Gabriel was one of the instructors. Nadler was the only woman in the program.

The statement of claim alleges Nadler, 52, and Rabbi Gabriel began a sexual relationship after the program concluded.

Simona Jellinek, the lawyer representing Nadler, said Rabbi Gabriel and the Beth Tzedec were in a "fiduciary" relationship to Nadler – one based on trust and confidence – similar to that between a doctor and a patient or a clergyman and a person of faith. As a respected religious authority, Rabbi Gabriel "made advances and planted seeds of doubt about [Nadler's] marriage.

"He was trying to take advantage, telling her it's okay to love two men," Jellinek said. "A rabbi has, to certain extent, control over her religious life," in this case by being in a position to help her continue her career, she stated.

"What happened here happens frequently with people in positions of power who are able to convince people over whom they have power to do what they want."

The statement of claim alleges, "The sexual assaults and battery by [Rabbi] Gabriel occurred while Yona was in [Rabbi] Gabriel's care or under his control. Yona states that [Rabbi] Gabriel was her caretaker when the sexual assaults and battery occurred and that he was an authority figure and confidant to Yona. Yona states that [Rabbi] Gabriel knew or ought to have known that Yona would rely on him as an authority figure to give advice to her, to guide her and to protect her from harm."

Their sexual relationship ended after a couple of months when Nadler's husband learned of it.

Beth Tzedec, Jellinek said, bears responsibility, as it employed Rabbi Gabriel and knew about the rabbi's alleged earlier sexual liaison with a congregant who was grieving the loss of a parent. The synagogue did not ensure the safety of Nadler and others and did not adequately supervise Rabbi Gabriel, the statement of claim asserts.

Beth Tzedec's lawyer did not return *The CJN*'s calls, though Alf Kwinter, who represents Rabbi Gabriel, said his client "is going to challenge the allegations."

Rabbi Gabriel "has an exemplary record at the Beth Tzedec," Kwinter said. "Nobody would stay at the Beth Tzedec for 13 years if they weren't an exemplary performer."

Asked how Rabbi Gabriel reacted to the court claim, Kwinter said, "I think it's a terribly tragic situation for everybody. He's terribly upset about it, as is his family. Ultimately, he wants to clear his name."

Kwinter criticized the synagogue for publishing a letter about the allegations to its congregation: "I thought the letter was improper and should not have been sent… I thought the letter was not prudent."

He speculated that the executive distributed it because they did not want the congregation to learn about the allegations in the media.

In a letter to members distributed last week, Shep Gangbar, the congregation's president, noted allegations of "impropriety and abuse" stemming from an "inappropriate relationship between Rabbi Gabriel and a married adult woman who is not a congregant… Unfortunately, there is little doubt that the impropriety occurred."

The letter, however, does not specify the nature of the impropriety or the abuse.

The letter went on to distance the synagogue from the allegations, saying "it is not liable for the actions of Rabbi Gabriel," and it noted that the rabbi would no longer be involved with the synagogue in any capacity.

> ***'I think it's a terribly tragic situation for everybody'***

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Far below basic humanitarian standards

Michael Williams, the British diplomat, recently completed his term as the United Nations envoy for the Middle East peace process. Apparently, his last conversation in the region was with Karni Goldwasser, the wife of abducted Israeli soldier, Ehud Goldwasser. It could not have been a conversation of hope or optimism.

Williams has utterly failed in helping secure the release of Goldwasser and fellow soldier Eldad Regev, who have been held captive by Hezbollah since July 12, 2006. Indeed, he has utterly failed even in securing any information about the two men's condition. But it has not been for lack of effort on Williams' part.

As he explained to the UN Security Council last week, "I have to say with deep regret personally – because I have made very considerable efforts in this regard – that more than 13 months after their abductions, we still cannot establish proof of life. I don't even say release and repatriation of the prisoners. I say proof of life."

His final presentation to the Security Council was an ironic, sadly Orwellian act that was fecund with futility. He pleaded with the leaders who have ties to Hezbollah to "urge the group to meet the basic humanitarian standards – that proof of life of prisoners should always be presented."

But putting the words "basic humanitarian standards" and "Hezbollah" in the same sentence is a repugnant bipolarity that cannot coexist in the conscience of decent humanity. The leaders of Hezbollah scoff at the misery they manufacture and manipulate.

An internal Israeli probe many weeks ago concluded that Goldwasser and Regev were seriously wounded during their capture and at least one of them may no longer be alive. The cynical refusal by Hezbollah leaders to shed any light on the status of the Israelis they stole from their families bespeaks the darkness that inhabits the Hezbollah soul.

Williams' pointed plea came the same week that the parents of Gilad Shalit, the Israeli soldier kidnapped by Hamas on June 26 last year, publicly and achingly celebrated their son's 21st birthday – his second as a prisoner of Hamas.

"Gilad Shalit, we're waiting at home for you," was the tearful rallying cry among the hundreds of Israelis who gathered in Rabin Square in Tel Aviv. They directed their cries as much to the government of Israel as to Gilad's malevolent captors.

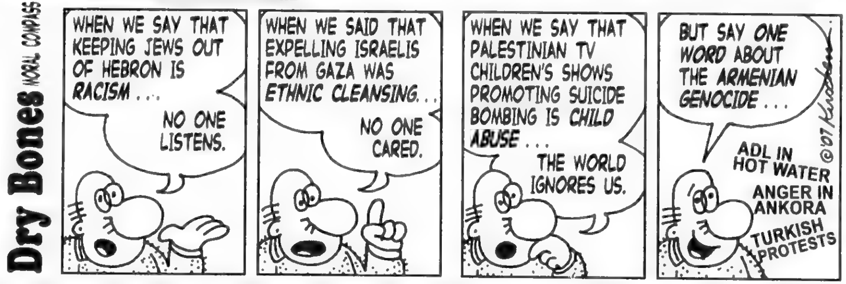
"We are marshalling all our forces and continuing to act," Gilad's father Noam told the crowd. "We do not despair and will not give up." Then, in the way that only a father can speak to his child and to his own heart, he said: "I want to tell Gilad, 'Be strong, don't lose hope. Hope is all you have. We are not giving up in our efforts. We hope you'll celebrate your next birthday at home with your family and friends.'"

He would, as indeed would Goldwasser and Regev, if their kidnappers met basic humanitarian standards.

But they don't. They fall far below.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Nahum Goldmann, founder and president of the World Jewish Congress and former president of the World Zionist Organization, died at age 87. As a result of his negotiations with the West German and Austrian governments when he was president of the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, victims of the Nazis received hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation.


Dry Bones MORAL COMPASS
WHEN WE SAY THAT KEEPING JEWS OUT OF HEBRON IS RACISM ... NO ONE LISTENS.
WHEN WE SAID THAT EXPELLING ISRAELIS FROM GAZA WAS ETHNIC CLEANSING... NO ONE CARED.
WHEN WE SAY THAT PALESTINIAN TV CHILDREN'S SHOWS PROMOTING SUICIDE BOMBING IS CHILD ABUSE ... THE WORLD IGNORES US.
BUT SAY ONE WORD ABOUT THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE ...
ADL IN HOT WATER
ANGER IN ANKORA
TURKISH PROTESTS
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Affronted by premier's statement

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty's statement that funding faith-based education with public monies will "unravel social cohesion" is shocking and foments unwarranted fear. Has his own Catholic public education and those of 600,000 students now in Catholic schools led to the undermining of good citizenship and the disruption of social unity? The negative answer to this question reveals the very strength of an inclusive public education system that should and must include all faith-based schools as a matter of equality.

The premier's comment is an affront to fair-minded Catholics and a majority of Ontarians, and especially to disenfranchised families who send 53,000 children to other faith-based schools. These same families support Ontario's public education system and contribute significantly to the well-being and strength of our society. It is unfortunate McGuinty does not acknowledge these important contributions and tackle directly the unfairness of the status quo. His preferred approach to invoke fear is irresponsible and offensive.

Danny Rosenberg
Thornhill, Ont.

IS THIS ALL YOUR BAGGAGE MRS. COHEN?
NO, I'M ALSO CARRYING ALL THIS GUILT OVER GOING ON HOLIDAYS WITHOUT MY CHILDREN

* * *

Funding issues of faith-based schools

A. Margel's suggestion to not fund Jewish schools because of the potential for home-grown fanatics to be produced at public expense is insulting to Jewish and other faith-based schools ("Improve supplementary schools," *CJN* letter, Aug. 30). There is no evidence whatsoever that funding faith-based schools in Ontario (Catholic) and in other provinces (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Quebec) has resulted in any problems of this nature. The opposite is true. Jewish schools, for example, are consistently praised for their high standards and should have little problem meeting the proposed criteria by the Conservatives to be eligible for funding, provided the Conservatives win the Oct. 10 Provincial election.

There is a concern, however, that not everyone fully understands the different provincial party positions on this issue and the significant impact that this funding will have on our schools, if the Progressive Conservatives win the election. To address this, there is an emergency community mobilization meeting on Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. at Bais Yaakov Elementary School. I would urge Margel and all readers to attend this event and become fully informed on this issue of funding faith-based schools, which is so critical to our community and has become such a major issue in this election.

Ira Walfish
Chair
Multi-Faith Coalition for Equal Funding for Faith-Based Schools
Toronto

* * *

Watering down reality of anti-Semitism

Jack Chivo is wrong when he downplays the extent of Israel's involvement in the arms trade ("Applying 'double standards' to Israel," *CJN* letter, Aug. 23). Israel is in the top 10 of the world's arms suppliers. These arms cannot be said to only go to decent, democratic nations. It is not anti-Semitic to point this out.

Rather, it is a denial of basic human rights when we obsess only with stateless terror organizations and forget about the significant role in warfare played by so-called decent nations. As a Jew, I consider much of the arms industry obscene, whether it is owned by Israelis, Germans, French or Americans.

Chivo should be more careful about where he aims his criticism. It only serves to water down the reality of true anti-Semitism when thoughtful Jews are accused along with people who really do have a deep antipathy toward all Jews.

Jeremy Wallace
Montreal

* * *

Group wants to debate boycott on campus

Neither I nor the Queen's Coalition Against Racial and Ethnic Discrimination (QCRED), of which I am a member, have stated that we are in support of the boycott proposal that is currently under debate in the British University and College Union ("Queen group backs boycott," *CJN*, Aug. 23). We have asked for an open debate on campus to discuss these issues. We have stated, as your article suggested correctly, that we believe that Karen Hitchcock, principal of Queen's University, should be concerned about violations of academic freedom of Palestinian groups, too. QCRED also has taken issue with Hitchcock's statement of July 6, "denouncing a May decision by the British University and College Union (UCU) to hold a union-wide debate on whether to boycott Israeli academia" [a quote from the *CJN* article], because it was made unilaterally without observing the proper protocols of university governance, pre-empts discussion by the appropriate faculty and student organizations, and, perhaps most importantly, threatens to have Queen's boycotted by British academics without the consent of the campus community.

Margaret Pappano
Kingston, Ont.

LET THEM GO...

Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Ehud Goldwasser, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz, Eldad Regev, Gilad Shalit

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Darfurians present a dilemma for Israel

By YONATAN GLASER

I missed Ismail at synagogue last night. This intelligent, thoughtful man, a refugee from Darfur, who at the time had been in Israel for less than 20 days, had joined me the previous Friday night for services. At the end of the service, he spoke to the community. After a slightly nervous start, he told his story to the 300 assembled people, a tale of many bullets, three countries, two jail arrests, fear and death.

They were dumbstruck to hear what I knew to be only a small part of his and his family's harrowing and dangerous journey, one that had led him to be there that night. At that point, Ismail, his wife and four children (aged one, three, five and 15) had been living with my family in our Jerusalem home for a week.

That morning, our photo and a detailed story had appeared on the front page of the national newspaper *Ha'aretz*. What had previously felt to my family to be simply a Jewish, moral, and Zionist thing to do – to help a refugee family – had been portrayed as an act of great exception. It was one of many interviews and a TV appearance.

Then, in the middle of the next week, the family moved to Tel Aviv, where Ismail began work at a restaurant. He is a computer technician and network administrator – better trained than most of his peers and with excellent English – so I doubt it will be long before he moves into his chosen profession. When I visited them the following night to see their rented apartment, he pointed out an empty shop front he had set his eye on, from which he hopes to start repairing computers, as he had done in Cairo. While I miss the intense experience of their company, I am glad they have moved on.

But the stories of Ismail and the 1,400 or so other Sudanese refugees in Israel have only just begun, and Israeli society must contend with this new situation. For now, the refugees are being hosted in private homes, living temporarily on kibbutzim, staffing hotels bursting with summer holiday makers and, perhaps surprisingly, living in Ketziot, Israel's high security jail for Palestinian security prisoners. But then what? Nobody knows quite what to do.

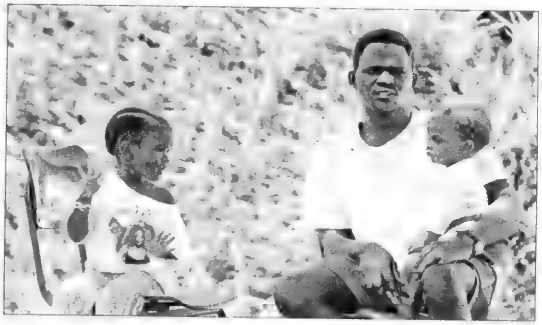
'It is here and now. It is not in heaven.'

Only if we get our arms around this challenge in real time will we be able to handle this burgeoning crisis in the humane and moral tradition on which our deepest values rest. Before serious mistakes are made and long-lasting regrets created, several leading Israeli nonprofit organizations have created the Coalition for Refugees from Darfur and Sudan to co-ordinate their direct activities and to prompt the government to act.

Ismail was born in a small village in Darfur, the region where the "Fur" kingdom existed until 100 years ago ("Dar" means "kingdom" and "Fur" is the name of the group of African tribes that made up the kingdom). Over the years, Western intervention was followed by Arab and Islamic efforts to ethnically "cleanse" the area of the Darfurians, who are neither Arab nor Muslim.

Forty years ago, Ismail's family lived on the family plot growing agricultural produce. In his late teens, he went to Khartoum, the capital city, to learn English. It was then that the attacks by the Janjaweed, Sudanese government-backed militias, began. This escalated in 2002 with murderous attacks amounting to outright genocide.

Following many atrocities and family tragedies, Ismail and his family fled to Cairo, where they were given refugee status. Initially things were bearable, but the situation of Sudanese refugees in Cairo became shockingly bad: they have no access to health or education services and were randomly beaten and arrested on the street.



Refugees from Sudan at the Ibim Absorption Center near Sderot sheltered by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

[Israel Sun photo]

According to Amnesty International, a protest against this situation in 2005 led to some 30 refugees being shot dead by the authorities. Ismail was arrested and jailed. On his release, he realized he had to do something. That led him to recently pay Bedouin smugglers to smuggle the family to the border with Israel and, after short stops in Be'er Sheva and then Jerusalem's Rose Garden opposite the Knesset, they were the family we decided to host to save them from being "relocated" to the Ketziot prison in the Negev desert.

As our family sat around our lounge discussing this decision, we wondered whether the yet-unknown family would be with us forever. We decided that two weeks was our limit. But what if the government hadn't made any progress? Would we take them back to the Rose Garden and say, "It was nice, but that's all we can do?"

It was clear that we would not.

The emotional, moral and practical territory we decided to chart was to do every single thing that we felt we could do, and to trust that our friends, the organizations involved and the government would rise to the challenge so that we would not face that unthinkable situation. By reaching out to our networks and working closely with the organizations, we proved to be right. We feel this is a microcosm of what Israel must do: to do everything it can and rely on the world community to do its part, too. If we think in terms of "all or nothing," we paralyze ourselves into inaction.

So far, the government has been slow to react. Perhaps fearful of Israel being overrun at the barely fenced border between Israel and Egypt, the government's response to date has been to let citizens look after the refugees.

Recently, new arrivals coming over the border have been sent to jail. I visited these refugees in jail last month as part of the coalition delegation. While the 52 women and children were being looked after relatively well, the 200 men are in the regular prison facility and having a very hard time. But they should not be in jail at all. The government has not decided whether any of the refugees will be given some sort of permanent status in Israel. Some ministers have said the current status quo is just "until they are all returned." That makes us very, very concerned.

So while Ismail is managing, he and the other refugees are still in a complete twilight zone. Our coalition is working hard to achieve three goals:

- Advance Israeli NGO efforts to directly help the 1,400-plus Darfur and Sudanese refugees who have entered Israel (and those who are still coming over the border) receive proper treatment, have their rights protected and find short- and long-term solutions for health, housing, work and childcare/education needs.
- Urge the Israeli government to develop policy and take action on a range of short- and long-term issues, including but not limited to establishing facilities and services to help refugees; developing and implementing a border protection policy and a refugee absorption policy; taking part in international efforts to end the violence in Africa and advocating for protection of refugees there. We will develop and advocate for specific policies as needed.
- Develop an Israeli and international Jewish humanitarian response to the plight of African refugees, including the creation of a facility managed by Israelis and international Jewish groups for 1,000 refugees in a friendly African country that partners with Israeli and Jewish volunteers.

In Israel, we are actively seeking volunteers, donations and more organizations to join the coalition. In North America, we seek the involvement of those who wish to help us carry out goal No. 1, lend their weight to help convince the government to fulfill goal No. 2, and partner with us to fulfil a basic Jewish responsibility – as the Jewish people – in fulfilling goal No. 3. We have begun discussions with major American organizations working on this issue.

When asked by a reporter how I rate my government, I said the jury was still out. This could turn into a huge violation of human rights and of the 1951 international treaty on refugees that Israel not only signed but was instrumental in creating. This would be a source of heartache and guilt for generations. Or we can rise to the occasion with mindfulness, compassion and resolve. When our children and grandchildren come to us in the future, as they will, and ask "What did you do for the Sudanese refugees and to stop the genocide in Africa? " will we be proud of the story we have to tell?

My own family narrowly escaped from Vienna when, in 1938, the Nazis came over the border into Austria. Months earlier, prior to my grandfather applying for papers to immigrate to Australia, he had sent a letter to long-lost Uncle Borer asking him to make the mandatory declaration of taking responsibility for the family. Little did my grandfather know that when he wrote to Uncle Borer, he actually sent it (not knowing any English) to the Borer and White Ant Extermination Company. The company owner and friends decided to sponsor my grandparents and then seven-year old father out to Australia. They wrote back as if they were Uncle Borer. Until the moment my grandparents and father arrived, they expected to meet Uncle Borer at the wharf.

Today, we Jews, in Israel and elsewhere, are challenged to decide: do we take responsibility for people in desperate need only if they are part of our Jewish family, or will we break the barriers of psychology, comfort and habit to include others in the human race? We must now embody what we constantly tell ourselves we believe: that all humanity is one family; that to save one life is to save a whole world; and that we truly mean it when we say, "Never again."

It is here and now. It is not in heaven.

– Israel21c

Yonatan Glaser is director of B'Tzedek, which develops social-justice oriented leadership in Israel through Jewish service learning. He is also on the board of Brit Olam, an international Israeli-Jewish humanitarian organization. He can be reached at yglaser@netvision.net.il.

Freedom withheld

Unbeknownst to me, my last column foreshadowed a recent experience. I wrote about freedom being neither easy nor free without any specific international application in mind. Neither did I have any real thoughts about my immediate plans. Grateful for our freedoms, I was more concerned and aware of their costs than mindful of their absence.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

Yet, I was about to embark on a search for my own roots to countries where freedom was not a manifest experience. In the past month, I travelled to the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary and Romania, four countries whose recent past did not include some of the freedoms to which I referred. I was on a search for my own Jewish roots, and while I found out much about the Jewish past, I also got a taste of eastern Europe's struggle with ideas and ideals of freedom.

I am not claiming any expertise, just a feeling about the overwhelming importance of freedom and the long shadow cast by its absence. Being unable to make certain decisions, to publicly speak out, to make choices, to travel and migrate – all these restrictions over a long period create an isolated and confined community. People can become solemn and constrained. A lack of freedom limits creativity and imagination, compromises life and culture, and creates closed societies.

The countries I visited are vibrant and vibrating. They are building on a long cultural heritage of great creativity and historical significance. They must overcome years of debilitating coercion and control. It's exciting to read of their growth and worrisome to hear of their troubles. Communist regimes took their tolls in human and cultural assets.

I can't explain why on this recent trip I was unprepared for this "lesson." I surely knew the facts of history. But it is perhaps much more impressive to visit the places and learn experientially: seeing people, hearing stories and trying to understand.

I remember being overwhelmed with freedom sensibilities when I cam home from a trip to Russia in 1981. I was away for two weeks, during which I felt severely deprived. I was followed and suspected. I was detained and questioned.

I went to talk with and teach Jews, knowing that any action placed us all in danger. When I got off the plane in Canada, I was so relieved (and also guilty). Two weeks was too much for me, but the refuseniks remained. I was so happy to be here, I could almost taste freedom.

So while freedom is not free – it is complex and demanding – its antithesis is surely not desirable.

A free and open society has many problems. It's not easy, but it beats the alternative!

I wish you all a good New Year, one full of health, joy and responsible freedom.

Let's keep our church-state balance

"We in the West find it incomprehensible that theological ideas still inflame the minds of men, stirring up messianic passions that can leave societies in ruin. We had assumed that this was no longer possible, that human beings had learned to separate religious questions from political ones, that political theology died in 16th century Europe. We were wrong. It's we who are the exception."

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Setting aside the supercilious tone of this statement by Mark Lilla in the Aug. 19 *New York Times Magazine*, I wonder where this writer got the idea that everyone in "the West" has not realized, for some time now, that what he calls "political theology" is alive and kicking? Certainly not from paying attention to the quasi-religions that bedevilled the 20th century, among them Communism and Nazism – or did just the Jews notice? – and certainly not from even a cursory understanding of Israel, Turkey and India, just to mention three, where whole political parties were founded on the notion that religion and the state are, or should be, one.

I will not bother with the rest of the article's argument. It is inescapably clear that the actions of mankind are influenced, for evil as well as good, by theological constraints. We may call them fanatics, but they not only inhabit the edges, they are an integral part of the mainstream in country after country. Why has it taken so long for Lilla to figure this out?

Stepping away from the Arab-Israeli conflict and the bombers of 9/11, has the copious bloodletting between India and Pakistan since 1948 not illustrated that Gandhi's dream of a secular state died with partition?

Have we not seen in the United States a born-again president inflict his brand of Christianity on the state, deflecting needed monies to "faith-based" agencies, and denying funding to stem-cell research while withholding information about birth control and AIDS prevention from desperate African nations?

And what of our own Stephen Harper? On Aug. 18, the *Vancouver Sun* described the prime minister's association with the Christian and Missionary Alliance church, a longtime opponent of liberal heresies such as abortion and the right of divorced couples to remarry. The church supported Harper's cancellation of a national daycare program, which he replaced with a totally inadequate subsidy to all parent households, scuttling plans for more affordable daycare centres. Never mind that the money will in no way help a poor family put its children in a licensed daycare so they can work. Better welfare than daycare, it seems.

Fortunately, Canadian pundits such as David Frum have left for the United States and left us with a healthy distrust of religion in the state capital.

But religion, in all its glory and shame, has never been out of the minds of nation-builders. It's true that some democracies have managed to erect walls against excess. And it's true that western thinkers have been very, very, very slow to realize this unique character of civil society and the potentially destructive power of "political theology."

That religion in politics is a surprise all of a sudden – now that's scary.

When writing my master's thesis in history, I discovered this blindness first hand. My adviser, a fine scholar, wasn't interested in the inclusion of religious motivations in my study of Holocaust survivors. As a labour historian, he was looking for Economic Man in the account, not Religious Man. Thus he and so many others are no doubt shocked by the efflorescence of religious hatred that has bloomed in the 21st century.

He, like so many others, understood little of religion and its indelible mark on the human psyche. He, and many others, have remained blind as religious passion has swept across the front pages of the press.

Yet, Canada and the United States are not the same. Harper will not suddenly whip off a mask to reveal George Bush III. We have struggled to maintain our own civil psyches. After much trial, pain and suffering for aboriginal peoples, Jews fleeing Hitler, and other maligned populations, Canada has developed safeguards to protect and maintain communal religious practice and, at the same time, a public, civil society.

Let's keep it that way.

Women of valour

The term "woman of valour" is an English translation of the Hebrew phrase "aishet chayil," referred to in Proverbs 31:10-31. The verses of the poem are traditionally recited or sung by a man to his wife on Shabbat to show how much he loves her and appreciates all that she does. More generically, however, the phrase represents an expression of honour for all Jewish women and their dedication to their families and communities.

Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

On Sept. 9, Emunah Women and Na'amat Canada are recognizing and celebrating women of valour of various faith backgrounds who have distinguished themselves in local, provincial and national communities. Proceeds from this event will go to the Na'amat Canada Glickman Centre for Family Violence Prevention in Tel Aviv, and to Emunah's Neve Michael Children's Village in Pardes Chana, as well as locally to support Edmonton-area women's shelters and Na'amat School Supplies for Kids.

The six women to be honoured are Marie Stelmach, Lynn Mandel, Anne McLellan, Shoshanna Pollack, Miriam Ghermezian and Indira Samarasekera. Each has demonstrated the qualities of an aishet chayil, a woman who is noble, forceful, mighty and valiant.

Consider the achievements of the six honorees. Miriam Ghermezian, the matriarch of a prominent Edmonton family, grew up in Iran, where she devoted herself to her family and community. She provided food and other necessities to needy Jewish families and children at a time of deteriorating conditions for Iran's Jewish community. For decades of Canadian life, she has been an inspiration for her family, who continue to follow her example of community service.

Lynn Mandel, an accomplished dancer, has been both a performer and a dance instructor. Mandel, who is married to Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel, established two ballet schools, and over the years, has served as a member of the boards of directors of several prominent artistic organizations. Her dedication to community has not been restricted to the performing arts, as she has also volunteered for various health-related agencies.

Anne McLellan has held several portfolios as a federal cabinet minister, including minister of justice, attorney general, and minister of public safety and emergency preparedness. She has also served as deputy prime minister of Canada. Since leaving public office, she has been recognized as a distinguished scholar and was the recipient of an honorary doctorate from the University of Alberta.

Shoshana Pollack served as a director of Artists House and the Bezalel National Museum, precursor of the Israel Museum, in Jerusalem. After moving to Canada, she distinguished herself through her work in many organizations, both within the Jewish community and in the community at large. This has included contributions to the Kids with Cancer organization, relief work for women and children in Rwanda, and service through the Rotary Club, Na'amat and Emunah Women of Canada.

Indira Samarasekera, a distinguished scholar and educator, is currently the president of the University of Alberta. She is a member of two prime minister's advisory committees and also serves in several organizations related to national public policy and advanced education, including the National Research Council of Canada. In recognition of her public service, she was appointed an officer of the Order of Canada.

Marie Stelmach has contributed to various local and province-wide public service organizations, including the Alberta Hospital Edmonton and Community Mental Health Foundation, the Children's Cottage Society of Calgary, the Girl Guides of Canada Alberta Council, the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation and many others designed to improve the lives and well-being of Albertans. She is married to Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach.

It is obvious that all of these honorees are women of valour, individuals who have exemplified the spirit of aishet chayil. They have given their time, expertise and commitment to serve their communities and those in need. In aspiring to achieve tikkun olam (repairing the world), they are role models for all of us who desire a better world, a world of compassion and caring. And they are members of a remarkable sisterhood of valour.

We rejoice in and celebrate the accomplishments of these individuals, and it is fitting that our community recognizes the many contributions of these six dedicated women. They are indeed noble, forceful, mighty and valiant individuals and they deserve our congratulations.

The Kirshner File

Eilat's magnificent coral reefs endangered

David Zakai, a Red Sea marine biologist with the Israel Nature & Parks Protection Authority, was holding forth on one of his favourite subjects as the motorized boat we were in cut a swath across the incredibly blue waters of the Gulf of Eilat (Aqaba) on a typically hot, sunny summer day. "The coral reefs in Eilat are a national treasure," he said above the din of the screaming engine. "They are among the most spectacular in the world."

Sheldon Kirshner in Israel

Universally recognized for their extraordinary beauty, complexity and biodiversity, the coral reefs of Eilat are not only a wonder of nature but a great tourist draw and, therefore, an invaluable boost to the local economy.

Yet in the last few decades, the coral reefs, covering seven kilometres of Eilat's 12 kilometre shoreline, have been in a state of precipitous decline. Due to intensive development, the careless discharge of sewage and sloppiness on the part of divers, they have radically decreased in size, leaving Eilat with only a memory of what could have been had tighter environmental controls been in place.

"The coral reefs have been severely damaged and exist in a critical stage," said Zakai, an intense man who cares deeply about their well-being. Doron Heller, the manger of Eilat's marina and a resident of the city since 1982, said that most of the reefs have been destroyed due to negligence and indifference.

Yariv Abramovich, the managing director of Zalul, an Israeli non-governmental organization dedicated to protecting Israel's water resources, confirmed Heller's claim. "Our surveys indicate that 70 per cent of the coral reefs have already died. They used to be one of the most famous symbols of Israel."

Constituting the northernmost extension of the Red Sea's 4,500-kilometre archipelago of coral reefs, they are a breeding ground for hundreds of species of immensely beautiful tropical fish.

Coral reefs, which thrive in the clear, warm waters of the Red Sea and need centuries to grow, provide nourishment and shelter for a profusion of sea creatures. "When a coral reef dies, everything else around it, including the fish, dies," said Zakai, explaining the magnitude of the problem.

Normally, snorkelling is the optimal way of exploring a coral reef. The Coral Beach Reserve, located eight kilometres south of Eilat and lying close to the Egyptian border town of Taba, attracts hordes of snorkellers from Israel and abroad. Twenty metres from the shore and 1,200 metres in length, the coral reef here contains more than 100 types of coral and 650 species of fish. If you're a snorkeller, you're in for a treat. But if, like me, you are not a snorkeller, there is no reason to fret.

The highlight of the reserve, Coral World, enables landlubbers to view a segment of the coral reef from an underwater observatory 100 metres from the shore. Resting at a depth of five metres, the observatory provides a visitor with an awe-inspiring experience. Ranging in type from brain to flower corals, the coral reef is intricate in design and fantastical in colour. The fish, from Coral Groupers to Sergeant Majors, are dazzling in their rainbow of hues.

Yet these are not the sole creatures of the deep supported by the network of coral reefs in the Gulf of Eilat – which is 180 kilometres long, very steep sided and reaches a depth of more than 1,800 metres on its east coast. At Coral World, the aquariums and pools house sharks, sting rays, sea turtles and so on, reflecting the diversity of the Gulf of Eilat's waters.

The corals at Coral World

[Sheldon Kirshner photos]

And if a slight digression can be permitted, the views of the craggy mountains on the Israeli and Jordanian sides of the gulf are simply stunning.

These unforgettable vistas can be misleading. According to Zakai, the Gulf of Eilat is particularly vulnerable to pollution, since it is a semi-enclosed basin affected by northern prevailing winds and currents. Add to that the fact that Eilat and its neighbouring Jordanian city, Aqaba, have gone through rapid urban development in the past 30 years.

A free trade zone since 1985, Eilat was a port during the era of King Solomon. During the Hellenistic period, Eilat was a centre of the Nabatean spice trade. Under Muslim rule, pilgrims from Cairo and Damascus stopped in Eilat before setting off to Mecca for the annual haj. In the 10th century, the Crusaders conquered Eilat. Subsequently a sleepy redoubt of the Ottoman Empire, Eilat sank into obscurity in the 19th century, when steamships filled with Muslim pilgrims bypassed it en route to Mecca. During the British Mandate, Eilat, known as Umm Rashrash in Arabic, was all but forgotten, consisting of little more than a solitary police station.

David Zakai

Attached to a foreseen Jewish state under the 1947 United Nations Palestine partition plan, Eilat was captured by Israeli forces in 1949 during the War of Independence. With Israeli statehood, Eilat became Israel's only port on the Red Sea, its strategic outlet to markets in Africa and Asia once Egypt denied passage to Israeli vessels through the Suez Canal. Egypt's closure of the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping in 1967, which effectively closed Eilat, was one of the causes of the Six Day War. Since then, Eilat has grown by leaps and bounds, despite the bankruptcy of the nearby Timna copper mines.

The Israeli government, hoping to turn Eilat into a first-class resort, paid attention to the coral reefs crowning the shoreline. In 1956, a warden was appointed to protect them, and three years later, the commercial collection of corals was banned. Environmentalists were also pleased by the establishment of the first of what was promised to be several marine reserves.

Heller, the marina manager, claims that the destruction of the coral reefs began in earnest in 1982. Israel, in keeping with its 1979 peace agreement with Egypt, made its first phased withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula, bringing increased numbers of Israeli tourists to Eilat and prompting developers to build more hotels.

Heller, who lived in the Sinai before settling in Eilat, admitted that boat owners contributed to the degradation of the coral reef by dumping ballast and bilge water. "There were insufficient controls," he said. But in the past five years, he added, pumping equipment purchased in the United States has funnelled wastewater in the marina to a nearby treatment plant.

Doron Heller, manager of the marina

Oil spills tarnished the coral reefs in the 1970s, but this is no longer a problem thanks to the creation of a Pollution Prevention Control Station, said Zakai. Phosphate dust from tankers also damaged the coral reefs, but as far as Zakai is concerned, this problem has been solved by detection sensors. Until about 1995, Eilat's sewage continued to flow into the sea, but the construction of a treatment plant has eliminated that problem.

Fish farms, which produce 3,000 tons of fish, mainly for the Israeli market, have been a major polluter, spewing out unregulated mariculture effluent. But thanks to lobbying efforts by Zalul, the fish cages are expected to be removed next June and placed in ponds on land, said Sagit Rogenstein, a Zalul spokesperson.

Despite these improvements, the coral reefs remain imperilled. The release of brine from Eilat's desalination plant is a source of possible danger, and the proximity of hotels on the north shore interferes with winds and thus affects water currents. As well, Zakai fears that the planned conversion of the naval port into a civilian marina will exacerbate the situation. He feels that limits should be placed on snorkellers, who have broken off bits of coral.

In addition, Zakai warned that a multi-billion dollar proposal to build a canal from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea – a project promoted by Israeli President Shimon Peres to save the Dead Sea from drying up – could have catastrophic consequences. Abramovich thinks that Zakai's apprehensions may be misplaced. But he, too, is watching developments carefully, eager to save the coral reefs from extinction.

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Faith-based education funding a 'defining' election issue

By **ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF**
Staff Reporter

The CJN opens its coverage of the upcoming 2007 Ontario election by focusing on the faith-based education funding issue and where the major parties stand.

Commentary

Ontario's 2007 election is taking a small page from the past and turning it into a full chapter, with education funding emerging as a major wedge issue for the Oct. 10 vote.

The Conservatives are pushing for faith-based education funding, and the Liberals, the New Democratic Party and the Green party are pushing back. The last time the Tories tried it, they were dealt a blow.

In 2003, Ernie Eves' incumbent Conservatives lost to Premier Dalton McGuinty's Liberals, partly because of the PC Equity in Education Tax Credit, a measure instituted by the Mike Harris government in 2001. It sought to use tax credits to partially reimburse parents for the costs of tuition in "eligible, independent schools," including parents of children in private Jewish day schools.

Ontarians reacted and voted against the platform, not willing to subsidize private schools out of their tax dollars.

This year's PC education plank has been modified and expanded. The John Tory-led Conservatives are now running on a platform of "inclusiveness" for faith-based day schools.

In June, Tory announced that his party wanted to address the "continuing unfairness" of the current education system, under which the province funds Roman Catholic schools, but not other faith-based schools.

"[We] believe that we need to achieve more effective integration of Ontario's increasingly diverse student population into the mainstream of our province," he announced. "That's why we are committed to creating an opportunity for non-Catholic, faith-based schools to choose to join our publicly funded education system the same way Catholic schools have already done."

Tory fleshed out the platform this summer, saying that if elected, his party would create a committee, led by former PC premier Bill Davis, to study the subject and conduct trials with faith-based schools, starting in 2008.

The Conservatives have promised to pump more than $2.4 billion into the public education system by the fourth year of their mandate, if they are elected.

Their platform has been supported by groups such as the Multi-Faith Coalition for Fairness in Education Funding (MFC) and the recently assembled Public Education Fairness Network (PEFN). Both are advocacy groups for Jewish, Sikh, Muslim, Hindu and other non-Catholic communities in the province.

While many faith communities and organizations have lauded the plan, opposition parties and unions have come out fighting against the idea.

On Aug. 23, McGuinty told the *Globe and Mail* that faith-based education funding was the "defining issue" of this election and said he wanted to "grab Ontarians by the earlobes and say, 'It's not just another election. It's not just business as usual. It's about the kind of Ontario you want.'"

McGuinty and Education Minister Kathleen Wynne have consistently defended the province's practice of funding Catholic schools, saying they have a clear mandate to obey the 1867 Constitution, which sought to protect existing rights for denominational schools of the time, requiring Ontario to maintain a publicly funded Roman Catholic system.

But the MFC and others site a 1999 United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) ruling stating that Ontario's funding of Roman Catholic schools was discriminatory and violated Canada's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, because it unequally funded one faith community over others.

UNHRC censured the province again on this issue in a 2005 report.

Despite this, Wynne told *The CJN* in June that the Liberal position on faith-based education funding "remains the same," and Ben Chin, a senior Liberal spokesperson, asked *CJN* readers to consider whether "we want to build a society where children play in cultural or religious enclaves. Should the public system be funding separate schools within its own board?"

McGuinty recently criticized the Conservative education plan, saying that, if implemented, it would take needed funds out of the public system and "segregate" students.

PEFN says it's disappointed the Liberals are "encouraging a climate of fear" with talk of segregation and funding private schools and wish McGuinty would see the issue as one of fairness.

Jewish community leaders have also expressed their shock at McGuinty's language.

Bernie Farber, CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress, recently told the *Ottawa Citizen* that the premier's comments were "offensive," adding that "it's time for [McGuinty] to step up to the plate and retract this [comment]."

Farber also accused McGuinty of flip-flopping on the issue. In 2001, McGuinty told the *Citizen* that "there's an issue of unfairness… to be addressed."

For this election, the premier has opted to stand pat with the status quo, saying that Catholic schools will remain publicly funded because "that's the system we inherited."

McGuinty himself went through that system and benefited from it, his detractors point out before asking why the approximately 53,000 other children in religious schools outside the public sector shouldn't derive the same benefits the premier did from his Catholic education.

The Liberals have a different plan.

In an Aug. 14 statement, McGuinty announced the Liberals would put an additional $309 million into the public school system over the next two years to help with educator salaries, school infrastructure maintenance, transportation funding and supplies, among other things.

"When we get public education right, we get the best citizens, the best workers, the best jobs and the best society," McGuinty said.

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) has come out in favour of the Liberals, and is actively supporting Wynne, encouraging its more than 70,000 members to help her defeat Tory in their head-to-head battle for the Don Valley West riding.

"Funding religious schools is a stealth attack on public education, and it will cripple the system if it's implemented," said Elementary Teachers of Toronto local president, Martin Long, at the EFTO's annual meeting in August.

Continued from page 13

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Tory education platform sparks debate

Continued from page 3

All of them read prepared statements that followed the same theme – favouring "fairness" for education funding for children outside the public school sector, extolling the virtues and contributions to society of graduates of the various faith-based schools, and lamenting what they perceive as fearmongering by the Liberal government on this subject.

This issue has been garnering increased media attention in recent weeks due to the provincial Conservatives' education election platform, which calls for the incorporation of faith-based schools into the public school system, and the ruling Liberal party's vehement opposition to the idea.

"Today, we are concerned and dismayed at the language of fear being used in this election," Koschitzky said, referring to recent remarks by Premier Dalton McGuinty calling the Tories' plan to fund faith-based schools "segregationist."

"Faith schools teach the values of charity and collective responsibility… and our network will be discussing the ways we can adopt an inclusive system," Koschitzky added.

Singh added that the Sikh community is worried that its children are "not deserving of fair and equal treatment" in the eyes of the province.

The new group says it's non-partisan and will talk with any political party in the election if the party is open to discussing the issue of education funding. As of last week, it had not contacted any of the major political parties about its position.

But its literature mirrors the education platform laid out by the Conservatives, namely that any faith school wishing to enter the public system would need to satisfy three major requirements – adherence to the Ontario curriculum, enforcement of standardized testing and have teachers comply with appropriate governmental standards.

The Tories made this accountability part of their conditions for "inclusive" faith-based school funding.

When asked whether the advocacy group would, by default, be telling its community members to vote Conservative, Bernie Farber, CEO of the CJC, told *The CJN* that his organization "never advocates for the community to vote one way or the other. Our position is that this has always been a fairness argument. We have advocated it strongly for 25 years. So whatever party grabs onto it, that's fine. Our hope is that every party will eventually come to understand that Ontario is backward on this issue, not forward."

The Public Education Fairness Network follows in the mould of existing lobby groups such as the Multi-Faith Coalition for Equal Funding of Religious Schools (MFC) and the Parents for Equality in Education Funding. Both groups have also worked with the federation and CJC on this issue in the past.

English said the main difference between the groups is that the new one represents faith communities as a whole, while the others mostly represent schools and parents.

When asked how it would promote itself and its cause, English replied that the group plans to "take the message to other parts of Ontario… advertise and conduct events among faith groups to demonstrate harmony," though no precise itinerary has been drawn up.

English could not say how much money the group has to accomplish its task.

* * *

In related events, the Multi-Faith Coalition will participate in a town hall meeting at 7 p.m. on Sept. 9 to discuss faith-based education issues with local candidates at the Bais Yaacov elementary school at 15 Saranac Blvd. For more information, contact David 647-887-8033.

'Status quo segregationist'

Continued from page 12

The provincial NDP has remained relatively silent on this specific issue. Instead, party leader Howard Hampton and his education critic, Rosario Marchese, have called on Ontarians to support "a public education system that puts students and teachers first," and have criticized the McGuinty government for four years of dithering on an education policy that they say failed to "fix the education funding formula, to provide adequate funding to ensure that our public education system is second to none."

The NDP further complains that instead of strengthening education, McGuinty has created a system encouraging "increased reliance on parent fundraising and school boards being taken over because they can't make ends meet."

Venturing beyond environmental matters, the Green Party of Ontario has also come out against faith-based education funding. However, party leader Frank de Jong is taking an unconventional stance, advocating for a complete elimination of taxpayer-funded religious schools, Roman-Catholic ones included.

De Jong called Tory's education plan "retrograde" and added that McGuinty's status quo position is "untenable."

"The status quo is segregationist. When I was a Catholic school child, we were basically told not to play with the public school kids. We didn't play sports with them or associate with them in any way. That's the way it is in Ontario today," he said. "I teach at Fern Avenue Public School [in Parkdale], and our intramural system… never [interacts] with the Catholic school system for sports, musical exchanges… even though there's a Catholic school one block from ours. Yet our kids have to drive across the city to find other public schools to play sports against. What a divisive system… We need to modernize our educational system to be fair to everyone."

Though the official campaign will begin only when the writ is dropped on Sept. 10, an Aug. 20 poll conducted by the Strategic Counsel for the *Globe* indicated that the race is already shaping up as a close one, with the Liberals currently holding 40 per cent of the electorate, the Conservatives 35 per cent, the NDP 18 per cent and the Green party eight per cent.

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Tory candidate stands alone on school funding

The CJN's 2007 Ontario election coverage will present a weekly profile of major Jewish ridings in the GTA. This week's focus is on Richmond Hill.

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

The candidates from the four major in the newly created riding of Richmond Hill are gearing up for the Oct. 10 provincial election in a wide open race that lacks an entrenched incumbent.

Richmond Hill

The riding used to be part of Oak Ridges, represented by Conservative MPP Frank Klees, but is becoming its own riding in this election. It's represented federally by Liberal MP Bryon Wilfert.

The candidates have diverse backgrounds and myriad views on some of the major campaign issues, such as faith-based school funding, electoral reform and the uploading of social service and other costs back to the province.

Conservative candidate Alex Yuan runs A&L Computer Software Ltd., and is the founder and director of the charitable S'port for Kids organization. He immigrated to Canada from Hong Kong as a teenager.

Reza Moridi, the Liberal candidate, is a physicist who has lived in the community for 16 years after immigrating from Iran with his family.

New Democratic Party candidate Nella Cotrupi has lived in Richmond Hill for 18 years. She is a lawyer, lecturer and author who immigrated from Italy as a child.

Liz Couture is the riding's Green Party candidate. She is a self-employed music teacher with a business background and has lived in Richmond Hill for 17 years.

When it comes to the most high-profile issue for Jews in this year's election, only Yuan – in keeping with his party's platform – backs extending public funding to faith-based schools.

"It's very simple," said Conservative candidate Yuan. "I fully support faith-based school funding for simple reasons. I fully believe it will enhance our community by offering choice and fairness."

But the Green Party's Couture said funding faith-based schools would be too costly and complicated.

"If all schools are funded equally, schools can still choose to provide faith-based education based on needs in the community, but children of all faiths would learn together," she said.

NDP candidate Cotrupi expressed a similar view.

"I do think it is important to have that kind of education available. However, I don't think the way to do it is to have a ghettoized community where children are only exposed to other children of the same background," she said.

She added that she chose to put her children into public school rather than Catholic school.

Cotrupi's solution is to have optional religious instruction in the public system for a fee that can be subsidized for those who can't afford it.

Liberal hopeful Moridi attacked the Tory position on the issue, which he said takes the province "backwards."

From left: Liz Couture, Nella Cotrupi, Reza Moridi and Alex Yuan

"When Conservatives say they're going to put millions into private schools, that really means they're going to take millions out of public schools," he said.

A hot topic for all Ontarians is a referendum question on the ballot about moving to a mixed member proportional (MMP) electoral system.

This option, which would replace the first-past-the-post system in Ontario, gives each citizen two votes – one for their local candidate and one for a party.

The system is said to be "mixed" because it blends the first-past-the-post system with proportional representation.

Both Couture and Cotrupi support MMP, saying it better reflects voters' intentions while also giving them local representation.

Yuan opposes MMP, saying it diminishes a voter's personal connection and accessibility to politics.

Moridi said he had no position on the matter, adding that he leaves "the decision up to Ontarians."

On the issue of uploading municipal costs for social services back to the province, the candidates agreed that doing so is important, but they differed on specifics.

Moridi said the Liberals have long been working to reverse the "financial problems for our cities and towns" caused when the Mike Harris Conservatives downloaded a number of formerly provincially funded programs to municipalities.

Couture cited the Green Party's platform of decentralization in her answer, saying that municipalities should be responsible for local programs, as they are "closest to the issues and in the best position to determine the solutions."

She added that debt incurred by municipalities as a result of not being given sufficient provincial funds "is a difficult burden for the municipality to bear."

Yuan said the Conservatives believe that local taxes should be raised only for local services, as opposed to provincial ones. He said Premier Dalton McGuinty's recent offer to give money back to municipalities is "kind of like a blackmail" to get votes.

He said the Conservatives have committed to speed up the review of the situation, with a report due by the end of the year.

"Definitely we will inject money, but we need to understand what exactly is needed," he said.

Cotrupi also criticized McGuinty's recent move to give money to municipalities, calling it "too little, too late."

"We need to get some of those costs back where they belong," she said.

All the candidates said they are happy with Richmond Hill being designated as its own riding, saying that it's a large town with many services and it's important for it to receive recognition.

Geographically, the riding stretches from Highway 404 in the east to Bathurst Street in the west. The south is bordered by Highway 7, and the north is bordered by Elgin Mills Road west until Yonge Street, where it reaches north to Gamble Road. It encompasses most of the town of Richmond Hill.

According to the 2001 census, the riding has a population of 109,395 people, and just under nine per cent – √9,385 – are Jewish. The largest visible minority – 25,665 people, or just under a quarter of residents – is Chinese.

The average individual income is $37,061, and the average household income is $87,495.

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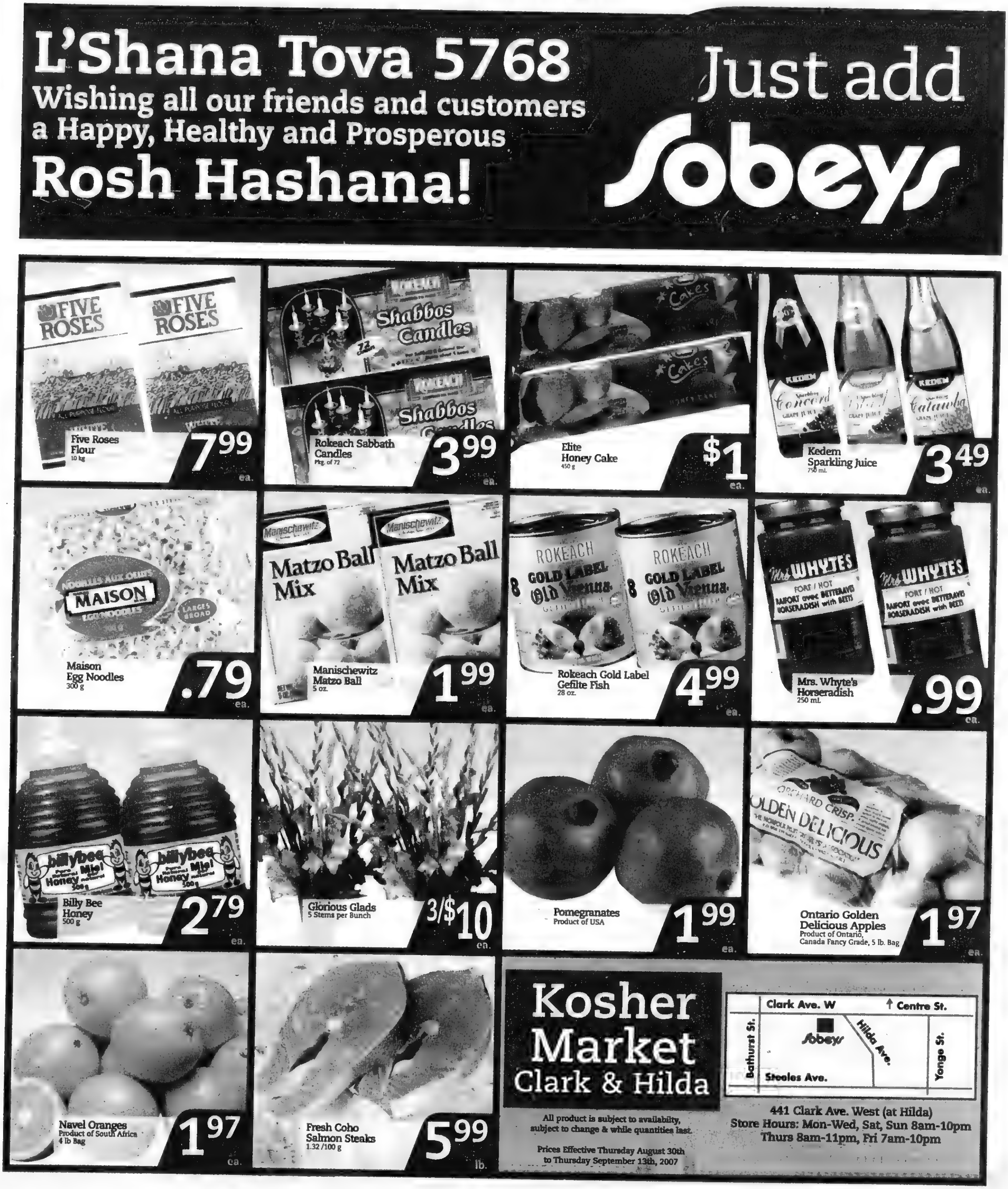

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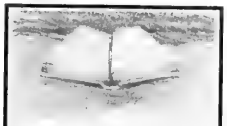
Jewish Life

By RABBI TRADBURKS

Emphasis on God as King



Rabbinic Reflections

Does the theme of God as King make you scared or make you feel secure?

One of the themes of Rosh Hashanah is that of God as King. But when we emphasize the concept of God as King, are we to cower, frightened, overwhelmed by majesty? Or does this emphasis bring Him down closer, make Him more tangible, more accessible to us?

Now let me just sharpen this question a bit. Obviously, God is King all year round. In fact, in every blessing we make we say, "Melech Haolam," "King of the Universe." He doesn't change. We change our emphasis. We relate to Him as Creator, as King, as Judge, as Father, as Shchinah or female presence, as Healer, as Source of Prosperity.

But at different times in the year we try to emphasize a particular aspect. At Rosh Hashanah, we emphasize monarchy, God as King. In the main blessing of the *Amidah* and in *Kiddush*, we say "Melech al kol ha'aretz," "King over the entire world." The most famous tune of the holidays is *Avinu Malkeinu*, Our Father, Our King. The Mussaf has an entire blessing emphasizing God's monarchy. Much of its poetry emphasizes the "Melech elyon," the lofty King. The bakeries make the impressive crown challahs. The Chassidim emphasize beautiful march tunes, as if to accompany the King.

Back to our question. What do we seek to create within ourselves by emphasizing God as King?

Do we think of Henry V and worry about our heads being cut off? Do we become overcome with dread, with fear, of the King who has life and death in his hands? The tyrannical King, the powerful King.

Or is it the benevolent King? Are we bringing the lofty and ineffable down here close to us – the King who protects his people, who touches the cheek of the children, who worries about the well-being of his subjects?

When we alter the text from "Melech Haolam" to "Melech al kol ha'aretz," from "King of the Universe" to "King over all the land," are we pushing Him farther away or bringing Him down closer? It sounds as though we want Him to be immanent, to be close – King of the Universe to King of the land sounds like bringing Him close.

How about "Avinu Malkeinu," "our Father, our King"? Well, Father is certainly close, but is the King the benevolent, warm, fatherly king, or the harsh king, in contrast to the father?

Is the King of judgment the King who sentences or the King who pardons? We have that even today – the president of the United States cannot convict, but he can pardon a criminal. Are we emphasizing the King as the one who pardons, the kind, benevolent King?

We think of a king as a king over 100 million people, but actually, historically, that is not what a king was. We have stories in the Torah of the kings of cities – the kings of five cities fighting the kings of four cities. Sounds to me as though if you lived in that city, you would know the king personally. He would be familiar to all.

When we sing the beautiful song of *Avinu Malkeinu*, does that tune evoke awe and trembling – or warmth, concern, empathy? To me, it feels like an embrace – albeit a royal embrace, but an embrace nonetheless – the embrace of the benevolent King, worried about the well-being of His people.

As in so much of our tradition, there are multiple layers of meaning to the notion of God as King that we emphasize on Rosh Hashanah. There is awe and trembling. But there is also the immanence, drawing the Divine down close, the closeness of the King whom I can sense and whose embrace I can feel.

Shanah tovah.

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks is spiritual leader of Kehillat Shaarei Torah and president of the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto.

Let's widen the tent flaps

IDEAS ON IDENTITY

By Rabbi Elyse Goldstein

Disciples of the Rabbi of Lvov met to discuss the corrupt ways of the new generation, those who were giving up the old customs and backsliding spiritually. They thought it imperative to do something, and so they resolved to set up stronger boundaries, to keep those backsliders away from the centre of religious life. Several tzaddikim reported to their rebbe the decision to cast these "renegades" far outside the community. His simple answer stunned them. "Do you think I love you more than them?"

For indeed, the farther away a Jew is, the more we are commanded to love him and to bring her close.

For me, that is the central theme of the upcoming High Holy Days. Think of the story of Hagar that we read on Rosh Hashanah. We Jews have experienced Hagar's estrangement time and time again as we are cast aside, denied or passed over.

Hagar, the Egyptian slave, symbolizes the true outsider. Her experience in the desert is the personification of alienation. What better time to talk about alienation than on the High Holy Days, when we hope to "come back in"? When better to talk about outsiders and insiders than these days, when the proverbial gates "open" wide. This story asks us on the New Year, "Are you going in? Or are you staying out?"

But let's say that the marginal Jew does opt in. Will the Jewish community make room for Jews who are alienated, pushed out – the Hagars among us? For Jews who are unemployed, or poor, who don't live in the Bathurst corridor with 2.2 kids and a dog? Jews who are intermarried, afraid of rejection, used to rejection, expecting rejection? Jews who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered? Jews we can't put a label on, who don't fit neatly into our heterosexual male-and-female-married-with-children-nice-Jewish couple stereotype? Jews who don't fit the denominational labels? Jews who feel unwelcome because they only come to synagogue "once a year"? Jews who feel patronized because they aren't married or don't have kids? Jews who didn't grow up Jewish, who became Jewishly active as adults or through conversion and don't have Jewish memories and Jewish bubbies or zaides, who don't understand the Yiddish phrases we casually toss out and then condescendingly ask if they know what we are talking about?

Hagar's story is about us. Like all outsiders, she doesn't know how to get in. She waits for the helping hand, the outstretched arm, the phone call, the welcome letter, the visit. We Israelites, once used to the warmth of the Middle Eastern sun, can be a cold people.

The story is even about the lines we draw at High Holy Day services. Maybe you came last year, you know what to expect, you're reading Torah, you're an usher, or you just look like you know what you are doing. The person near you is clearly uncomfortable, a newcomer, a "shul shopper." Will you judge them as unworthy, or will you lean over and help them find the page?

Can we widen the Jewish community's tent flaps just a little in the New Year? Then we will be able to say the gates are truly open.

Jewish Life

The value of tzedakah

Money Matters

By Rabbi Jay Kelman CA

"All of man's earnings are decreed on Rosh Hashanah, except for expenses regarding Shabbat and Yom Tov and expenses relating to Jewish education" (Beitzah 16a). Though the above is hard to prove, and must have no practical bearing on how we dispense our wealth, it reflects the fundamental notion that while we are required to work for our sustenance, ultimately it's only through the blessings of God that our endeavours meet with success.

One who cheats, cuts corners and does not conduct monetary dealings with full integrity not only cheats his fellow man but undermines God's plan for division of the world's wealth. With this understanding, the Talmud's statement that the first question that God will address to us after 120 years, *nasata v'-natata b'emunah*, takes on new meaning. Normally translated "were your business dealings conducted honestly" this basic facet of the question does not do full justice to the term emunah, which relates to our faith in God. In truth, our monetary dealings are the best barometer of our true faith in God. If one believes that God decrees how much wealth all are to be blessed (or not so blessed) with, why interfere with His plan?

Proper allocation of wealth forms one of the three components enabling us to "influence" the decision-making process of God. As we read in the machzor, "Repentance, prayer and tzedakah annul the evil decree." While repentance relates to all aspects of Judaism, and prayer allows man to silently address of his needs to the Almighty, the only mitzvah per se that has such power is tzedakah, the sharing of our wealth with others. At a most basic level, if we are asking God to bestow favour upon us and inscribe us in the book of long life, good health, sustenance and support, then we must be willing to help others in their time of need.

Tzedakah is not only for the benefit of the needy, it is of equal, if not greater, benefit to the donor. The giving of tzedakah should develop within those who are fortunate enough to be able to share God's blessings with others the character traits of mercy, kindness and gratitude. The hard work and business savvy one may possess has little bearing on the cornerstone of our faith: that our wealth is a gift from God, who has entrusted His bounty with us to be used as He has instructed. The goal of tzedakah is not just to try to alleviate poverty – an impossible goal, "for the poor shall never cease" (Deuteronomy 15:11) – but to instil within us the need to identify with and to feel the pain of others.

As Jews who see the proper accumulation and sharing of wealth as one of the noblest way to serve God, we must be open to deriving for ourselves spiritual lessons from the workings of the marketplace.

Thus, while the stock market is a vehicle to (try to) make money, it can, it seems to me, also provide a valuable moral message.

Perhaps the recent volatility in the stock market can help highlight for us how fleeting wealth really can be and often is. Years of careful investing can be ruined overnight due to decisions and events over which we have no control and by companies in which we have no investments. Our wealth is truly not in our hands.

While this may be frightening if we are able to "conduct our business dealings faithfully," we accept our monetary losses as expressing the inscrutable Divine will. As long as we our blessed with wealth, Jewish law demands that we share at least 10 per cent, and preferably 20 per cent, of our (net) income with others.

Send comments to rabbijay@torahinmotion.org.

Notice to Visitors to Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Arrangements have been made by Pardes Shalom to provide complimentary transportation to the cemetery during the High Holidays, for those who require it.

Bus service will be provided on **Sunday, Sept. 9** and **16**.

A bus identified by a sign **"PARDES SHALOM"** will depart from the front entrance of the Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., at 10 a.m.

The bus will make a stop at the parking lot of Betel Centre, located on Steeles Ave. W., at 10:15 a.m., to pick up passengers before proceeding to the cemetery.

CEMETERY HOURS
Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Hours as of November 4
Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

For further information, and to register, please call the cemetery office 416-635-2883, ext. 224, or ext. 300.

Shmittah and your money

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish Highway

Last week, I wrote about the approaching shmittah year, during which farmers, gardeners and consumers face various restrictions about the planting, harvesting and eating of Israeli produce. While those laws apply only to agriculture in the Land of Israel, there is another category of shmittah that applies to Jews everywhere. And like shmittah of the land, it brings with it its own controversies.

We are told in Deuteronomy 15:1-2, that "at the end of every seven years… every creditor shall remit any debt owed by his neighbour and brother." **[tinyurl.com/2u5854]** In other words, every seven years, all Jews forgive debts owed to them. **[tinyurl.com/23d8p3]**

What good is served by setting up a system in which certain debts are just wiped out? Rabbi Abraham Isaac HaCohen Kook, the first chief rabbi of what was then Palestine, suggested that "the seventh year serves to rectify the social ills and inequalities that accumulate in society over the years… The sabbatical year comes to correct this situation of inequality and societal rifts by removing a major source of power of the elite: debts owed to them." **[tinyurl.com/ yvqa9p]**

Sounds good in theory. But in practice, Jews 2,000 years ago weren't living up to the standards set out in the Torah. As the shmittah year approached, they became less and less inclined to lend money because they feared they'd never see it again. So Hillel the Elder devised a solution: have Jews assign all their private debts to public administration. That way, the debts wouldn't be wiped out and the economy would continue to work as it should. This financial arrangement created by Hillel is known as the "*Prozbul*."

The wording is quite simple. "I, the undersigned, transfer to you, X, Y and Z, all debts that are owed me, in writing or verbally, so that I may collect them at any time I desire." You can view online a Hebrew copy of a *Prozbul* document created by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel just prior to the shmittah year of 5754 (1994-95). **[tinyurl.com/2jru26]**

Actually, a document isn't necessary. The *Prozbul* can be recited before three adult men who constitute a court. One approaches this "court" and states that he/she is transferring to them all debts that are owed to him/her, thus making them collectable. If that option is not available to you, there is a high-tech alternative: a free online form that can be filled out before Rosh Hashanah. **[tinyurl.com/2xl2p4]**

But the *Prozbul* has been controversial. As Rabbi Shmuel Jablon explains, "the *Prozbul* has been praised as a creative method in which the rabbis responded creatively to a difficulty. Critics say the rabbis have overstepped their bounds and have fabricated a legal fiction or loophole." **[rabbijablon.com]** Had Hillel devised a way to nullify a biblical commandment?

Defenders say no. They explain that the laws of shmittah are connected to a 50-year cycle of the calendar known as the Jubilee. As Rabbi Louis Jacobs writes, "The name Jubilee is from the Hebrew word *yovel*, "ram's horn," the year being so called because a ram's horn was sounded when it was proclaimed (Leviticus 25:9). Since this verse says, "[Proclaim liberty] throughout the land for all its inhabitants," the talmudic view is that the Jubilee was not observed during the Second Temple period [or since] because the majority of Jews no longer lived in the land of Israel." **[tinyurl.com/79tqd]**

In other words, the biblical laws of shmittah do not apply today, but rabbis continue to enforce them so that they don't become forgotten. Or as the anonymous author(s) of the Wikipedia entry puts it, "Hillel, great as he was, most certainly did not change a law of the Torah in order to fit the needs of his time. He and his beit din enacted a rabbinic exception to a rabbinic law… When most Jews again live in the land of Israel and the observance of the sabbatical and Jubilee years are toraitic commandments, the *Prozbul* will no longer be able to be used." **[en.wikipedia.org/ wiki/Prosbul]**

Until then, nothing is stopping you from fulfilling the letter of the law, especially at an auspicious time like Rosh Hashanah eve. Right after they go through the *Prozbul* ceremony, some people have a custom of lending a few dollars that are not covered by the *Prozbul*. As the shmittah year ends, the debts are wiped out and another mitzvah is fulfilled. **[tinyurl.com/33zawk]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Faith communities come together on education

News conference announces formation of Public Education Fairness Network

Last week, representatives of the Armenian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh communities came together at a news conference to announce the formation of the Public Education Fairness Network to promote fairness in education funding for all Ontario faith-based schools.

The Fairness Network is committed to including all faith-based schools that follow the Ontario curriculum, commit to standardized testing and hire qualified teachers in the Ontario public education system.

Support for this initiative is based on a number of key principles:

- Funding only one faith's schools is unfair and indefensible
- A climate of fear that has crept into the debate on this issue should be rejected
- A deep commitment to the public education system
- Strong support for accountability by funded faith-based schools for what they teach

The Fairness Network will work to educate Ontarians about this issue and demonstrate the positive reality of faith-based schools through non-partisan advocacy efforts.

At a recent news conference, representatives of the Armenian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh communities announced the formaton of the Public Education Fairness Network.

Below are excerpts from remarks made by the faith community representatives at the news conference:

We believe that every child who attends a faith-based school that meets provincial standards should be part of the public education system. It's just a matter of fairness. – Sivan Karshafian, board member and graduate of the Armenian Relief Society Day School.

I have always been proud to live in Ontario – a province I truly believed was open to minority communities. But when it comes to inclusion of faith-based schools in the public system, Ontario's door remains closed. – Latif Mirza, general secretary of the Islamic Circle of North America – Canada

Ontario's faith-based schools are agents of social cohesion… Thousands of the best and brightest citizens of Ontario, fully contributing to Canadian society, are products of faith-based schools…Faith-based schools teach sacred values – the value of charity, the value of volunteerism, and the value of collective responsibility – to help make Canada a better place. To say otherwise is to invite fear. – David Koschitzky, UJA Federation vice chair on behalf of UJA and Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region

The present situation, which includes 650,000 Catholic students in the publicly funded education system but excludes 53,000 other faith-based students, is blatantly unfair. No amount of rhetorical side-stepping can change the nature of this situation. – Shahen Mirakian, graduate of the Armenian Relief Society Day School

We are deeply concerned by the fact that we are not provided with fair and equal treatment. It is painful for us to be viewed as less deserving of a rightful place within the public education system, especially when we want our children to be productive citizens of Canada and the province of Ontario. - Balwinder Singh, Ontario Sikh and Gurdwara Council representative.

UJA Federation & IsraAID join forces for Peru

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA FEDERATION

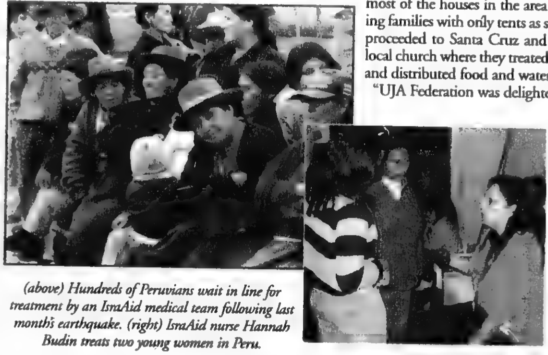
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has joined forces with IsraAID: The Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid, in assisting victims of Peru's recent earthquake.

Shortly after the earthquake hit, UJA Federation launched a Relief Fund, and has since sent a portion of funds raised to IsraAID.

The IsraAID medical team, consisting of seven Israeli doctors and nurses, is currently on the ground, together with volunteers from Lima's Jewish community, to deliver basic medical treatment and relief supplies.

"When we arrived at the village, dozens of people were already waiting for us," said IsraAID nurse Hannah Budin. "Children stood in line quietly waiting their turn. We saw the sadness in the eyes of the men and women and their despair at being left with nothing."

"I feel proud that IsraAID could help these people, many of whom lost everything in this devastating earthquake," said Shachar Zahavi, chairman of IsraAID. "We believe that our partnership with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto helped our team provide the best and fastest assistance possible."



(above) Hundreds of Peruvians wait in line for treatment by an IsraAid medical team following last month's earthquake. (right) IsraAid nurse Hannah Budin treats two young women in Peru.

Shortly after their arrival in Peru, the IsraAid delegation began work in Canneta and from there, branched out to various disaster sites. The team then visited the town of Bella Vista and opened a medical clinic in a local school where 120 people were treated.

A couple of days later, the IsraAid medical team opened a field clinic in the village of Santa Barbara where they treated over 150 people. Water and electricity supplies were badly damaged in the village and most of the houses in the area were destroyed, leaving families with only tents as shelter. The team then proceeded to Santa Cruz and opened a clinic in a local church where they treated another 120 villagers and distributed food and water.

"UJA Federation was delighted to have teamed up with IsraAid again through the funds raised by our Earthquake Relief Fund," said UJA Federation president and CEO Ted Sokolsky. "We have partnered in the past with IsraAid in response to the South Asian tsunami, the earthquake in Pakistan and extensively during Hurricane Katrina. They are a proven group of dedicated, knowledgeable and fearless professionals who care about the world in which they live. Moreover, they are tremendous ambassadors for Israel throughout the world and put into action the real principles of *tikun olam*, repairing the world."

Atidim helps Israelis reach their potential

Financing a university degree is an expensive proposition for many students throughout the world. For students from disadvantaged backgrounds, it is often impossible. For this reason, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) – UJA Federation's overseas partner - and its donors throughout the world, played a critical role in the creation and maintenance of Atidim, a program that enables capable young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to earn a bachelor's degree and receive the tools they need to succeed throughout their lives.

Miriam Zecharia

The program, which combines an academic degree, army service and the receipt of a teacher's certificate, requires that participants return to the classroom as teachers, so that they can play a role in securing the future of other Israeli children.

Born in Israel's periphery town of Ashdod, Miriam Zecharia, 19, is bright, full of energy, and passionate about the path she has chosen with Atidim's Military Academics Reserve – Science Teachers Program. "My parents were always encouraging me to think and to learn," says Miriam. "And I desperately wanted to study at university, but I didn't want to financially burden my parents."

When it came time for her military service, she made a major life decision: she decided to join Atidim's first class in the Military Academics Reserve – Science Teachers Program. The program enables students to postpone their military service in order to earn a bachelor's degree (in English or one of the sciences) and a teaching certificate.

After completing her studies, Miriam will serve in the army for six years as an academic officer while working as a science teacher in a disadvantaged high school. She plans to return to her hometown of Ashdod to teach and give back to the community she came from. "I believe that teachers can effect change. And as a teacher in a military uniform, I will command a lot of respect from my students and will set a personal example of how education is the key to future success."

Miriam joined Atidim for herself and for her country. She loves teaching and seeing how people think, especially children. She wants to become a chemistry teacher in order to dispel the fear that many children have of this subject. "I want to motivate children to love learning as I do," she says.

Through Atidim, Israel's disadvantaged youth will not only receive the education that is essential for building a secure future, but they will help other Israeli children receive the education that is necessary for their success.

UJA Federation launches the Campaign for Our Jewish Future

Multi-pronged plan offers groundbreaking strategies

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA FEDERATION

Approximately 1,000 members of Toronto's Jewish community made their way to the Fairmont Royal York Hotel last week for the launch of UJA Federation's annual campaign, one which appears decidedly different than those of years past.

Billed as the Campaign 2008: Campaign for Our Jewish Future is just that. Built on the belief that Jewish security and identity are increasingly called into question today, the Campaign for Our Jewish Future introduces a variety of new initiatives to overcome these challenges, ensuring a strong and vibrant Jewish future.

In order to make this far-reaching, strategic plan a reality, over the next two years, UJA Federation needs its annual campaign to grow to $75 million - a 25% increase over its current base of $60 million.

"The Jewish world of 2007 is fundamentally different and more challenging than it was just ten short years ago," said Lesley Binstock Offman, chair of Campaign 2008, along with Morris Perlis. "Today, more than ever, we must respond with strength and vision to address pressing issues here at home and in Israel."

The Campaign for Our Jewish Future is a multi-faceted plan to address issues facing the Jewish community today, covering four vital areas of concern:

- Inspiring Jewish identity among the next generation: A series of new initiatives designed to engage and inspire our future Jewish leaders. Initiatives include Project 25/35, CampRight, The Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education and The Institute for New Jewish Leadership.
- Standing with Israel: In coordination with local partners and municipalities, UJA Federation will continue to provide critical resources to create civic pride, economic independence, civil preparedness and assist the residents of two vulnerable communities, The Galilee and Sderot.
- Transforming lives: A unique program aimed at lifting the Jewish community's "working poor" out of poverty and onto the path of self-reliance. The program will also create a new array of services, with the objective of allowing seniors to age with dignity while continuing to participate in the community.
- Engaging a growing and dynamic community: For generations Toronto has been a magnet for wave after wave of new immigrants from Israel and the former Soviet Union, in particular. This new initiative will engage them in community life in order to strengthen it.

(above) Celebrating last week's launch of UJA Federation Campaign 2008: The Campaign for Our Jewish Future are: (l-r) UJA Federation president & CEO Ted Sokolsky, UJA Federation vice chair David Koschitzky, Campaign 2008 chair Lesley Binstock Offman, keynote speaker Larry Miller, Campaign 2008 chair Morris Perlis and UJA Federation board chair David Engel. (Inset photos) The chairs of the campaign launch Lynn Belzberg and Dale Lastman *(photos courtesy of J. Michael La Fond and Sara Salahub.)*

"Last year, you responded to an emergency," Perlis told launch participants, referring to UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, launched in response to Israel's war with Hezbollah. "This year, there are still a number of very serious and mounting concerns that need your support both in communities along Israel's border and in Toronto. Tonight we can begin to build a thriving Jewish future together. If not now, when?"

The launch – chaired by Lynn Belzberg and Dale Lastman – included a moving performance by the Sderot Youth Choir and a keynote address by author, actor and comedian Larry Miller. David Stein, the 10,000th Torontonian to take part on the Taglit-birthright israel trip also addressed those in attendance.

To make your gift to Campaign 2008: The Campaign for Our Jewish Future call 416.631.5705 or visit www.ujadonations.com

Toronto's Joe Lebovic sponsors Hungarian youth on birthright israel

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA FEDERATION

Toronto's Joseph Lebovic is, quite clearly, a man on a mission. The visionary Canadian philanthropist, who supports a number of community institutions across the GTA, including Vaughan's Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus, continues to reach out to the Jewish youngsters of Hungary.

Lebovic who, for the second straight year, recently sponsored 40 Hungarian young adults between the ages of 18 to 26 on a CIE Taglit - birthright israel trip, feels it's incumbent on him to help them change their mindset.

"I met with these young people in Budapest before going to Israel, and I spoke to them, in Hungarian, about why birthright israel is so important and why they must become proud of their heritage as Hungarian Jews," said Lebovic. "I know where they come from."

Following his trip to Budapest, he joined up with the group on their second day in Israel aboard their CIE Taglit-birthright israel trip.

"Not only does Joe take the time to meet with these kids in their hometown, he then goes to experience Israel with them, through their eyes," said Elizabeth Sokolsky, vice president, education & operations, Taglit - birthright israel. "Joe's generosity is not only financial, but it's a real outpouring from his heart."

Joe Lebovic, along with one of the 40 Hungarian CIE Taglit - birthright israel participants he sponsored, stops for some nourishment in Jerusalem.

According to Lebovic, who originally chose to sponsor the group because he lived in Hungary during the war, it's essential to not only instill in these young people a sense of pride but knowledge, as well.

"Lots of these kids' parents lived under communist regimes where they weren't allowed to practice their Judaism," said Lebovic. "Many of them still live in fear, afraid to tell even their friends that they are Jewish. One thing birthright israel shows them is that now – unlike when their parents were kids - they have Israel, and that there are strong Jewish communities around the world like right here in Canada. And, of course, it's in Israel's best interest to have all of these strong Diaspora communities. I'm trying to teach them to be proud of their Hungarian heritage and that, per capita, Hungary has produced so many successful, talented Jews, in so many areas of the arts, business and medicine, and that they need to follow in those footsteps. They need to feel comfortable – as Jews - in their homeland, or wherever they may travel, not just in Israel."

Lebovic is visibly upset by the lack of proper facilities for Budapest's Jewish university students and, as is his nature, is intent on remedying the situation.

"There's around 5,000 Jewish university students in Budapest today, so I'm trying to have a Hillel House built there so these young people can receive Jewish programming all year round and continue to learn and grow as Jews," he said. "It's also important for those who come home after birthright israel to build on that sense of Jewish connection they received while in Israel. That's the biggest challenge of birthright israel - keeping the excitement going after they get off the plane back home. We need to do something more to instill Jewish pride in today's youth and to sustain Jewish life."

A great summer thanks to JAFI

Thanks to the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), UJA Federation's overseas partner, thousands of youngsters from Sderot and the Gaza perimeter enjoyed summer as kids should – at summer camps. With the help of their partners, including UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, JAFI moved countless youngsters away from the line of fire to JAFI-organized summer camps in safer parts of the country. (Pictured) As campers at one of the camps prepare for the end of summer, they pose with their JAFI T-shirts, to say thank you.

Michael Korman
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Greater Toronto Area

Rachel Corrie play to run in Toronto in '08

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Since theatre company CanStage opted not to run *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, the controversial play about an American activist who was killed in 2003 when she stepped in front of an Israeli bulldozer, another Toronto-based theatre company picked up the rights to run the show.

From May 29 to June 22, the play will be presented by Theatre Panik at the Tarragon Extra Space.

The play, which is based on Corrie's e-mails, letters and journal entries, is about a 23-year-old woman from Olympia, Wash., who travelled to Rafah in the Gaza strip as a member of the pro-Palestinian International Solidarity Movement. She died when she stepped in front of an Israeli bulldozer that was leveling a Palestinian home that the Israeli army suspected of sitting on top of tunnels terrorists use to smuggle weapons.

When Martin Bragg, the artistic producer of CanStage, told *The CJN* last year he had acquired the rights to run the show for the 2007-08 season, Jewish groups and prominent donors complained that the play is anti-Israel and anti-Semitic.

The *Toronto Star* later reported that after seeing the play in New York, Bragg announced that CanStage would not run the show because it "didn't seem as powerful on stage as it did on the page," but many suspect he gave into pressure from donors.

Despite the controversy surrounding the play when it ran in London, which was co-edited by the *Guardian*'s features editor Katherine Viner and co-edited and directed by British actor Alan Rickman who played Severus Snape in the Harry Potter series, it will run in Toronto next spring.

Niki Landau, the co-artistic director of Theatre Panik, who is Jewish, is very excited about running the play out of her theatre company, which has produced plays in the recent past with Jewish themes including *Territories*, a play about a Jewish woman and a Palestinian man, and *The Finger*, which is based on a Yiddish folk tale.

Landau said that she had been trying for almost two years to acquire the rights to the show, but eventually gave up on the idea because the controversy surrounding the production in New York complicated the process.

She said that long after they had stopped pursuing the rights, Kate Lushington, the director, called to offer her theatre company the rights to produce the show.

"It was a nice surprise because by that point, we thought, this is not going to be possible," Landau said.

She said that although she's never seen the play, she's read the script several times and can relate to Corrie.

"I identify with the idea of being young and passionate, whether it is about the world or about writing or anything like that. Rachel Corrie also wanted to be a poet and a writer and had artistic aspirations and was really passionate about doing things in the world and making changes… Had she lived, her view would have changed and grown and gone through all sorts of changes that we do when we get older, but she is captured in a particular time that I think for a lot of us, we recognize," Landau said.

She said that since it was announced that Theatre Panik would present the play, she hasn't received any negative feedback about her decision to do so.

"I'm only worried about it in the sense that I would be sad if there are people out there who are scared to see the play, or who felt that people should be scared to see the play. I think when people actually see the play they are surprised by the fact that it isn't nearly as frightening as they thought it would be... One of the things I think is really important about doing the play is that people will see that she was just a young woman who had good intentions, whether you agree with her or not."

During a *CJN* interview last year, a spokesperson for the Canada-Israel Committee said that although everyone in this country has the right to free speech, the play was being used to achieve a political end.

"While CIC has no comment on the artistic merits of the show, it is unfortunate that a Canadian theatre company would choose to produce a play that draws attention away from the real victims in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

But Landau said she wants to reassure members of the Jewish community in Toronto that she will be sensitive to their concerns.

"We're a very Jewish theatre company. It is not our mandate or anything, but my husband and I run it and we're both Jewish, the director is Jewish and the assistant director is Jewish, so we have a really strong feeling for the community and that is why I wanted it to be our company that did it, rather than a company that had no sense of what this entailed.

"I think I want to reassure people that we're going to be sensitive and that it is important to hear it and see it and then make up their mind about what they think about it. I think that is what theatre is for."

‘The Mercaz’ name change causes confusion

Former BJE has similar name to Conservative group

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

When UJA Federation of Greater Toronto’s Board of Jewish Education (BJE) changed its name on July 1 to the Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education, the new entity became known informally as the Mercaz.

This week, the organization is running an ad in *The CJN* under the headline, “What’s in a name?” to clarify any potential confusion between itself and Mercaz-Canada, the Zionist arm of the Conservative movement in Canada.

Seymour Epstein

“There definitely was confusion,” Marion Mayman, national president of Mercaz-Canada, told *The CJN* last week. Mayman learned of the new name only after it had actually been changed.

Marilyn Cohen, executive director of Mercaz-Canada, said she received comments from members of her Conservative synagogue, who were confused over the similarity between the names. Likewise, Mayman heard from members of other organizations who had questions about the change.

Also, Cohen added, not long after the BJE became the Mercaz, a woman walked into the Mercaz-Canada office thinking it was the new Jewish education entity.

Cohen, Mayman and two other Conservative lay leaders wrote to Seymour Epstein, executive director of the Mercaz, requesting a meeting and stating their reservations over the new name.

In July, a small delegation met with Epstein and Mark Anshan, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto’s general counsel and director of public affairs, to discuss their concerns.

The Mercaz-Canada group was upset initially, but its differences with the Mercaz were worked out “in a collegial and respectful manner,” said Cohen.

Epstein said the ad is now being run as a courtesy to Mercaz-Canada, and to “be certain there’s a complete and full distinction” between the two organizations.

He said the issue of potential confusion never came up in the two-year planning process that preceded the change.

“There’s a million mercazim. It just means ‘centre.’ There should be no problem whatsoever. For us, it’s only a nickname.

“People like to have a nickname for any name that’s long. It seemed natural.”

Once concerns became apparent, however, “we were just as concerned that there be no confusion,” said Epstein.

The ad states that the Mercaz “acknowledges Mercaz-Canada as one of its important partners, and has the highest respect for the organization and its values.”

Epstein elaborated that “in general, there is a warm relationship between the Conservative movement and Jews in Toronto and the federation....We have a strong interest in Jewish education. Camp Ramah and USY [United Synagogue Youth] are all arms of the Conservative movement.”

Marion Mayman

Mayman said that rather than making an issue out of the similarity of the names, she would like to reduce confusion and let people know about Mercaz-Canada, the relatively low-profile counterpart of ARZA Canada in the Reform movement and Mizrachi Canada in the Orthodox world.

The organization has been known locally as “Mercaz” since 1987.

“I think it’s very important for the world out there to know that there is a Mercaz-Canada,” Mayman said, adding that its new board has members from Halifax to Vancouver.

The organization offers scholarships to offset the cost of adult and youth educational trips to Israel that are sponsored by the Conservative movement, she said. It also promotes religious pluralism and recognition of Masorti Judaism in Israel, and lobbies at meetings of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency every four years for funding of Masorti initiatives in Israel.

Mercaz-Canada, which has about 5,000 members, is part of a world-wide organization including chapters in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Israel, Germany, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico, Hungary, Russia and Ukraine. As well, according to the international organization’s website, chapters are being set up in the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Australia.

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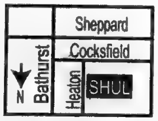

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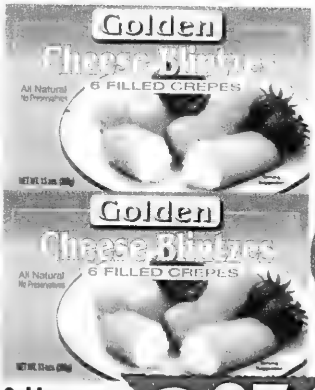
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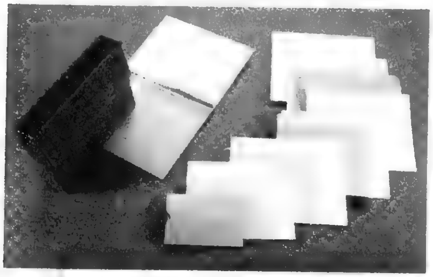
Preserving family treasures focus of workshop

By **ABIGAIL BIMMAN**
CJN Intern

Learn how to preserve your family treasures at a workshop run by the Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA).

The Sept. 9 workshop aims to teach people how to protect valuable belongings such as photographs, letters, diaries and other documents, said OJA director Ellen Scheinberg.



"The main purpose is to educate people on how to best care for their family treasures," Scheinberg said.

"That includes how to store them in terms of where to keep them, and how to store them in terms of the boxes you use, or the file folders, and how to deal with photos or documents that require conservation after, for example, a flood or damage from insects."

Scheinberg said floods are extremely common in Toronto, and often are responsible for damaging precious mementos.

The workshop runs from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., and is being led by Scheinberg and professional photograph conservator Lincoln Ross. Scheinberg has been OJA director for five years and before that worked at the Library and Archives of Canada for 10 years. Ross has worked for a number of different organizations, including the City of Toronto Archives.

Workshop participants are asked to bring a photograph, letter or other memento for a consultation with Scheinberg and Ross.

This is the first workshop of its kind run by the OJA, and Scheinberg said it was organized because people kept coming to her with questions about preservation.

"This kind of workshop is really important just to give people the basics on how to care for their treasures," she said.

Scheinberg said people are most concerned about where to store their documents, but often end up storing them in a location where they can be damaged.

"They often store them in basements. It's one of the worst places to keep them. Basements are most susceptible to mould and flooding. It's best to keep them in a safe place that's higher up in the house."

She said the best place to keep your treasures, if they have value to the community, is at the archives.

Scheinberg encourages people with such documents to meet with her and discuss whether they are appropriate to store with the OJA.

This is a smart choice, she said, because of OJA's professional archival staff, state-of-the-art fire-extinguishing program and environmental controls to prevent issues like mould.

The fee for the workshop is $25. Advance registration is required. Contact 416-635-2883, ext. 170, or ojal@ujafed.org.

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The Betty Arlin dancers during an August 26 performance at Baycrest.

An ensemble of singers and dancers prove the Variety Players to be aptly named.

Seniors song and dance troupe hits a high note

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

The Variety Players, a seniors entertainment group that has raised over $100,000 for charity, is warming up for a Sept. 30 performance at Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

"It's an amazing show," said Shae Eckler, producer and director of the group as well as one of the dancers. She has been with the Variety Players for 10 of the 12 years it has been in existence.

The Variety Players features eight Betty Arlin dancers, named for its choreographer, and about 15 singers. The group prepares and performs a new show every year, and does about eight performances annually across Toronto.

The show features catchy and upbeat tunes, Broadway and otherwise, solos, duets and six tap and softshoe dance numbers that each feature a different costume. There are even some joke-telling sets between acts.

"That's why we're called the Variety Players," Eckler said about the diverse range of entertainment offered.

Choreographer Betty Arlin has been with the troupe for 11 years. An avid dancer since childhood, when she moved to Toronto from Montreal she immediately started looking for something up her alley – before she even unpacked.

"I left all the cartons and went immediately to a rehearsal, and from then on it never stopped," Arlin said.

The show's intrigue and entertainment value lies with the energetic seniors, she said.

"We aim for perfection in movement. Obviously we're not young, but we try to keep everything as perfect as possible. Everyone has to play their part very well."

All Variety Players members are 65 years old and up.

The group used to perform at the Fairview Library Theatre, until the cost of the theatre became too high to donate the remaining money to charity, something the group has always done. They have raised over $100,000 for charities such as the Hospital for Sick Children, Baycrest Foundation and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Since leaving Fairview Library Theatre, the seniors bring their show on the road, performing mainly at seniors homes and community centres.

The Beth Tikvah show is on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 7:30. Tickets are $18 and are available by calling the synagogue office at 416-221-3433. Proceeds will be donated to the Beth Tikvah charitable foundation.

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which replaced UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education on July 1st. We wish to clarify that The Mercaz (centre in Hebrew) is a nickname only, and is not to be confused with **Mercaz-Canada**, the Zionist organization of the Conservative Movement in Canada. The Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education acknowledges Mercaz-Canada as one of its important partners, and has the highest respect for the organization and its values.

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Reviewed by Marilyn Herbert

Tuesday, March 25, 2008
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Reviewed by Gary Levine

Tuesday, April 29, 2008
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Sisay Ayalin, centre, participates in an African drumming class. [Nestor Ponce photo]

Ethiopian-Israeli teens travel to Toronto for music program

By **SHERI SHEFA**
Staff Reporter

The music department at the Koffler Centre of the Arts, and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto teamed up to host four teens from Kiryat Moshe, a community in Israel with a large Ethiopian community, for a week-long DJ training program.

Four Ethiopian-Israelis – Sisay Ayalin, Avue Dawit, Adeal Zamaro and Rachel Smani – between the ages of 14 and 18, were in Toronto from August 26 to Sept. 2, during which they participated in a DJ program run by Abby Tobias, the founder of Scratchlab Institute, a company designed to instruct people how to DJ at various skill levels.

Adrienne Cohen, the director of music at the Koffler Centre of the Arts, explained how she became invested in reaching out to the Ethiopian community in Kiryat Moshe.

"In April of this year I was in Israel, and UJA arranged for me to go to Kiryat Moshe to see the community centre and meet with the co-ordinators over there," she said, adding that the Kiryat Moshe community centre was developed by UJA to give support to the members of this underprivileged community by providing them with help with their schoolwork, learning Hebrew, and providing them with other social programs.

"One of the projects they were working on is music related. They do rap music, they write their own lyrics and the co-ordinators feel that this greatly helps the kids to express themselves in a positive way," Cohen said.

Out of this came the idea to raise money to create a DJ program at the community centre in Kiryat Moshe.

She said that while she was in Israel, she met with Laura Kindler, a social worker with UJA in Israel who has been creating programs for the children there, and began working with her to develop the week-long program in Toronto.

"I have been working with [Kindler] and Adam Minsky [the director of Israel and overseas programs for UJA Federation] to develop this project for this week. Adam, with UJA, has been the primary financial support for the program."

Cohen felt she could contribute to this program because she knew Tobias – the Scratchlab Institute founder and president of Sole Power Productions Inc., an entertainment and production company – and she knew that he liked to do community work.

"Abby suggested that if the kids came to Toronto, he could give them intensive DJ training for four days. They have been working with David Campbell, who is a renowned DJ in the Toronto nightclub scene," Cohen said.

Continued on page 27

‘An exciting adventure outside Israel’

Continued from page 26

“They are so excited. They are really into this. They were impressed by the DJ school, they didn’t realize how professional it really was and how challenging it is. They seem to be thriving on that challenge… They are getting training in an area they are very interested in. They are getting the opportunity to study with professional DJs on the Canadian scene and they can take that back to Israel with them and develop their own styles.”

This is the first time UJA has sponsored members of the Israeli Ethiopian community to come to Toronto, but Cohen said she hopes this would become an annual program.

“[Ethiopian-Israelis] are trying very hard to make a life for themselves and integrate into the Israeli community… The children are so beautiful, they are so precious and we just want to see them have a positive future. Whatever we can do.”

From left, Rachel Smani, Sisay Ayalin, Avue Dawit and Adeal Zamaro learned how to tear it up on the turntables at the Scratchlab Institute.
[Sheri Shefa photo]

During their stay, the teens, accompanied by Kindler and an Ethiopian-Israeli DJ who also acted as their translator, stayed in a condominium downtown and were dinner guests at the homes of members of the Jewish community and UJA volunteers, including Barbara Bank and Ariella Rohringer.

Their days were filled with music-related activities including African drumming classes and Brazilian carnival music lessons. They also participated in the Koffler Summer Arts Party, an annual week-long event for children who love music, dancing and art.

They were guests at the UJA Federation’s 2008 community campaign launch on August 29 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel and even found time to spend a day at the Canadian National Exhibition, and travel to Niagara Falls.

Cohen said that the kids were so grateful for the opportunity to come to Canada and participate in this program.

“We’re giving these kids the opportunity… to have an exciting adventure where they can travel outside of Israel. This is an opportunity they would never be able to experience given the kind of life that they have.”

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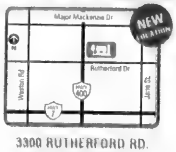

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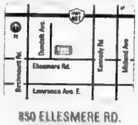

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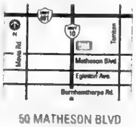

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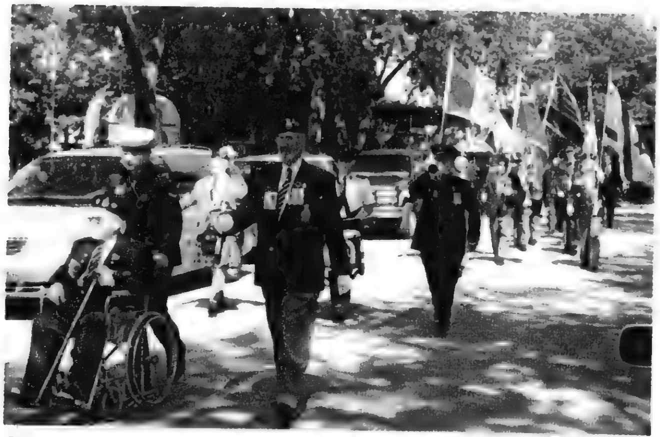
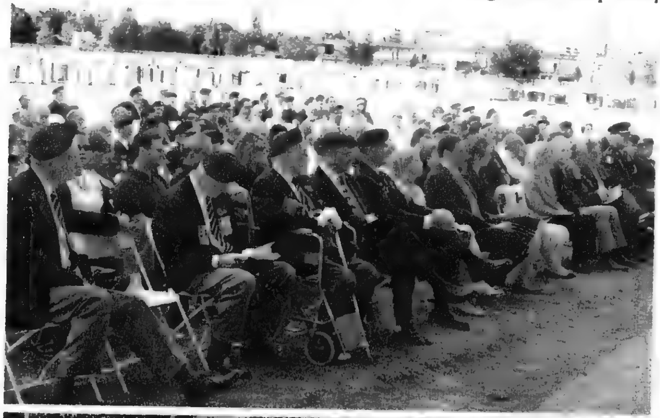
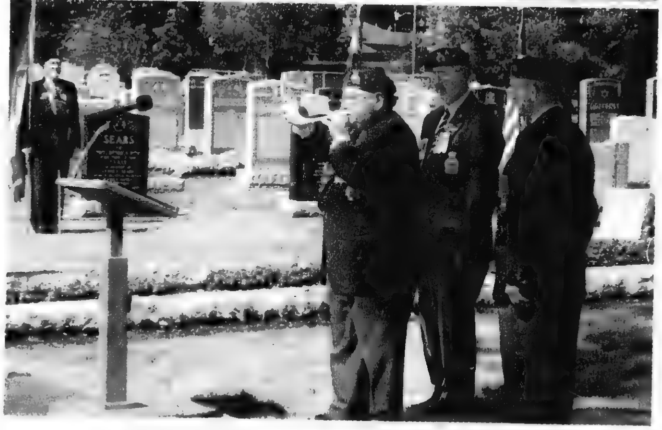
Wingate memorial



General Wingate Branch 256, the all-Jewish branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, held their annual memorial service at Mount Sinai Cemetery on Sunday, August 26. Top photo: The veterans parade by; middle: The crowd faces the speakers and cenotaph, which was erected last year to remember Jewish soldiers who fell in WWII, the Korean War, and Machal (soldiers who fought in WWII and lost their lives in Israel's 1948 War of Independence); bottom: Royal Canadian Air Force veteran Roy Waisberg blows the shofar.

[Abigail Bimman photos]





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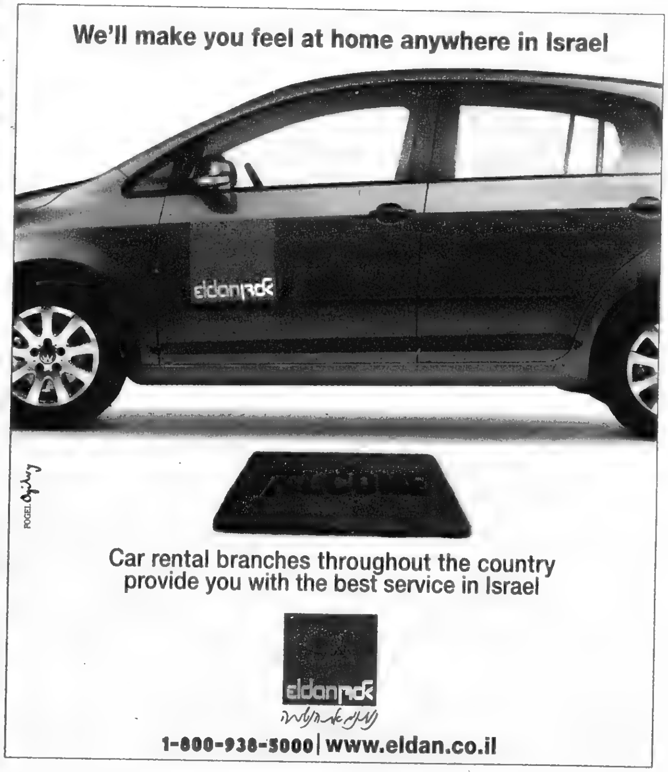

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Milo-Manson stays on at Bloorview

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Dr. Golda Milo-Manson has been appointed to a second five-year term as chief of medical staff at Bloorview Kids Rehab.

Bloorview, which is affiliated with the University of Toronto, is Canada's largest children's rehabilitation hospital. Its new, state-of-the-art building on Kilgour Road near Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre serves some 7,000 clients a year. The centre works with children who have a number of different disorders, including cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, epilepsy, cleft lip and palate and a range of developmental disabilities.

Milo-Manson considers herself "fortunate to work here, and to work with these kids." Her life seems to have been a steady progression towards this position.

Raised in Kitchener, Ont., Milo-Manson originally became an occupational therapist. "I wanted to improve the quality of life [of kids with disabilities]."

While getting her degree at Philadelphia's Temple University, she met her husband, David Manson, now a pediatric radiologist at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids).

She realized that she wanted to be able to do more for children with disabilities, and went to medical school at McMaster University in Hamilton, She took her pediatric residency at SickKids, with subspecialty training in developmental pediatrics.

Milo-Manson says that while she recognizes that most of the conditions the children have can't be cured, what can be done is to "make improvements to their quality of life, giving them more independence, and their families an easier time."

Bloorview offers what she calls "longitudinal care," from diagnosis and early assessment to adolescence. "One of the hardest things is to say goodbye when the clients go on to adult facilities. We get really attached to each other."

Bloorview recognizes that the family is important to the welfare of the children. Parents play a big role, offering emotional, physical and therapeutic support, Milo-Manson says.

She is particularly involved with the initial diagnosis of the client. She recommends therapies, special treatments and equipment. For instance, she says, sometimes the body gets so spastic that the child can't sit comfortably. "There is a special pump that sends medication directly to the spinal cord. We even sometimes use botox to relax spastic muscles."

Customized seating, prosthetics and augmentative communication devices are some of the other services offered at Bloorview.

Many of the children have behavioural challenges in such areas as sleep, feeding, and taking or being given medication. Milo-Manson and her staff advise parents on how to handle these issues.

In addition to being a treatment centre, Bloorview is also an academic health centre. Milo-Manson's duties include "ensuring that the facility has the best medical care possible." She supervises a staff of 12 staff physicians, 17 consultants, and dental and pharmacy staff.

She is also program director for a developmental pediatric residency training program subspecialty of the University of Toronto.

"We have the largest training program in the province, yet we can take only two students per year," she says.

The subspecialty, she says, is not government funded, but relies for financial support on the Bloorview Foundation. This is in spite of the fact that the facility is accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and receives international requests.

Bloorview enables the children to access a variety of services in one place, Milo-Manson says. "Orthopedic surgeons come here, as do ophthalmologists, neurologists and nutritionists. We can manage most of the children's needs right here."

But there are not enough trained specialists to deal with all the children and teenagers who need help, she says. "We want to see the program expand to meet those needs.

"Bloorview is excellent now. We are setting the standard for the best training."

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

צום אָנקום פון יאָר תשס"ח

פון אַלעק סילווער

דאָס יאָר תשס"ח — 5768 — וואָס קומט איצט אַריין אין ייִדישן קאַלענדאַר, זאָגט נישט צו דעם ייִדישן פאָלק מער זיכערקייט און ווייניקער אומרו, ווי דאָס אַוועקגייענדיקע יאָר תשס"ז, וואָס פאַרלאָזט אונדז. גאווה, גדלות און גיריקייט, רציחה, אָפנאַרעריי און אַכזריותדיקייט פאַרבלייבט טיף באַגראָבן אין דעם מענטשנס נאַטור און קען צו יעדער צייט אויסברעכן אין גוואַלד־מעשׂים, וואָס קענען ברענגען צו טעראָר, מלחמות און וועלט־פאַרניכטונג.

אין אַזאַ פאַל, ווייזט אויס, איז די האָפענונג פאַר אַ בעסערער צוקונפט פאַרן ייִדישן פאָלק אָפהענגיק אין אַ גרויסער מאָס פון אונדז אַליין. מיר מוזן מאַכן זיכער, אַז די אָנשטרענגונג לטובת דער מענטשהייט בכלל איז אין אַ געוויסער מאָס אַזוי שטאַרק ווי די אָנשטרענגונג פון דער ייִדישער וועלט בפרט פאַר זיך אַליין.

אַזוי לאַנג ווי נאַציאָנאַלער שטאָלץ און פערזענלעכע אַמביציעס צווינגען וועלט פירערס אויסצושפרייטן זייער פאָליטישן קאָנטראָל איבער אַנדערע, קען נישט זיין קיין פאַרזיכערונג פון פרייהייט פאַר וועלכן עס איז קליינעם אָפטייל פון דער מענטשהייט, איינגעשלאָסן וועלכן עס איז חלק פון וועלט־ייִדנטום.

אַזוי לאַנג ווי טעראָריסטישע פאַנאַטיקער דראָען גרויסע טיילן פון דער וועלט־באַפעלקערונג וואָלט געווען אַ טיפשות פון אונדזער זייט צו האָפן פאַר מער זיכערקייט פאַר דער ייִדישער באַפעלקערונג. אַזוי לאַנג ווי וועלכע עס איז מענטשלעכע ראַסע איז געהאַסט, מוז מען פאַרשטיין, אַז פרייהייט פון אַנטיסעמיטיזם איז באַזירט אויף פאַלשע און נישטיקע יסודות.

די גרויזאַמע בלוט־פאַרגיסונג איבער דער וועלט, זעט אויס צו זיין אַ שרעקלעכע קרענק, וואָס פלאָגט די מענטשלעכע ראַסע און חזרט זיך איבער ווידער און ווידער אַמאָל, נאָר כדי צו קענען געווינען אָדער אָנהאַלטן אייגענע אָדער פאָליטישע זיגן. אין אַזעלכע פאַלן ווערט דער פשוטער איינוווינער פון אונדזער ערד־קיילעך נישט גענומען אין אַכט און זיין וווילזיין ווערט אין גאַנצן פאַרגעסן.

חוץ דעם טאָרן מיר נישט פאַרגעסן, אַז עס זיינען פאַראַן ענינים, וואָס ווערן באַצייכנט ווי ספעציפיש „ייִדישע פראָבלעמען". איינע פון זיי איז דער אַנטיסעמיטיזם, וואָס איז אַן אָנגייענדיקע געפאַר. ספעציעל ווערט עס פאַרשפרייט אין די אַראַבישע לענדער, אין אייראָפע און אַפילו אין דער אַזוי גערופענער „טאָלעראַנטער" צפון־אַמעריקע.

די שווערקייטן, וואָס „רינגלען אַרום" דאָס ייִדישע פאָלק סיי אין מדינת ישראל און סיי אין חוץ לארץ, וואַרפן אַן אַ מורא אויף דעם ייִד, ווו ער זאָל נישט זיין. דאָס פעלן אַחדות און האַפטיקייט אין ייִדישן געזעלשאַפטלעכן לעבן, ווי אויך די מחלוקת צווישן ייִדישע גרופן, זיינען סימפטאָמאַטיש פון דער אומזיכערקייט, וואָס פאַרנעפלען די וועגן אין וועלכע דאָס ייִדישע לעבן זאָל גיין פאָראויס.

דער פערספעקטיוו פאַר דער צוקונפט קען דעריבער נישט זיין צו אָפטימיסטיש סיי פאַר דער וועלט און סיי פאַרן ייִדישן פאָלק. איז וואָס קען דער ייִד טאָן?... ער קען טאָן דאָס וואָס ער האָט געטאָן פאַר טויזנטער יאָרן — גיין אין די בתּי־תפילה און בעטן פאַר דעם וווילזיין פון זיין אייגן פאָלק און פאַרן וווילזיין פון דער גאַנצער וועלט־באַפעלקערונג. דורך דעם וועט ער באַרויִקן זיין אייגן געוויסן, אַז אפשר האָט ער געברענגט די מענטשהייט נאָך איין יאָר נענטער צו דערגרייכן די שפע און שלום אויף וואָס מיר אַלע האָפן.

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New program for Jewish children with autism

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Puzzle Pieces Ltd., a one-year-old behaviour therapy and social skills development organization for children with autism, is launching a new social skills group for Jewish children.

"We have so many families tell us they couldn't find an appropriate place for their children to learn about their heritage," said Puzzle Pieces founder and executive director Jen Atlin.

"Many of the children I deal with, because of the challenges they face, are lacking social skills. First, we have to ensure that they have the social niceties and know how to interact in social situations," she said.

She gives skills like learning not to interrupt, standing up for and asserting oneself appropriately, as examples.

"Once they have these, we want to be able to give these children the knowledge of Jewish culture and tradition, as well as behaviour at the seder table and behaving appropriately in shul."

Atlin, who has been working with children with autism since the age of 15, graduated from McGill University on May 31, 2006 and opened Puzzle Pieces the next day.

She has grown the organization to include 15 therapists and about 100 families. Atlin estimates that some 30 to 40 of these families are Jewish.

Puzzle Pieces serves children from diagnosis (which is generally made when the child is between 18 months and 2.5 years of age) until age 12.

Puzzle Pieces currently runs one-on-one programming during the week and weekend group social skills sessions. The Jewish social skills program, the curriculum of which will revolve around Jewish holidays, is unique in focus, Atlin said, adding that it is the only one of its kind she knows of in Toronto.

Atlin said Puzzle Pieces in general focuses on three things: applied behaviour analysis, verbal behaviour and social skills.

Applied behaviour analysis, also known as ABA or intense behavioural intervention (IBI), involves teaching autistic children skills like tying shoes or reading by using small steps taught in a highly structured way.

Atlin said Puzzle Pieces' goal is to help the children make enough progress to enable them to integrate into the school system and interact with other children.

"I always say to parents that if I do my job well, the next time you'll see me [may be] at your child's bar or bat mitzvah or high school graduation," she said.

And Atlin is excited about the possibilities of the new program for Jewish children.

"I'm looking forward to it because we've seen the success of our other program," Atlin said of the new group.

"We know that if these kids can learn in an environment that's designed for them to thrive, they have infinite potential. Growing up, my Jewish culture was important to me. If I can create that for other kids, I'd love to."

The successes of Puzzle Pieces that Atlin described were anecdotal. She gave a recent example of two children who barely spoke when they started coming to Puzzle Pieces, but later independently exchanged phone numbers and made plans to see each other outside of the program.

Jonathan is a six-year-old boy who has been working with Atlin since 2005. (All names have been changed to protect the families' privacy.)

He has pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), one of five autism spectrum disorders, which include autistic disorder and Asperger's syndrome. Jonathan's father, Samuel, said Jonathan's PDD-NOS is likely to evolve into Asperger's later on.

Samuel credits Atlin with revolutionizing the team of specialists who help Jonathan outside of her program.

"Teams can include psychologists, occupational therapists – there's bags of people with all different skills and abilities," said Samuel. "Jen has shown an amazing ability to interact with all members of the team and take over from me the co-ordination of the team."

Samuel added that one of the hardest parts of co-ordinating a team and dealing with a child like Jonathan can often be the stress level of the parents, which he said Atlin manages incredibly smoothly.

Samuel and his wife also have a younger daughter who does not have any "additional needs," as Atlin terms them, but accompanied her brother to the Saturday afternoon social skills group he used to attend.

"We're overjoyed with the fact that our four-year-old has access to the special needs community. Such great teachers as Jen and her staff can't help but make her more sensitive to others' needs in the long term," Samuel said.

He added that his biggest fear for his son is that one day, he will no longer be a little boy, and there need to be services available for the specific needs of older children and adults.

"I really like to see service providers in this community reaching out beyond cute little kids, because that's where we're headed. It's so simple and it's so hard to do."

Atlin recognizes this need and said Puzzle Pieces will look into expanding in the future. Currently, she said, they will not take teenagers, but also won't discharge a child as he or she ages.

"Once kids are with us and we watch them grow, we will help them integrate into the workforce when the time comes."

For more information about Puzzle Pieces Ltd., visit www.puzzlepiecesltd.com or call 905-474-9925.

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Holiday Food Ideas

Pomegranates and apples for Rosh Hashanah

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

It has been revered since biblical times as a symbol of fertility, good health and immortality. Celebrated by King Solomon in the *Song of Songs*, this tangy, many-seeded fruit with its crimson-hued, leathery shell was abundant in the Garden of Eden and is even thought by some scholars to have been the real "apple" that tempted Eve.

For the Jewish people, the pomegranate has special significance on Rosh Hashanah as one of the special foods that serve as auspicious omens for the year to come.

"The pomegranate is a powerful visual and sensory omen that we eat during the holiday time to remind us of the way we're supposed to act," said Laura Frankel, author of *Jewish Cooking for All Seasons* (Wiley) a joyful, accessible celebration of Jewish cooking throughout the year.

"The seeds of the pomegranate supposedly add up to 613, if you took the time to count," she said, "which represent the mitzvot of the Torah that you're supposed to do. Well, the story is 613. Who knows!"

For many people, pomegranates, plentiful as fall begins, also serve as the new fruit of the season, which we traditionally eat on Rosh Hashanah. But for Frankel, chef and co-owner of the acclaimed Chicago restaurant Shallots, pomegranates are her "secret weapon," and she uses the fruit and its molasses year round. (Pomegranate molasses, also called "paste," can be found in Middle Eastern markets or at www.sadaf.com.)

"Here at the restaurant we make martinis out of pomegranates," she noted. "They are so plentiful, tasty and fun. If you get a good one, it has the most perfect flavour of tartness and sweetness on your tongue. Pomegranate molasses corrects any kind of issues I'm having with a sauce. If it's too spicy or tart, it will fill in the cracks. It gives fish, chicken or meat that glazy finish and looks beautiful and shiny. Now if they only had pomegranate lipstick!"

Another omen for Rosh Hashanah is the apple, which we dip in honey as we ask God for a sweet year. "It's not just a childhood simple thing," Frankel explained. "You're supposed to take the sweetness into your mouth, your mind, your lips, and then act that way as well." Frankel offers a duo of baked apples for the holiday, one sweet with honey, dates and apricots, the other savoury with shallots and herbs, what she calls the "perfect side dish."

"The savoury apples have just the right amount of sweetness and are great with poultry," she noted.

The book is divided by season, and Frankel's passion for fresh, locally grown, organic produce is infectious. "Each ingredient that goes into the pot should be delicious unto itself," she writes.

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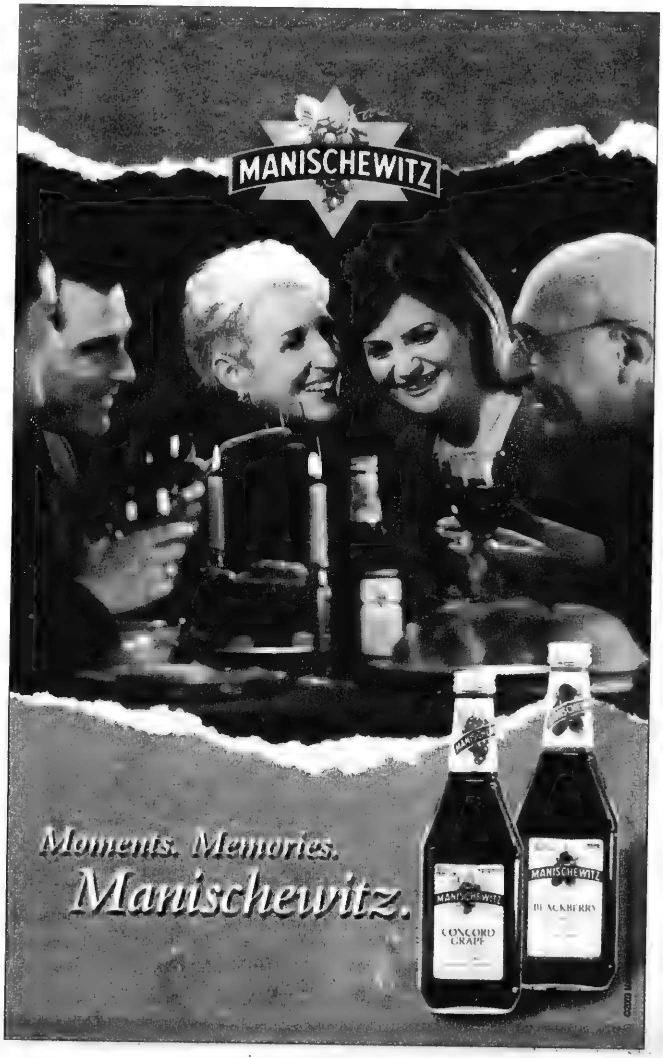

Cookbook's author honors traditions while updating them

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Autumn is her favourite time of year to cook. "There's still hanging over a little bit of summer, but fall is far more interesting to me. In summer, you don't have to do much. You cut it, put it on a plate, add olive oil - and voilà. In fall and winter, you have to coax the flavour from the vegetables," like hard-shelled squash, beets and celery root. "These really big root vegetables you roast slowly until they're caramelized. Turnips start out stinking and weird and suddenly they're sweet and gorgeous."

What makes *Jewish Cooking for All Seasons* a kosher cookbook is its adherence to the laws of kashrut, but you won't find any substitute ingredients or faux anything here.

"We've become out of touch. Our produce is shipped from Bolivia to your table, and we don't know where it comes from," she said. "But kashrut is all about being in touch with food, nature and spirituality. You don't mix meat and milk because it is cruel to boil a kid in its own milk. Our religion specifically goes at food and tells you what to eat, even sometimes where to eat it. The table is supposed to remind us of the altar in the Temple."

For the holiday table, Frankel honours our long-held traditions while updating them with flavour and flair. "You don't always have to be pulling out the green bean casseroles with nondairy creamer for the holidays," she advised. "If your family loves matzah balls and brisket for Rosh Hashanah, there are lots of ways to do it. I don't know why Jews think of brisket as Jewish food anyway. In Texas, they barbecue it. But we're going to have brisket for Rosh Hashanah with the savoury apples. On another night, I might serve the pomegranate chicken with matzah balls. There are a lot of ways to put out a great holiday meal."

Judy Bart Kancigor is the author of Cooking Jewish: 532 Great Recipes From the Rabinowitz Family *(Workman), www.cookingjewish.com.*

POMEGRANATE-GLAZED CHICKEN

2 chickens, about 4 lb. each, cut by your butcher into 6 pieces each, on the bone
kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
olive oil

Glaze
olive oil
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 medium shallot, finely chopped
½ cup pomegranate molasses
3 tbsp. dark brown sugar
1 tbsp. tomato paste
¼ cup chicken stock

Suggested garnishes
fresh pomegranate seeds
chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

Preheat oven to 350. Season chicken pieces with salt and pepper.

Heat a large, deep sauté pan over medium-high heat and lightly coat bottom of pan with olive oil. Brown chicken pieces on all sides, in batches, without crowding. When pieces are well browned (drumsticks and thighs will take longer than breast and wing pieces), transfer white and dark meat pieces to two separate baking dishes.

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Blackberry - Lemon Frozen Custard as seen in *Jewish Cooking for All Seasons* by Laura Frankel, John Wiley and Sons publishers.

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Apples abound in Frankel's Rosh Hashanah treats

Continued from page 33

Make Glaze: Heat a small saucepan over medium-high heat, and lightly coat bottom of pan with olive oil. Sauté garlic and shallot until lightly browned. Add pomegranate molasses, sugar, tomato paste and stock. Lower heat to medium and cook, stirring, until well combined and glaze has thickened, about 10 minutes.

Brush chicken pieces with pomegranate glaze, and roast until cooked through and a thermometer inserted into thigh registers 160°F, 30 to 35 minutes for white meat and about 45 minutes for dark meat. Brush chicken with glaze halfway through cooking and again when it is removed from oven.

Serve chicken sprinkled with your choice of garnishes. Yield: 4 to 6 servings.

Notes: The glaze can be stored in the refrigerator, covered, up to 2 days.

BAKED APPLES WITH DATES AND APRICOTS

1/2 cup chopped pitted dates
1/2 cup chopped dried apricots
1 tbsp. pomegranate molasses
3 tbsp. honey
3/4 cup sweet white wine, such as Riesling
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
pinch of ground cloves
1/8 tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
6 large, firm apples, cored

Preheat oven to 300. Pulse dates and apricots in a food processor 10 to 12 times, until fruits are chopped and clumping together. You don't want them to form a smooth paste. Transfer fruit to a bowl and stir in pomegranate molasses, honey, 1/4 cup of the wine, and cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg.

Stuff mixture into cored apples. You should have enough stuffing to generously stuff apples and have some stuffing "pop" out of top of apples (I love this part, as it gets crispy on top).

Place apples in a baking dish and pour remaining 1/2 cup wine around apples. Bake apples until they are soft and fairly wrinkly, 30 to 45 minutes. Occasionally, spoon some of the wine and juices onto the apples so they do not dry out.

Serve apples warm or at room temperature with some of the cooking juice spooned around the apples. Yield: 6 servings.

BAKED APPLES WITH SHALLOTS AND HERBS

6 medium shallots, thinly sliced
1 garlic clove, chopped
1/4 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
1 tbsp. chopped fresh thyme
2 tsp. chopped fresh rosemary
1/2 cup dried cherries or cranberries
1/2 cup chopped dried figs
1 tbsp. pomegranate molasses
3 tbsp. honey
3/4 cup dry white wine, such as Sauvignon Blanc
6 large firm apples, cored

Heat a small sauté pan over medium heat and lightly coat bottom of pan with olive oil. Sauté shallots, stirring occasionally, until golden brown and caramelized, about 15 minutes. Stir in garlic, parsley, thyme and rosemary and continue to cook until garlic is tender, about 5 minutes.

Preheat oven to 300. Pulse cherries and figs in a food processor 10 to 12 times, until fruits are chopped and clumping together. You don't want them to form a smooth paste. Transfer fruit to a bowl and stir in shallot mixture, pomegranate molasses, honey and 1/4 cup of the wine.

Stuff mixture into cored apples. You should have enough stuffing to generously stuff apples and have some stuffing "pop" out of top of apples.

Place apples in a baking dish and pour remaining 1/2 cup wine around apples. Bake apples until they are soft and fairly wrinkly, 30 to 45 minutes. Occasionally, spoon some of the wine and juices onto the apples so they do not dry out.

Serve apples warm or at room temperature with some of the cooking juices spooned around them. Yield: 6 servings

Notes: Apples can be baked 4 hours ahead and kept loosely covered at room temperature.

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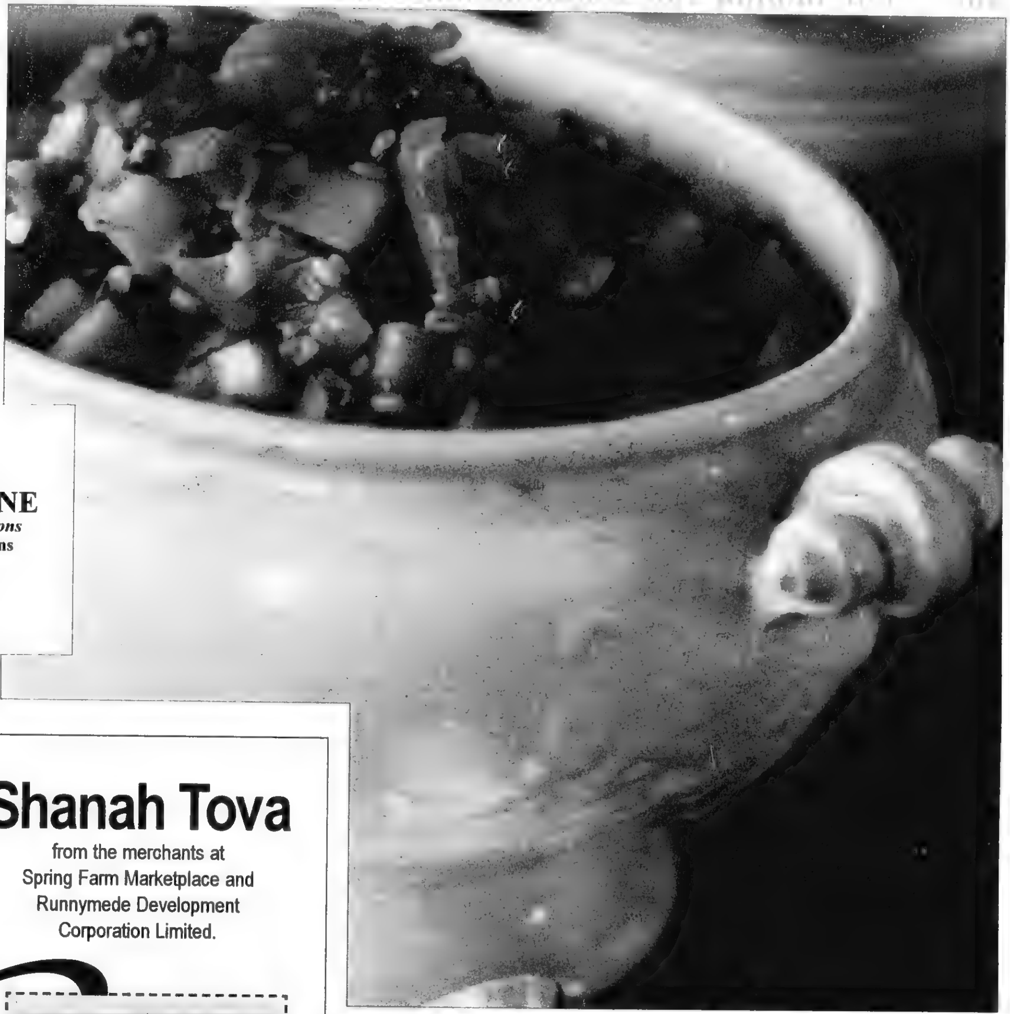

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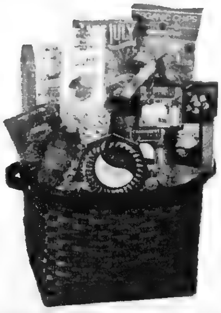

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From my healthy kitchen to yours

By **NORENE GILLETZ**
Special to The CJN

Summer is almost at an end and the High Holy Days are quickly approaching. As usual, the big question on everyone's mind is what to serve. I love the holidays, but the usual fare is packed with calories and fat. Not this year. I'll be preparing recipes from my new cookbook *Norene's Healthy Kitchen* (Whitecap Books) to serve at my holiday table.

Here are some delicious dishes that are heart-healthy, can be prepared in advance and are adaptable to serve large or small families. You've been waiting a long time for my new book to arrive, and I apologize for the delay. I hope your family enjoys these dishes and they will become new traditions to serve at your holiday table.

I've also included many of my favourite cooking secrets and there are many helpful nutrition notes and lots of information about the glycemic index. The recipes are great for heart-smart cooking, for anyone watching their weight, and also for those who are on a diabetic diet. With 600 brand-new recipes to choose from, there's something for everyone! You don't need to sacrifice flavour for nutrition and there's no need to convert the recipes to make them adaptable for the kosher kitchen. It's all been done for you.

Wishing all my readers a happy and very healthy new year. From my healthy kitchen to yours, eat *your* way to good health!

DAPHNE'S FAMOUS CHUTNEY CHICKEN

My assistant, Shelley Sefton, shared this treasured recipe from her late mom's recipe collection. Daphne Zarenda's friends have been waiting impatiently for it so they could savour the special memories of this special lady who loved to cook and bake for her friends and family. Daphne – this one's for them – and you!

1 whole chicken (3½ lb.), cut into pieces
1 tsp. garlic salt (or to taste)
½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
½ tsp. paprika
¾ cup apricot or peach chutney
2 tbsp. lemon juice (preferably fresh)
1 tbsp. brown sugar
2 to 3 tsp. curry powder
1 tsp. ground ginger

Rinse the chicken well and pat dry with paper towels. Trim the excess fat. Spray a large casserole dish with cooking spray. Season the chicken pieces with garlic salt, pepper and paprika. Place in a single layer in the prepared casserole.

In a small bowl, combine the chutney, lemon juice, brown sugar, curry powder and ginger; mix well. Pour the mixture over the chicken and mix well, coating it on all sides. (If desired, the chicken can be prepared in advance up to this point and refrigerated for as long as 2 days.)

Preheat the oven to 350. Bake the chicken, covered, for 1 hour, basting with the sauce every 20 minutes. Uncover and bake for 15 to 20 minutes longer or until the chicken is glazed and golden. Yield: 6 servings.

Recipe doubles or triples easily. Keeps for up to 3 days in the refrigerator; reheats well. Freezes well for up to 4 months.

218 calories per serving (without skin), 16.2 g carbohydrate, 1.0 g fibre, 19 g protein, 8.8 g fat (2.4 g saturated), 58 mg cholesterol, 216 mg sodium, 322 mg potassium, 2 mg iron, 32 mg calcium

Shelley's Lighter Variation: Use 8 boneless, skinless, single chicken breasts. Bake uncovered, basting occasionally, at 400 for 20 to 25 minutes. Juices should run clear when chicken is pierced with a fork. One breast contains 190 calories, 12.1 g carbohydrate, 0.8 g fibre, and 3.3 g fat (0.9 g saturated).

GRILL 'N CHILL ASPARAGUS

My assistant Cindy Beer makes this simple and delicious dish ahead of time on her two-sided indoor grill. Her guests and family love it. Cindy insists on using thin asparagus spears because she thinks they taste better. If you munch a bunch of fibre-packed grilled asparagus rather than nosh on noodles or other starchy side dishes, over time you'll be pencil-thin too.

2 bunches fresh asparagus (about 2 lb./1 kg)
2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
½ cup raspberry vinaigrette (below)

Preheat an indoor grill. Soak the asparagus in cold water for a few minutes. Drain thoroughly and pat dry. Bend asparagus and snap off the tough ends at the point where they break off naturally; discard the ends. Place the trimmed asparagus in a loaf pan or shallow dish and drizzle with olive oil. Roll the asparagus around to coat all sides with oil.

Transfer the spears to the hot grill, close the lid and grill for 5 minutes or until the asparagus is tender-crisp. Remove from the grill and let cool. Cover and refrigerate for several hours or overnight.

Continued on page 39

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HONEY
Happy New Year

Holiday fare that's not full of calories and fat

Continued from page 38

When ready to serve, transfer the asparagus to a serving platter and drizzle with Raspberry Vinaigrette. Yield: 8 servings. Serve hot or at room temperature. Will keep for up to 2 days in the refrigerator. Don't freeze.

122 calories per serving, 6.8 g carbohydrate, 2.3 g fibre, 3 g protein, 10.3 g fat (1.5 g saturated), 0 mg cholesterol, 26 mg sodium, 240 mg potassium, 1 mg iron, 26 mg calcium

Chef's Secrets

- Grilling tip: if grilling asparagus spears on an outdoor grill, lay them crosswise to prevent them from falling through the cracks or place them in a grill basket.
- Size counts: some cooks prefer large asparagus spears but these tend to be somewhat stringy and usually require peeling. Thin and medium-sized spears don't require peeling. Try to buy spears that are all the same thickness so that they will cook evenly.
- Weighing in: one bunch of asparagus weighs about 1 lb. (500 g). There are 16 to 20 spears in a pound, yielding 2½ cups cooked. Calculate 4 to 6 spears per person as a serving.
- It's in the bag: store asparagus in the refrigerator in a loosely sealed plastic bag. To keep it moist, first wrap it in a damp paper towel. It will keep for up to 2 weeks.

Nutrition Note

- Asparagus are high in vitamins A, B, and C, and they're high in folate, which is important for pregnant women and for cardiovascular health. Asparagus is also a good source of potassium and iron.

RASPBERRY VINAIGRETTE

If you keep frozen raspberries on hand, you can whip up this fruity dressing in about 30 seconds. It's excellent over grains or greens. For a real taste sensation, drizzle it over grilled asparagus. You'll razzle-dazzle them!

⅓ cup fresh or frozen raspberries (no need to defrost)
⅓ cup extra virgin olive oil
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar (or 1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar and 1 tbsp. orange juice)
1 tbsp. honey
salt and freshly ground black pepper

In a food processor fitted with the steel blade, process raspberries for 8 to 10 seconds. Add the remaining ingredients and process 10 seconds longer to combine. Transfer to a jar and store in the refrigerator. Shake well before using. Yield: About ⅔ cup. Recipe doubles and triples easily. Keeps for up to a week to 10 days in the refrigerator.

68 calories per tbsp., 2.5 g carbohydrate, 0.2 g fibre, 0 g protein, 6.5 g fat (0.9 g saturated), 0 mg cholesterol, 12 mg sodium, 4 mg potassium, 0 mg iron, 2 mg calcium

COUSCOUS, MEDITERRANEAN STYLE

Experience the fabulous flavours of the Mediterranean with this colourful dish. You can use regular or whole wheat couscous, or try the pearl-shaped grains of pasta known as Israeli couscous (or maftoul), which are much larger and more versatile than the typical Moroccan couscous. You can substitute the couscous with orzo (a rice-shaped pasta), bulgar or quinoa.

2 tbsp. olive oil
2 medium onions, chopped
1 red pepper, seeded and chopped
2 cloves garlic (about 2 tsp. minced)
1½ cups couscous
1 tsp. ground cumin
3 cups hot vegetable or chicken broth
½ cup raisins or currants
½ cup chopped dried apricots or dates
salt and freshly ground black pepper
½ cup chopped fresh parsley or mint
⅓ cup toasted pine nuts or slivered almonds

Heat the oil in a large, deep skillet on medium heat. Add the onions, red pepper and garlic; sauté for 6 to 7 minutes or until golden.

Stir in the couscous and cumin and cook for 2 minutes longer or until golden. Slowly add the hot broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 10 to 12 minutes or until the couscous is tender.

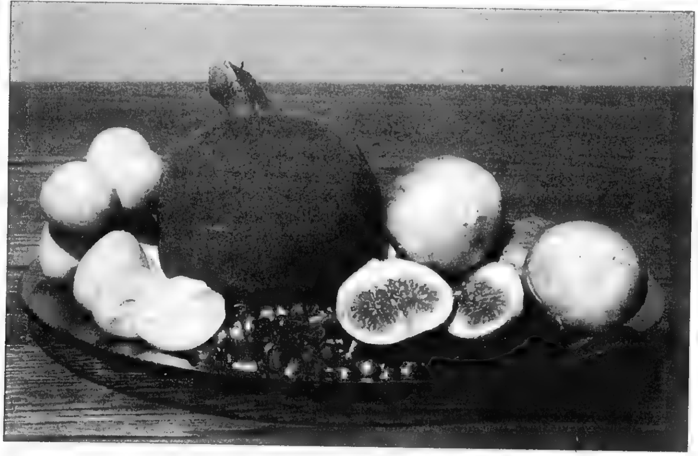
Stir in the raisins, apricots, salt and pepper. Sprinkle with parsley and pine nuts and serve. Yield: 8 servings. Keeps for up to 3 days in the refrigerator; reheats well. Freezes well for up to 2 months.

264 calories per serving, 43.7 g carbohydrate, 3.9 g fibre, 6 g protein, 7.9 g fat (0.8 g saturated), 0 mg cholesterol, 182 mg sodium, 345 mg potassium, 2 mg iron, 42 mg calcium

Couscous with Mushrooms and Chickpeas: Sauté 2 cups of sliced mushrooms with the onions, pepper and garlic. Instead of cumin, add 1 tsp. dried basil or thyme. Replace the dried fruit and nuts with 1½ cups of cooked or canned chickpeas, rinsed and well-drained. One serving contains 242 calories, 40.6 g carbohydrate, 4.5 g fibre, 5.6 g fat (0.7 g saturated).

Couscous with Sun-Dried Tomatoes: Omit the cumin, dried fruit, and nuts. In Step 3, stir in 1 tsp. Italian seasoning and ½ cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes, rinsed and drained. If desired, add ½ cup sliced pitted black olives. One serving contains 192 calories, 32.2 g carbohydrate, 3.1 g fibre, 4.8 g fat (0.6 g saturated).

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For updated information about her cookbooks, cooking classes and culinary services, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at http://www.gourmania.com.



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The pomegranate and the fig have been part of the culinary tradition of the Jewish people since ancient biblical days. At Rosh Hashana they are a tasty and symbolically joyous way of welcoming the new year.

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New wines can complement your holiday dinner

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

A bevy of new and classic kosher wine choices will brighten any Rosh Hashanah dinner.

The wines featured for the holidays by four major Toronto wine agents are mostly from Israel.

Simcha Wines is showcasing two wines, a white and a red, both from Israel's Dalton Winery. The boutique winery in the Upper Galilee was established in 1995. Alex Haruni is owner and head winemaker.

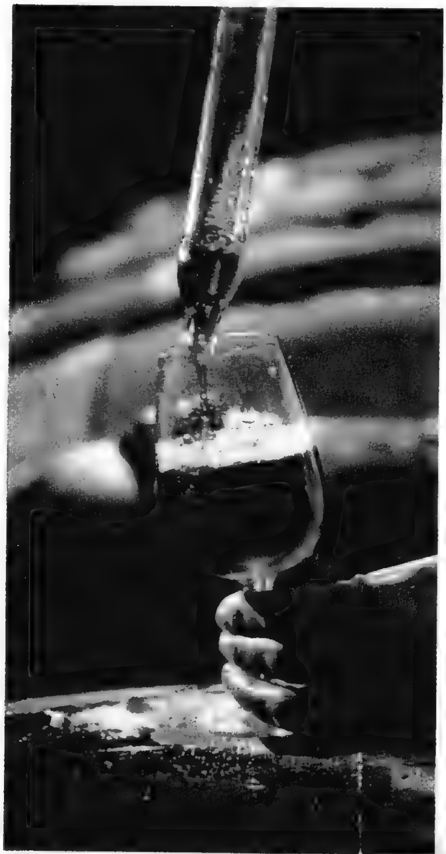
The Dalton Safsufa Cabernet Sauvignon has been available since mid-August at the LCBO.

"It's a deep red wine, it has a lively aroma and flavours of wild berries, black current and mint with subtle vanilla undertones from the barrel," said Simcha Wines head of marketing Janet Klugsberg. Klugsberg said the red goes well with lamb, beef or other full-flavoured dishes.

Simcha Wines is also featuring the new Dalton Safsufa Sauvignon Chardonnay, which Klugsberg called "crisp and aromatic." The white wine has citrus, pineapple and tropical fruit flavours, and goes well with fish, chicken or dairy.

For more information contact Simcha Wines, 905-761-9022.

Carol Slatt is president of both Lorac Wines and Galilee Wines. The wine educator and consultant founded the two companies 25 years ago. This holiday season, they are also featuring a red and a white from Israel.



Testing a vintage as seen in *The Spirituality of Wine* by Tom Harpur, Northstone publishers.

The white is the Vineyards Select'D Emerald Riesling/Chenin Blanc, which Slatt called a "fresh, light, delicious, off-dry new wine perfect for holiday dinners and to enjoy on its own." It's available at the LCBO.

The featured red is already a popular choice, said Slatt. The Private Collection Cabernet Merlot, like the white, is a blend of two types of grapes.

"It's a rich red wine. It's perfect for all meats, for brisket, cholent, all roasted meats and chicken," Slatt said.

"The wines are great and I'm very proud to represent these two wines from Israel," she added.

She said her support for Israel has been recognized by the Israeli government and she has always been a supporter of the Israeli economy.

For more information, call 416-783-2516.

Graftstein Wines has also been in the industry for decades. Neil and Rachel Grafstein started the company in Toronto about 30 years ago and they carry more than 200 wines. Both are descendants of wine producers, and Neil's family's involvement with wine goes back ten generations.

"We promote Israel. They have really grown leaps and bounds in so far as not only size but also quality," he said of Israeli wines.

Grafstein Wines features many different wines for the holidays, only a few of which are discussed here. (For more information, contact 416-256-0440.)

Continued on page 42

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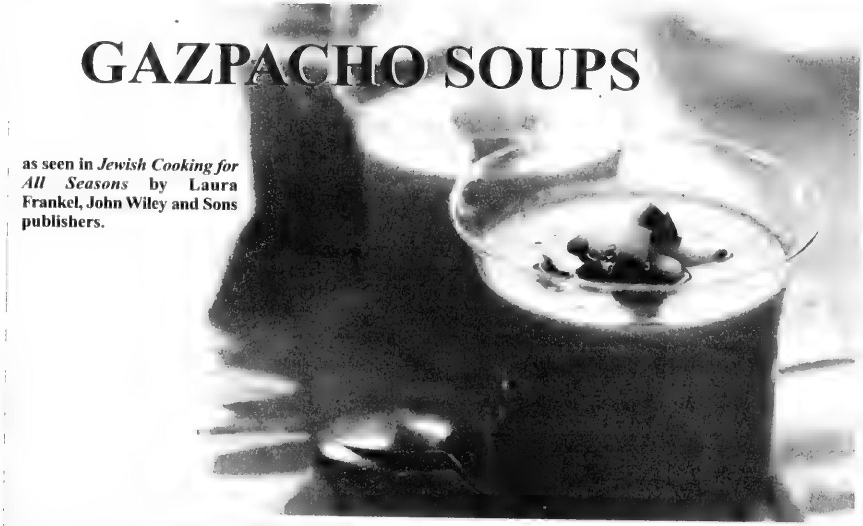

as seen in *Jewish Cooking for All Seasons* by Laura Frankel, John Wiley and Sons publishers.

Holiday wines from down under

Continued from page 41

The first wines the Grafsteins mentioned come from the Recanati Winery. The winery is located in Israel and is headed by Lewis Pasco, whose background is in winemaking, culinary arts and engineering.

Neil spoke highly of the red Cabernet Franc Reserve.

"It's brand new. We've never carried it. It's the first time they're making it with that grape. It's a fairly rare grape variety for Israel."

"It's a cabernet franc grape. You get different tastes and flavours. Each grape will have its own unique characteristics," Rachel added.

"The wine connoisseur absolutely faints when they taste it, and the total non-wine drinker will be swayed by it," Neil said.

Other Recanati wines include the white Sauvignon Blanc and the full-bodied red Petit Syrah-Zinfandel Reserve.

Grafstein Wines also carry a sought-after line from the Kibbutz Tzora Vineyards, located outside of Jerusalem in Beit Shemesh. The small winery headed by Ronnie James specializes in grapes grown in the Judean Hills.

Popular wines include Stone Ridge, a red blend of cabernet sauvignon and merlot, and the Ilan series of at least four different wines.

And for the non-wine drinkers, Grafstein Wines also carries an exclusive-to-North-America grape juice. Made in Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu, Bio Organic grape juice satisfies many customers' requests.

"You wouldn't believe how many people are looking for not only non-alcoholic, but organic [wine]," Neil said.

Mazel Wines is featuring two new wines for the holidays that come from further away than Israel – they come from "down under."

"Just in time for Rosh Hashanah – two kosher wines from 'Down Under' – and the opportunity for everyone to sample them at three wine tastings hosted by the LCBO at three locations, free of charge," the company said in a press release.

One wine is the Goose Bay Sauvignon Blanc, the first kosher wine from New Zealand. It comes from the country's famous Marlborough district. This white wine has citrus fruit flavours and a crisp texture.

The red Teal Lake Shiraz features cherry and plum characters with a hint of spice and chocolate.

These two wines are available for tasting at three LCBO locations on Sunday, Sept. 9: from noon to 4 p.m. at Bayview Village Mall (Sheppard and Bayview), Scrivener Square (Yonge and Summerhill), and the Smart Centre (675 Wilson Avenue).

For more information, contact Agent Mazel Wines at 416-631-9144.

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Hooked on honey

[*IPS photo*]

By ADAM MENCELES
Special to The CJN

Traditional doesn't have to mean boring. Honey on Rosh Hashanah has, for as long as we can remember, been reserved for apple dipping and honey cake. Considering honey has been around since the dawn of bees, shouldn't we have endless resources dedicated solely to honey-related recipes and food items? That's right, we should.

If you're wondering where to find the sweet stuff, your search will take you worldwide. Honey is used around the globe in many cultures and religions, some of which use this nectar in ways we would have never thought possible. From Greece to Japan and everywhere in between, honey of all varieties has been added to sweet deserts and savoury dishes.

Curious about how to make this Rosh Hashanah a more eclectic one? Look no further. The following recipes will show you how honey can make this year extra sweet.

AD'S GREEK STYLE HONEY AND APRICOT GLAZED LAMB CHOPS

Lamb is a staple in many Jewish kitchens. Honey is a must-have on Rosh Hashanah. Apricots complement basically everything. These three powers combined now share one commonality – they become a dinner entrée. This is a very simple dish that involves minimal effort and few ingredients, but tastes quite delicious. I don't normally condone the use of sweet ingredients in typically savoury dishes, but in this case, it works like a charm. Just try it and you'll see that the honey and apricot don't take away from the flavour of the lamb, but rather complement it.

8 single lamb chops
½ cup honey
½ cup apricot jam
¼ cup olive oil
salt and black pepper to taste
2 cloves finely chopped garlic
small pastry or kitchen brush

Preheat oven to 350. Season the lamb chops with salt and pepper. In a bowl, combine the honey, apricot jam, garlic and olive oil. Brush the lamb chops on all sides with this mixture.

Refrigerate for two hours to let the flavours combine. Place the lamb chops on a baking sheet and bake in the oven at 350 for 15-20 minutes or until your desired doneness is achieved.

Let the lamb rest for a couple of minutes before serving. Serves 4.

AD'S CHINESE STYLE HONEY-ROASTED ALMOND AND SAUTÉED APPLE SALAD

The idea for this dish is to create contrast in temperature, texture and flavour.

mixed greens or any variety of lettuce
2 apples
1 cup honey-roasted almonds
2 tbsp. vegetable oil
½ cup olive oil
½ cup red wine vinegar
¼ cup honey
salt and pepper to taste

Place lettuce in four individual salad bowls. Peel, halve, core and slice apples thinly. Sauté apples in a frying pan on medium-high heat in vegetable oil until golden brown.

Briefly warm the honey-roasted almonds in a 350-degree oven (about 5 minutes). Be sure to watch them carefully so that they don't burn.

Make the dressing by mixing the olive oil, vinegar, salt, pepper and honey in a bowl until evenly combined.

Drizzle dressing on the salad and top with sauteed apples and honey roasted almonds. Serves 4.

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Serve your salads front and centre

By DAPHNA RABINOVITCH
Special to The CJN

The main course is most often the star and rightfully so. Soup's a must, and fall vegetables offer plenty of choice, but the salad, the poor salad, often gets short shrift in the midst of all the frenzied menu planning and preparation around the High Holy Days. But there's no need to relegate it to second-class status. Grocery stores and markets offer an abundance of lettuces, and many salads can be assembled the day before, waiting to be dressed at the last moment. The recipes below are refreshing, with a hint of apples or honey or fall produce, as well as refreshingly easy.

ORZO SALAD WITH TOMATOES AND FRESH HERBS

1½ cups orzo (rice-shaped pasta)
3 tomatoes, yellow and red, cut into ½-in. pieces (1½ lb.)
6 green onions, sliced
1 green or orange pepper, seeded, cored and diced
½ cup sliced pitted oil cured olives, optional
¼ cup chopped fresh basil
¼ cup chopped fresh mint
¼ cup chopped fresh Italian parsley

Dressing
3 tbsp. sherry vinegar
1 tbsp. honey
2 tsp. Dijon mustard
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
½ cup extra virgin olive oil

Continued on page 46

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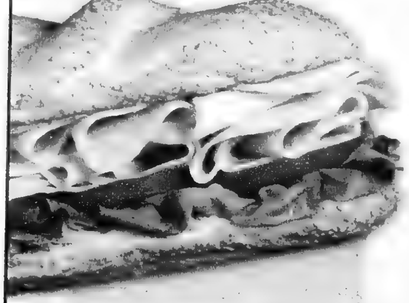

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Roasted vegetable salad is a step above

Continued from page 45

In large pot of boiling salted water, cook pasta for 8 to 10 minutes or until tender but firm. Drain and rinse under cold running water to stop the cooking. Drain well.

Transfer pasta to large serving bowl. Gently stir in tomatoes, green onions, green pepper, olives, if using, basil, mint and parsley.

In small bowl, whisk together vinegar, honey, mustard, salt and pepper. Whisking continuously, gradually whisk in olive oil. Pour dressing over salad, stirring gently until well coated. (Salad can be made up to 8 hours ahead. Bring to room temperature before serving.) Makes 8 servings.

ARUGULA, MINT AND APPLE SALAD WITH HONEY DRESSING

12 oz. arugula or fresh leaf spinach
1 head radicchio lettuce
½ cup fresh small mint leaves
¼ cup sliced almonds, toasted
2 apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced

Dressing
2 tbsp. finely minced shallots
2 tbsp. cider vinegar
1 tbsp. honey
¼ tsp. each salt and pepper
½ cup extra virgin olive oil

Wash and dry lettuce. Gently tear into bite size pieces. In large serving bowl, combine arugula, radicchio and mint leaves.

In small bowl, whisk together shallots, vinegar, honey, salt and pepper. Whisking continuously, gradually whisk in olive oil.

Pour dressing over greens, tossing stirring until well coated. Stir in apples; sprinkle with almonds. Makes 8 servings.

ROASTED VEGETABLE SALAD

2 sweet red peppers
1 sweet yellow pepper
2 zucchini
1 Japanese eggplant or small regular eggplant
1 large red onion
2 lb. asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1-in. pieces
¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
¼ tsp. each salt and pepper

Dressing
2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
2 tsp. chopped fresh thyme (or ½ tsp. dried)
¼ tsp. each salt and pepper
½ cup extra virgin olive oil

Core and seed sweet red and yellow peppers. Cut into large chunks. Cut zucchini in half lengthwise and then cut diagonally into ½-in. thick slices. Slice eggplant into ½-in. thick cubes. Peel onion; cut in half, leaving root end intact; cut each half in eighths. Place all vegetables in large bowl; stir in oil, salt and pepper, stirring until all vegetables are well coated. Arrange vegetables in single layer on foil-lined baking sheet.

Bake in centre of preheated oven at 425 for 45 minutes, turning vegetables once. Add asparagus. Return to oven and roast for 10 to 15 more minutes until vegetables are tender and asparagus are bright green and tender to the bite. Let cool slightly (vegetables can be placed in bowl, covered with plastic wrap and refrigerated for up to 24 hours).

In a small bowl, whisk together vinegar, garlic, mustard, thyme, salt and pepper. Whisking continuously, gradually whisk in olive oil. Pour dressing over room temperature vegetables, stirring gently until well coated. Makes 8 servings.

BIBB AND FENNEL SALAD WITH ORANGE VINAIGRETTE AND TOASTED PECANS

1 fennel bulb
2 small heads bibb lettuce, in bite size pieces
⅓ cup chopped toasted pecans

Dressing
2 tsp. finely grated orange rind
¼ cup freshly squeezed orange juice
1 tbsp. lemon juice
½ tsp. Dijon mustard
¼ tsp. salt and pepper
¼ cup extra virgin olive oil

Slice fennel thinly. Toss in bowl with lettuce leaves.

In small bowl, whisk together orange rind and juice, lemon juice, mustard, salt and pepper. Whisking continuously, gradually whisk in olive oil. Pour over fennel and lettuce, tossing gently until well coated. Sprinkle with pecans. Makes 8 servings.

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2 green onions, finely chopped
1 large round pumpernickel loaf (about 12 oz/375 g)
Assorted veggies and crackers

Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Blend cream cheese with sour cream until smooth in a microwaveable safe bowl. Stir in tuna and antipasto until well combined. Heat on HIGH in the microwave for 5 min. or until mixture is hot throughout. Stir half way through cooking. Stir in the hot sauce and green onions.

Meanwhile, hollow out the loaf of bread to make a bread bowl. Tear the bread from the interior into bite-size pieces. Reserve for dipping. Fill the bread bowl with hot dip and place on a baking sheet. Bake in oven for 15 min. until molten.

- Serve with the reserved bread, assorted veggies and crackers for dipping. Makes 20 servings. Also tastes great as a cold spread!

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Ottawa dedicates new Hillel House

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — A ribbon-cutting ceremony recently marked the opening of Ottawa's new Hillel House, a three-story home where six university students will live during the coming school year.

Mitchell Bellman, president of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, told the assembled that the idea for such a house came up at a federation symposium last February.

"We gathered leaders of our community along with experts in Jewish demography and engagement and challenged participants to consider the big questions facing our community. We focused on the theme 'Will we have Jewish grandchildren?'" Bellman said.

Recognizing that a major challenge for the Jewish community is how to engage its young people, the federation sees Hillel House as a way to provide university and college students with a place to meet comfortably with other Jewish students.

"We want Jewish life on campus to thrive, and in this house, Jewish students will live, learn, make friends, debate issues and determine how they want to maintain their sense of Jewish identity while participating in university life. We see this house and the programs and activities that will be taking place in it as a training ground for future Jewish community leaders."

Ariella Kimmel, student chair of the Jewish Students' Association-Hillel (JSA-Hillel), will be among the house's first residents.

"Though we are few in numbers and spread out over three campuses, the members of the Jewish Students' Association have made significant contributions to student life in Ottawa," Kimmel said. "With this new house, we will be able to do more and we will better be able to connect with all Ottawa students."

The first six residents – three male and three female – come from Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, and each will pay rent of between $500 and $600 per month.

Dov ben-Reuven, director of JSA-Hillel, said the residents will, like any other housemates, decide among themselves how to allocate household chores and responsibilities.

The house will also be used for a wide array of cultural, social, recreational and religious programs for Jewish students.

Ben-Reuven said Shabbat dinners and various other events will be held in the main floor common areas of the house, but the residents will have privacy in their upstairs living quarters, where there is also a small, private lounge area.

The purchase of the home was made possible through a donation by the Minto Foundation.

Rabbi Yona Burr affixes a mezuzah on new Hillel House.
Peter Waiser photo]

L'Shanah Tovah
The NDP wishes you and your family a Happy Rosh Hashanah
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NDP www.ontariondp.com
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Members of the **Ontario Liberal Caucus**
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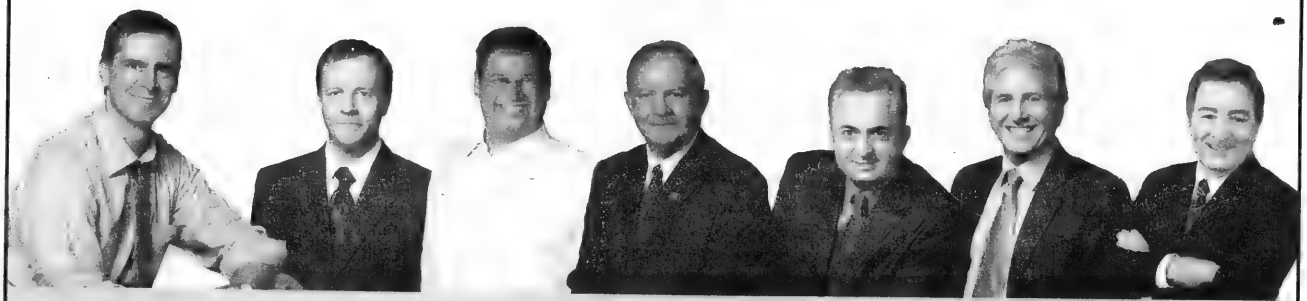
Happy New Year!



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Ryerson students' union angered by Levy's statement

By **SHERI SHEFA**
Staff Reporter

Since Ryerson University president Sheldon Levy issued a statement against the proposed British academic boycott of Israeli universities, the Ryerson Students' Union (RSU) has been busy drafting a motion that calls on Levy to retract his statement.

In July, Levy issued a statement in response to the British University and College Union's (BUCU) proposed boycott of Israeli universities and academics that read, "As a university we embrace understanding, exchange of ideas, empathy and intellectual engagement. We do not shy away from controversy, difficult ideas, or disagreements over deeply held views."

But Heather Kere, the RSU's vice-president of education, said after concerned students learned about Levy's statement against the proposed boycott, they approached the RSU with concerns about "the process he took in order to come to the conclusion of approving of it, or not approving of it. That is when we looked into what could be done about these concerns."

She said that the decision was made to draft a motion that reads: "Be it resolved that the Ryerson Students' Union ask Sheldon Levy to retract his comment and; be it further resolved that a meaningful discussion on the issue involving consultation of students, faculty and staff occur before a public statement from the university issued."

Kere said that this motion has less to do with the statement he made, and more to do with the fact that he did so without consultation and debate, but she is still hoping that the president will retract his comments.

Sheldon Levy

She added that she isn't sure if they would have drafted a similar motion had Levy released a statement in favour of the boycott, "but because the basis for the motion was calling for discussion, that would be something that would have happened. All the motion calls for is discussion, so whether it was for or against, we still believe in the basic fundamental principle of democratic statements."

Kere said she is unaware of any school policy that says the president must consult with the student body before making a statement.

"But because this is an extremely contentious issue, that is why we are asking [for a retraction]… It is not a demand. All we can do is ask as students and say that this is what our membership is saying, this is what we're asking for," she said.

"Whether the discussion ends in the same sort of statement, that is yet to be determined. But it calls for the rescindment of the statements and to have a discussion before such statements are made."

But Jonathan Vandersluis, Hillel's city-wide student council chair and Hillel's past-president at Ryerson, suspects that the biases held by RSU members have more to do with this motion than anything else.

"From my experience, I would anticipate that they have their own views on the subject… It feels like that this whole motion is trying to silence dialogue and… trying to limit the open exchange of ideas and academic freedom," said Vandersluis, who is starting his master's in aerospace engineering at Ryerson this month.

"My personal belief is that it is more about other issues. It is probably their way of trying to get their message across without using the words that they actually mean," he said adding speculation that the real motive behind the motion is related to Kere's ties to the pro-Palestinian movement on campus.

But Vandersluis said he can't prove what conversations she had with pro-Palestinian campus groups prior to drafting the motion.

A published report said that the motion was drafted a day after Kere attended a meeting sponsored by a Student's Against Israeli Apartheid, but Kere denied that this meeting influenced her decision and maintained that the motion was drafted in response to students' concerns.

"To me, it is an attack on the core values of academics. The idea that they want Sheldon Levy to retract his statement would be, in a sense, to support the boycott, and to me, it is limiting the open exchange of ideas, which is not what university campuses should be about," Vandersluis said.

He added that he and other members of Hillel are still in the process of gathering as much information as they can about the motion and will react to the situation as it unfolds.

"We haven't taken any action yet. We're going to see how it plays out. We have a few ideas that we will act on depending on what happens," he said.

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FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel tov to Moishe Weisdorf who celebrated his 96th birthday on July 15. Love, your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Happy 85th birthday Celia Bullion from daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Mindy & Anita, Joe & Eddy, Sarah, Michael, David, Kevin & Sharon, Eden and Dalia.

Dinu & Renee Focsaneanu and Henry & Helen Mail announce the engagement of Dalia & Jason. The excitement is shared among siblings David, Eli and Mandy.

Mazel tov to Josh Foreman on receiving the male athlete award at Grade 8 graduation from Rosedale Heights Public School. Love, Melanie, Mitchell and Hailey Foreman.

Mazel tov to Jonathan & Sandra Itzkovitch on the birth of Myles Aidan. Proud grandparents are Sonny & Debra Itzkovitch and Ernie & Brenda Waltman.

Mazel tov to Andrea Itzkovitch & David Cooper on their engagement. Parents are Sonny & Debra Itzkovitch and Rovena Cooper & the late Mervyn Cooper.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return.

Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments,
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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES. Monday, Sept. 10 is the deadline for the Sept. 26 issue; Monday, Sept. 17 is the deadline for the Oct. 3 issue; Wednesday, Sept. 19 is the deadline for the Oct. 11 issue; and Monday, Oct. 1 is the deadline for the Oct. 18 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0949 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com. I receive calls on deadline days only.

Thursday, Sept. 6

THE BOOK OF SAMUEL

Beth David Synagogue offers weekly class on the *Book of Samuel* beginning today. Newcomers welcome. Class conducted by **Dr. Aaron Nussbaum** in English using Hebrew text. 9:15-10:30 a.m. Free. 416-633-5500

Saturday, Sept. 8

PRE-SLICHOT PROGRAM

Join Shaarei Tefillah Congregation for a pre-Slichot program and melaveh malka, 10:30 p.m, featuring a screening of the BBC film *The Disputation*, followed by a discussion and Slichot service at midnight.

Sunday, Sept. 9

HUGE GARAGE SALE

The Pride of Israel Synagogue holds a garage sale at 150 Connaught Ave. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Rain or shine. 416-226-0111

JUDAICA SALE

Beth David Synagogue Judaica Shop holds a sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Up to 50 per cent off selected items including honey jars, holiday items, hostess gifts, candlesticks, and more. 416-633-5500

SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Join Walk and Talk Etc., Jewish singles 50+, for a fall walk in the forest around Lake Wilcox in Richmond Hill. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot, North Lake Road. For info, walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

HIGH HOLY DAYS

Rabbi Menachem Leibtag will lead a seminar examining the High Holy Days, 9:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Or Chaim Yeshiva, 159 Almore Ave. $15 TimPass holders; students and teachers free. www.torahinmotion.org or 416-633-5770.

BEACH'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Beach Synagogue is holding registration for children's Sunday School from 10 a.m.-noon. Classes begin Oct. 14. 109 Kenilworth Ave. For info contact 416-694-7942 or info@beachsynagogue.com.

KADIMA OPEN HOUSE

Kadima School, a non-sectarian continuing religious education program for students with exceptionalities is opening its doors to all special needs students who are post bar-bat mitzvah regardless of synagogue affiliation. Their goal is to prepare students towards full inclusion and participation in their respective community events and prayer services. Registration today 10 a.m. For info call **Marcel Cohen**, 416-633-3838.

FAMILY FUN DAY

Canadian Friends of Hebrew University Alumni host their annual Family Fun Day of outdoor adventure, entertainment and a barbecue at Camp Robin Hood in Markham, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. $40, family pass $100. For info and tickets, 416-485-8000 or tor@cfhu.org.

FAMILY APPLE PICKING

Join Beth David Synagogue and bring the whole family to apple picking at Albion Orchards. Stock up on apples for Rosh Hashanah. $18 per family. Register at 416-633-5500. All welcome.

FAMILY CELEBRATION

Join the Family Resource Centre for a Family Rosh Hashanah Celebration. 2:15-4 p.m. in the Promenade Mall, suite 313 Members $5/family, non-members $10/family. For info call **Fran**, 905-882 -8509

A HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Healing Project offers a special Rosh Hashanah healing

Continued on page 51

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Introducing the FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL RESOURCE AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING CENTRE:
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COURSES TAKING PLACE IN SEPTEMBER:
• Building Moral Courage: Engaging Students in Democracy – September 11th at 6:00pm •
• Moriah Film Series Screening Featuring: *I Have Never Forgotten You, The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal* – September 17th at 5:30pm •
• Teaching and Learning in a Post September 11th World: Teaching Principles and Classroom Practices – September 19th at 4:30pm •
• Policing Hate Crimes, Mobilizing Communities Against Hatred – September 20th at 6:00pm •
Internet Safety for Parents and Teachers: Taking Back Your Computer – September 24th at 6:00pm •
Teaching the Holocaust Through the Arts: The Shop On Main Street – September 25th at 4:30pm •

All workshops are **FREE** and require pre-registration. Visit us at www.fswc.ca for a full list of workshops, film screenings and other events happening at the Centre.

Workshops also available specifically for educators and police officers.

For more information or to register, call 416-864-9735 ext. 24 or e-mail jkendal@fswc.ca.

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FSWC is a non-profit human rights organization dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust by fostering tolerance and understanding through community involvement, educational outreach and social action.

Continued from page 50

service with **Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum** and **Yehudit Shier Weisberg**. 3-4 p.m. at Lipa Green, room 421, 4600 Bathurst St. Wheelchair access. 416-944-3359.

SCHOOL FUNDING MTG

The community is invited to participate in a mobilization meeting to work towards funding for faith-based schools in the coming provincial election. 7 p.m. at Bais Yaakov Elementary School. For info call **David**, 647-887-8033 or visit www.equalfunding.org.

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND

Congregation Habonim and the Israel Guide Dog Centre for the Blind present **Nili Sedel**, live in concert from Israel, 8 p.m. at 5 Glen Park Ave. Tickets $15 in advance, $18 at the door. Reserve, 416-665-5595 or saundralevy@primus.ca.

Monday, Sept. 10

MITZVAH KNITTERS

Join Mitzvah Knitters for their first meeting of the new year, 7:30 p.m. at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue. Everyone welcome, learn to knit or crochet if you don't know how, they supply the yarn. Mitzvah Knitters knit for non-profit organizations. Donations of money, yarn and needles are appreciated. Call **Janice** at 905-731-0700 or **Arna** at 905-881-8631 for information.

Other News

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES...

Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto has one-stop shopping for all of your High Holy Day needs including an updated list of congregations with extra seating for High Holy Days, visit www.jewishtoronto.com.

Join **Chabad of the Beaches**, 323 Kingston Rd. 1 block east of Kingston Rd. Wednesday, Sept. 12, services 7:30 p.m. followed by traditional meal. Reserve, 416-809-1365 or chabadbeaches@aol.com. Thursday, Sept. 13 and Friday Sept. 14, 9:30 a.m. shofar 11:15 a.m.

Kolel celebrates the High Holy Days with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** at the BJCC. For tickets, 416-636-1880, ext. 255, or www.kolel.org.

Enjoy High Holy Days in cottage country with **Am Shalom Synagogue**, Barrie led by **Rabbi Elyse Glickman** and **Cantor Susan Baskin**. Tickets, contact **Denise**, 705-792-3949, or amshalomcongregation@bellnet.ca.

The Winchevsky Centre hosts a secular Humanistic celebration of Rosh Hashanah, Thursday, Sept. 13, 10:30 a.m. led by members of the community, including shofar blowing, holiday readings and poetry. Tickets, adults $30, children $18, unwaged/students $22. Reservations, 416-789-5502.

.....AND NON-SERVICES

Anshei Minsk Shul invites the community to "Non-Services for Seekers," free high holiday learning experience which explores the spiritual meaning of Rosh Hashanah with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**. Includes teachings, stories, meditations. Bring your questions. Thursday, Sept. 13 and Friday Sept. 14 at 10 a.m. 10 St.Andrew St. For info, 905-761-0040.

STUDY ON LINE

Torah in Motion offers "Teshuva Tefilla Tzedakah: How to Use the Yamim Noraim for Spiritual Growth" with **Rabbi Aharon Adler**, of Yeshivat Bnei Akiva Ner Tamid, Hashmona'im, Sundays Sept, 9, 16 and 23, 8:45 a.m.; "Torah is for Life: The Halakhic Issues of Eating on Yom Kippur" with **Rabbi Adam Mintz**, of Kehilat Rayim Ahuvim, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 9-10 p.m. and "Sukkot, Hakhel, Shmittah: What's it all About?" with **Rabbi Nati Helfgot**, of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 9-10 p.m. Register, www.torahinmotion.org or 416-633-5770.

KADIMA CENTRE

The Kadima Social Recreation Centre for Developmentally Handicapped Adults meets at Beth Emeth Synagogue every Tuesday, 4:30-6:30 p.m. for a Supper Club, and Sundays, 2-4 p.m. Join them for their "Welcome Back Dance and Registration," Sunday, Sept. 23, 2-4 p.m. Info call **Suzanne Agasee**, 416-635-6800.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

The Family Resource Centre at the Promenade Mall has space available for their children's programs: Boogie Babies and Jammin Tots; Drumming Fun and Artsy Craftsy. The Centre also offers a daily drop-in program and a weekly Shabbat Circle. Newcomers can join our Conversation Café, a joint program with JIAS, Tuesdays 10:15-11:15 a.m. beginning Sept. 18. For information call **Fran**, 905-882-8509.

JF&CS WORKSHOP

Join a Jewish Family and Child workshop "When You are About to Separate" and find out how and when to tell the children, and get ideas and strategies to best meet their needs. Wednesday, Sept. 19, 6:30-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #303, Call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215, or visit www.jfandcs.com.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 54

REENA: GUYS NIGHT OUT

Reena Foundation's Young Leadership Division is holding a "Guys Night Out," Wednesday, Sept. 19 for men 30+ at Woodbine Racetrack. All proceeds go towards Reena's Respite Programs, providing support to individuals with developmental disabilities. Tickets $100, call **Dayna Henechowicz**, 905-764-108,1 ext. 30.

ONE FAMILY BIKEATHON

Join One Family Fund on Sunday, Sept. 30 for a Bikeathon through the countryside around historic Unionville to raise funds for victims of terror and their families in Israel. Choose between a 20 km or a 50 km route. Lots of prizes and giveaways. Register at www.onefamilyfund.org.

EATING DISORDERS SUPPORT

Eating Disorders of York Region provides services, education, support groups for families and friends of individuals who are affected by eating disorders. Join them Thursday evenings 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Thornhill Square Mall, 300 John St., suite 271. For information contact 416-576-0457 or visit www.edoyr.com.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer, or for more information on these programs call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafe, newcomers to Canada are invited to practice speaking English in a casual, friendly environment with JIAS volunteers Thursday evenings at the Bathurst JCC or Thursday afternoon location in Thornhill. Children are welcome.

"JUMPStart," If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer call **Elisa**, ext. 24.

FOR SENIORS

Temple Sinai Senior Club hosts the Montcrest Big Band, playing big band and swing music reminiscent of the famous bands of the 30's and 40's. Join them Sunday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. Members $5, guests $7. RSVP 416 487-3821.

The Association of Jewish Seniors' Sukkah Luncheon will take place Thursday, Oct. 2 at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation with entertainment and lunch. Members $15, guests $20. Reserve by Sept. 20, call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park. Sunday dance, Sept. 23; Casino Fallsview Niagara, Tuesday, Sept. 18. For information, call 416-395-7881.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

High Holy Day tickets are on sale at the Wagman service desk, ext. 2267. $80.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies, Sept. 7, 1-3 p.m.

Trip to ROM, Monday, Sept. 17, 10:30 a.m. Members $13, guests $16. Reserve at ext. 2267.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Theeba Poopalasingham on "Taking Proper Care of Your Feet," Thursday, Sept. 6. 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Hearing Clinic, Friday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Call ext. 126 for appointment.

Arthritis Clinic, Monday. Sept. 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Call ext. 126 for appointment.

Doug Haddow speaks on "Current Events," Tuesdays, Sept 11 and 18, 10–11:30 a.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Red Cross Babysitting Course for 11- to 14-year-olds takes place Sunday, Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required, call ext. 235.

Register now for September programs and classes for birth to six years old at the Family Place at Jewish Discovery Museum. For information, call ext. 390 or to register call ext. 235.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Divine Proportion: The Medieval Jewish Body, New Works by **Myriam Nafte** exploring Jewish faith in the arts and sciences, painted works on canvas, sculpture and glass. Opening reception Sunday, Sept. 9, 11 a.m.

55 Forward Focus Group, let the Miles Nadal JCC hear your ideas regarding the kind of programs you want to be part of, participate in a Program Focus Group, adults ages 55 +, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2 p.m.RSVP, **Randi Sokolsky**, ext. 154.

The 2007-08 Miles Nadal JCC program book is now available at www.mnjcc.org. To register, call ext. 0.

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prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Fanny Rosenblum	**Aug 19/07**	**425 Walmer Road**
Gloria Barry	**Aug 20/07**	**3 Christina Falls Way**
Ruth Goldstein	**Aug 20/07**	**294 Betty Ann Dr.**
Bernice Zubata	**Aug 20/07**	**240 Heath St. W.**
Ruth (Wicky) Briks	**Aug 22/07**	**67 Wembley Road**
Ethel Ross	**Aug 19/07**	**5000 Montrose,**
Esther Banack	**Aug 23/07**	**1100 Byron Baseline Road**
Helen Warner	**Aug 24/07**	**80 St. Clair Ave. East,**
Wilfred Stemeroff	**Aug 24/07**	**355 Clarke St., W.**
Bessie Wilks	**Aug 25/07**	**3560 Bathurst St.**
Geri Willinsky	**Aug 25/07**	**265 Ridley Blvd.**
Tal Doron	**Aug 26/07**	**31 Amberty Street**

HEBREW BASIC

Annie Benson	**Aug 16/07**	**3 Candice Gate**

Mietek Weinreich ז"ל

At 80 years and one month, Mietek passed away peacefully on Saturday August 25th, 2007 at 1:30 AM at his home in Toronto. He was surrounded by his loved ones who shared in his passing. He is greatly missed by his wife of 56 years Tamara; his son Erez and family - his wife Li, daughter Danielle and son in law Tony; his daughter Pnina and family – her husband Alon, son David and daughter in law Taryn, daughter Adee, son Jonathan, and son Ave; and son Yoram and his family – wife Ronit, son Raz, daughter Maya, son Ely and son Ariel. He is also missed by his extended family in Toronto, New York and Israel as well as his many, many friends.

Mietek was born in Grojec, Poland on July 24, 1927 into a well to do family. Before the war, he had a privileged life and was dearly loved by his father, mother and sister. The war transformed his life and his future. Leaving his mother and sister in the safety of Nazi occupied Poland, his father took him and fled to Russian occupied Poland. He never saw his sister or mother again.

With the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Germany, Mietek and his father made their way into Russia – moving with the advancing Russian front. Along the way, Mietek lost his father and was left an orphan fending for himself. With the strength of his personality he made his way to Tashkent in Uzbekistan where he survived the remainder of the war. There, he worked in the mines for a time, and then was an assistant to a wartime "merchant". Along the way, he caught malaria which plagued him for the remainder of his life. But he survived, on little more than guts and determination.

After the war, he made his way back to Poland to find what was left of his family. He reconnected with his cousin Luba – who helped him to stay in Poland. There he entered the orphanage Srodmorow. He became an ardent Zionist and joined Hashomer Hatzair – where he became a leader of his group establishing lifelong friendships

In 1949, he emigrated to Israel and settled on Kibbutz Revadim. He became one of the pioneers that built the country – plowing the barren fields and making them bloom. He was a devoted socialist and Zionist and believed in the ideals of equality and a homeland for the Jewish people. His love for Israel was intense and passionate. His friendships from that time were deep and long lasting. During that time, he married his wife Tamara, and had two children – Erez and Pnina.

In 1959, he and his family moved to Toronto. Here, he established a successful chain of retail stores that became Lumberking, Lumber City and Lumber Guys. He was a great marketer and had a love for merchandising and selling. In Canada, he had his final child – Yoram.

Mietek was involved in many charities throughout his life. He helped found the Anne Frank Foundation for needy children in Israel. He also raised funds for Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and Toronto. In later life, he was involved in JIAS where he helped many Russian Jewish immigrants to establish themselves in Canada. He was a member of Free Loan CASSA which helped give financing to many Jewish people in need.

In the past 47 years in Canada, Mietek created a great success – providing well for his family and giving the opportunity to succeed in their own right. A larger than life personality, Mietek was the center of any social gathering, business meeting or family function in which he participated.

He was an intellectual who mastered 3 languages and read high literature in all. He was generous and warm. He opened his home to all. Often it was said that visitors from Israel to Toronto first went to customs and then went to the Weinreich home. This was often true.

Mietek had a full rich life and a remarkable journey. We miss him dearly.

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Mount Sinai
Memorial Park
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Shaarei Tefillah Section
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honouring the memory of
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LIPSON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 9th,
11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn
Memorial Park
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
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will take place
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CNN does a poor job explaining Jewish extremism

According to Reports

By
PAUL MICHAELS

CNN recently (and repeatedly) aired the documentary *God's Jewish Warriors*, the first in a three-part series titled *God's Warriors*, anchored by Christiane Amanpour. The program was so sensational and so lacking in perspective as to leave its audience confused and ill-informed about the extent and impact of Jewish religious extremism.

Beginning with a reference to 9/11, the feature implies a moral equivalence between Jewish radicalism and the reigning terrorism today, which is overwhelmingly Islamist.

Downplayed was the fact that Israel's Shin Bet monitors Jewish extremists closely, that the state prosecutes offenders, and that the overwhelming majority of Israelis repudiate the heinous acts of extremists such as Baruch Goldstein, an extremist who killed 29 Arabs in a shooting massacre at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron in 1994. True, Jewish fanatics have their supporters and are dangerous, but as former Shin Bet head Carmi Gillon noted, they number only a few hundred.

However, the documentary makes them appear to constitute a far larger faction of both Israeli society in general and the settler movement in particular.

After the Six Day War, Israel attempted to return land

The feature's account of Arab-Israeli history omits essential basic facts that highlight Israel's long search for peace and security.

For example, Amanpour begins her account of Hebron's history in 1967, omitting the fact that Jews had lived there for generations. Many were massacred in 1929, and then totally expelled when Jordanian forces invaded the West Bank in 1948.

She also does not explain that in its 3,000-year history, Jerusalem was only divided by the Jordanian invasion of the nascent Jewish state in 1948, but was reunited by Israel during the June 1967 war. Similarly, she fails to note that, contrary to the Israel-Jordan ceasefire agreement following the 1948 war, Jews were forbidden to visit their holiest sites.

As well, Amanpour neglects to mention that after the Six Day War, Israel attempted to return land captured legitimately in an act of self-defence. The Arab League replied with the famous "three Nos": no peace, no recognition, no negotiations with Israel.

Amanpour relies heavily on former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, author of the very controversial book *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, who insists that "no rational analyst" could deny that Israel's settlements are "*the* [Carter's emphasis] major impediment to peace." Yet no other "rational" expert, such as former U.S. president Bill Clinton, is heard from to offer a contrary opinion.

The Camp David talks in 2000 did not break down over settlements. They failed over then-PA president Yasser Arafat's rejection of the right of Jewish sovereignty in Jerusalem, and by extension in Israel itself, along with his insistence on the "right of return" of Palestinian refugees to Israel – an act that would spell the end of Israel as a Jewish state.

The basic premise of the CNN feature, that "Jewish warriors" (a phrase repeated ad nauseum) are the principal threat to Arab-Israeli peace, is false. This becomes evident during coverage of events in August 2005, when Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza, and 9,000 settlers left their homes, protesting, but without violence.

Opinion polls have shown that a majority of Israeli settlers would accept compensation if a genuine peace was brokered.

Furthermore, if the settler "warriors" have been such an effective force against peace, what accounts for the Israel-Egypt peace agreement in 1979, Israel's subsequent withdrawal of settlers from the Sinai, and, during the Oslo process (1993-2000), its withdrawal from areas in the West Bank? In the feature, these agreements are mentioned in passing, but seem to emerge out of nowhere.

God's Jewish Warriors is riddled with inconsistencies and contradictions that inadvertently prove, contrary to its own premise, that when Israel has the chance for real peace, it seizes the opportunity.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Coast to Coast

Local volunteers help preserve World War II bomber

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

An Avro Lancaster Mark X bomber plane built to fly during World War II is being preserved by a volunteer team at the Toronto Aerospace Museum.

"We're saving a piece of Canadian history which is representative of an era when people did unbelievable things," volunteer Paul Spiar said of the Lancaster, which is known by its FM104 serial number.

"It's incredibly important to keep this history and the stories alive."

Of the 7,366 Lancasters built during the war, 430 were built in Canada on the site of what is now Pearson International Airport. Some 4,000 were lost during the war, and today, approximately 20 remain worldwide, only two of which still fly.

The FM104 at the museum, located in Downsview Park, was built in late 1944 and flown to England in January 1945. It never saw action during the war.

The plane had a diverse career afterward, including a maritime reconnaissance role and various jobs with the 107 Rescue Unit of Maritime Air Command in Newfoundland, including work over water. Its primary role was search and rescue.

But in 1965, the aircraft, at that point belonging to the City of Toronto, was mounted on a plinth (a heavy base) on Lakeshore Boulevard as a monument to Canadian airmen who died in the war. For more than 30 years, the plane sat exposed to the elements, as well as to thieves and vandals.

"It was vandalized beyond belief. There were even homeless people sleeping in it," said Spiar.

Anything worth keeping as a souvenir was gutted from the plane's inside.

Wilfred Mandel, left, and Paul Spiar stand beside the Avro Lancaster Mark X FM104.

In 1998, Heritage Toronto decided to donate the plane to the Toronto Aerospace Museum.

The preservation process started then, and it's expected to take at least another 10 years to complete, and cost $750,000. The museum is shouldering most of the cost, which is offset by some donations and a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Project manager Andrew Walz leads what he described as an "eclectic" group of about 17 to 22 volunteers on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

About only 10 per cent have experience with aircraft, he said.

Walz said the FM104 is a preservation, rather than a restoration, project, because the group focuses on saving as much of the original plane as possible rather than making it safe for flight.

Continued on page 55

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Plane will be on permanent display at museum

'We're saving a piece of Canadian history'

Continued from page 54

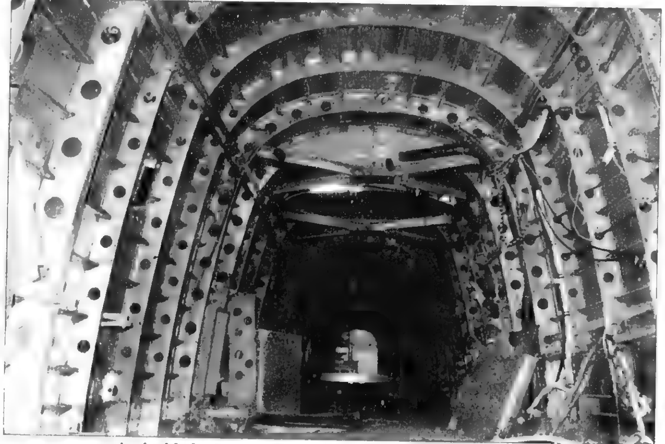
Spiar recalled spending hours removing and refurbishing the plane's original bolts. If the project's goal was restoration, the bolts would have been scrapped and replaced with new ones, he said.

"It won't run again. It's a museum piece, not a hobby," Walz said.

Spiar, who runs a clothing store, has absolutely no experience working with aircraft, although learning about history and aircraft is one of his hobbies.

He got involved with the project in 2000 when he heard about the plane's move and preservation.

"I talked to some of the veterans and I looked at this aircraft and realized what people did, and it makes me wonder if my generation would do what these people did," he said.


An inside look at the plane, from just behind the cockpit.

"I also feel privileged to work on this. I don't know anything about aircraft restoration. I'm not a mechanic. Hopefully, this aircraft is going to be around long after I've gone to dust."

Once the plane is finished, it will be on permanent display at the museum.

Spiar recruited his friend, Wilfred Mandel, to join the volunteer team in 2002.

Mandel also has no experience working on aircraft, but he does have a personal connection to flight.

His uncle, William Fisher, was a navigator on a Lancaster during the war. In 1948, Fisher volunteered to fly for Israel's fledgling air force. He moved to the new state at the end of August of that year, and in October, the plane he was on with five others crashed, and he died.

"I'm a real estate agent, but I thought it's sort of a link between me and my uncle," Mandel said. "He was only 25 when he was killed. He got through the war without a scratch, and he was only in Israel two months and lost his life there."

Mandel has enjoyed working on FM104, doing everything from scraping off old paint to working on one of the plane's four engines.

"My own observation is that our young generation does not have a real appreciation of what our [older] generation went through. Anything we can do to try and preserve it will help us all."

The plane is 69 feet long with a 103-foot wingspan. The inside floor was torched out to mount it on the plinth, and parts of the fuselage, or body, are extremely damaged.

"It was about two years away from falling off [the plinth] on its own," Walz said of the plane's terrible state before coming to the museum.

In addition to fixing the fuselage, major tasks in the preservation process include fixing the plane's four engines, one of which is almost complete.

Spiar, Mandel and Walz encourage anyone with any memorabilia, uniforms or Lancaster parts to donate them to the museum, which can provide a tax receipt. For more information, visit www.torontoaerospacemuseum.com.

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Winnipegger teaches sculpture to Jewish, Arab youth

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Mia Feuer is a budding sculptor with a social conscience.

The University of Manitoba Fine Arts graduate (2005) has led sculpting workshops for Winnipeg inner city kids. And, in late July, she returned from four months in the Middle East teaching sculpture to Arab and Israeli youth.

"I have had an interest in the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli conflict for quite a while," says the 26-year-old. "I was inspired by my birthright [israel] trip four years ago."

Last fall, with the help of grants from the Manitoba Arts Council and the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, Feuer mounted a showing of her work.

Titled "The Land That Buries Its Children," the interactive exhibit focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The exhibition, Feuer notes, was very well received, with one publication ranking it among the top 10 best shows in Winnipeg last year.

Wanting to learn more about the conflict first-hand, Feuer travelled to Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam in April for a two-month stay. The community of 55 families, is located between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

It was established 35 years ago by Arab and Jewish Israelis to try to prove that co-existence is possible, and it's the only community in Israel where Jews and Arabs have chosen to live together, Feuer says.

At Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the young Winnipegger spent her time facilitating sculpting and painting workshops in the village school and the youth club. She describes Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam as a wealthy community in a beautiful setting.

"Although the atmosphere is generally positive," she says of the community, "there are tensions that occur around certain holidays, such as Yom Ha'atzmaut, or when the Jewish Israeli youth are called up for army duty. But at least there is dialogue."

Mia Feuer

Through contacts at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, Feuer was able to line up workshops in several West Bank Arab communities – such as Hebron, Nablus and Ramallah – where she spent the last two months of her stay in the area.

She is careful with her words in describing the living conditions of the Palestinians she got to know.

"They [most of the Palestinians she came in contact with] live in very difficult conditions," she says. "In the Balata refugee camp, for example, there are 28,000 residents crammed into one square mile. They have nothing. I can understand why some of them choose violence. But most of them just want to live normal lives."

She says that the fact of her being Jewish didn't seem to disturb anyone in the West Bank community.

"When people found out I was Jewish, they welcomed me," she says. "Most Palestinians on the West Bank don't come across Jews in non-threatening situations."

What *was* scary for her was the ever-present sounds of violence. She recalls that in Nablus, for example, she could hear gunshots every 10 minutes.There was also a constant Israeli army presence and the streets were lined with demolished buildings.

Back home in Winnipeg, her father, Glen, says he had many sleepless nights while his daughter was in the West Bank.

Feuer was back briefly in Winnipeg in late July and early August before moving on to Virginia Commonwealth University, where she will be continuing her studies in sculpture for the next two years.

She says the school is the top-ranked university in North America for sculpture.

"I was really honoured to be accepted there," Feuer says.

She is also appreciative of being awarded the 2007 Mona Gray Creative Arts Scholarship by the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. The $5,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a graduate of a Manitoba institute who is pursuing graduate studies in fine arts, music, theatre, dance, film, photography or creative writing.

After finishing her studies, she hopes to work as a sculptor and maybe a professor teaching sculpture at university. She would also like to continue to teach art to kids in war-torn areas.

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Winnipeg CJA campaign gets off to low-key start

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — This year, Winnipeg's annual Combined Jewish Appeal campaign kicked off this month without the hoopla of recent years.

For the past two years, the campaign began or ended with a by-invitation-only party at a downtown nightclub that featured interactive theatre and music intended to personalize for major donors what the money raised means to individuals and organizations in the community.

"Every year, we have to come up with ever-better entertainment," says businessman Ben Cohen, this year's CJA campaign chair. "We decided to take a break from that this year."

New this year will be targeted events and telethons, in addition to a community-wide "Super Week" telethon that started on Sep. 4, Cohen said.

"We will have mini-telethons with doctors calling doctors and lawyers calling lawyers, for example," he added. "That way, we will have different groups of people calling together rather than in isolation."

This year's campaign goal is $5.3 million, about $150,000 more than was raised last year, Cohen said. The target last year was actually $5 million. It was the 12th year in a row that the annual campaign has shown an increase over the year before and also exceeded its goal.

Last year, the federation raised an additional $2.2 million in emergency funding for Israel in light of the heavy destruction in northern Israel suffered during the Second Lebanon War.

"This year, we will be able to focus mainly on our local needs," Cohen said. "We still have a lot to do in terms of absorbing the many immigrants who have moved here in the past few years."

(While immigration from South America has virtually ended – about 100 Argentine Jewish families came here in the early part of this decade – the flow of immigrants from Israel, most of them Jews from the former Soviet Union, continues at a steady pace.)

The 2007 CJA Campaign mini-events include a top donors evening on Sept. 6 focusing on the needs of the community. Speakers will address the importance of a Jewish education, poverty in the Jewish community and the Grow Winnipeg Initiative, the federation's campaign to increase the size of the community.

Ben Cohen

On Sept. 9, the Rady Centre will host a CJA appreciation afternoon for families that will be open to everyone in the community.

On Sept. 10, the Women's Campaign Lion of Judah luncheon will feature guest speaker Prof. Mira Sucharov of Carleton University's political science department, whose topic will be "From Abbas to Hamas and Back Again."

On Sept. 17, lawyer Todd Campbell will advise participants attending a doctors division program about protecting themselves from malpractice.

On Sept 20, lawyer Florence Carey will speak to the financial services, lawyers and business division about charitable giving.

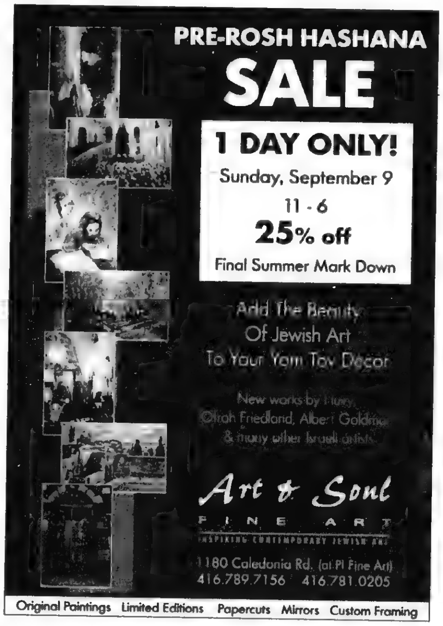
The last program, the "Plus Giving" event for the women's campaign on Oct. 11, will be an evening with U.S. comedian Joel Chasnoff.

The Super Week co-chairs this year are younger community members Steven Hyman, a lawyer, and Lindsay Sawyer, a community planner. Both are in their early 30s.

Sawyer became involved in the community two years ago through the federation's young adult division. She and her husband, Sam Fay, also took part in the federation's "Club Fed" young leadership development program.

Hyman is the longtime cantor at the Sharon Home, the community's extended care home for the elderly. He is also a "Club Fed" graduate.

Hyman and Sawyer worked together previously co-chairing a community bone marrow clinic last year.



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London launches Melton adult mini-school

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

London, Ont., is getting its own Florence Melton Adult Mini-School (FMAMS) program, which will begin holding classes on Oct. 9.

This Sunday evening, there will be a celebratory and informational event at the London Jewish Community Centre.

The launching of the program, which will be a satellite of the Melton program in Toronto, is a "very significant" event for a community of London's size (about 2,800 people plus about 3,000 Jewish students at the University of Western Ontario), said Alan Nagus, a retired civil servant who – along with fellow retirees Fred Ball and Art Benjamin, and Sondy Taran, a mother of four – was part of a small group instrumental in getting the initiative off the ground.

"London will be, if not the smallest, then one of the smallest Jewish communities that will have been able to bring the Florence Melton program to the community," said Nagus. "For a community this size to be able to put this program on, we are very proud of that."

The FMAMS, which was founded in 1986, is an adult Jewish education program with a two-year curriculum that was developed at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. According to its website, it is the largest pluralistic adult Jewish education network in the world, with 62 mini-schools in 60 cities throughout the United States, Canada, England and Australia.

Esther Marcus, executive director of London's Jewish Federation, which is supporting the program financially and providing space for classes, told *The CJN*, "We were thrilled to be able to help bring Melton to our community, and as a pluralistic community, we felt that this would certainly fit into our mandate for education."

The community has many opportunities for people to take Jewish classes, she said, citing a program called JEM and the upcoming launch in November of the Jewish Learning Institute at Congregation Beth Tefilah, London's Orthodox synagogue.

Nagus told *The CJN* that the Melton program appealed to him because of its in-depth curriculum and worldwide reputation. He first investigated it about four years ago when he was trying to develop an adult education program at his synagogue, Congregation Or Shalom.

The FMAMS has five locations in Canada including Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

Loretta Tanenbaum, director of the Toronto program, which is starting its seventh year, said that Melton teachers do not lecture, but rather students and teachers alike grapple with the text and share their interpretations with each other.

"All of the Melton teachers are open, and not afraid to discuss points of view other than their own," she said. "The classroom needs to be a 'safe' environment. The participants are told they can ask any question they want, and make any statement they want... Nobody is going to be put down, and indeed the people who come to the classes are coming from a variety of backgrounds."

The new endeavour is a program of the London Jewish Federation. It is funded by the federation, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and private contributors, Nagus said.

Benjamin, a lay Jewish educator who is active in London's Temple Israel, has been hired as one of three teachers, or facilitators, along with Avraham (Arthur) Brown, a professor at the University of Western Ontario, and William Klein, a dentist who is active at Or Shalom leading services and teaching Judaic studies. Nancy Pazner has been hired as director.

As of last week, 18 students had signed up for the program and another five had "indicated a strong commitment," said Nagus. The are expected to have between 12 and 20 students each. Both morning and evening classes will be available, and tuition is $495 for the year (one class per week).

For further information or to register for classes or this Sunday's event, call at 519-673-3310, ext. 103.

COMBINED JEWISH APPEAL LAUNCH: Michael Cape, general campaign chair of the 2007 Combined Jewish Appeal, and women's chair Sylvia Quint attended the launch of the 2007 Combined Jewish Appeal late last month in Montreal. Cape stressed that every Jewish child must have the opportunity to maximize his or potential, regardless of his or her socio-economic circumstances, including access to formal or informal Jewish education. "It is our responsibility to care for those who are vulnerable, whether because they are poor, or aged, or newly arrived in Montreal," he added. The campaign concludes Nov. 22.

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Ex-minister urges Olympic boycott over Darfur

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Former federal cabinet minister David Kilgour called for a boycott of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games to protest China's failure to use its leverage with Sudan to end the conflict in Darfur, as well as human rights abuses against its own citizens.

"In my view, shaming the government of China is the best hope of saving civilian lives in Darfur," he said.

Kilgour, a guest speaker at an Aug. 16 conference organized by Save Darfur Canada and the Institute for Public Affairs of Montreal, said China continues to protect the Sudanese government from blame because it's dependent on the African country for seven per cent of its oil imports.

Although China, as one of five permanent members, voted for the United Nations Security Council resolution adopted in July authorizing the deployment of a 26,000-member peacekeeping mission in Darfur, Kilgour said the motion was watered down due to China's demands and contains no provision to sanction Khartoum if it does not comply with the terms. The joint UN and African Union military and police forces are scheduled to arrive in December, a timetable that is "excruciatingly slow," he said.

China is Sudan's largest trading partner, and Sudan has benefited from $10 billion in receipts from China over the past decade, Kilgour said. China has also supplied Sudan with significant amounts of arms and poured millions of aid into the country, he added.

Kilgour, a longtime MP from Edmonton until 2006, was secretary of state for the Asia-Pacific region and, earlier, for Latin America and Africa, in the Chrétien government.

He said Sudan is currently not fully abiding by a peace agreement to settle a bloody conflict with the Christian minority in the south of the country that went on for years before the Darfur crisis began in 2003.

Kilgour also urged other means of putting pressure on China such as demonstrations outside the country's diplomatic missions accusing China of "complicity in genocide."

Kilgour and Winnipeg human rights lawyer David Matas are the authors of the *Report into Allegations of Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners*, released last year in Ottawa and recently updated, which found evidence that the Chinese government is selling the organs of executed members of the banned group to those in need of transplants, including foreigners, for high prices.

Another speaker at the conference, retired Canadian general Lewis MacKenzie, said he's doubtful that UN-AU peacekeepers will be in Darfur by December and thinks that they will be ineffective once they arrive.

MacKenzie, who was commander of the UN protection force in the former Yugoslavia in 1992 during the height of the Bosnian civil war, said the planned Darfur mission is too small.

The region is about the size of Texas and that amounts to about one soldier for every 1.5 kilometres, he said. Put another way, MacKenzie said that's the equivalent of 24 soldiers for an area the size of Montreal, which, he pointed out, has 4,400 police officers to protect it.

"It's totally ludicrous to expect that number to control the situation," he said.

He said that the mission will also not have the communications infrastructure or the transport, such as modern helicopters, to be sufficiently mobile.

He noted only about 14,000 of the troops will actually be armed.

"This 'hybrid' force will be ill-equipped, underfunded and underpaid and that will lead to corruption [among the troops]," he said.

MacKenzie said that when he called for NATO intervention in Darfur three years ago he was labelled a racist. "They said I was suggesting the white man go to Africa and solve a black man's problem."

He criticized the UN's "glacial decision-making process" and the fundamental flaw of having five permanent Security Council member countries who each have the power to veto, which they will use if it's in their national interest.

"The Security Council is no longer capable of dealing with problems like this," and he suspects no national government is going to take the lead either, he said.

He called the Security Council resolution "a brilliant piece of international diplomacy that gets the permanent five members off the hook for a year.

"Khartoum loves this, that we just can't get our act together," MacKenzie said.

McGill University law professor Payam Akhavan, who was a legal adviser to the prosecution during the war-crimes trials at The Hague for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, said Darfur was a "preventable genocide" that points to "the moral failings of the international community to give meaning to the vow 'never again' made after World War II."

The Iranian-born Akhavan said that the Darfur crisis is "above all, a deliberate political choice that benefits someone in power. We have to send the message that crime does not pay."

He said the International Criminal Court identified 51 people in Darfur suspected of crimes against humanity, and two were recently indicted: the leader of the Janjaweed militia and a minister in the Sudanese government. The rest of the suspects' names have not been made public, he said.

Save Darfur Canada is an umbrella organization of more than 50 organizations affiliated with the Washington-based Save Darfur, which seeks to raise awareness of the conflict and to lobby governments and international bodies to act to stop it.

Executive director Tara Tavender, a former Concordia University student, said Save Darfur Canada will launch a national campaign in September to send 300,000 postcards to Prime Minister Stephen Harper calling for action on Darfur. It's also bringing the photo exhibition Darfur/Darfur to Montreal at the end of September. The show is touring 24 cities in 24 months.

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AUGUST 30, 2007
ELUL 16, 5767

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY
PREMIER'S REMARKS SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED

Dear Friends:

We are writing to you with a sense of anguish over recent remarks made by the Premier of Ontario on the issue of public education funding.

On August 22, the Premier was quoted as saying that including all qualifying faith-based schools in the province's publicly funded education system would lead to the unraveling of social cohesion. In the weeks since the Premier's assertion, many community members have called us to express their disappointment and dismay at such hurtful remarks that cast aspersions on Jewish day schools and schools of other faiths.

Our day schools teach respect for all members of society – not the opposite – and we encourage our students to strengthen the society around us through their volunteer work and their careers. Thousands of our graduates are important contributors to Canadian life and its celebrated diversity. They include medical researchers, social workers, professionals in the arts and many more. To suggest that our schools are divisive is offensive.

Regardless of one's position on public education funding, the debate must be conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Therefore, we urge Premier McGuinty to reconsider his offensive statement and deal with the real issues at hand.

We believe that fairness is the primary consideration surrounding the question of public education funding. Ontario is the only province to provide funding for one faith-based school system to the exclusion of all others. While 650,000 students within the faith-based Catholic system are part of public education, 53,000 other faith-based students are excluded.

The status quo is both unfair and indefensible. The remedy, in our opinion, is inclusive public education – the inclusion of all faith-based schools that meet provincial educational standards – in the publicly funded school system.

Whether or not your children are among 11,000 attending day schools in the Greater Toronto Area, it is undeniable that Jewish day schools symbolize the acceptance of Jews and Jewish life within Canadian society. They strengthen our role within this remarkable country. Public education funding is a primary community concern for everyone. Let's insist that our Premier replace fear with fairness as the debate continues.

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Stop pushing for Israeli concessions

By MOSHE YA'ALON
JTA

Opinion

After a few years of benign neglect, Israel is back on the itineraries of well-meaning foreign emissaries. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair visited the country in July in his new role as special envoy of the Quartet (United Nations, United States, European Union and Russia) of Middle East peacemakers. In August, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived.

Each visit concluded with a news conference at which promises of progress were made. But before any lasting on-the-ground movement toward peace can be achieved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, foreign emissaries, as well as some Israelis, will have to shake off some long-disproved tenets of the conventional wisdom about the dispute.

Diplomats bring to Israel four main misconceptions. Primary among them is the idea that solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a prerequisite for stability in the Middle East.

The region is riven by clashes that have nothing to do with Israel. For instance, the Jewish state plays no role in the conflict between Shi'ites and Sunnis, between Persians and Arabs or between Arab nationalists and Arab Islamists.

Moshe Ya'alon

The second misconception is that Israeli territorial concessions are the key to progress. The reality is that an ascendant jihadist Islam believes that it is leading the battle against Israel and the rest of the West. Given this dynamic, Israeli territorial or other concessions simply fill the jihadists' sails, reinforcing their belief that Israel and the West are weak and can be militarily defeated.

True, a majority of Israelis supported Israel's unilateral withdrawals from Lebanon in 2000 and from the Gaza Strip in 2005 in the belief that meeting Hezbollah and Palestinian territorial demands would nullify the cause of conflict between them. We now know the results: the Hezbollah and Palestinian reactions – concerted terror wars, kidnapped Israeli soldiers, rockets fired at Israeli cities – made clear that the Mideast's central conflict is not territorial but ideological. And ideology cannot be defeated by concessions.

Emissaries also still believe that "the Occupation" blocks agreement between Israelis and Palestinians. In the West, the term usually means the territories Israel conquered in the Six Day War in 1967. If the problem between Israelis and Palestinians were just the 1967 territories, and the solution were dividing those lands between the two sides – as proposed most recently in 2000 by then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak – the conflict would have ended long ago.

Instead, the heart of the problem is that many Palestinians – Fatah and Hamas, in particular – and even some Israeli Arabs use "occupation" to refer to all Israel. They do not recognize the Jewish people's right to an independent state, a right affirmed again and again in the international arena.

Finally, the well-intentioned visiting diplomats believe that the Palestinians want – and have the ability – to establish a state that will live in peace alongside Israel. But they are not being clear-eyed. The late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat established a "thugocracy" that never improved the basic living conditions of his people. Indeed, Palestinian unemployment and poverty are worse today than they were before Arafat and his cronies assumed power in 1994.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas did not take responsibility for the welfare of Gazans, which in part led to Hamas' electoral victory in 2006. Now confined to the West Bank after Hamas kicked his Fatah organization out of Gaza, Abbas has not moved to create a governmental structure.

A corollary of this fourth misconception is the belief that economic development can neutralize extreme nationalism and religious fanaticism, thus clearing the way toward peace and security. David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, had a term for such believers: "naive Zionists." Those who fit this description should demand that the Palestinians explain what they did with the $7 billion in international aid they received over the years.

Seven billion reasons for economic progress – so why did Palestinian mobs destroy the Erez industrial zone, where Palestinians worked and ran businesses for decades, on the Gaza border? Why do they attack safe roads linking Gaza and the West Bank? Why is the Palestinian economy in shambles?Shorn of these mistaken assumptions, the picture in the Middle East is disturbing indeed. No wonder emissaries hold on to them. So what to do?

For starters, western governments and their emissaries must refrain from pressuring Israel for territorial or security concessions, which at best produces only short-term gains and emboldens the Islamist terror groups.

Instead they should try to persuade the Palestinian leaders to commit to a long-term strategy premised on educational, political and economic reforms that would lead to the establishment of a civil society that cherishes life, not death; values human rights and freedom; and develops a middle class, not a corrupt, rich elite.

At the same time, these governments should set up an international fund that would offer Palestinian refugee families aid – say $100,000 to $200,000 per family – for their resettlement on the condition that their acceptance of the money would signify resolution of their refugee status.

Under no circumstances should emissaries attempt to open a dialogue with Hamas. For the sake of Palestinian society, Hamas and its ideology must be defeated. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not the most significant today; it's the battle between jihadist Islam and the West, of which Israel is merely one theater. To defeat jihadist Islam, the West must overcome the regimes, organizations and ideologies that support and feed it. Hamas is foremost among them.

The emissaries who travel to Israel must draw on their rich diplomatic experience, free themselves from misconceptions about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the petty politics that flows from them – especially the binds of political correctness – to lead us all toward freedom, security and peace. Anything else is mere meddling.

Moshe Ya'alon is a fellow at the Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies at the Shalem Center. He served as the 17th chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces.

'Scandalous and shocking'

Continued from page 1

"It is clear from this week that the OIC is dominant and the Islamic agenda will dominate. The question is to what extent will the West and Louise Arbour… oppose any initiative that subverts human rights principles… and oppose any initiatives that unfairly singles out Israel or any other country," he added.

Irwin Cotler, Canada's former minister of justice, said the 2001 Durban gathering "became a conference of racism against Israel and Jews. We have to guard that Durban II does not go down that road. But regrettably, the indications are that Durban II may be proceeding in that direction, except in a more sophisticated way. In other words, the deligitimization of Israel may be laundered under the banner of anti-racism, proceed under the protective cover of the United Nations, invoke the imprimatur of international law, have the support system of NGOs and then result in a kind of moral imperative in respect to deligitimization."

Cotler said the evidence that is pointing to another anti-Israel gathering is both "scandalous" and "shocking."

The United Nation's planning committee includes Iran, a Holocaust-denying and genocide-inciting state, while the committee is chaired by Libya, itself a violator of the human rights of its own citizens and of foreigners.

"We need benchmarks and clear and authoritative indications" from Arbour, from NGOs such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, "that this kind of deligitimization will not go on," he said.

In Ottawa, meanwhile, Canadian Jewish Congress has already made its concerns known to Jason Kenney, secretary of state for multiculturalism and canadian identity.

"We opened a dialogue with the government through Jason Kenney to make sure the government was aware about what is going on and to urge Canada to prevent what happened at Durban in 2001, where the conference was hijacked by anti-Semites and anti-Israel groups who turned the whole program on its head," Eric Vernon, Congress' director of government relations, said.

"Instead of combating racism in its manifestations around the world, [Durban I] it turned its focus to Israel as the worst violator of human rights" and branded Israel as a racist inheritor of South Africa."

Congress' newly elected board of directors will meet later this month to put in place a strategy concerning the Durban II conference, he added.

In New York, Anne Bayefsky, senior editor of the watchdog Eye on the UN, said in a news release on the organization's website that in one of its first moves, "the UN committee did not have any trouble agreeing to a procedural move with discriminatory overtones. The first substantive session of the preparatory committee will be April 21-May 2, 2008. Why those dates? The Jewish holiday of Passover is April 20-27, 2008, and Jews the world over will now be inhibited from participating in a meeting supposedly dedicated to combating discrimination and xenophobia."

In an earlier news release, she criticized Iran's participation in the preparatory committee. "As a UN spokesperson against racism, Iran will invert totally the message and mission of the United Nations.

"The leading exponents of anti-Semitism, whether directed at Jews individually or the Jewish people and its state generally, continue to be provided a global platform at the United Nations," she said.

In another development, the *Jerusalem Post* reported that Israel and the United States had planned to keep a low profile at last week's preparatory meeting. Both countries were represented by low-level personnel who observed proceedings but did not participate.

Joining Libya and Iran on the bureau for the pre-planning conference are Cuba, Cameroon, South Africa, Senegal, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Estonia, Croatia, Armenia, Russia, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Belgium, Norway, Greece and Turkey.

The venue for the 2009 conference has yet to be determined.

Israel's economy booming, unemployment dropping

By MOTI BASSOK and TAL LEVY

© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel's economy is booming. The nation's gross domestic product expanded at an annualized rate of 6.6 per cent in the first half of 2007, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced recently.

It's the highest growth rate since 2000, a "bubble year," and pundits are astounded, since most of their predictions had been quite a bit lower.

Finance Minister Roni Bar-On said the strong growth stems from the government's economic policy. The government must sustain fiscal discipline and stick to its budget, he said, while it pursues its goals, including structural economic reforms set forth in the 2008 budget.

Second quarter GDP growth ran at 6.6 per cent in annualized terms, the bureau said, after rising 6.2 per cent in the first quarter, and by a steep eight per cent in the last quarter of 2006.

Last year was no slouch, either. In the first six months of 2006, Israel's GDP increased by 6 per cent, and in the second half, growth was 3.4 per cent.

Morgan Stanley had predicted a first-half pace of 5.8 per cent. Analyst Serhav Cevik, who covers Israel for the U.S. investment bank, said the newest figures demonstrate the brisk pace of actual growth.

Cevik added that the GDP gap – the difference between actual and potential GDP – widened from 6.9 per cent in the first quarter to 7.4 per cent.

Back to the first-half figures: the business product increased by 7.9 per cent in annualized terms, after increasing by 3.2 per cent in the second half of 2006 and by eight per cent in the second half of last year.

> ***The newest figures demonstrate the brisk pace of actual growth***

Export of goods and services shot up by 8.3 per cent, investment in fixed assets increased by nearly six per cent and expenditure on private consumption per capita rose by 5.7 per cent. That last measure indicates an increase in the standard of living.

One of the most striking increases was posted by the hosting and food services sector, which grew by 17.5 per cent in first half of 2007, in annualized terms.

Another impressive sector was business and financial services, which posted 14.7 per cent growth.

In parallel with the good news about GDP, Israel also learned that unemployment fell to 7.7 per cent of the adult workforce. The Central Bureau of Statistics said that 37,000 people had joined the workforce during the second quarter of 2007, an increase of 1.4 per cent compared with the first quarter and an increase of 4.6 per cent against the second quarter of 2006. This raised the proportion of adults who work to 56.6 per cent of the potential workforce, from 56.1 per cent in the first quarter.

The improvement in unemployment figures began in the second half of 2004. The number of adults, defined as people over age 15, in the workforce climbed to 2.902 million in the quarter. Of these, 2.682 million were actually working, and 220,000 were unemployed.

The number of people seeking jobs for more than six months fell significantly, from 44.2 per cent to 38.9 per cent in the second quarter.

The number of people employed in full-time jobs, defined as working 35 hours or more per week, stood flat, but the number of people with part-time work increased by 4.4 per cent.

Many people do work, but would prefer to work more. Some 117,200 people work part-time not by choice, and are looking for more employment, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported.

On the bright side, that figure is down to 4.4 per cent of all employees, compared with 5.1 per cent in the second quarter of 2006. The number of involuntarily under-employed has been gradually receding along with unemployment, which peaked in the last decade at more than 10 per cent.

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CANADA

Chaverim

As we approach the High Holidays, it is an opportunity to gather with families and ask ourselves about successes and wrong-doings, about our actions and inactions, and the aspirations we had and those we forgot about because of difficulties.

While the Holidays are the same each year, each year we are different. Each year, we experience the Holidays differently.

Rosh Hoshanah celebrates our tradition. It's a reaffirmation of the Almighty's mercy, glory, and love. Yom Kippur is a time for repentance and a time to ask for forgiveness.

In these days of reflection, prayer and sorrow for our entire people, let's not forget the trying circumstances, the difficult times and the loss of life in Israel. Our support for the State of Israel will always be strong and everlasting.

May our prayers have a special depth, a meaning of passion and greatness. May our personal prayers, those for our families, for the Jewish people, for the State of Israel, and for the world be heard – and may we be granted health, prosperity and fulfilment along with blessing and peace.

My wife Maida and our family, join with the National Executive Committee of Maccabi Canada, our athletes, coaches, volunteers and the hundreds of people who support the development of young Jewish athletes throughout Canada, in extending sincere best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Shana Tovah!

Allen Gerskup
President, Maccabi Canada

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West Bank leaders meet with IDF

By AMOS HAREL
and AVI ISSACHAROFF
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JERUSALEM — For the first time since 1994, all Palestinian security organizations in the West Bank took part in a senior-level meeting with their Israeli counterparts.

The security co-ordination meeting last week took place in the Israeli army headquarters in Beit El, near Ramallah.

Israeli participants included the commander of the Judea and Samaria division and the head of the civil administration in the West Bank.

All the heads of the Palestinian Authority's security organizations operating in the West Bank were present. They included the head of the National Security organization in the territory, as well as the commanders of Preventive Security, the police, the General Intelligence Service, Military Intelligence and the head of the civilian liaison office.

Security co-ordination at this level between the two sides occurred on an individual basis up until the outbreak of the intifadah in late September 2000. However, not since 1994 have all the Palestinian security services been present in a single conference with their Israeli counterparts, mostly because of the internal disputes among the competing security forces.

At the meeting the Palestinians asked the Israel Defence Forces to remove roadblocks, which they said would be an important gesture for the Palestinian people during the approaching holy month of Ramadan.

The Israeli representatives promised to consider a variety of measures that would ease the difficulty in travel faced by West Bank Palestinians. However, at this stage they didn't specify the roadblocks that would be lifted.

The commander of the Judea and Samaria division, Brig.-Gen. Noam Tivon, said that as long as there are no terror attacks and the security of Israelis is safeguarded, it will be possible to ease restrictions on the movement of Palestinians.

He promised that as Ramadan approaches, he will stress in his orders to the troops under his command that they should exhibit greater sensitivity to the needs of the civilian population.

The Palestinian Authority also asked to renew the security co-ordination between the two sides at the general staff level, and the Israeli officers said they would deliver the request with their recommendation.

The Palestinians also asked for an easing of restrictions on the ability of police officers to travel in different parts of the West Bank.

On this request also, the Israeli officers said they would consider it favourably as long as there are no terror attacks.

The atmosphere at the meeting between the two sides was said to be good, and the Israeli officers thanked their Palestinian counterparts for the role of the security forces in rescuing an IDF major, Razi Revah, who accidentally entered Jenin last month and was confronted by an angry mob.

Both sides were said to have expressed their satisfaction with the improvement in the co-ordination of security between them in the recent months, and the Israeli officers said they would make efforts to ease restrictions on the movement of cargo.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS: ARTICLE 2 INCOME CRITERIA CHANGES
Claims Conference Secures Compensation Program Expansion

The Claims Conference makes monthly payments to Nazi victims under the Article 2 Fund who meet certain persecution and other criteria and who have an income below a level specified by the German Government.

Following recent negotiations with the German Government, the Claims Conference secured amendments regarding the income that shall be considered when determining if an applicant is within the income limit. The income limit is generally the local currency equivalent of US $16,000 per year after taxes. The following are the new regulations:

- Only the income of the applicant shall be taken into account (not the income of his/her spouse) – this is a change from the current rule.
- From October 1, 2007 onwards, when determining whether the income limit is met, the following types of pensions will **NOT** be considered as income:
  - Old age pension (including: governmental pension, social security payments, occupational pension or retirement plans) and/or
  - Pensions awarded for reduction in earning capacity, for industrial injury or occupational disease, for loss of life or any comparable payment.

The changes are summarized above but specific details (including what payments constitute comparable payments) are still being discussed with the German Ministry of Finance.

Full eligibility details for the Article 2 Fund and further information about the abovementioned changes are at www.claimscon.org and further announcements regarding these criteria will be posted as they become available. Please note that the eligibility criteria concerning persecution history, also specified by the German government, have not changed.

If you believe that you may be eligible or are not certain if you are eligible, you should file an application now. Please note that under the current guidelines, payments to eligible persons are backdated to the later of October 1, 2007 or the date the application form is received. Application forms are available at www.claimscon.org. If you cannot access the form via the website, please contact your local Claims Conference office. There is no fee to apply.

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www.claimscon.org

Claims Conference ועידת התביעות
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

Israel Briefs

Man dies of war wounds

One year on, the Lebanon war claimed its 159th Israeli fatality. Mohammed Salum, who was critically wounded in a Hezbollah rocket barrage that hit Haifa on Aug. 6, 2006, died Aug. 29 in hospital. He was 40. Salum, a lifeguard, sustained severe burns while trying to rescue relatives from a building that was set alight by a rocket strike. Three other people died in the incident. His death brings to 159 the number of Israelis killed as a result of the 34-day war against the Iranian-backed Lebanese militia.

Russia blamed for tension

A top Israeli official blamed recent tensions with Syria on Russian interference. Defence Ministry policy chief Amos Gilad said Russia, a chief arms supplier to the Damascus regime, helped fuel speculation that Israel and Syria could go to war this summer. "During a certain period, the Russians did indeed contribute to the Syrians thinking that Israel wanted war," Gilad told Army Radio. "I think they've stopped doing that. The Syrians do not intend to launch a war against Israel, and Israel certainly does not intend to launch a war against Syria." Gilad spoke after being asked about a *Ma'ariv* report that Russia had sought to stoke Syrian war fears in order to clinch a large defence deal. Syria is believed to have recently bought advanced Russian weaponry such as anti-aircraft missiles.

Press Hezbollah: envoy

A UN envoy deplored Hezbollah's failure to provide proof that two Israeli soldiers in its custody are alive. Michael Williams, the UN envoy to the Middle East, told the UN Security Council that he tried and failed to find out what befell Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev after they were snatched by the Lebanese militia in a July 2006 raid across Israel's border. "I have to say with deep regret personally – because I have made very considerable efforts in this regard – that more than 13 months after their abductions, we still cannot establish proof of life," Williams said, adding that nations with ties to Hezbollah should press the group on the matter. An Israeli military probe has determined that Goldwasser and Regev, both reservists, were likely wounded during their abduction and may have been killed. Hezbollah, which wants to repatriate the soldiers in exchange for a mass release of Arab prisoners by Israel, has refused to provide any preliminary information.

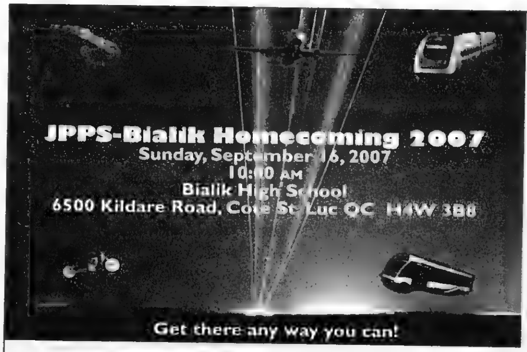
Teen Gaza bomber nabbed

Israeli troops captured a teenaged would-be suicide bomber in Gaza. Military officials said ground forces operating against Palestinian rocketeers in northern Gaza last week were tipped off that they would be targeted by a suicide bomber. The soldiers were approached last week by a 15-year-old boy who behaved suspiciously. They overpowered him and found two bombs in his bags primed for detonation. The military said Palestinian terrorists often resort to using children in expediting attacks.

Children killed by accident

Three Palestinian children were killed in Gaza on Aug. 28 by fire directed at them by the Israel Defence Forces. The Israeli soldiers could not distinguish that the "unidentified movement" near Qassam rocket launchers in Beit Hanoun were only children playing, an army probe determined. The video footage of the incident reportedly shows the children – who appear as figures whose age can't be determined – approaching the launchers and then moving back in a way that could be seen as suggesting they were loading the launchers with rockets. The IDF expressed sorrow for the deaths.

– files from JTA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Hamas eyes new attacks in bid to undercut peace negotiations

By LESLIE SUSSER
JTA

In the run-up to the American-initiated Middle East peace parley in November, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas are accelerating efforts to reach an agreement on the principles of a final peace deal.

At the same time, however, Hamas is aiming to derail the process with a new wave of terrorist strikes and rocket attacks.

Analysis

Olmert and Abbas want to be able to present an agreement of principles to the peace conference in order to give its deliberations real substance. In parallel, Israel and the Palestinians are working on co-operative economic projects that could improve the peacemaking climate and underpin any future peace deal.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas at their meeting last week in Jerusalem [Israel Sun photo]

The thinking is that if there is a serious Palestinian agenda, the conference will be able to draw major players like the Saudis and jump-start a wider Israeli-Arab process based on the Arab League peace plan. The proposal calls for the full normalization of ties between Israel and all 22 Arab states in return for an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territory captured in 1967.

But there are a number of obvious snags. For example, what about the Golan Heights? Would Israel be expected to return them to Syria even though Syria, because of its close ties to Iran, probably won't even be invited to the conference?

Worse, Hamas radicals have made it clear that they are determined to launch a new campaign of terror to undermine progress between Israel and the Palestinian Fatah moderates. Moreover, what kind of Palestinian state could be established with the fundamentalists still in control in Gaza?

Olmert and Abbas have met several times in the past few weeks to discuss core issues such as borders, Jerusalem and refugees. What seems to be shaping up is an agreement that lays out principles for a territorial settlement in two stages and a timetable for transition from stage one to stage two.

In stage one Israel withdraws from the West Bank up to the separation barrier after a period of quiet during which the Palestinian Authority exhibits firm control of security. In stage two Israel pulls back to lines closer to the 1967 borders and compensates the Palestinians on a one-to-one basis for settler land it annexes.

One of the ideas for compensation is to include land used to connect the West Bank and Gaza over Israeli territory. In stage two, the Palestinians declare a state in the West Bank and Gaza, even if Hamas is still in control there. The idea is to come to the November summit with an agreement in principle on these issues and to continue refining the details in subsequent talks.

Clearly, though, the plan would start going into effect only after a credible ceasefire has been established.

That is precisely what Hamas will do its best to prevent. The last thing Hamas wants is for its secular Fatah rival to get credit for pulling off a peace deal with Israel and then come under pressure to comply.

According to the Shin Bet security service, the Damascus-based leadership of Hamas has ordered the organization to launch a new campaign of suicide bombings against Israeli targets in the West Bank to show Israelis that Abbas' Fatah cannot keep the peace and therefore is incapable of cutting a peace deal.

Israel intelligence anticipates that in an effort to destabilize the situation further, Hamas also will launch Qassam rocket attacks from Gaza. Palestinian militants have been firing Qassams at Sderot and other nearby towns and villages on a regular basis, but Hamas has not yet joined in. If it does, the Israelis expect a significant increase in the bombardments, which could lead to a major Israeli incursion into Gaza to stop it.

Some Israeli strategists say that is precisely what Hamas, which has been smuggling unprecedented quantities of arms into Gaza, would like to see – a standoff in Gaza in which the Israeli army is forced to take heavy casualties.

Meanwhile, Israel and moderate Palestinians in the West Bank are proceeding with their peacemaking efforts as if the Hamas threat does not exist. In addition to the effort to shape a final peace deal, they are working seriously on economic plans to help create conditions for a sustainable peace. One of the plans is based on a Japanese initiative dubbed "the Corridor for Peace and Prosperity."

In a meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel in Jericho in mid-August, the foreign ministers of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Japan enthusiastically backed the "peace corridor" idea. The initiative envisages the establishment of an agro-industrial park in the Greater Jericho area, with a mechanism to distribute the produce through Jordan to the wealthy Gulf states. The produce and goods would be transported across the Jordan River to a distribution center on the Jordanian side.

As part of the centre, the Jordanians want a new airport for same-day conveyance to the Gulf states and other countries worldwide.

The Japanese have identified agriculture and agro-industry as a potential "driving force for sustainable economic development in the emerging Palestinian state," and see in this kind of co-operative venture a way of laying the foundation for a lasting peace.

Since the renewal of the peace dialogue between Israel and moderate West Bank Palestinians in June, an abundance of ideas have been broached to help the Palestinians create the basic infrastructure for viable statehood. Israeli officials welcome the new energy and see it as a means of underpinning an Israeli-Palestinian peace.

"For stable peace you have to have a Palestinian state that is successful," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev said. "A failed Palestinian state would be a recipe for further violence."

Indeed, Israel is drawing up plans to help modernize Palestinian infrastructure and urban development. Officials say Israel will be prepared to do as much as the Palestinians want, but will not force itself on them. The Israelis say they intend to work closely with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the special Quartet envoy, who is due back in the region in early September.

Looking at the West Bank scene, chances for an Israeli-Palestinian peace have never seemed better; in Gaza they have never seemed worse. And, it seems, whether the American summit in November actually boosts Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking will depend on the outcome of the internal Palestinian struggle.

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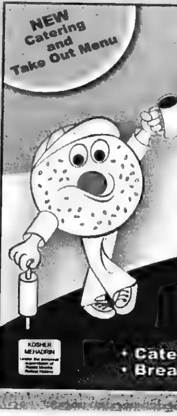

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And now for something completely different: HEEBONICS

Jsport hits a grand slam

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Mattea Wintre is all about combining two things – sports and Jews.

A leader and participant in numerous Taglit-birthright israel trips, she wanted to find a way to continue and expand on the camaraderie achieved by Jewish youth on those trips after they returned to North America.

So when the 27-year-old Toronto kinesiologist and Parks and Recreation Ontario employe[illegible]ried to join a co-ed Jewish sports league in 2006, she was disappointed because none seemed to exist.

"I was rather disappointed in the post-programming aspects [of birthright]," Wintre told ***The CJN***.

Upset but undeterred by the lack of pre-existing co-ed Jewish leagues in the city, she founded one of her own, calling it Jsport.

Last summer, Wintre organized and equipped a four-team, 40-player summer softball league th[illegible] ran from May to September, composed mainly of former birthright participants, and complete with an awards ceremony and end-of-season banquet.

And when summer was over, she organized a winter dodgeball league that ran from January to April at a north Toronto high school gym.

Now in its second year, Jsport, "Toronto's only co-ed Jewish sport league for people aged 18-plus" as Wintre advertises it, has grown in size from four teams to six (including dodgeball). About 100 people come out Wednesday nights to Toronto's June Rowlands Park, at Davisville Avenue and Mount Pleasant Road, to play some competitive softball, kibbitz and, most importantly, renew old friendships and discover new ones.

Though Wintre admits that what has happened is that the league has become a place where the average age is 25.

In essence, what Wintre has done is cultivate a quasi-social club for young Jewish professionals in Toronto. After each game, the players adjourn to a local restaurant or bar to swap stories, vent about work and imbibe a pint of beer or two.

It's become a league of friends – everyone appreciates Wintre's hard work and players are missed when they don't show up.

"My grandmother passed away two weeks ago and I couldn't be here to organize the game, but everyone called me to ask what happened and where I was," Wintre said.

The league receives some exposure via the ***Canada Israel Experience birthright Alumni Newsletter***. Aside from that, Wintre procures all the equipment and leases the softball diamond from the city.

Oh yeah, and she's also the league's only umpire.

"I do it all," she said, laughing. "But we're growing and soon [league members] will want more out of this."

Wintre believes she'll have a pleasant problem on her hands when the softball league reconvenes next summer.

"I'm a bit concerned right now because we keep expanding and generating more and more interest," she said. "And right now, all I have [is the one softball field]. I plan on expanding and have thought about what to do."

She's managed to delegate certain responsibilities though, such as assigning team captains who communicate with their own teams by e-mail and ensure a prompt gathering for the 7 to 10 p.m. games.

As it stands, players show up looking like a rag-tag group, without uniforms, caps or helmets and wearing an assortment of sweatpants, shorts and serviceable running shoes.

All fees collected by Jsport go back into the league to procure bats, balls, base pads and pay for the baseball park permits.

This year, Wintre charged $100 per person – $1350 per team – to join the league. She keeps none of it for herself; it all goes for operational costs.

"I love doing it, but it'd be great to get some sponsorship for the league for next year. I get no financial support from [any Jewish community organization]," she said. "I organized this league because I want to play, too. But it's great to see all these people participating."

Wintre says she hopes her efforts to start and maintain Jsport are proving to any naysayers out there that there is indeed a vital, young Jewish population ready to move beyond just sharing a love of prior Israel experiences, such as those who embarked on birthright trips together, and fostering a new love for one another and shared Jewish experiences in North America.

To her, anyone contending that post-birthright program sustainability results are disappointing are off base.

"This is a Jewish, social, recreational league," Wintre said. "This was a good market to target. Everybody wants to join."

Wintre has been so amazed at the response to her league, she's now thinking of its future in a big way.

"I don't see why we couldn't [spread] Jewish continuity in this way... nationally," she said. "Anything's possible. I'd be into that. This is my life, my passion."

The 2007 Jsport softball playoffs begin this week with the championship game next Wednesday. The league will then switch to dodgeball this January.

For more information about Jsport, ***visit www.Jsport.org.***

Former birthrighter Mattea Wintre founded Jsport, a co-ed Jewish sports league.

The Jsport league was in full swing last week.

[A. Levy-Ajzenkopf photos]

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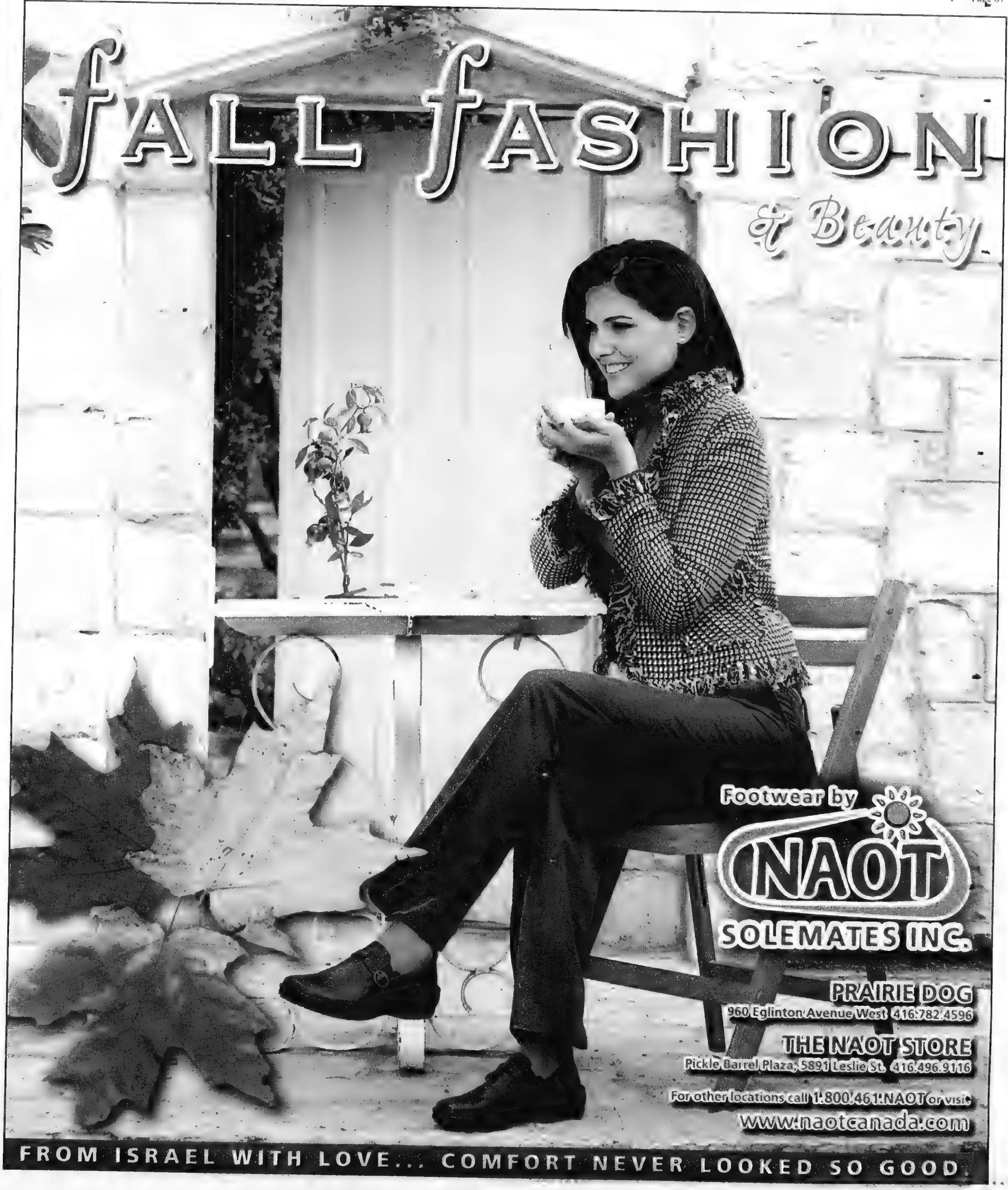

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FROM ISRAEL WITH LOVE... COMFORT NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD

The Spa at The Inn at Manitou

Spa Life

By
KATHRYN
KATES

The Aromamineral Golden Spa Treatment and the Aromafructus Belladone Contouring Treatment are the newest signature treatments offered at The Spa at The Inn at Manitou, the five-star Relais & Chateaux resort.

The resort is located 20 minutes from Parry Sound on Lake Manitou-wabing.

The Belladone is a treatment that relaxes and contours using natural poppy flower seeds as its main ingredient.

The Golden Spa is a bath treatment that begins with a scrub. Then after a hydrotherapy tub, you are massaged with desert flower oil and a gold sublime liquid. The treatment ends with a dusting of gold powder. It is an anti-inflammatory treatment that has sedative and relaxation properties.

For both the Belladone and Golden Spa treatments, products used are by Fleur's from France.

"All our signature treatments are new this year. We've upgraded them from last year," says Deborah Thomas, the spa director and one of six highly trained therapists from around the world.

"Last year, we had signature treatments that had become very popular all over North America, like the Vichy Waterfall and the La Stone Therapy, which we still offer, but we decided to revamp our signatures by bringing in the Golden Spa Bath and the Bella Dona Wrap," said Thomas, who hails from England. She has worked at the resort for the last six seasons.

The 37-year-old resort has always offered spa services in one form or another – beginning with massage only in the early years. Now the spa boasts of 10 treatment rooms decorated in light earth tones with white trim, soft eclectic furnishings, including light wicker with muted patterned cushions, and Grecian artwork adorning the walls. The entrance of the spa has a retail area. Behind the reception desk is a cascading waterfall that relaxes you from the moment you arrive. The spa clientele is nearly half male.

The full-service spa, located in the basement of the main Relais & Chateaux building, offers customized facials; luxury manicures and pedicures; waxing; eyelash tinting; body treatments, including a cellulite treatment; and an array of massages, including Thai massage.

Thomas, one of three therapists trained in Southeast Asia, says Thai massage is a cross between yoga and Shiatsu massage and increases flexibility.

"A number of packages are offered, including the most popular called The Ultimate Spa, which includes a 30-minute massage of the neck, shoulders and back, a Distress for Success Facial, and an express manicure and pedicure," Thomas says.

"There is also a package for our non-guests that includes a morning of your choice of two 50-minute treatments, a lunch on the patio and a manicure and pedicure to top off your afternoon."

The products used in the spa and retailed to guests include Darphin from France and Oxygen from Canada.

The 35-room resort is pet friendly. The resort offers yoga, and has both tennis and golf academies. At the golf academy, there are target greens, putting greens and a driving range. Next to The Inn at Manitou and available to guests is a Tom McBroom golf course called The Ridge at Manitou.

The Inn at Manitou

Relaxing in one of the spa's pleasurable treatments

Guests can also try the complimentary biking, canoeing, sailing, kayaking and windsurfing or take leisure boat rides on the pristine lake along with fellow guests. There's also a fully equipped fitness centre. The mostly European staff will bend over backward to make sure that you are having a wonderful time.

The Inn at Manitou is open from May until October. Standard, deluxe and luxury accommodations are available, many with a lake or garden view. Packages offered include gourmet breakfast, lunch, dinner and afternoon tea, daily.

To reserve, call The Inn at Manitou at 1-800-571-8818 or visit www.manitou-online.com.

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The 21st-century lady

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

After a summer of short skirts and proverbially mucking around, the severity of September style hits like a brick: it's time to break out the big trend guns.

This year, however, all flash-in-the-pan trends have been dropped in favour of a pared-down approach to ladylike dressing. But this latest style revolution seems to be less about simply covering up and more about returning to the basics of the 20th-century design, but with a heavily modern twist (think Hepburn, not Hilton, with a cardigan).

Like a melding of last season's power-woman and fashion's ever-so-burning itch to be appropriate, this season's take on ladylike dressing is the 2007 answer to Christian Dior's 1947 "New Look." And in comparison with the gadgets and gizmos aplenty of last season, dressing with the flavour of the past is quite a breath of fresh air indeed!

What we see this season is a complete return to the principles of dressing for a grown woman's body. Forget the tent dresses. Most designers seem to be asking the question: what lines are truly the most flattering? In most cases, the answer lies in the hourglass of Dior's 1947 collection. It's quite ironic that 60 years later we keep returning to the look not because of its retro feel, but for its ability to encompass modernity full throttle.

From Marc Jacob's ode to the 1940s meets 1970s working-woman to Paul Poiret's wide sweeping influence on the likes of "it" designers Proenza Schouler, Thakoon and Rodarte, the runways are chock-full of nostalgic nods to a kind of dressing that once was. But forget lace and most definitely chuck the flowers: designers that have forged into this territory don't rely on those old faithfuls of feminine dress. Shoulders are broad, waist's are nipped, gloves are at elbow's length and pretty little hats are sitting atop the heads of models who stomped out the runway as teenagers but turned back as full-blown women.

For the first time in what feels like forever, the collections were not reaching, were not attempting to be as quirky and ambiguous than the next. Instead, all forms of seasonal experimentation were forgotten, and what we were left with was an overwhelming number of interpretations on dressing like a lady. Take that, futurism!

As any fashionable female might have guessed, it was largely Marc Jacobs who is dealing out this lesson in 21st-century ladylike. Gone are the bejeweled and flowery numbers of his last season's 1920's romp. His lines are crisp; his silhouette is on the straight and narrow. Nearly every outfit is accessorized with a wide-but-not-too-wide brimmed hat. And the fashion prophet continued still at Louis Vuitton. Jacobs' Parisian offerings are equally as powerfully feminine but just slightly softer. Straight knee-length lamé skirts are unexpectedly paired with belted sweaters and floppy berets.

With fresh-faced models trotting down the runway looking as if they'd been plucked from the canvas of a Vermeer, references to the Dutch masters could not be ignored. What's more, the combinations were also the complete mix of sportswear and sophistication that have come to embody the modern female.

With some of the fashion industry's most powerful wizards on board, this latest pendulum swing seems more like a cosmic shift than a fleeting trend.

Bringing it back to that time when hats were a girl's best friend and ladies weren't allowed to leave the house without a set of gloves on, an exhibit featured a selection of gowns from the couture originators: Dior, Givenchy, Balenciaga and Balmain just to name a few. This was a time when the term "mass produced" was just as rarified as a cellphone and every garment was tailor made to its wearer. The exhibit proves once again that with every variation – the "New Look" is as new as ever. As Audrey Hepburn, the patron saint of Ladylike, so famously said in *Paris When It Sizzles*, "It's just a switch on a switch on a switch."

Hucke ❁ Betty Barclay ❁ Laurel ❁ Eugen Klein ❁ Gerard Darel ❁ Tuzzi ❁ Basler ❁ Blacky Dress ❁ Zucchero ❁ Lucia ❁ Cambio ❁ Escada ❁ Gerry Weber

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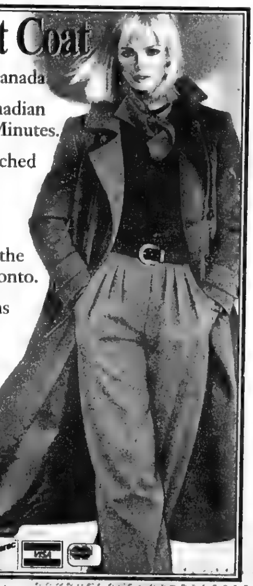

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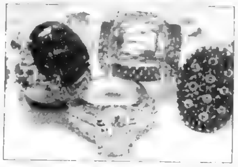

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Looking younger without surgery

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Those whose faces are starting to show the signs of living life but would rather not go under a cosmetic surgeon's knife have the option of refreshing and rejuvenating their skin with medical peels and injections.

The Briarwood Cosmetic Surgical Centre in Oakville, under the direction of owner and renowned plastic surgeon, Stephen C. Brown, offers both surgical and non-surgical procedures.

On Brown's team are Jenny Couto, a registered nurse and cosmetic nurse specialist, and Gerda Oskam, who is a clinical esthetician. Couto specializes in injections, such as Botox, while Oskam administers a number of medical esthetic treatments, including microdermabrasion and chemical peels.

"As we age, sometimes we deflate. We can add volume back into the face," Couto says.

"We lose our definition around the edge of the lips and start to get a lot of little lines, so just by restoring a little bit of that volume and correcting the skin, it gives a more youthful and refreshed appearance. If a job is done well, you can't tell anything has been done. You just look fresh."

All procedures are done at the clinic, and the products used are tissue tailored to what works best in certain areas. The products include fillers such as Collagen, Arecoll, Hyaluronics, Restylane, Hylaform and Juvéderm.

"Juvéderm is distributed by the makers of Botox, Allergan. It lasts longer [than Botox], about nine months to a year, though it varies on the individual and the area that's been treated," Couto says. "It is a smoother monophasic gel – it is a nice product, with less swelling as well.

"Botox is used for dynamic wrinkles typically in the face – frown lines, crow's feet and forehead lines. It also helps to lift eyebrows. It is the number 1 cosmetic procedure that is done in North America. It relaxes the muscles to smooth out wrinkles and to prevent them from getting deeper. It lasts about four months."

The clinic offers a detailed personal consultation, and at that time your needs and desires are discussed and suggestions are made by the staff. Each course of treatment is different, depending on what is being corrected. There is no cookie-cutter approach at the clinic. Budget and expectations are two factors in deciding what work to have done.

The treatments often begin with microdermabrasion, which is a mechanical exfoliation that helps get rid of surface dead skin cells. Microdermabrasion is done before a chemical peel so the peel can penetrate deeper. A chemical peel helps with skin regeneration and stimulation of new skin. In the case of skin that is badly damaged – often by the sun – the clinic offers a series of Photo rejuvenation treatments and sclerotherapy for veins.

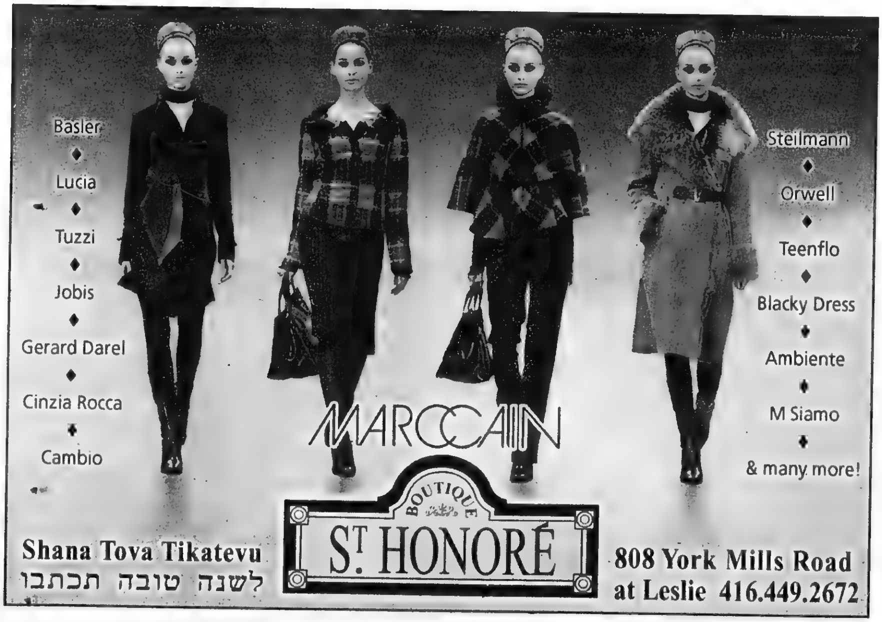
Maintenance is important, including home care. Retail products for home use include Vivier, Physician's Choice, Obagi and Skin TX. Oskam can make recommendations.

"We try to give patients natural-looking results so you look fresher. We are the age we are, but you want to look good for your age," Couto says. "Some people come once only for a special occasion like a daughter's wedding, while others continue.

"The first time is always overwhelming, so we try to educate people as to what we can achieve with different treatments. As the relationship goes on, they have a better knowledge base and know what they want. The initial investment is probably the greatest as some treatments last longer than others. Maintenance costs are spread out over time."

For more information, visit www.briarwoodsurgical.com.

FASHION DESIGN IN PLUS SIZES: Toni Plus, a Canadian designer boutique with fashions for women sizes 14 to 22, introduces its new fall collection. Pictured is the Lafayette A-Line ensemble, a geometric tweed Narron jacket and stretch wool Gavin pants.



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BEAUTY SHOP

BY STACEY MICHAELS AND FRANCINE BIRKEN

Dedicated in memory of Carol Wise.

The holidays are over and the kids are getting ready to go back to school. The hot summer days are about to leave us and the prettiest time of year is about to arrive.

Summer's bright eye shadow and stained lips are about to move aside for deeper shades once fall arrives. This season makeup is bold, chic and sexy.

Smoky eyes, blush-coloured lips and shimmering cheekbones radiate, while skin remains flawless with a dust of translucent powder. Shades of green, blue, brown and purple are the hot colour shadows for this fall. Liquid eyeliner makes a great comeback. Make sure to curl your lashes before applying mascara. On the lips, creamy finishes are very trendy. Shades range from earth tones to luscious strawberry and deep mulberry.

Begin serious cleansing regimens as the humidity from the summer months tend to clog pores. A facial is definitely in order – at home or professional. Once the cold temperatures start to arrive and heating systems are turned on, the skin will tend to become drier. Start to apply more richly formulated moisture creams to keep the skin hydrated.

Keep up your diet and exercise routines. Take care of your skin, hair and body, and it will take care of you.

FIORIO: Fall is not just the end of summer, but the beginning of lovely fall. **Maurice Fiorio**, famed stylist and owner of Fiorio International, says, "The bob in various shapes and forms is back. Short hair can also be sexy." An autumn look can be created by adding some warm colour, texture, layers and dimension.

Clean lines and strong graphic shapes – called minimalist looks – are all the rage. "We're going to see stronger shapes and multi-dimensional haircuts with layers," Fiorio says.

In hair colouring, there is a shift to multi-tone blonde, including the use of vibrant colour but in a subtle fashion. Celebrities Katie Holmes, Rihanna and Victoria Beckham are trend-setting the return of the bob. Rihanna sports a longer bob, while Victoria Beckham has a femme fatale look. The 1970s glam look is also making a return, along with the fringe.

The latest looks are being taught to students of the Fiorio Beauty Academy, where Fiorio visits twice a week to train the students to create the famous Fiorio style.

Fiorio is the creator of the Fiorio cut, which we call the Fiorio Bob. This fantastic new look is proudly worn by Marilyn Denis of the Citytv show *CityLine*.

Are your strands unravelling? Put an end to split ends with the new K-PAK Split End Mender from **Joico**. Up until now, the only effective solution to seriously split ends has been to snip them off. But this feather-light formula mends the jagged edges that make hair appear damaged and leaves your locks looking smooth and shiny. Thanks to K-PAK Split End Mender, strands stay strong, top to tips. When it comes to healthy hair, all's well that ends well.

Charles Worthington's first-of-its kind, award-winning Results designer hair-care range has been introduced. Runway, red carpet and salon tested, the new Results collection delivers uncompromising, outstanding benefits. Results now features new colour-coded regimens for Moisture, Rebalance, Shine, Colour and Frizz and new styling products all which impart brilliant shine.

In the beauty battle to preserve a youthful appearance, it's not just skin that needs to be cared for; hair is similarly affected by the aging process. Now you can combat the problems of mature hair with the new BC Time Restore range exclusively from **Schwarzkopf Professional**, the newest addition to the prescriptive BC Bonacure range. The innovative formulations have been fortified with Q10-technology to meet the specific needs of sophisticated, mature hair.

STACEY'S TIPS:

SPA AND SKIN CARE: Introducing **Tri-Aktiline** Instant Deep Wrinkle Filler, the latest product to launch in exclusively at Shoppers Drug Mart. **Tri-Aktiline** instantly fills fine lines and wrinkles while simultaneously firming and hydrating the skin. Use it where you need it most – on crow's feet, laugh lines – anywhere facial expressions have left their mark. For best results, use **Tri-Aktiline** twice a day.

Lise Watier unveils Solution Douce – an eye-makeup-remover cleanser for sensitive eyes that is 100 per cent oil free and features the incomparable action of micellar water. It removes makeup without any rubbing or irritation, while it refreshes, moisturizes and naturally hydrates the fragile eye contour area. It is soothing for the most sensitive eyes.

After-summer skin is thirsty for moisture, and the new **Avojuice** Skin Quenchers lotions quench that thirst with silky smoothness. The two newest flavours in the **Avojuice** Skin Quenchers lotion line, are new Orange Almond Juicie, bright orange with a touch of almond essence, and Japanese Garden Juicie, exotic notes of rose, violet and clean woods. The Skin Quenchers are bursting with natural moisturizers plus avocado, healing aloe extracts and delectable aromas.

Thanks to Planifolia PFA*, created by **Chanel**, Sublimage stimulates the functioning of the skin's "life factors" for complete revitalization and unprecedented anti-aging performance. Your skin becomes infinitely supple, while exquisite olfactory notes diffuse a fragrant trail. Try Sublimage Serum Essential Regenerating Concentrate and Sublimage Eye Essential Regenerating Eye Cream, exclusively from **Chanel**.

Clarins Paris introduces Double Serum Generation 6, a new product that stimulates the skin's vital functions and provides extra energy to reinforce the revitalizing action and help prevent dark spots, while taking into account skin's new vulnerabilities. The 6 reasons to prolong the skin's youthfulness are hydration, nutrition, oxygenation, protection, revitalization and energy. Double Serum Generation 6 is suitable for all skin types.

Dermaglow introduces two exciting new extensions to the Radiance RX line. **Dermaglow** Radiance RX Under-Eye Brightener provides instant illumination designed to reduce the look of tired eyes, while providing long-term benefits to diminish dark circles, fine lines and relieve puffiness – an instant brightening treatment with powerful long-term effects. **Dermaglow** Radiance RX Ageless Primer is a double-duty primer that glides onto skin to prepare the face for flawless makeup application. It also provides anti-aging benefits as it increases moisture content in the skin by instantly filling in lines and imperfections to create a smooth, protected surface while increasing skin's hydration and managing shine.

Yves Rocher welcomes the new Essential Oil line to relax and revive in all serenity. In addition, don't miss Serum Végétal's cleansing cloths for quick and simple make-up removal.

Continued on page 73

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Are you in the Red? Rosacure+ is a face cream that works fast to reduce the redness of rosacea. Rosacure+ has a unique patented formula with powerful antioxidant/anti-aging ingredients coupled with highly effective moisturizers that work fast to help reduce facial redness. Visible benefits from Rosacure+ should begin to appear after two to three weeks and should improve with continued use.

Get acquainted with **J.R. Watkins Apothecary** while indulging in a mini-spa treatment from the Introductory Kit, a nourishing bath and body sampler to soothe and revitalize the skin. Complete with body oils, lotions and shea butter creams in aromatic flavours such as lavender, lemon cream and mango, the kit is refreshingly irresistible and packaged in travel-size bottles for beauty on the go.

Wrinkle-proof your skin with **Alyria** Intense Wrinkle Correction. More than just an anti-aging cream, it is the crème de la crème of anti-aging skin care products and the solution to healthy-looking, wrinkle-free skin. Intense Wrinkle Correction not only reduces the number of wrinkles but also reduces the length and width of wrinkles. Regular use on the eye contour, face and neck has been proven to fill deep wrinkles, rebuild skin and provide brighter, firmer and smoother skin.

NeoStrata Skin Brightener breakthrough treatment takes anti-aging beyond wrinkle correction by addressing skin dullness and uneven pigmentation. The result is that spots are faded, complexion is more radiant and skin tone is brighter.

Dermaglow is thrilled to introduce **Dermaglow** Footcare, a comprehensive line of three clinically proven treatments to repair dry, thick, calloused skin on feet. It's even good for feet that are damaged due to conditions such as diabetes, eczema or psoriasis. Exfoliating Cracked Heel Repair, Deep Moisturizing Foot Treatment and Restorative Foot Scrub repair and restore with the first application. The **Dermaglow** Footcare line works together to treat and protect the feet.

REVLON
Pinch Me

Pinch Me Sheer Gel Blush by Revlon

Elizabeth Arden creates a new gold standard in anti-aging skin care with Ceramide Gold Ultra Restorative Capsules Intensive Treatment for Face and Throat. The super-charged anti-aging ingredients are contained in golden single-dose capsules that deliver the restorative power of ceramides and essential lipids to help strengthen skin's barrier against the visible signs of time, support natural collagen to give skin a firmer outlook and take the focus off lines and wrinkles to maximize smoother, younger, even toned skin.

Press the pause button on the eye's aging signs as **Elizabeth Arden** introduces Intervene Eye Pause and Effect Moisture Eye Cream, an innovative moisturizing treatment for the eye to help delay signs of aging in the eye area.

Implus Footcare, introduces the new look of Sof Sole. They are designed for men and women's feet, offering high performance cushioning and comfort for all sports and athletic shoes. The line is lighter, drier and comfortable. The line extension includes Sof Sole Adapt Footbed, Sof Sole Cushion Sock and Sof Sole Cushion Bamboo Sock.

Nourishing your body just got better with **Naturally by Upper Canada**. Start your day off right with the intensive Hydrating Shower Gel that refreshes your body by ridding it of impurities and replenishing lost moisture. Then shed dead skin with the Coarse Salt Scrub that is made with mineral-rich Dead Sea salts for the ultimate exfoliation leaving skin smoother than ever. Butter up your skin with Body Butter, an intensive blend of shea and cocoa butters that work hard to soften the driest skin. Vita Body Spray is a quick and easy way to refresh skin and is enriched with vitamins A, C and E for on-the-spot nourishment and skin-soothing properties.

The need for men to impress at work and play with a neat and suave look becomes essential. While this does not come as a surprise to **WAHL**, a leader in personal care devices since 1921, it does inspire the company to continue their tradition of making top-notch, technologically advanced products that cater to men's grooming such as the **WAHL** Body Rechargeable Grooming Kit. Perfect for any situation, this 12-piece kit provides a wealth of options to get your face and body in top form.

FRANCINE'S TIPS

CONCEALER & FOUNDATION: Once you have cleansed and moisturized your face, the next step is to conceal any discolouration, broken capillaries, and anything else that may be bothersome.

Lise Watier continues to deliver superior anti-aging products with the recent launch of Anti-Wrinkle Firming Concealer. The ingredients involved erase small imperfections, leaving the skin a smoother texture and is completely mess and worry-free. For that radiant complexion, **Rimmel** London Introduces Black Orchid, Cool Matt 16H Mousse Foundation. The lightweight foundation is infused with purified water to hydrate the skin. **Chanel** is proud to launch the Mat Lumiere collection featuring powder compacts in six shades, as well as a long-lasting fluid foundation with an SPF 15 also available in six shades.

Revlon's Limited Edition Collection introduces Bare It All, a luminescent whisper of powder that lightly accents the face and body features. For that super natural look, give yourself a bright and even finish that looks natural in one easy step. **Revlon** also introduces the New Complexion One-Step Makeup, light and oil-free.

It is perfect for normal skin that doesn't require much hydration. This creamy formula combines the coverage of liquid with a finish of powder.

BLUSH: Almay introduces new Smart Shade Blush and Bronzer. Just like the Smart Shade Makeup, the smart colour beads activate during application. The lightweight liquid cream formula applies smoothly and evenly with no streaking! It produces a soft, radiant colour every time and most of all is hypoallergenic.

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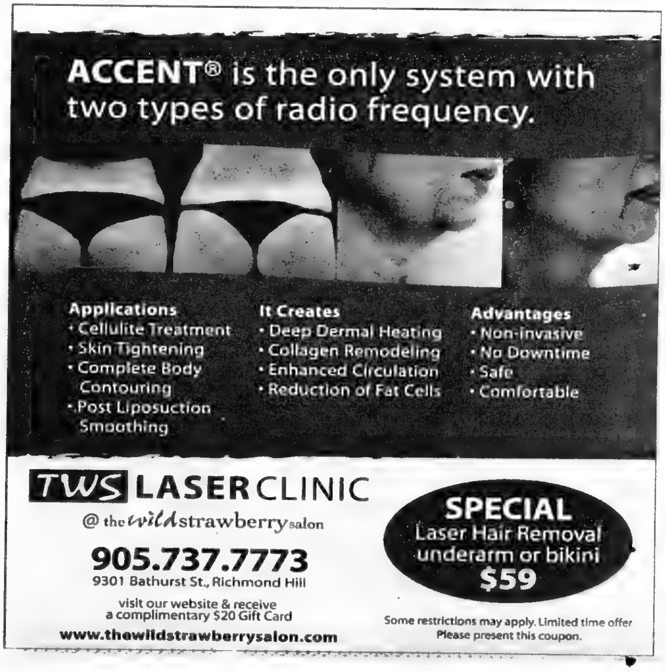
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Continued from page 73

For the natural to the very sophisticated look, **Chanel** Joues Contraste Powder Blush gives your complexion a healthy glow with a simple touch of colour. The compact and silky texture gives easy application and subtle blending. The brush is made of natural hair. For those of us who would like more of a dewy look, **Revlon** Limited Edition Collection has launched Pinch Me Sheer Gel Blush, a unique, translucent gel formula that is lightweight and easy to blend. Cheekbones are highlighted with a sheer wash of colour to create that natural flushed look.

September and October are Breast Cancer Awareness months, and **Estée Lauder** is proud to introduce the Jewelled Pink Ribbon Compact and Brush Set, a sleek gold compact featuring a sparkling jewelled pink ribbon logo. The compact contains Bronze Goddess Soft Matt Bronzer for a healthy sun-kissed glow. Apply with the roll-up Bronze Goddess Brush with the pink ribbon logo.

EYES: The eyes are the focal point this season. **Estée Lauder** After Hours Fall 2007 introduces Double Wear Stay-in-Place Shadow Stick, a long-wearing eye shadow set in a sleek stick form for precise and easy application. The shadow sets in 10 seconds and won't smudge or crease for up to 12 hours – how wonderful for the brides to be!

For the rich and bold colours, **MAC Cosmetics** has launched matte eye shadows and eyeliners that have a high percentage of pigment for intense buildable coverage. These shadows are super deep and stay colour-true, and the powders last all day without creasing.

If you are looking for that luminous look, don't look any further. **Lise Watier** is proud to present Couleur Folle Loose Powder Eyeshadow, used to cover the entire lid and the brow bone in a dramatic or subdued fashion. One of its shades, Folie Kaki (limited edition), echoes the enchanted forest with its tones highlighted by golden glints.

Destiny Cube by Lancôme

Enchanting? Femme Fatale? Jealous? Flirtations? Secretive? It's up to Destiny Cube to decide. **Lancôme**'s decorative and carved precious metal can fit in the palm of your hand. Throw it and one of its 17 faces stamped with a metallic symbol will reveal your future. Inside lies an eye shadow duo on one side and a lipstick with matching gloss on the other.

Eyeliner plays an important part in that smoky eye look. For brides to be, this is for you! **Lise Watier** introduces Waterproof Eyeliner In Noir Intense, the perfect tool to create a dramatic elongated eye and a real must-have in all makeup pouches. Create eye-opening effects with **Rimmel**'s long-lasting and water-resistant Extreme Definition Duo-Tone Eye Definer. Cargo Smoky-Eye Eyeliner Duo pairs matching cream and powder eyeliners in one easy compact to create the ultimate smoky eye and natural eye-lining when desired. Each formula can be worn alone or the powder can be used to set the cream for longer staying power.

To brighten and lift the eyes, **Cargo** has created Eye Lighter, a unique and easy-to-use double-ended pen for the eyes with matte highlight shadow on one end and shimmering highlight on the other end. The rounded tip applies matte shadow to the outer corners as well as under the brow and to the lower lash line for instant lift, while the pointed tip applies shimmering shadow to the inner corners of the eyes to open and brighten.

Estée Lauder had brides in mind when it launched Double Wear Zero-Smudge Liquid Eyeliner, a new smudge-proof, waterproof liquid liner that lasts for 15 hours. How amazing! For the finishing touch, **Lancôme** is proud to introduce Khôl Oriental Duo, a lacquered dark red stick that conceals a black or dark brown kohl pencil twinned with gold. This stick can also be transformed into a hair accessory, to pin a chignon. To complete the eye, **Revlon** announces 3D Extreme Mascara. The unique Bold Impact Brush is tapered to lift, amplify and separate the tiniest of lashes. Lashes look up to 25 times fuller, 70 per cent curvier, and 80 per cent visibly longer with beautiful separation.

LIPS: If you've ever wanted more luscious lips then Perfect Pouty Lips from **Estee Lauder** High Gloss Pump is just what you've been waiting for. This newly developed Plumping Complex contains natural ingredients that help stimulate lips to create fuller, more luscious lips. Lips look less lined and more toned.

Let lips shine in four new colour combinations of **Cargo**'s award-wining lip-gloss formula packaged in the signature **Cargo** tins. You can wear colours alone or mix and match together to achieve whatever look suits you best.

Almost too pretty to paint your lips with, **Chanel** introduces four Camélias de Chanel, four lip glosses stamped with the image of Coco's favourite flower the camellia. A must to see and try! For the low-lit lip effect, **Revlon** presents Crushed Velvet Lip Crème. Lips are lavished in bold, velvety colour with a pearlized moist-matte finish. If you are looking for that striking sexy look, **Caryl Baker** is turning up the heat with the introduction of three, high-impact, red lipsticks: Be-beautiful, Be-dazzled and Be-witched. All three are designed for different skin tones.

Even though the summer is about to leave us, your fingers and toes shouldn't be left in the dark. Make a strong statement with **Rimmel**'s Lycra Wear 10 Nail Polish in daring Black Satin or Hypnotise. This bold statement will complete the Black Orchid Look.

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KIDDISH

Jewish Kids'
Fun Page
by Ellene Newman
and Hallel Newman

Who Will Live?

"I'm still fasting," Ruthie proudly declared.

"So am I!" replied Benny. "I've been fasting since sundown last night, when Yom Kippur started."

"Yeah, but I'm not even hungry."

"Neither am I."

"Children, children," interrupted Daddy softly. "If you keep it up, you're going to miss the whole Avodah service. And that would be a real shame — after all, you both woke up early just so you could come and watch."

"Yeah. It's a good thing we did. Look how many people are here. If we hadn't gotten here so early, there's no way we would ever get in. So, what's happening right now?"

"Well, what do you see through that large gate over there?"

"That's the altar," answered Benny.

"Good. And who is that standing next to it?"

"Uh...I don't know. It looks like a Kohain, but I don't know who it is."

"That's the Kohain Gadol," explained Daddy.

"Really? I always wanted to see him!" burst out Ruthie. "Wait. That can't be him. The Kohain Gadol always wears colourful clothes, and he's wearing white."

"On Yom Kippur, the Kohain Gadol wears white clothes. White is a sign of purity."

"Oh. What's that in front of him, on the floor?"

"That's a bowl of Ketoret."

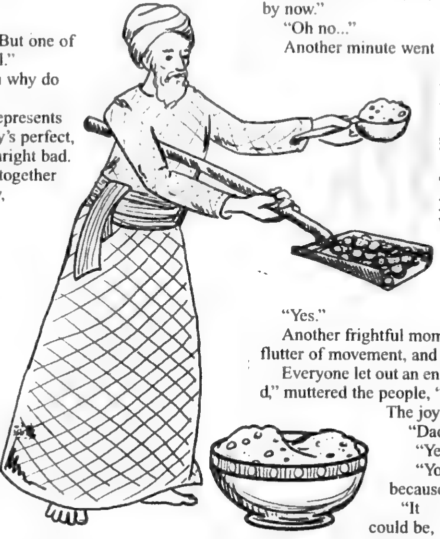
"I know what Ketoret is! That's incense that the Kohain Gadol burns!"

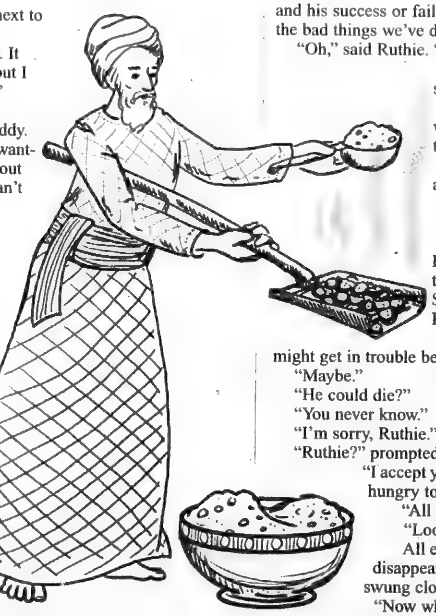
"You're right, Benny. The Ketoret is a mix of eleven spices, finely ground."

"They smell really good, right?"

DIFFERENCES

The Kohain Gadol is dressed for the Yom Kippur Avodah service, as it was performed 2500 years ago in the time of the Temple in Jerusalem. He is going to burn the incense on the red hot coals. Can you find 6 differences between the 2 pictures?





"Well, ten of them do. But one of them actually smells awful."

"Are you serious? Then why do they put in in?"

"Because the Ketoret represents the Jewish people. Nobody's perfect, and some people are downright bad. But still we have to come together as one, and love every Jew, despite their shortcomings."

"Hey, what's the Kohain Gadol doing?" asked Ruthie.

"He's scooping out a handful of Ketoret, to burn in the Inner Sanctum."

"You mean he's going to go in there? That's where they keep the Holy Ark! I thought nobody ever goes in there!"

"On Yom Kippur, the Kohain Gadol does."

"But I thought anyone who goes in there dies!"

"Not if he prepares himself properly. For the last seven days, the Kohain Gadol has been getting ready, purifying his thoughts. Now he is ready to go in."

"And if he doesn't prepare properly, he dies?"

"It's happened before."

"That's scary."

"We have to help him.

"He is representing us with his service, and his success or failure depends on us. We have to regret the bad things we've done, and promise to be better."

"Oh," said Ruthie. "I'm hungry."

"I thought you weren't hungry!" shouted Benny triumphantly.

"Hush!" cautioned an old man, his white eyebrows flashing beneath his turban.

"I wasn't hungry before, but now I am."

"Well, I'm still not hungry! Ha!"

"Daddy, he's bothering me!"

"Benny, I expect more from you. Look, the Kohain Gadol is climbing the steps to go into the Inner Sanctum, and here you are, bothering Ruthie."

"You mean the Kohain Gadol might get in trouble because of me?"

"Maybe."

"He could die?"

"You never know."

"I'm sorry, Ruthie."

"Ruthie?" prompted Daddy.

"I accept your apology. But tell the truth. You're hungry too."

"All right. I'm also hungry."

"Look, the Kohain Gadol is going in!"

All eyes followed the Kohain Gadol as he disappeared into the Inner Sanctum. The door swung closed, and everybody fell silent.

"Now what?" whispered Ruthie.

"We wait," Daddy answered.

"For what?"

"To see if he comes out."

An anxious stillness gripped the assembly. Five minutes passed. Old women muttered prayers. Ten minutes. All eyes were riveted to the door of the Inner sanctum.

"Where is he?" people whispered. "He should be out by now."

"Oh no..."

Another minute went by. And another.

People's faces were turning white. Nobody breathed. A woman fainted.

Benny felt chills going down his spine.

"Ruthie," he whispered. "Remember when I took away your doll and hid it? And you were crying?"

"Yeah."

"I'm sorry."

"It's okay."

"You mean it?"

"Yes."

Another frightful moment passed, and then there was a flutter of movement, and the Kohain Gadol reappeared.

Everyone let out an enormous sign of relief. "Thank G-d," muttered the people, "Thank G-d."

The joy was palpable.

"Daddy," asked Benny.

"Yes?"

"You think the Kohain Gadol lived because I said I was sorry?"

"It could be, Benny. You never know."

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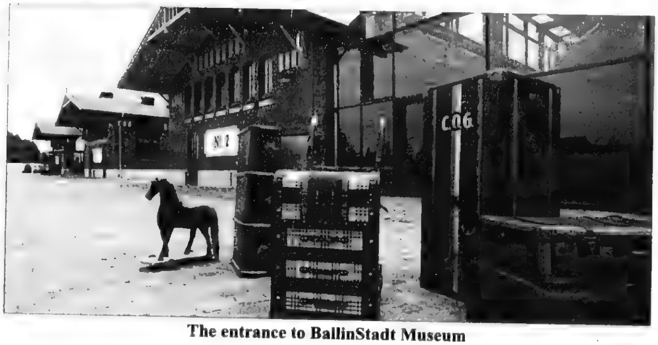
An aerial view of BallinStadt Museum in Hamburg, Germany



The entrance to BallinStadt Museum

TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

HAMBURG MUSEUM REMEMBERS ALBERT BALLIN AND HIS "CITY FOR EMIGRANTS"

A new museum in Hamburg, Germany, pays homage to Jewish shipping magnate Albert Ballin and the "Auswandererhallen" (Emigrants Halls), the city for emigrants that he built to accommodate the many thousands of travelers from all over Europe who arrived each week to board ships to America.

The BallinStadt "Port of Dreams" Museum opened in July on the 150th anniversary of Ballin's birth and exactly a century since the port accommodations that he constructed reached their full capacity (in 1907).

From 1850 to 1939, Hamburg served as the "gateway to the world" for some five million European emigrants. Many were fleeing poverty, hunger, and political and religious persecution, with hopes of a better life across the Atlantic. The BallinStadt Museum is dedicated to these people.

A close friend of the kaiser and one of the leading personalities of his day, Ballin (1857-1918) was general director of the Hamburg-American (HAPAG) shipping company, the largest in the world. He is also credited with improving conditions for passengers in the lower decks, and for inventing the cruise-ship industry. He was the first to market ship travel not simply as a necessary means of transport, but as a relaxing and luxurious end in itself.

The departure facilities that Ballin constructed featured sleeping wards with room for up to 5,000 persons daily, dining salons, churches, a synagogue and even a music pavilion and rooms for the required medical examinations. Although Ballin was often excluded from Hamburg society because he was Jewish, his name graces many locations in the modern city. On Ballindamm Street, house number 25, is the Ballin Haus, the present-day headquarters of the Hapag-Lloyd company.

For further information on the BallinStadt Museum, visit the website www.ballinstadt.com.

* * *

Israel Travel: Women's Inward Bound to Israel, led by Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, is a unique physical and spiritual experience including meditation, desert drumming, yoga, hiking, bicycling, rafting and tzedakah projects. Space is limited. Travel dates are March 30 to April 8, 2008. Attend a free information night at the BJCC, 4588 Bathurst St., Tuesday, Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. 416-636-1880, ext. 472. www.kolel.org

* * *

Tel Aviv Photography Exhibits: Continuing at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art are two photography exhibitions. "Perfect Intimacy," until Oct. 13, highlights the works of Lili Almog who closely record the lives of Carmelite nuns through portraits and interiors of prayer rooms and living quarters in Haifa, Bethlehem, and Port Tobacco, Maryland. "These photographs present a fascinating view into an intense devotional practice rarely seen by the outside."

The other exhibit – "Vardi Kahana: One Family" – consists of a series of 59 diverse photographs that Kahana took of members of her extended family over three generations. Images include three sisters bearing consecutive tattooed numbers from Auschwitz, kibbutzniks from the Shomer Hatza'ir movement in the north, haredi homes in Jerusalem, and secular homes in Savion and Tel Aviv. Kahana's photographs "explore the varied political, social, geographical, and ideological aspects of Israeli life." Until Oct. 6.

The museum is located at 27 Shaul Hamelech Blvd., Tel Aviv. Its website address is www.tamuseum.com.

* * *

Heliodorus Stele: The Israel Museum recently unveiled a 2,200-year-old stele (inscribed stone block) that provides new insight into the story of Heliodorus and the Temple in Jerusalem, as related in the Second Book of Maccabees.

"The Heliodorus stele is one of the most important and revealing Hellenistic inscriptions from Israel," said museum director James Snyder. "It contextualizes the Second Book of Maccabees and provides an independent and authentic source for an important episode in the history leading up to the Maccabean Revolt, whose victorious conclusion is celebrated each year during the Jewish festival of Chanukah."

This presentation marks the first public display of the stele, which is on extended loan from Michael and Judy Steinhardt of New York.

* * *

Sculpture in San Francisco: A retrospective exhibition of the monumental wooden sculptures and drawings of Louise Nevelson (1899-1988), who is described as "one of the towering figures of postwar American art," are on view at the de Young Museum, San Francisco, from Oct. 27 to Jan. 13, 2008. Organized by the Jewish Museum of New York, the exhibition highlights Nevelson's autobiographical works, which symbolically address issues of marriage, motherhood, death, Jewish culture, memory and feminism.

Heartfelt portrait of a political activist

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

"There is nothing like standing in the giddy centre of history," exults Ariel Dorfman, the novelist, playwright, essayist, political and human rights activist and academic.

These are not the idle words of an indolent dilettante.

Born in Argentina, raised in the United States and formed in Chile, he played a role in one of Latin America's most promising yet tragic encounters with social and political change.

As the cultural adviser to Chile's doomed socialist president, Salvador Allende, whom he likens to Moses leading his people to the Promised Land, Dorfman was a player in what could have been a historically significant revolution had it not been nipped in the bud.

But as fate would have it, Allende's democratically elected government, which swept to power in 1970, was overthrown in a violent, U.S.-backed military coup on Sept. 11, 1973. Allende's successor, Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who was forced to step down in 1990, oppressed and murdered his opponents.

Miraculously, Dorfman survived the bloodbath during which Allende was killed, hidden by a succession of sympathizers and protected for two months by the Argentine embassy in Santiago.

Forced into exile, he found a haven in Paris, Amsterdam and Washington, D.C. before returning to Chile at the tail end of Pinochet's dictatorship. Since then, he has divided his time between Chile and the United States, where he is a professor of literature and Latin American studies at Duke University.

A trenchant critic of North American cultural domination and the author of works such as *How to Read Donald Duck* and *Death and the Maiden*, Dorfman is the subject of Peter Raymont's heartfelt, beautifully crafted documentary, *A Promise to the Dead: The Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman*.

The 92-minute movie, which will be screened at this year's Toronto International Film Festival starting on Sept. 6, is based on his memoir, *Heading South, Looking North*.

The title of Raymont's cinematic tribute is taken from a wistful observation by Dorfman, an idealistic, compassionate and somewhat flamboyant figure. As he wonders why he was spared during the chaotic upheavals of the coup, he muses, "There has to have been inside me the whisper of a promise. It was a promise to the dead. A promise that I would live and tell the story."

And that is precisely what he has done, not only in his essays and novels, but in this hard-hitting and occasionally poignant film, which explores themes such as exile, memory and democracy through the prism of Dorfman's tumultuous life.

A Promise to the Dead opens as he stands on front of La Moneda, the presidential palace in Santiago bombed by Pinochet's supporters in September 1973. The palace reminds him of death but also of better times, when Chile seemed poised on the cusp of becoming a republic dedicated to social justice in a continent rife with injustice, violence and poverty, and when he felt "incredibly alive."

Shot in Chile, Argentina and the United States, it unfolds against the backdrop of archival footage and photographs, and moves effortlessly from one scene to another.

He meets former friends and protectors as well as relatives of Chileans who disappeared during the Pinochet interregnum. He visits a facility where anti-Pinochet dissidents were tortured and a street corner in Santiago where he might easily have been mowed down. He returns to the Argentine embassy. And, in the company of his obviously sensitive son, he makes a painful trip to the cemetery where his grandmother was buried and then disinterred without the knowledge of her family.

The theme of exile is omnipresent, not only as it pertains to Dorfman's own experiences but in reference to his family's history. His grandfather, a Russian Jew, fled the pogroms of Odessa and immigrated to Argentina. His grandmother, a cultured and educated person, was none other than Leon Trotsky's interpreter.

Dorfman's father, a left-wing academic, escaped after the 1943 military coup in Argentina. Dorfman, then a year old, was brought up in New York City. Seduced by U.S. media culture, he was an all-American boy. His father, however, was at odds with the United States' foreign policy. Amid the McCarthyist purge, the Dorfmans fled to Chile, where they acquired citizenship.

Although Dorfman feels at home in both Chile and the United States, he admits that he has "divided loyalties and allegiances." In the unpejorative sense of the word, he is truly a "rootless cosmopolitan," a phrase Joseph Stalin coined in the late 1940s and early 1950s to demonize Soviet Jews.

As demonstrated in the film, Dorfman is a cool-headed analyst and a conciliator. In a startling admission, following a staunch denial that Chile was on the road to becoming a second Cuba, he acknowledges that the Allende government frightened allies and adversaries alike. And in an impassioned cri de coeur, he urges Chileans to respect their profound political differences and coexist for the sake of the country.

Dorfman is a complex and emotional individual whose passions run deep, and in *A Promise to the Dead*, they are articulated with sincerity and verve.

Ariel Dorfman in Santiago, Chile

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Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

JIHAD: THE MUSICAL, A SATIRE OF AL QAEDA, DEBUTS IN EDINBURGH

Is Islamic terrorism a laughable matter? Hardly so, but neither was Hitler and the Third Reich – both of which were repeatedly mocked in popular song and culture during even the darkest days of World War II.

A new musical entertainment called *Jihad: The Musical* debuted last month at Scotland's Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Billed as a "madcap gallop through the wacky world of international terrorism," it features wisecracking terrorists brandishing cardboard AK-47s and a high-kicking chorus line of dancers cloaked from head to foot in shimmering pink burkas. The 12 original songs include *I Wanna Be Like Osama*, a video clip of which has been viewed more than 125,000 times on YouTube.

Even before it opened, the musical was criticized for being a "tasteless portrayal of terrorism and its victims," but producer **James Lawler** said it was conceived to encourage the public to learn to laugh instead of being afraid of Islamist terror. "It was developed in the same blitz spirit that characterized comedy during World War II," he told *Time* magazine, one of numerous mainstream publications to report on the production.

Co-writers **Zoe Samuel** and **Benjamin Sheuer** say they took great care to avoid insulting moderate Muslims. "We're not satirizing innocents," Samuel said. "We're satirizing terrorists, neocons and apologists – people who exploit other people's beliefs to shore up their own power."

Early reviewers, according to *Time* magazine, "have applauded the show for employing humour without losing sight of the underlying tragedy." Still, *Jihad: The Musical* sounds like the sort of production that one might call a "bomb."

* * *

Names in the News: Tourism authorities in Safed, in Israel's Galilee, are hoping a Rosh Hashanah visit by pop singer **Madonna** will help boost a local tourist industry that has been in a slump since last year's war with Hezbollah.

As reported by the JTA news agency, Madonna plans to visit Safed, Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and other areas as part of a tour organized by the Los Angeles-based Kabbalah Centre. It is her first visit to Israel in three years.

The pop icon, an outspoken popularizer of Kabbalah, is expected to bring along celebrity friends **Demi Moore** and **Donna Karan**, as well as about 3,000 Kabbalah Centre students for a 10-day pilgrimage to Israel that is set to end on Yom Kippur.

* * *

***Rachel Corrie* Resurrected:** Toronto-based Theatre Panik, which "is committed to doing theatre that gives voice to those who would otherwise go unheard," has announced plans to present the controversial play *My Name Is Rachel Corrie* at the Tarragon Extra Space in 2008.

Earlier this year, the play appeared on CanStage's list of upcoming productions but was soon canned. Artistic producer **Martin Bragg**'s explanation was that the show was flat onstage but, as the Toronto *Star* delicately put it last week, "rumours surfaced that CanStage worried it would have upset prominent donors."

At the centre of this tale is a tragedy as ugly and heartbreaking as a traffic accident. Corrie, a young American activist with the pro-Palestinian International Solidarity Movement, purposely sat in the path of an oncoming Israeli bulldozer as it was demolishing a building; the driver didn't see her and she was crushed to death. Hence her subsequent martyrdom on stage.

Not unexpectedly, the play, a one-woman show based on Corrie's writings, received much media attention when London's Royal Court Theatre first presented it several years back. It has since been revived in the West End, Edinburgh, New York and Seattle.

The play is "not an animated recruiting poster for Palestinian activists," according to the *New York Times*. "Its deeper fascination lies in its invigoratingly detailed portrait of a passionate political idealist in search of a constructive outlet."

Theatre Panik has previously waded into Middle Eastern politics with *Territories*, which won a Summerworks prize for best production of a new play in 2005. The company is the recipient of several grants from the Ontario Arts Council, including one for $8,500 in 2006. Its artistic co-directors are **Niki Landau** and **Paul Lampert**.

* * *

Arts in Brief

- *Disengagement*, a new film by Israeli director **Amos Gitai** (*Free Zone*, *Kaddosh*, *Kippur*) is playing at the Toronto International Film Festival, which opens this week. Gitai and actor **Juliette Binoche** are both supposed to be in town for this, the film's North American première.
- Toronto Yiddish writer-poet **Simcha Simchovitch** recently travelled to his hometown of Otwock, Poland, as the guest of the Otwock Memorial Committee, to participate in the town's 65th anniversary memorial. Simchovitch is the author of *Stepchild on the Vistula*, which tells of his childhood and youth in Otwock. He spent 10 days there, his first trip back since 1948.
- World Literacy of Canada celebrates International Literacy Day 2007, as declared by UNESCO, to remind the international community of the status of literacy and adult learning globally. Reception, 401 Richmond St., Suite 236. Friday, Sept. 7, 2 to 5 p.m. 416-977-0008

Doc more satisfying than salt

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Viewers of Ryan Feldman's documentary *Lick Salt: A Grandson's Tale* will agree it's full of flavour.

The film explores Feldman's relationship with his previously estranged grandmother, Cecile. The two meet at Cecile's husband's funeral, and the film tracks their re-acquaintance over the following three years.

During this time, viewers gain a poignant look into the life of a lonely old woman. The cause of the estrangement between Cecile and her son (Feldman's father) surfaces, and, as Cecile loses touch more and more with reality, she is connected back to her childhood memories of fleeing the Nazis.

Feldman says filming Cecile was an "instinctual" choice. He didn't immediately know there would be a story, he says, but by the end he learned many lessons from his grandmother.

"[I learned] what it means to listen and what it means to be heard, and how powerful a mechanism for change that can be," says Feldman, 33.

"Change comes from acceptance. In the story of the film when she starts to be heard, she can accept certain things."

Feldman refers to Cecile's gradual acceptance of in-home care, and becoming comfortable with her son holding power of attorney.

Cecile is never dull to watch, as her character is intricate and multi-layered. She is, at different points, cutting and demanding, frail, completely out of touch with reality, lonely, charismatic, creative and always honest.

("What do I have to lie about?" she asks, surprised and almost affronted, when her grandson says he likes that latter quality.)

Feldman says that, due to his grandmother's growing distance from reality during filming, he was acutely aware of his duty to represent her properly.

"I always said in the back of my mind that no matter how much vulnerability I showed, it was okay, as long as at the end of the film, everybody involved still had their dignity. And I felt that she did. Especially because people are able to laugh," he says.

A captivating scene that explores this concept depicts Cecile trying to get a 1944 photograph of her cousin Aubrey to eat some food. She is frustrated that the photo will not answer her or eat anything, and her grandson keeps repeating that a picture can't eat.

"I don't think that I have 'one over' on her," he says of the scene. "I feel that I'm doing her a service because people are enjoying her and enjoying us and that Abbot and Costello routine."

While Cecile and Ryan's relationship is intriguing to follow, the cinematography can sometimes lose a viewer's interest, with lengthy shots of objects, silent-movie-esque captions, and conversations in a restaurant where the background sound overpowers the dialogue.

Feldman describes Cecile as "mishuga."

"She's a wild, very creative, strong woman who never had an opportunity to enjoy her creativity to any potential," he says.

Feldman blames her childhood experiences for the stifling, as well as her late husband, who Feldman says was always telling her to be quiet, and stop talking so much.

"She was just a little girl running naked in the snow from Germans," he says, recalling an anecdote Cecile tells in the film.

Prior to the funeral, Feldman and Cecile had not spoken in 15 years. He remembers feeling linked to Cecile in childhood, however, as he was also always asking too many questions.

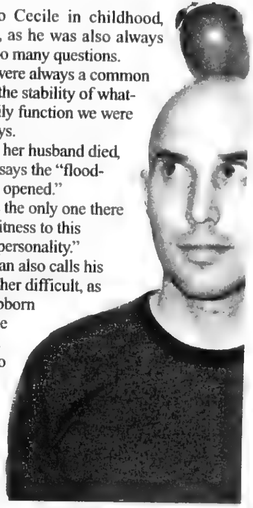
"We were always a common threat to the stability of whatever family function we were at," he says.

When her husband died, Feldman says the "floodgates had opened."

"I was the only one there to bear witness to this amazing personality."

Feldman also calls his grandmother difficult, as she is stubborn and people often find her hard to get along with.

"We found a harmony together, she was no threat to me," he says.


Filmmaker Ryan Feldman

"People think that another person can do damage to them, but really, you take that top layer away and we're all really kind of harmless. If we really want to take offence the choice is there."

Lick Salt premiered in France at the Cinema Du Reel festival, screened in Toronto at the Brunswick Theatre on August 29, and will screen in Japan at the Yamagata Doc Film Festival in October.

Feldman currently has a development deal with CTV for another personal documentary and has plans to start working on dramatic films as well. For more information visit www.ryfeproductions.com.

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Musician's Jewish roots show when she plays blues

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Blues musician Lily Sazz is amazed at the number of other Jewish blues musicians that she's met.

The keyboard player for Groove Corporation, Hen Party and the annual Women's Blues Revue, at Toronto's Massey Hall, figures it's because Jewish musicians relate to the suffering associated with the genre.

Lily Sazz

"For me, it was accidental, I fell into the blues," Sazz says.

"I've been told by another Jewish musician that my Jewishness is showing because I'm using minor chords and almost Hebrew folk melodies are coming out in the songs I'm writing. So, somewhere it's in the fabric of my being and I didn't even know it."

Sazz, 46, comes from what she has been told was the town with the smallest Jewish community in Canada – Beamsville, Ont.

"We had a very small synagogue called Baron Hirsh. My father was one of the pioneers that started it," she says.

"It was in a very old one-room school house that had been converted. There is no synagogue there anymore. People either died or moved away. It was only open on High Holidays. There weren't enough members to form a minyan on a weekly basis."

She currently lives in Dundas, Ont., with her husband, Paul Fayter, a professor at York University

A classically trained musician, Sazz studied piano and harpsichord at McMaster University. Early in her university days, she saw Crowbar, a rock band with blues roots, in Hamilton, Ont.

"I saw Kelly Jay playing the piano and had never seen anything like that," she says. "The next night, we went to catch them at a club. Friends who knew the band introduced me. The next thing I knew I was sitting next to Kelly Jay on the stage being humiliated and watching him do his thing. He suggested I sell my harpsichord, get a keyboard and join a rock band.

"Anyway, one thing led to another and I started taking guitar lessons from Crowbar's guitarist Alex MacDougall. Through the band I got to know other people, and next thing I knew, I had a job in the first band I was ever in, which was terrible. It gave me a chance to learn.

"I started playing by ear, which is something I've never done, because of course, when you're classically trained, you just read the dots on the page and interpret them as emotionally as you can. There's no improvisation or anything," she says.

Sazz played pop-rock and happily began to make a living at it – gigging her way through the last two years of university. Once she felt confident, she began to play blues and worked on her solos. Then she ended up playing in a band with MacDougall and was thrilled she played at a level that was acceptable to her teacher and mentor. Around that time, she gave up guitar and flute to focus on keyboards and vocalizing – mainly as a backup singer.

Currently, she's writing songs for Hen Party, an acoustic group made up of three women, and Groove Corporation, an eight- to 10-piece funk/rhythm and blues band.

Sazz was the musical director of Women's Blues Revue, a Toronto Blues Society production, for 10 years, and she has played in the revue's band for 11. Although she retired from her position as musical director this year, she will continue in her role as the revue's keyboard player this year at the concert on Dec. 1.

She can also be heard playing on a compilation CD of live recordings of performances from the Women's Blues Revue, *Women's Blues Revue Live.*

Sazz's says her most memorable moment onstage was playing with fellow Jewish keyboard player Paul Shaffer at Toronto's Mod Club in June 2006, at a fundraiser for MusiCan, whose mission is to ensure that young Canadians have access to music programs through their school systems.

"Paul Shaffer is always someone I revered, and I related to the fact he's not a lead singer, that he's a keyboard player and bandleader like me," she says.

"Alex called me 'the Paul Shaffer of the Women's Blues Revue' because that is the role I played. For that night, I used the Women's Blues Revue Band and called them, the Queen Bees. We backed Molly Johnson, Haydain Neale from [the band] jacksoul, Gerald Eaton from the Philosopher Kings, Roy Kenner, Serena Ryder and Robbie Lane, but the crown jewel was playing with Paul. It was amazing!"

For more information about Lily Sazz, visit www.lilysazz.com, and for information about the Women's Blues Revue and the CD *Women's Blues Revue Live*, visit www.torontobluessociety.com.

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The Looming Tower examines events that culminated in 9/11

***The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* by Lawrence Wright, published by Alfred A. Knopf.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The events that culminated in 9/11, the catastrophic Al Qaeda terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, turn on a few pivotal figures.

Sayyid Qutb, the Egyptian founder of the modern Islamic movement, and Osama bin Laden, the Saudi spiritual father of Al Qaeda, were among the aggrieved Muslim radicals who made it possible philosophically and operationally.

Lawrence Wright's masterful book, *The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*, focuses on this band of Muslim brothers.

Wright's volume is also an exposé of blindness at the highest levels of the American government.

When FBI agent Daniel Coleman told his superiors in 1996 that bin Laden – a financier of terrorism – posed a strategic threat to the United States, no one took him seriously.

And when President George W. Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, was briefed on the subject a few months after his inaugural, she left the impression that she had never heard of bin Laden.

To be fair, Wright adds, Richard Clarke, the national coordinator for counterterrorism in the Bush administration, was on the ball. Two months before Sept. 11, he issued a prescient warning: "Something really spectacular is going to happen, and it's going to happen soon."

Clarke and a handful of U.S. officials, such as John O'Neill, the FBI's chief of counterterrorism, were familiar with bin Laden who, in August 1996, declared war on America from a cave in Afghanistan.

The World Trade Center, the target of Al Qaeda's attack on Sept. 11, 2001

The son of an extremely wealthy building contractor born in Yemen, bin Laden was highly influenced by Abdullah Azzam, a Palestinian scholar and mystic born in the West Bank town of Jenin. Animated by a vision that Islam would achieve world domination by force of arms, Azzam combined piety and learning with utter intransigence. His slogan was "Jihad and the rifle alone. No negotiations, no conferences, no dialogue."

Azzam railed against *jahiliyya*, the world of unbelief, which existed before Islam and was undermining the faithful with the lures of materialism, secularism and sexual equality.

Picking up where Azzam left off, bin Laden argued that the United States would not cease supporting Israel until "we give them a lot of blows." Tracing his animus against America back to 1982, Wright says that his hatred was a function of his belief that the United States permitted Israel to invade Lebanon.

Yet, as Wright points out, bin Laden kept such beliefs to himself, informing members of Saudi Arabia's royal family that he was grateful for American aid to Muslim fighters battling the Soviet army in Afghanistan.

Wright also focuses on Ayman al-Zawahiri, bin Laden's right-hand man. Initiated into the Egyptian Muslim fundamentalist movement at only the age of 15, and the scion of well-to-do parents, Zawahiri was further radicalized by Israel's victory in the Six Day War.

As Wright puts it, "The profound appeal of Islamic fundamentalism in Egypt and elsewhere was born in this shocking debacle."

To Zawhiri and like-minded Muslims, Islam was the answer to Egypt's ills. In practice, this meant that Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser's secular nationalist regime had to be toppled so that Islamic law could be imposed on Egypt.

Casting his eyes further afield, Zawahiri cited three grievances against the United States: the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia after the 1991 Gulf War; Washington's crusade against Iraq prior to its 2003 invasion; and its support of Israel.

Zawahiri and bin Laden were both inspired by Qutb, a writer and a supervisor employed by the ministry of education in Egypt. Like many Arabs, he felt betrayed by the sympathy shown to the Zionist cause by the United States during the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948.

Drawing on these sentiments, he developed the thesis that only Islam, with its laws, social codes and economic rules, offered a way out of the morass in which Arabs found themselves.

In his view, Islam and modernity were incompatible. A visit to the United States in the late 1940s reinforced this belief.

Wright says that Zawahiri and bin Laden, though not friends, constituted an awesome force.

"Each man filled a need in the other," he observes. "Zawahiri wanted money and contacts, which bin Laden had in abundance. Bin Laden, an idealist given to causes, sought direction. Zawahiri, a seasoned propagandist, supplied it."

Global jihad was their objective. Wright cites Al Qaeda's bombing of the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, in November 1995 as the prototype of future Al Qaeda attacks.

The pair were initially flummoxed by the prohibition against suicide in Islam. But this problem was conveniently resolved when Zawahiri decreed that anyone who gave his life in pursuit of Islam, the true faith, was to be regarded as a heroic martyr who would be amply rewarded in paradise.

According to Wright, the bombing of the U.S. embassy in Beirut in 1983 left a profound impression on bin Laden, convincing him that suicide bombers could be astonishingly effective.

In line with bin Laden's class origins and his training as an engineer, the vast majority of Al Qaeda recruits hailed from the middle or upper classes. Largely college educated, with a strong bias in the natural sciences and engineering, they were well-adjusted young men who came predominantly from Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Citing an example, he mentions Mohamed Atta, the Egyptian ringleader of the 9/11 hijackers.

Wright says that the Saudi government, in the aftermath of the 1979 attack on the Grand Mosque in Mecca, attempted to co-opt Muslim extremists by building hundreds of mosques and religious schools. But the plan backfired when bin Laden turned on the Saudi government, branding it as corrupt and pro-American.

Wright's chapter on bin Laden and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan is instructive.

Mullah Omar, the Taliban leader, originally had no quarrel with the United States. But assuming that bin Laden could help rebuild Afghanistan after the Soviet retreat, he formed what would be a disastrous alliance with him.

Wright, a staff writer for the *New Yorker*, spent five years researching and writing *The Looming Tower*. His time was well spent. This is a must-read work, having won this year's National Book Award for non-fiction.

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The Canadian Jewish news

CJN Profile

Food writer and critic Sara Waxman turns a new page

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

"Sara Waxman tastes and tells."

With these choice words, one of Toronto's most seasoned restaurant critics and food writers recently announced her intention to publish a new magazine dedicated to gustatory delights in the Greater Toronto Area.

Dine, as her glossy prospectus promises, will help gourmets achieve what she describes as "dish-fulfilment."

Scheduled to be launched in November, *Dine* will carry restaurant reviews and articles of interest to foodies and wine connoisseurs.

"It will not be a restaurant listing," said Waxman, whose reviews and stories have appeared in the *Toronto Sun*, the *National Post*, the *Toronto Star*, *TV Guide* and *En Route*, among other publications.

The 120- to 150-page magazine, of which she is publisher and editor-in-chief, will be cutting-edge in content and contain dazzling photography. "I feel it will be the *Vogue* magazine of dining."

With a print run of about 11,000 copies, *Dine* will appear once a year and will be augmented by a constantly updated website (www.dinemagazine.ca).

It may yet appear more frequently. "Some people are pushing me to put it out two to four times a year. We'll see."

To Waxman, *Dine* will fill a niche, though she realizes that there are competitors in the field, including *Dining Out* and *Toronto Life*.

"We'll showcase the dining scene in Toronto, which is pretty hot," she said in an interview at her elegant condominium home in the Yorkville neighbourhood.

"In terms of quality, our top restaurants and second-tier restaurants compare with those in New York City. I wouldn't be embarrassed to recommend any of our good restaurants."

Waxman expects *Dine* to be successful. "I really believe in it."

An accomplished cook who has had a romance with food since childhood, Waxman said that *Dine* will be distributed by various means.

Some copies will be sold at newsstands and others will be carried by the *Globe and Mail* as a supplement. Still others will be stocked by the Whole Food grocery store chain, as well as The Cookbook Store and other retail outlets.

Guests who check into such five-star hotels as the Four Seasons and the new Hazelton Park Hyatt will also have access to *Dine*.

"It'll be kept as an amenity in the room, like hand lotion and slippers," she said.

Waxman, the author of four cookbooks ranging from *The Great Hadassah Cookbook* to *Toronto's Cheaper Eats*, started thinking about producing a magazine like *Dine* since last winter.

"It just kind of evolved into a good idea," she observed. "Dining out in restaurants has become the entertainment of the world. You may not be able to go on a Mediterranean cruise, but you can go out to dinner."

Her partners in the venture are Peter Roston, a chartered accountant, and Jay Madarino, the president of C.J. Graphics.

"There are no shortage of investors," she said. "This is a good product, and I have a reputation of integrity and good work."

Sara Waxman

The widow of the Canadian actor Al Waxman (star of *The King of Kensington* and *Cagney & Lacey*), she plans to write much of the copy. "Who knows the dining scene better than I? I've been writing about food for over 25 years, and mine is an educated opinion."

Writers aside from Waxman will contribute to *Dine* as well. "Everyone associated with this publication is a pro."

For example, two of the contributors in the first edition will be the restaurateur Franco Prevedello, who founded Centro and Splendido, and the vintner Donald Ziraldo, who co-founded the Inniskillin winery. Prevedello will produce a column on restaurant trends, while Ziraldo will write a commentary on wine.

She does not rule out the possibility that *Dine* will carry items of Jewish interest. After all, Waxman was practically weaned on Jewish soul food. "My mother was a great cook. She made wonderful brisket and soups."

Waxman, born in Bialystok, Poland, arrived in Canada in July 1939, less than two months before the outbreak of World War II.

She was barely a year old when she immigrated to Canada with her parents, Mendel and Ann Shapiro, and her older sister, Essie. They were on the last ship to leave the Polish port of Gdynia prior to Germany's invasion of Poland.

The family was permitted into Canada after Mendel, a businessman, convinced the Canadian government that he was a farmer.

He wanted to emigrate from Poland because he sensed that serious trouble was brewing in Europe.

In retrospect, he was extremely prescient. All the members of his family, with the exception of his oldest sister and her children, were murdered during the Holocaust. Ann's entire family was also wiped out.

For the first five years in Canada, the Shapiros struggled to run a farm in Manitoba. They then moved to Winnipeg, where Mendel ran hotels and bought the KIK soft drink bottling company.

"I loved food from an early age," said Waxman. "Planting it, shopping for it and cooking it."

Before her marriage – which lasted for 32 years until her husband's untimely death in 2001 during heart surgery – Waxman worked as an editorial assistant at *Saturday Night* magazine under editor Robert Fulford.

After giving birth to two children, Tobaron and Adam, now an artist and an actor, respectively, she became a court reporter. "I took shorthand at 220 words a minute."

When a publisher asked her husband, Al, if he would like to write a book, he suggested that his wife, Sara, should write one. She proceeded to write *The King's Wife's Cookbook*, which led to a daily column, Supper in a Hurry, in the *Toronto Star* from 1981 to 1982. That, in turn, paved the way for her stint as a weekly columnist at the *Toronto Sun*, and, later, the *National Post*.

She gave up her columns in 2005, tired of the grind.

"I had enough and wanted something more," explained Waxman, who still operates Waxworx, a company specializing in the recruitment of food industry personnel. "I wasn't getting personal satisfaction anymore, and I was getting tired of eating out."

Yet, as her involvement in *Dine* strongly suggests, Waxman remains passionate about food.

"Al and I both had a lot of friends, and we liked to entertain. We would have seders for 20-odd people. Al was a gourmet, but when I married him, he was happy with a cold hot dog." Under her tutelage, he turned into a discerning and picky diner.

And with *Dine*, she hopes to educate many more.

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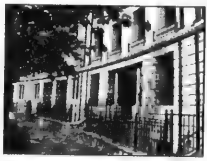
Impressive wrought-iron gated residence in Lower Forest Hill. 2-storey foyer, grand staircase w/skylight. 9'ceilings. Large principal rooms. 5 br's, 6 bth's. Many-walk-outs to terrace, pool & cabana.



CASTLE HILL TOWNHOME $2,880,000

Impressive 3-storey atrium. Great room w/wall of windows. Elevator, floating staircases, home theatre, 3 br's, 5bth's. Games room, Spa w/ wet bar , hot tub, 2 terraces, 3 balconies.

YONGE/ST. CLAIR $2,850,000

Coveted address. Spacious 3,022 sq. ft. flowing layout. Hosts of Fr. doors w/ side windows, Juliette balconies and terraces. Office adjacent to kit. Coffered ceilings, wired for ent. centre, surround sound.

RICHMOND HILL $1,799,000

Approx 1/2 acre property with mature cedar hedge for privacy. 9,250 sq. ft. 4 + 1 br's, 7 bth's. Lower level w/w/o. Rec & games rms, exercise rm w/ sauna. Sep nanny's entrance.

*Sales Representative **Broker

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LYTTON PARK NOW $2,195,000 GRAND RES

Built in 1991, Luxury Fins, Approx 5000 sf + Spa, Lower Level, 3 Car Garage. G. Mitchell** 416-488-2875

435 DOUGLAS AVENUE! STUNNING 4+1BR, 4BTH!

$1,299,000! Fab curb appeal! W/O bsmt! Nanny Ste! Gorg'us landscaped lot! Move right in! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

GREAT UPPER VILLAGE HOME-BRIGHT & SPACIOUS 3 BR! $729K

Side hall! Updated eat-in kitchen, Lrg principal rooms. 36x125' ft lot. Fin bsmt w/sep entrance! Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

SEATON VILLAGE SOLD AD $695,000

Incredible Opp! 5 Apts in M SOLD eno 46 x 100 Lot. For details call Gary Mitchell** 416-488-2875

ARMOUR HEIGHTS – ATTENTION BUILDERS & RENOVATORS $589K

Excellent opportunity. Beau SOLD lot 47.29x166' ft on prime street in high demand neighbourhood. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

FANTASTIC NORTH YORK TOWNHOUSE-3 YRS NEW! $449,000

Beautiful & spacious 3 bdrm, 3 bath-excellent schools, walk to bus/subway! Just move in & enjoy. Rickey Fitzerman* 416-226-1987

FAYWOOD SOUTH OF SHEPPARD! $432,000

Attention builders!!! Great 40x150 ft lot. Perfect for new home! Anne Eidlitz* 416-226-1987

NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

1ST AD! 22 BERKINDALE DRIVE! BAYVIEW / YORK MILLS!

$1,279,000! Spectacular 75x151' west lot in most sought after multi-million $$ enclave! WOW! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

UNIQUE BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED & RENOVATED HOME! $739,000!

In most desirable area! Huge park-like backyard! Stylish fam rm. Modern Kit. Must Be Seen! A. Bekerman* & L. Shapedko* 416-226-1987

HIGH DEMAND THORNHILL WOODS $589,000 MAGNIFICENT!

Luxurious appointed residence! Exquisite attention to details, Gracious principal rooms. Elegant kitchen & hrdwd. L. Shapedko* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

1ST AD! 10 KENNETH AVENUE! YONGE N/SHEPPARD!

$368,000! Spectacular 2+1br, 2bath, east ste w/panoramic views! Prkg +locker! Impeccable cond! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

253 MERTON STRE SOLD NGE/DAVISVILLE!

$459,000 Incredible 2br, 2 b SOLD s/e corner ste w/balcony+prkg+locker! This won't last! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

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Bathurst/Centre – Approx 4400 sq. ft. Fully renovated 6 bdrm home, 2 bsmnt Apts, New windows, Steps to Synagogues, School, Shopping, Shows Great! Asking $799,000. ***Ted Waxman 905-764-7200** Alan Newton R. E. Ltd., Brokerage

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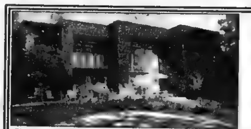
10 ROCKSPRINGS AVENUE - BATHURST & SHAFTSBURY, RICHMOND HILL

Professionally Decorated "Acorn" Home in Popular "Westbrook" Area. 4 + 1 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, with beautifully finished Basement. $$ Spent on upgrades throughout! $544,900.



8 Mile Point Lake Simcoe

Waterfront Elegance

Contemporary design, quality built, well equipped and maintained, spacious, open style living area, 5 bedrooms, 5 baths. Very private, wonderful gardens professionally landscaped, 100' of friendly shoreline, among other superior properties, just 1 hour north of 401. A must see for the discriminating buyer.

Bill Shaw, Sales Representative **705-345-1150** RE/MAX Orillia Brokerage

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3 bedrooms, 2 baths, good size living & dining comb, finished basement, garage, steps to all.

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Reno'd condo, 3 bdrm + den, lrge mstr bdrm, w/o to balcony, bathroom ens, kitchen granite top, lrge liv & din w/o to balcony & terrace. Great buy, don't' miss!

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SALLY ROSEN 905-764-7111

BATHURST & CENTRE

Large 4 bdrm, 2 storey, huge family rm, very quiet crescent, 171' lot, basement apt w/sep entrance, fantastic location.

CUMMER & BAYVIEW

Prestige location. Elegant 4 bdrm home, fam rm, fin bsmnt, completely reno. 2 car garage.

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FINE PROPERTIES

MISTY CRESCENT - $2,649,000.

Beautifully renovated home. New custom kitchen, exquisite built-in cabinetry. Huge master w/fabulous ensuite + sitting area & 2-tiered cedar deck. Professionally landscaped garden & stunning pool area: an oasis in the city! ***Janice Sackichand**

* * *

FOXBAR ROAD - EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

Location, luxury & your choice of finishes. Two new homes on one of Toronto's finest streets. Built to impress. Completion set for Jan. 2008. Offered at $1,598,000. each. ***Linda Rose / **Darren Slavens**

* * *

YONGE/YORK MILLS - $1,549,000.

Gorgeous Tudor on beautiful treed lot. Gourmet kitchen w/breakfast area + w/out to deck. Stunning master ensuite. 2 fireplaces. Finished lower level. ***Daniel Pustil**

* * *

YONGE / FINCH - $1,429,000.

Exclusive Listing. New construction. 4 bedroom family home. Over 3,400 sq.ft. Excellent workmanship. Top quality finishes. Terrific area. ****Darren Slavens / *Irena Elina**

* * *

ORIOLE ROAD - $1,395,000.

Beautiful Kellner Jourdan built spacious townhome. Fab. location. Entertaining size living & dining rms. Eat-in kitchen. Wonderful landscaped grdn. Priv. drive & gar. ***Edith Weiss / *Barbara Kaplan**

* * *

YONGE / HWY 7 - $769,000.

Immaculate 4 bdrm. family home on beautiful 50' x 145' lot. Main fl. Library & family rm. w/fireplace. Spacious eat-in kitchen w/walk-out to deck. ***Eden Williams / **Emily Naretto**

* * *

DESIRABLE ARMOUR HEIGHTS - $715,900.

Beautifully reno'd 3 bdrm. family home on fabulous 165' deep lot, with inground Betz pool. Main fl. & lower level addition w/walk-outs. Attached garage. ****Cary Chapnick**

* * *

YORK MILLS SOLD E - $449,000.

Lovely suite in prestigious bu[illegible]. Great views. Walk-out to large private balcony. Parking. ***Edith Weiss / *Barbara Kaplan**

* * *

LAWRENCE PARK CONDO - $364,900.

Beautiful 2 bdrm. suite in prestigious building. Balcony. Parking & locker included. Great building amenities. ****Cary Chapnick**

* * *

**Salesperson* ***Broker*

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The Canadian Jewish news

Early Classified Deadlines

September 12th issue
Real Estate- Wed. Sept. 5, 11:00
Classified- Tues. Sept 4, 4:00

September 20th issue
Real Estate- Mon. Sept. 10, 2:00
Classified- Fri. Sept. 7, 2:00

October 3rd issue
Real Estate- Mon. Sept. 24, 2:00
Classified- Fri. Sept. 21, 2:00

October 11th issue
Real Estate- Mon. Oct. 1, 9:00
Classified- Wed. Sept. 26, 12:00

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PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP! Charming 3 + 1 bedroom detached bungalow on 48 x 120 ft. lot. Modern renovated kitchen, thermopane windows, new roof, attached garage, possible in-law suite. **ONLY $549,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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PRINCE CHARLES PARK

PREMIUM pie-shaped lot facing park. 42 ft. frontage widens to 95 ft. at rear. Plans available for 3,600 sq. ft. dream home. Asking $599,999. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK

BALMORAL ESTATES – ARCHITECTURAL GEM

Very spacious 6 + 2 bedroom family home on premium lot close to park, tennis courts. 4,800 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., main floor family room + library, $1,190,000. Take a virtual tour at **eichornrealty.com** and call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / COLDSTREAM — REDUCED

Brand new 4 + 2 bedroom executive home, approx. 3,000 sq. ft. + basement, upgrades throughout. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT $969,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / DELL PARK — SPECTACULAR!

3,500 sq. ft. + finished basement, 5 + 2 bedrooms, 6 baths, dream custom kitchen, main floor family room + library. **PRICED TO SELL AT $1,149,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / ELGIN MILLS — ELEGANT RICHMOND HILL

MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM HOME. 4,000 sq. ft. + finished basement, 3 years new, 4 + 1 bedrooms, main floor family room + library, upgrades throughout. Granite, limestone, crown mouldings, wainscotting, 2 car garage +++. **ONLY $949,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE

Custom executive home, 2 years new, 3,800 sq. ft. + finished basement, 5 + 2 bedrooms, 5 baths, Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen, main floor library + family room, $1,129,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

STORE FOR LEASE

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN, GREAT LOCATION IN HIGH TRAFFIC AREA, $1,800 mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

AVENUE / BATHURST / LAWRENCE

CUSTOM EXECUTIVE HOME in demand location. 4 + 1 bedrooms, 5 baths, main floor library + family room. Upgrades throughout. Gleaming hardwood floors on 2 levels. Ideal for entertaining! $1,299,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

HOMES FOR RENT

- **BATHURST / HILLMOUNT — NEW LISTING** Spacious 3 bedroom bungalow, fin. bsmt. on 50 ft. lot, only $1,600 / mo. **ACT NOW!**
- **BATHURST / LAWRENCE** 4 bdrm. custom exec. home among prestigious homes on quiet street, $3,500 / mo.

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BATHURST – CENTRE – WILSHIRE $899K

4800 Sq. ft + Completely finished basement on Premium court location. Spacious, upgraded 4 bedroom, custom Features thru-out, 3 Level addition w/hot tub, fabulous landscaping. Maxine Povering** EXT 308

PRIME THORNHILL WOODS $638,800

Customized 4 Bdrm By Vogue, 3100+ Sq. ft. on Quiet Street. Large o/c Family rm; Comb Living/Dining Rm, Hrdwd flrs, Mstr bdrm w/his & hers w/l Clsts, 2nd flr lndry. Maxine Povering** EXT 308

THORNHILL WOODS – PREMIUM LOT $579,900

4 Bdrm by Aspen Ridge, Mn Flr laundry, Large 2 car gar w/entry, Dark Hrdwd flrs, 53' front, Landscaped front & back, large deck, upgraded kitchen++. Maxine Povering** EXT 308

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15 HOUSES FOR RENT

1 1/2 blks, west of Bathurst, n. of Lawr., 3 bdr. bung. w/1 bdrm. bsmt. apt., lrge, bckyard, 15 mins to subway, nr shuls, shops, $1850/mo. 905-889-2266.

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

CLARK & HILDA
$315,000. Spacious 2 Bedroom, 2 Baths, 3rd Floor, Approx 1400 ft., Tanden Parking. MLS #N1181034
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416-229-4454 x245
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35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

150 Neptune (Bath./Wilson), lux. 3 bdrm., 2 bath, 2nd flr., Sabbath elev. 416-783-1884.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Bath./Sheppard, Renovated, lux. apt. for rent. 416-505-7064.

Bath./Glencairn, 1 bdrm., furn. bsmt. apt., n/smkr/pets, sep. entr., $750/mo. 416-787-4154.

Bath. Manor, lrge. 1500', 2 bdr, bsmt apt, lndry, pkg, util incl., nr. TTC. $1100. 416-738-5183.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
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Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms,
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416-960-3238 - Bus.
416-631-9377 or 416-631-0388 - Super.

Spac. 2 bdrm. apt. Hilda/333 Clark, shops, shul, Oct. 1/07. $1795/mo. Call 905-881-4691.

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

Innisfil/Lake Simcoe, lux. custom design build, 2 lots avail., unique setting, waterfront, docks. Call 416-836-0904.

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

C.V. Pembroke Pines, sacrifice sale! 1 bed., 1.5 bath, first floor, upgrades. Available immed. 905-764-9948, 1-954-442-9400.

W. Palm Bch-Cent. Village, lakeview 2/2 condo, $125,000/US. 3rd flr., elevator. 561-482-8194.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Winter rental, condo apt. Palm Aire Pompano Beach, Florida, 2 br., 2 bath, fantastic view, newly redone, swimming pool, close to everything. 954-612-6762 / 954-566-6980.

Beaut. condo in Del Ray Beach, close to shopping, shul & beach. Dec.-Apr. No pets or smoking. See www.condoindelray.com or call Karen @ 416-769-6258.

Boca Century Village, sunny 1 br. 1 bath, clean, fully furn. Top flr. 3-6 mths from Jan. 7-2008. Call 416-489-6333.

Hallandale, Three Islands, renov'd., 1 bdrm. w/den, 1 bath, deck overlooks canal, tennis, pool, 10 mins. to Aventura & all amenities. $2000/mo. US + hydro. Seasonal. Please call 416-630-2177 or email: primeannex06@hotmail.com

Sunny Isles, by the beach, spacious 2 bdrms, tennis courts/pool, kosher kit, immed. $150/US daily or $2400/US mo. (514) 961-1852, (514) 369-1857.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

Gleneagles CC, Delray Beach
2/2-3/3 starting at $128,000-$349,000
U.S. Memberships increase effective Sept. 1. Seasonal rentals available starting at $4000/mo., 3 mo. min.
Call Doody Caplan at 561-702-3744
Nestler-Poletto Sotheby's Int.'l Rlty.

S. Beach, art deco, renov, furn. 1 bdrm., 1 bath, 1 pkg., avail. Sept.-Dec. 21 for rent, $1400/US mo. + util. for sale, $299K/US. Bea. 416-667-8045.

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123 TIME SHARE FOR RENT
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145 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM WANTED
147 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION
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155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE
160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT
165 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT
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185 OUT-OF-COUNTRY PROPERTIES
190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE
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200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE
201 OFFICE SPACE WANTED
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203 STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE
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225 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
232 BUSINESS FOR SALE
235 BUSINESS WANTED
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240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
245 EMPLOYMENT WANTED
246 VOLUNTEERS
247 DAY CARE AVAILABLE
248 DAY CARE WANTED
250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE
255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED
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Israel & the Jewish World

Israel could suffer because of Armenian debate

By BEN HARRIS
JTA

NEW YORK — The Anti-Defamation League's reversal last month of its position on the Armenian genocide has set off a flurry of diplomatic activity in Turkey and Israel.

Officials in Ankara and Jerusalem, in co-ordination with American Jewish leaders, were working last week to contain the fallout from the ADL's statement, which recognized the World War I massacres of Armenians by Ottoman Turks as "tantamount to genocide."

Malcolm Hoenlein

The ADL was forced to reverse its longstanding position – shared by other major American Jewish organizations – of neutrality on the genocide question amid growing dissension within its own ranks.

Jewish leaders warned that recognizing the genocide, as the U.S. Congress is now considering, could undermine American strategic interests in the Middle East and Turkey's robust military and economic partnership with Israel. Also deemed at risk was the security of Turkish Jewry, which sent a letter earlier this year opposing a congressional resolution on the matter.

Nabi Sensoy, Turkey's ambassador in Washington, told JTA that his government was strongly opposed to any congressional action, but that the Turkish Jewish community had nothing to fear in any case. Sensoy was less sure that Turkey's relations with Israel and the United States would survive a resolution unscathed.

"I cannot really dismiss that if this resolution does pass that there will be certain impacts on certain relationships," Sensoy said. "There is no doubt about it."

Of those raising the spectre of reprisals against Turkish Jewry, Sensoy said, "I'm very disturbed to hear this kind of remark coming from anywhere. They seem to be forgetting the history of Turks and Jews, which goes back at least 500 years. We've always had the best of relations between Turks and Jews, and the Turkish Jewish community is part and parcel, and an integral part, of the Turkish community."

What began more than a month ago as a small local protest against an ADL-sponsored program in the Boston suburbs has escalated into an international crisis with a nation deemed central to American interests and Israeli security.

Turkey is Israel's closest – and arguably its only – regional ally and is central to American policy in the Middle East.

Mindful of Turkey's importance, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations began a series of discussions on the matter last week. Malcolm Hoenlein, the group's executive vice-chairman, told JTA that the conference had not yet decided how or whether to respond.

"As wiser heads have prevailed, people are looking for us to play a role in trying to control and calm down the situation so there are no ramifications and repercussions that have nothing to do with the substance" of the issue, Hoenlein said.

Though Jewish groups have toed a careful line on the genocide question for years, the issue exploded this summer after the town council of Watertown, Mass., home to one of the country's largest Armenian communities, voted to sever ties with an ADL anti-bigotry program in protest of the organization's refusal to acknowledge the genocide.

After the vote, the ADL's regional director in Boston, Andrew Tarsy, switched gears and condemned his organization's position. Tarsy was promptly fired by Foxman.

The Boston ADL leadership rebelled and with pressure mounting, Foxman reversed himself, acknowledging that the "consequences" of Ottoman massacres of Armenians were "tantamount to genocide." Tarsy was reinstated as Boston director on Aug. 27.

An outraged Turkey communicated its dismay to Israeli and Jewish leaders, with some Turkish officials suggesting that Israel had to "deliver" American Jewish groups on this issue.

Namik Tan, Turkey's ambassador, reportedly said that his country believed its strategic relationship with Israel also involved the whole Jewish world.

The Turkish people "cannot make that differentiation" between Israel and American Jewish organizations, Nan told the *Jerusalem Post*.

"On some issues there is no such thing as 'Israel cannot deliver,'" he continued, adding that this was one of those issues.

According to an unofficial translation, the Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying use of the genocide label is "historically and legally baseless" and accusing the ADL of trying to "rewrite the history" of the period.

"We consider the statement of the ADL as an injustice to the unique character of the Holocaust, as well as to the memories of its victims," the statement said. "We expect it to be rectified."

Abe Foxman

On Aug. 26, the ADL released a second statement reiterating its support for a joint Turkish-Armenian commission to investigate the matter – a move Turkey supports – and its opposition to a resolution in Congress. Foxman also wrote to Turkey's prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, "to express regret for any pain we have caused to you and the Turkish people in these past few days."

In Turkey, those steps were seen as backtracking. Erdogan said the ADL had rectified its "mistake," according to the *Turkish Daily News*. Sensoy said he felt the ADL had reversed itself again and that its current position reflected a more "balanced situation."

"We are expecting the American Jewish organizations to be neutral about this," Sensoy said. "Although we're aware of the fact that this is a very sensitive issue for the Israeli people and the Jewish community, what we have to seek is the truth."

London editor: I'd celebrate Israel's nuking

JTA

LONDON — The editor of an Arabic daily newspaper in London said he would "dance with delight" if Iranian missiles hit Israel.

"If the Iranian missiles strike Israel, by Allah, I will go to Trafalgar Square and dance with delight," Abd Al-Bari Atwan said in an interview with the Lebanese television station ANB in June, according to the *Jerusalem Post*.

Bari Atwan is editor of *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*, a pan-Arab daily he founded in 1989. He is also a commentator on Sky News and BBC News 24.

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Brewers' slugger dished up double dose of mystery

By MARTIN ABRAMOWITZ
JTA

NEWTON, Mass. — As the baseball season heads into the home stretch and the High Holy Days approach, Ryan Braun is supplying a double dose of suspense: Will the Milwaukee Brewers' slugging third baseman become the first Jewish player to be named Rookie of the Year in either league? And does he plan to take a day off on Yom Kippur in the tradition of Hank Greenberg, Sandy Koufax and Shawn Green?

Braun, 25, has made an impact since his debut at the end of May. The California native made history in July by becoming the first player to be named the National League's Rookie of the Month and Player of the Month.

After 83 games he was batting .333 with 25 home runs and 66 runs batted in.

If Braun, the son of an Israeli who immigrated to the United States at the age of 7, is selected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America as the National League's top rookie, it would mark a first for Jewish players in Major League Baseball history.

Jewish Hall of Famers Hank Greenberg and Lou Boudreau played before the award was instituted in 1947. Koufax wasn't even close in 1955. Nor were the nine current Jewish major leaguers: Shawn Green, Brad Ausmus, Mike Lieberthal, Jason Marquis, Kevin Youkilis, Scott Schoeneweis and John Grabow, along with promising second-year players Ian Kinsler and Jason Hirsh.

The closest any Jewish player came to winning Rookie of the Year was another slugging third baseman, Al Rosen of the Cleveland Indians. In 1950 he led the American League with 37 home runs, but lost out in the balloting to Red Sox first baseman Walt Dropo, who batted .322 and was the RBI leader with 144.

Rosen went on to become the American League MVP in 1953, while Dropo never came close to matching his rookie totals.

Over the years, as the baseball season has wound down toward the playoffs, observers of Jews in baseball traditionally wonder what the prominent Jewish players will do on Yom Kippur, play or pray.

In earlier decades, Greenberg and Koufax made the American Jewish community proud with their decisions to sit out on the holy day – Greenberg attended services; Koufax did not. Boudreau publicly denied his Jewishness until the last years of his life. Green, the premier Jewish ballplayer of this era, has played and prayed depending on the year and the situation of his team.

Why believe Braun will take off on Yom Kippur?

Perhaps it's his connection to Greenberg: Braun lived for a time with his maternal grandfather in a house that once belonged to the legendary Detroit Tigers' slugger.

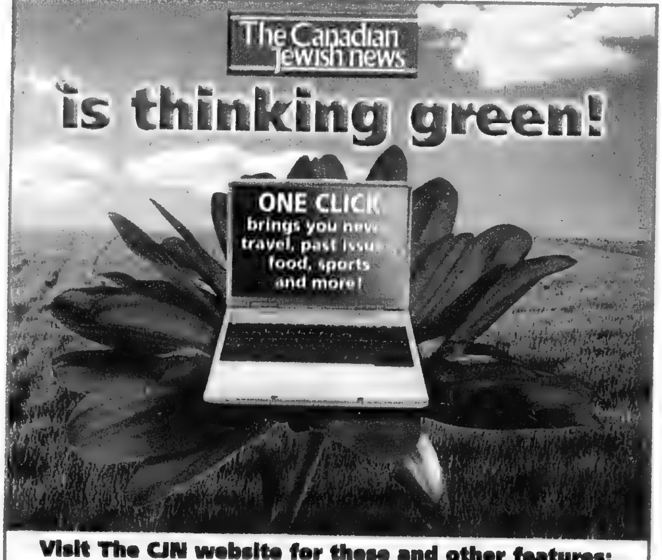
Then there is the interview Braun gave to the *Milwaukee Jewish Sentinel*.

"Being Jewish is something I take great pride in," he told the paper. "There aren't too many Jewish athletes who have achieved success at the highest level, so it's something I'm very proud of."

Of course, there is at least one good reason to believe he will play: Milwaukee is in the thick of a tight three-team race for the Central Division title and would hate to lose his bat, even for one night.

The Brewers aren't providing any clues; they haven't returned calls on the issue. So fans will just have to wait until Sept. 21 to find out if Braun will be wearing a uniform or a kippah.

Martin Abramowitz is the founding president of Jewish Major Leaguers, Inc., a not-for-profit organization "documenting American Jews in America's Game" (jewishmajorleaguers.org).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Baseball in Israel: If you build it, will they come?

By YANIV ORGAD
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — If the entire Israel Baseball League (IBL) season passed by non-English speaking Israelis without notice, they shouldn't feel bad. Though American spin doctors have woven wonders in election campaigns here, similar experts faced a tougher challenge in this case – introducing an unknown sport into the Israeli consciousness – and they failed. While some 3,000 people attended the opening ceremonies in Petah Tikva in late June, only half that number witnessed the championship game last week.

For the record, Beth Shemesh Blue Sox defeated Modi'in Miracle 3-0 to claim the league's inaugural championship.

"The league's bosses, American Jews, are dedicated but complete amateurs," said a journalist who covered the IBL over the past two months. "I gave them free advice to bring in someone like [Maccabi Tel Aviv captain] Avi Nimni to throw out the first pitch for one of the games. They said 'Good,' but didn't do a thing," he recalled.

"Israelis just didn't come," admitted southpaw pitcher Ari Alexenberg, whose potential Major League career was cut short by his Shabbat observance. "I played here in Yarkon Field for the Petah Tikva Pioneers, and we played to practically empty seats."

Alexenberg said he was "a bit jealous of Bet Shemesh and Modi'in, which played at Kibbutz Gezer where the stands were full [200-500 people] and enjoyed the support of the American community in the area." It may or may not be coincidental that both the Blue Sox and the Miracle wound up in the championship game.

Channel 5's weekly broadcast lasted a month, but was cancelled due to financial disputes. Yet Channel 10 program host and sports commentator Ofer Shelah was full of praise. "It amuses me slightly that we Israelis are quick to judge how to market a sport about which we have no expertise," said Shelah, who anchored the games. "I was impressed by the level of the players and the atmosphere. There are also new leagues in the United States. Even the ABA [American Basketball Association] didn't look much better at the onset."

Leon Feingold, the 34-year-old hurler for the Netanya Tigers, once got a shot with the Cleveland Indians organization but was cut down by a pair of shoulder injuries. He is now a real estate broker and professional competitive eater in New York. He divides IBL players into three categories. "A third of the players can play high-level minor league ball, a third belong in this league, and a third are pure amateurs," he observed.

Each player received $1,000 a month and Feingold said that's comparable to salaries in the lower rungs of the minors. The league would have benefited from pitching and batting coaches, as well as team physiologists, he suggested.

Other noted problems include the umpiring, as well as the quality of food and accommodations in Kfar Hayarok, where the players stayed.

"The Jewish players suffered quietly because the league for them was Zionism," said one of the players from the Dominican Republic. "We simply went out every night to bars in Tel Aviv and the girls there compensated for everything."

"You can't judge the league by its first season," concluded Shelah. "The Israeli league can be a development league similar to the higher levels of minor league ball. Will this sport catch on in a soccer-mad country with such a different mentality? Only time will tell."

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Are living wills still useful?

By MICHAEL GORDON

The Senior Side of Life

Some time ago, I wrote a *CJN* column on living wills in which I raised some concerns about their usefulness in helping individuals and family caregivers make end-of-life decisions when a person is no longer able to speak for himself or herself.

There has been a strong movement supporting living wills over the past three decades, and many organizations, facilities and health care spokespeople have promoted them as a useful method of assuring respect for the ethical principles of autonomy and consent to treatment. It was anticipated that if people stated what they would want under a given set of circumstances, those making decisions would know what to do, and this would respectfully eliminate uncertainty. Health care professionals believed living wills would translate into clearer decision-making in often trying situations that are sometimes fraught with family conflict and guilt.

But from laudable concept to real-world implementation, something went seriously awry. In addition to what appears to be a profound reluctance by individuals to document their wishes for the future, there is also the question of to whom a living will speaks – initially, doctors thought that since they were often consulted on the content of living wills, they would also clinically interpret them. But in most jurisdictions, the living will is directed to the surrogate decision-maker, usually a family member, rather than the doctor.

During the famous case of Terri Schiavo, some experts suggested that if she had written a living will, all the challenges that were undertaken by her family, community and religious groups, and governmental officials could have been avoided. After her case, organizations that provide documents such as living will "kits" experienced a surge in requests for them.

The July 3 issue of the prestigious *Annals of Internal Medicine* contained an article by Dr. Henry S. Perkins titled, "Controlling Death: The False Promise of Advance Directives" (advance directives are known in lay terms as living wills). His conclusion from reviewing 30 years of experience with living wills is that they haven't fulfilled their initial promise, which was to remove the uncertainty from end-of-life decisions and, therefore, to allow individuals to plan for their futures.

The author explores why living wills haven't fulfilled their promise. The reasons include the fact that few people actually fill them out, and physicians with whom patients and their families might wish to discuss the complex clinical events of end-of-life care are rarely meaningfully involved in such planning. As well, directives are often completed by individuals and family members, with perhaps a lawyer being involved, none of whom can discuss the implications of a directive's wording or what might occur in end-of-life situations. For example, panic might result in a family requesting a patient's transfer to an emergency room when the person might have indicated a preference to die at home in "dignity and comfort."

Another point made in the article is that the language used in living wills is often vague (e.g., "no heroics," "comfort care only," "dying with dignity"). Family members might interpret words or phrases differently, as might various health care providers.

The author feels that the uncertainty that often surrounds end-of-life care is best approached by open communication with those who will likely be involved in final decision-making. Difficult though they may be, discussions should focus on preferences, wishes and values. Such knowledge and understanding can help guide loving family members to do the "right thing," even in situations of complexity and uncertainty. Trying to capture it all in a written living will alone has not, so far, achieved those laudable and desirable goals, and and it's not likely to do so in the future.

Dr. Michael Gordon is medical program director of palliative care at Baycrest and co-author with Bart Mindszenthy of Parenting Your Parents (Dundurn Press).

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Public funding has many benefits

Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

There has been so much discussion in the general public about the possibility of Ontario provincial funding of Jewish day schools that it's worth discussing some of the potential consequences.

First, a word is in order for those of our families who are not involved in day school education. Our efforts to achieve funding for faith-based schools are not, in any way, an attack on public education. They are, in fact, an attempt to enhance public education by broadening it to include faith-based settings. In Israel, for example, all education is public, but parents can choose many different modes of state education, depending on their ideology and/or their pedagogic preference.

Another concern that parents have is that of accountability. This is really only a concern at the elementary level, since our secondary schools are already fully tied to ministry diploma requirements. Our elementary schools use ministry guidelines for the general studies curriculum, and our history of testing has demonstrated a very high rate of success among our children. If anything, a measure of accountability will only help us to bridge any gaps that might exist across the community of schools.

Now, let me wax philosophic for a moment. Aside from the immense cost benefit to our day school families, entering the sphere of public education has an added value. As frightened as we are of assimilation, healthy interaction with the broader environment and the majority culture is a positive force. As our students deepen their Jewish literacy and invigorate their identity in our schools, they can better appreciate the attachment that others have to their respective cultures. The reverse is also true. The stronger we know ourselves and demonstrate our pride in the rich legacy of Judaism, the more others can learn from us and deepen their respect for our great culture of history, customs, literature and spiritual values.

There is much to be gained from government funding of faith-based schools, and we must do everything we can to win this battle for fair funding this time around.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Good-bye, little girl

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

Life is so difficult to understand. As I write this article before Rosh Hashanah 5768, news reaches me that a little girl of four years old in our community has passed away.

Today that child will be buried. Today it is sunny. Today is another 24-hour period when we go about the business of living.

I am thinking about life as we get closer to the yamim tovim. Today's thoughts are heavier than yesterdays, when I know that a little life has left our earth, her body riddled with cancer, her family full of grief.

And I extrapolate this piece of news for the rest of the world and remember that the little one I speak of is one of thousands who will perish today – some from disease; others from war, the ultimate in human neglect.

And I look up at the sky with great curiosity, my eyes moist, considering what this thing we call life is all about. It is so confusing. What do I do with this information as I prepare for the High Holy Days? A little girl? The questions are endless. The answers – I don't know.

Soon we will stand before God and praise Him, and do tshuvah (repentance) for the things we have done wrong. We will apologize to the people we hurt and to ourselves, and ask the community, the world, to consider that we did our best – or that we could have done much better – in response to the cries of those suffering today, just as we expected from the world when our families were perishing in the Holocaust.

Then, we might consider switching the communication around. Once we have completed our supplication, we might ask God, our Partner in existence, for some sort of explanation for all of the things that occur around us that seem so very, very wrong.

A story is told of a man who did exactly that on the High Holy Days. Before the High Holy Days, he would write his list of sins on one side of his journal, and on the other, the terrible things that had happened in the world that day.

The man would then stand straight and tall, tapping his chest while he read over the inequities he had committed against others, against the earth and against God. Then he would say, "God we are partners in the world, and I approach You humbly, asking how it is that You allow anti-Semitism to spread; how You leave our tiny State of Israel so vulnerable and alienated; why You haven't stopped the mutilation of entire villages in Darfur; why You cause the devastating earthquakes and tornadoes.

"God, I stand before you asking for your forgiveness because I have hurt others and I have hurt myself. But I ask You, what do You have in mind for us as we go about trying to finish the work You have started? We are partners. Tell me."

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are upon us. Prepare for them. Study. Learn. Be introspective. Wonder. Question. Then dress in white, and through your extraordinary energy, bring peace and splendour to this world we share. And hope that our Partner does the same.

Let us hope and pray that in 5768 and forevermore, those who have suffered at the hands of others will experience joy, and that the perpetrators of pain and suffering will be marginalized and stymied as they consider their next actions.

Let us hope and pray that 5768 is an exemplary year for personkind when our partnership with God is clarified and the world we live in blossoms with peace and goodness. Shanah tovah.

Good-bye, little girl. Watch over us.

Avrum@veahavta.org Sederot/Sudan?

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Rosh Hashanah 5768

A time for renewal. *Special Supplement.* *Section B*

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Our opportunity to make things right

Editorial

At the edge of the water, where breezes blow and the distant horizon suggests the vastness of place and of human hope, the people in the accompanying photos recite the prayers of *Tashlich*.

It is the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah. The sun is low in the sky, but not yet at its edge.

"And You will cast (*V'tashlich*) their sins away into the far depths of the sea," the men and the women intone emphatically as they empty their pockets of the crumbs and other clinging motes that they wish to remove.

In the first afternoon of the new year, unless it falls on the Shabbat, in which case it is on the new year's second afternoon, individuals gather near a body of water and symbolically cast their sins away. It is a tangible act of personal intention to start afresh.

It is a custom, most scholars believe, that has developed from medieval times. The core of the brief but poignant ceremony is a passage from the prophet Micah (7:18-20), which beseeches God to pardon and forgive, to be merciful and to have compassion for His imperfect creations – us.

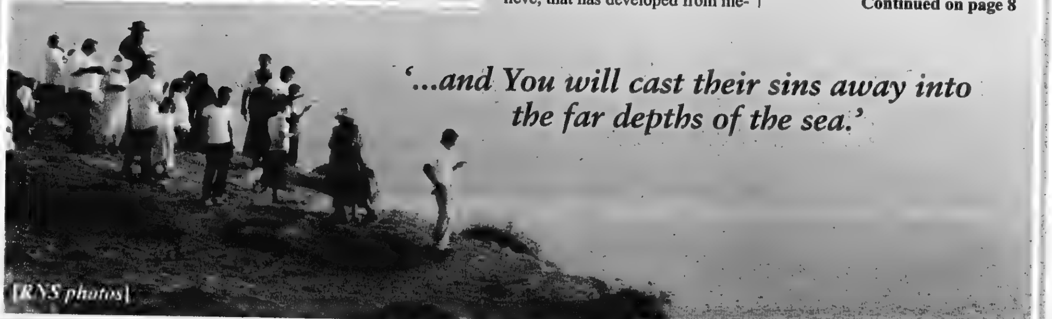
If only it were that easy to be rid of the behaviours, the weaknesses, the frailties and the vanities that we call our sins! Mostly these sins are wounds we inflict on others. And all sins against human beings must perforce be sins against God, too.

They are therefore seldom as light or as insubstantial as the crumbs we carry in our pockets. They cannot so easily be cast aside.

But we must try.

Whether standing at the edge of a body of water or sitting in the midst of a synagogue sanctuary crammed and cramped with High Holy Day worshippers, these 10 days of *Yamim Nora'im* are our latest opportunity to start, at least, to "make things right."

Continued on page 8



'...and You will cast their sins away into the far depths of the sea.'

[RNS photos]

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Standing up for Jewish honour

It is in the fall, when Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are upon us, that the people of our community undertake serious reflection on the year that has passed and consider the challenges and opportunities in the year to come.

As the new co-presidents of Canadian Jewish Congress, we look back with respect on the achievements of our predecessors, and we look forward to doing our part to strengthen Jewish life in Canada.

The last year has included many significant achievements for the Jewish community – continued and further strengthened relations with Canada's First Nations people; significant successes in bringing perpetrators of hate to justice; a strong voice urging action to eliminate the suffering of the people of Darfur; seeking justice and dignity for Holocaust survivors; and challenging and confronting the menace of Islamo-fascism in all its guises, to name but a few. These achievements reflect our community's engagement on matters of human rights and social justice, with the hope of leaving the world better than how we inherited it from those who came before us.

We are blessed to live in a country where the rule of law is paramount, and where Canadian values are reflected in people from many faiths, ethnicities and cultures living together in relative harmony. At the same time, we cannot take that harmony for granted. We have all seen or heard about incidents of anti-Semitism in our streets and on the Internet, dangerous statements from regimes demonizing Israel and incendiary verbal and written attacks by representatives of fringe communities whose views are contrary to Canadian and Jewish values. For some people, attacks of this kind spur vigilant awareness of those around them, leading them to work to counteract the hatred, perhaps by building relationships with people from communities outside their own in an effort to develop trust and understanding. Unfortunately, for many others, coming face to face with hatred and enmity leads to a sense of defeat and apathy, which can devastate a community.

As Jews, we have learned the hard way that silence in the face of adversity is not an option.

Sylvain Abitbol and Rabbi Reuven Bulka, National Co-Presidents, Canadian Jewish Congress

Continued on page 44

The Canadian Jewish news

Vol. XXXVII, No. 37 (1,814)*

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Baker asks for prayers, help to free Israeli captives

Ambassador enthusiastic about relationship between Canada, Israel

By **PAUL LUNGEN**
Staff Reporter

No one will ever confuse Israeli ambassador Alan Baker for the Man in Black, but like legendary country singer Johnny Cash, Baker's been everywhere, man.

Nunavut, Yellowknife, St. John's, Sydney, Regina, Whitehorse, Dawson City. The roving ambassador would put to shame the average Canadian's knowledge of his own country, visiting places both remote and near. He even found an untended Jewish cemetery in Dawson City that dates back to the Gold Rush days.

As he concludes the third year of a four-year posting, Baker is satisfied, even enthusiastic, about the relationship between Canada and Israel, calling it "very supportive" and "close."

The two countries share many important characteristics, putting them on the same page when it comes to identifying and addressing international issues, he said. Both are democracies that welcome immigrants and diverse cultures, and both are facing the same sort of threat from Islamic extremism. For Canada, it's the battle versus the Taliban in Afghanistan. For Israel, it's Hamas and Hezbollah.

Baker, who was involved with peace negotiations with the Palestinians prior to being posted in Ottawa, said the past year saw a strengthening of bilateral relations through high-level exchanges (the countries' foreign affairs ministers traded visits), continuing dialogue on security issues and the prospective trip to the Jewish state by Canada's new foreign affairs minister, Maxime Bernier.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Baker said, "has a soft spot for Canada," and he particularly enjoyed a visit here in 2003 as deputy prime minister.

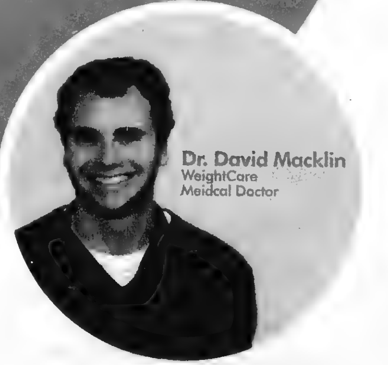
Olmert "is very favourable to growing the relationship" and had hoped to visit earlier this summer, but the trip was cancelled over scheduling issues, Baker said.

A number of steps taken by the Harper government have brought the two countries closer together, he continued. Among them was its decision to refuse recognition of the Hamas government unless it abandoned terrorism and agreed to abide by previous agreements with Israel.

Continued on page 27

Israeli Ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker

"There's a reason doctors are recommending WeightCare."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From the editor's desk

One of the acutely sinister and malign developments of recent decades in the constantly contentious debate surrounding Israel's conflict with the Palestinians (and most of the Arab world) has been the increasing acceptance of questioning the very idea of a Jewish state.

The recurring resort to the term "apartheid" in academic, journalistic and political discourse as a descriptor of Israel – its government and its policies – is stark evidence of the emboldened attacks on Zionism and of the ignorance or malevolence, or both, of the attackers.

For those of us who grew up in a post-World War II world existentially and morally secured by the existence and *acceptance* of a tiny Jewish state on its own part of the ancient Mediterranean shore, the world now seems existentially shakier and morally inverted.

Apart from a courageous few on campus and among editorialists, the vendors of anti-Israel venom have successfully elbowed their way into the "free marketplace of ideas" and taken over most of the stalls, their wares being poison propaganda or rigid, templated ideological responsa to complex questions.

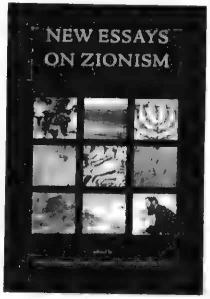
It is thus very gratifying indeed that into this marketplace-battlefield, the Shalem Center, the Jerusalem-based research and educational institute (which was the subject of this column last week), has recently published *New Essays on Zionism.*

The book is an anthology of "constructive works," in the words of the editors, on the subject of Zionism that, it is hoped, will "begin a discussion whose ultimate purpose is to provide the intellectual framework for a revival [of Jewish national sentiment.]"

The foreword of the book is reproduced elsewhere in this issue of *The CJN* in the Rosh Hashanah Greetings supplement. Written by Yoram Hazony, a senior fellow at the centre, it unmincingly spells out the alarming background for the genesis of the work.

"*Is it important that there be a Jewish state?* [italics in original] It is now evident that this matter is not settled at all. The majority of Jews and their friends may still offer instinctive and unthinking support for the idea of the Jewish state. But with increasingly frequency, one hears the voices of Jews and non-Jews whose answer to this question is in the negative."

The editors of the book, Hazony; his brother David, the editor-in-chief of *Azure,* and Michael B. Oren, a senior fellow at the centre, have compiled (and contributed to) a collection of 15 essays.



The essays are divided into three subject areas: the Jewish State and Political Theory, Zion and the Crisis of Jewish Culture, and Zion and History.

They are assertive, hard-hitting, straightforward and in many instances unflatteringly self-critical. But they are also staunchly and aggressively supportive of the belief that it *is* important that there be a Jewish state.

The writers themselves are very skilled writers of penetrating insight and bold thought. They bring expertise and knowledge from a cross-section of interconnecting disciplines.

And the most refreshing aspect of all the essays is that none of them is an apologia.

Two of Israel's most distinguished legal minds are among the contributors to the anthology.

Ruth Gavison, presently a member of the Winograd Commission investigating the political and military "failures" of the Second Lebanon War, and a professor of law at Hebrew University, provides a tightly reasoned legal response to the question of whether it is possible to justify the existence of a Jewish state?

Amnon Rubinstein, president of the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya and an Israel Prize recipient, writes about the inherent compatibility of Israeli democracy and Israeli nationalism.

Both Gavison and Rubinstein however, warn about the need to ensure the legal and practical protection of minority rights within the democracy.

Anna Isakova, a doctor, journalist and author writes about her often painful and poignant experiences integrating into Israeli society, after her arrival at a relatively young age from Lithuania. Her biting account is as heart-rending and eye-opening as it is informative.

In an essay provocatively titled *Imagine: On Love and Lennon*, Ze'ev Maghen, a senior lecturer in Middle Eastern and Islamic History at Bar Ilan University, confronts the challenge of connecting with our disconnected, alienated, uninformed and generally drifting Jewish youth.

Happily, the collection of essays arrives on the scene as many of our children are returning to, or entering for the first time, the anti-Israel proving grounds that many campuses in North America have become. *New Essays on Zionism* will help equip them to answer the lies that are passing as truth. The book is honest currency replacing counterfeit in the shadowy marketplace of ideas.

It is an important, stimulating read.

MBD

SeeJN

NEW CHAT OPENS

Above, TanenbaumCHAT student council president Ethan Eisen; Rabbi Moshe Yeres, vice-prinicpal of Jewish studies at the north campus; and CHAT students make their way through the crowd to the stage during the Hachnasat Sefer Torah procession. Left, the students gather around Eisen and sing in celebration. ***Please see related story on page 6.***

[Rachel Albert photos]

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TanenbaumCHAT opens doors

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Hundreds of people flocked to the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's new northern branch on Sunday to celebrate the school's official opening.

Parents and students who attended the ceremony at TanenbaumCHAT at the Kimel Family Education Centre, were in awe of the 110,000-square-foot, $30-million building.

Before members of the community were urged to tour the school, those who have had a hand in building TanenbaumCHAT spoke about the significance of the new campus.

David Engel, the chair of the board of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, said that the Lebovic Jewish Community Campus is the realization of a dream to create a "Jewish city" within York Region that will benefit generations of York's Jewish community.

TanenbaumCHAT students sing arm in arm with their teacher, Daniel Held, centre. [Rachel Albert photo]

"York Region is a very special place in the world. Unlike most urban centres in North America… the York Region Jewish community is thriving and growing. In fact, York Region has taken its place as the fastest growing Jewish population anywhere outside of Israel," Engel said.

"Take this gift from the community – parents, students, teachers – take this gift, look around the room and visualize, make a better future, dedicate yourself to this province, dedicate yourself to Jewish peoplehood, and make sure that the investment in this gift was well worth it," said Ted Sokolsky, president and CEO of UJA Federation.

Paul Shaviv, TanenbaumCHAT's director of education, talked about the importance of helping young Jews create meaningful connections to Judaism.

"At our school, we want our students to perceive their Jewishness as a song, with a personal, spiritual meaning… that they will love, that they will remember, that they will enjoy," Shaviv said.

In recognition of two of the many donors who funded the construction of the school, Anne Tanenbaum and the Kimel family were presented with plaques in honour of their philanthropy.

When Warren Kimel and his wife, Debbie, rose to accept the plaque on behalf of their family, they received a standing ovation.

Kimel said that when he was approached with the request to give a gift to this ambitious project, he discussed with his family – his parents and siblings – about the prospect of giving to a cause that would have a significant impact on the community for years to come.

"With TanenbaumCHAT, we knew firsthand what an incredible school this is," he said.

The ceremony ended on a high note, with the Hachnasat Sefer Torah procession, but not before Shaviv reminded those in attendance about a key political issue – funding for faith-based schools.

"Our students should be part of the public school system, accountable like all other students… and paid for out of their parents' tax dollars," he said, adding that this system works in countless other communities, so "let's do it here."

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L'Shanna Tova,

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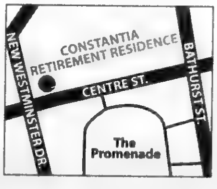

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An new social heroism

Continued from page 1

That the *Tashlich* ceremony takes its name and its essential pleadings from the teachings of the prophet Micah cannot be merely the result of serendipitous or coincidental associative terminology.

The rabbis who initiated the *Tashlich* rite knew quite well that Micah was also the propounder of one of the Bible's most important and best remembered summary statements of ethical and moral behaviour.

"It has been told to you,
Mankind,
What is good
And what God demands of you:
Behaving justly,
And the love of mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God." (6:8)

Thus, it stands to reason that in suggesting to us that our sins *could* be cast away, perhaps the rabbis were also suggesting to us *how* we might do so.

That is, we must act according to the timeless prescription that our prophets strove with all their might and divine inspiration to impress into our hearts – ethically, morally, justly.

The sins of unethical, immoral and unjust behaviour, of indifference and disregard to the condition of one's fellow man, are surely an affront to God.

But are they not first an affront to humanity?

The late Rabbi Eliezer Berkovits, the remarkable scholar, philosopher and teacher who died 15 years ago on the 22nd of Av, wrote extensively about the nature and importance of moral behaviour in Judaism. (The Shalem Center in Jerusalem has recently embarked on a project to republish his writings.)

In an essay, *Zion and Moral Vision*, exploring Rabbi Berkovits' theology, David Hazony observed that "the yardstick of morality in Judaism, according to Berkovits, is not our adherence to a set of ideas or beliefs, but the results of our actions, and by extension, the kind of society we help create."

It is precisely these questions – what will be our personal actions and what will be the society we create? – that we must ponder at this time of year.

The burnished and shining qualities we hope to find in the world, we must first find in ourselves.

The exemplary behaviours we expect, if not demand, to see in others, we must first practise ourselves.

Thus, we cannot cast away our sins, even in the time-worn, symbolism-laden ceremony of *Tashlich*, unless we determine first to "behave justly, love mercy, and act with humility," unless we determine to elevate goodness and kindness into the new social heroism.

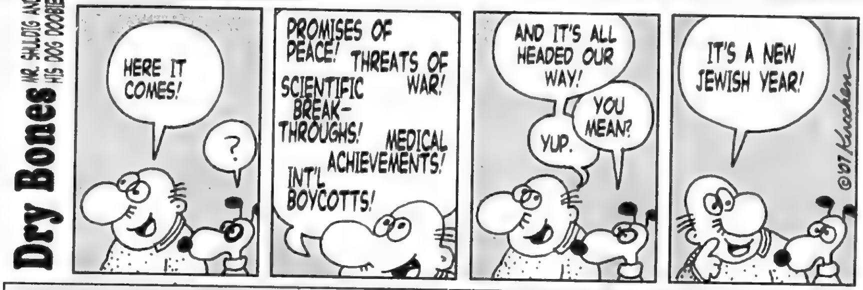
At least we must try.

And as we do, we must also thank God for bringing us to this day, to this New Year and to the possibility, once again, of a fresh start.

Chag samayach.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Witnesses, including other physicians, denied accusations by Canadian Dr. Christopher Gianno that Israel had bombed a hospital in Lebanon; imprisoned doctors, thus leaving patients untreated; and that beatings and torture took place in an Israeli detention camp. His reports had circulated widely throughout North America.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Greetings from Stéphane Dion

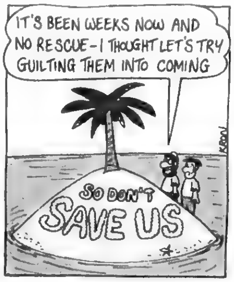
On behalf of the Liberal Party of Canada and our parliamentary caucus, I would like to extend warm greetings to all Canadians observing Rosh Hashanah in the coming days.

These High Holy Days signify new beginnings. They represents a time of celebration, looking back at the past months and welcoming the ones ahead in anticipation of a sweet new year.

For Jews around the world, this is a time for prayer, introspection and close family gatherings. For all Canadians, it is also a time to reflect on the values that unite us, the values that our country was founded on, and like the blowing of the shofar, show the world that Canada is a beacon of hope for all: we are a country that respects the beliefs of all, that treats its citizens fairly and that is filled with opportunity.

With these thoughts, I wish you Shanah Tovah.

Stéphane Dion
Leader of the Opposition


IT'S BEEN WEEKS NOW AND NO RESCUE - I THOUGHT LET'S TRY GUILTING THEM INTO COMING
SO DON'T SAVE US

* * *

Shabbat and the environment

I read with interest the supplement on Jewish attitudes to the environment. The Torah commands Adam to "work and guard" the Garden of Eden ("Community Focus," *CJN*, Aug. 23). That is our responsibility as well – to work and guard our Garden of Eden.

There is another purely Jewish initiative that we could all undertake. We could designate one day a week as Shabbat, our day of cessation. On this day we would not drive our cars and not use our ovens, washing machines, dishwashers, major appliances, televisions and computers. This observance of Shabbat and holidays would reduce our gas consumption and electricity for 65 days a year.

This would be a uniquely Jewish and quite dramatic personal contribution to energy reduction, and one that we are all capable of undertaking.

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks
Toronto

* * *

To the Liberal caucus

To the members of the Liberal caucus who issued their New Year's greetings to the Jewish community in the *CJN*: over the past few weeks, you have portrayed any effort to fund faith-based schools as liable to foment "public unrest," and you have used such charged terms as "segregationist" to describe our schools.

In fact, our schools are the lifeblood of our community, and our community would not continue to exist without its schools. The fact that the Catholics get full funding in Ontario, to the exclusion of all others, is a moral travesty. Excuses that this situation is based in history are lame, since no other province in Canada provides full funding to the schools of one religion to the exclusion of all others. Ontario is unique in this regard – in Canada, and in the entire western world.

Many members of our community, my family included, are not wealthy and are buckling under the financial strain of sending our children to the schools of our faith. The fact that Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty's family was able to avail itself of publicly funded faith-based education, while others are not, is not lost on us. Families such as mine are worried about our financial future and about how our children will be able to raise their own families in this province, given the extreme financial pressures. Surely, this is not the type of cohesive society that you often talk about.

Under such circumstances, and with the inflamed rhetoric coming from you and your party of late, there is no way at all that I can accept your New Year's greetings.

Jerrold Landau
Toronto

* * *

'Partners' in quest for day school funding

Ira Walfish in his comments regarding my letter to the editor implies that my concern is Jewish day schools may potentially indoctrinate their students into becoming jihadists ("Funding issues of faith-based schools, *CJN* letters, Sept. 6). This is of course complete nonsense.

Clearly he refuses to acknowledge there is an important issue being ignored when it comes to the demand for provincial funding of all faith-based schools in Ontario.

It is an unpleasant business, but it needs to be addressed. Have a good look at many of the "partners" that he Jewish community is making common cause with in its quest for full provincial funding. The question is will these "partners" be teaching their children tikkun olam (repair of the world) or will they be teaching them jihad (holy war against infidels)?

What might be the impact on Ontario's Jewish community if the imams who now receive their salaries and instructions from Arabia were also to control an enlarged, publicly funded school system. This is an issue that too few people want to talk about in the Jewish community. This issue will not go away simply because it is ignored. The Jewish community's best bet remains greatly improved Hebrew afternoon schools.

A. Margel
Thornhill, Ont.

LET THEM GO...

Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Ehud Goldwasser, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz, Eldad Regev, Gilad Shalit

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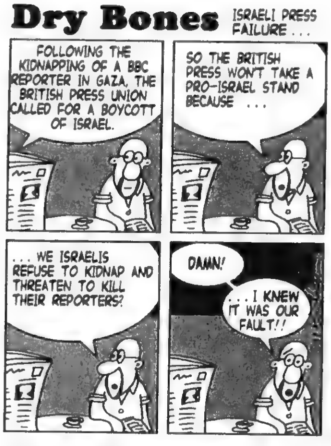
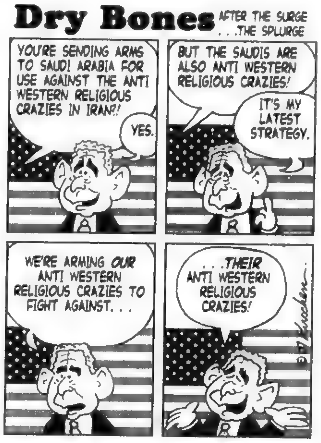
A Dry Bones review of 5767


Dry Bones
ISRAELI PRESS FAILURE . . .
FOLLOWING THE KIDNAPPING OF A BBC REPORTER IN GAZA, THE BRITISH PRESS UNION CALLED FOR A BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL.
SO THE BRITISH PRESS WON'T TAKE A PRO-ISRAEL STAND BECAUSE . . .
. . . WE ISRAELIS REFUSE TO KIDNAP AND THREATEN TO KILL THEIR REPORTERS?
DAMN!
. . . I KNEW IT WAS OUR FAULT!!


Dry Bones
AFTER THE SURGE . . . THE SPLURGE
YOU'RE SENDING ARMS TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR USE AGAINST THE ANTI WESTERN RELIGIOUS CRAZIES IN IRAN?!
YES.
BUT THE SAUDIS ARE ALSO ANTI WESTERN RELIGIOUS CRAZIES!
IT'S MY LATEST STRATEGY.
WE'RE ARMING OUR ANTI WESTERN RELIGIOUS CRAZIES TO FIGHT AGAINST. . .
. . .THEIR ANTI WESTERN RELIGIOUS CRAZIES!
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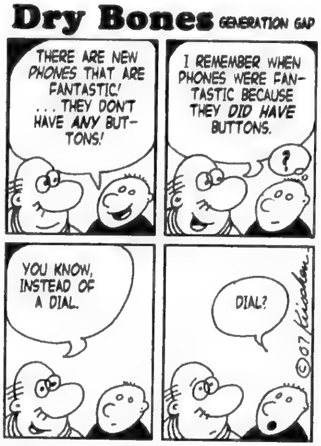
Dry Bones
GENERATION GAP
THERE ARE NEW PHONES THAT ARE FANTASTIC! . . . THEY DON'T HAVE ANY BUTTONS!
I REMEMBER WHEN PHONES WERE FANTASTIC BECAUSE THEY DID HAVE BUTTONS.
?
YOU KNOW, INSTEAD OF A DIAL.
DIAL?
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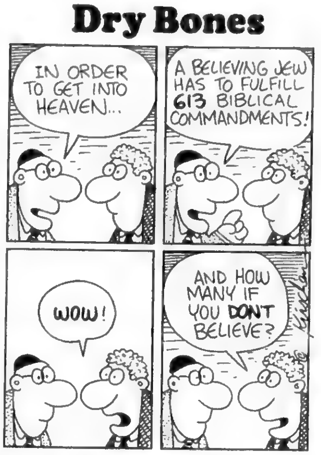
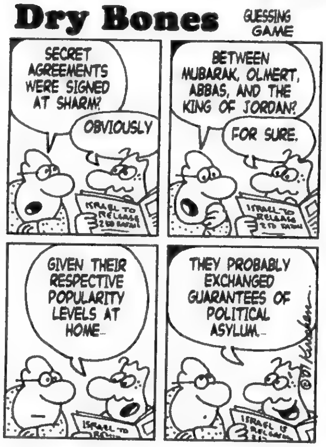

Dry Bones
IN ORDER TO GET INTO HEAVEN...
A BELIEVING JEW HAS TO FULFILL 613 BIBLICAL COMMANDMENTS!
WOW!
AND HOW MANY IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE?


Dry Bones
GUESSING GAME
SECRET AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED AT SHARM?
OBVIOUSLY
BETWEEN MUBARAK, OLMERT, ABBAS, AND THE KING OF JORDAN?
FOR SURE.
GIVEN THEIR RESPECTIVE POPULARITY LEVELS AT HOME...
THEY PROBABLY EXCHANGED GUARANTEES OF POLITICAL ASYLUM...
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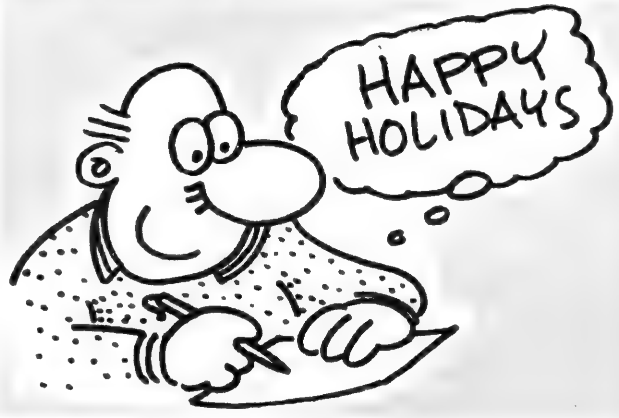
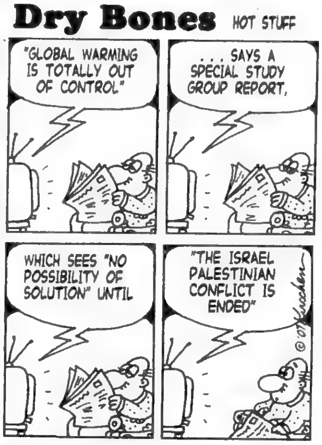

HAPPY HOLIDAYS


Dry Bones
HOT STUFF
"GLOBAL WARMING IS TOTALLY OUT OF CONTROL"
. . . SAYS A SPECIAL STUDY GROUP REPORT,
WHICH SEES "NO POSSIBILITY OF SOLUTION" UNTIL
"THE ISRAEL PALESTINIAN CONFLICT IS ENDED"
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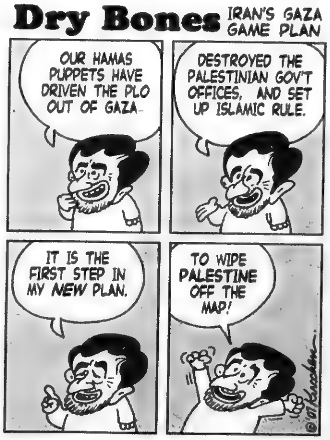
Dry Bones
IRAN'S GAZA GAME PLAN
OUR HAMAS PUPPETS HAVE DRIVEN THE PLO OUT OF GAZA...
DESTROYED THE PALESTINIAN GOV'T OFFICES, AND SET UP ISLAMIC RULE.
IT IS THE FIRST STEP IN MY NEW PLAN.
TO WIPE PALESTINE OFF THE MAP!
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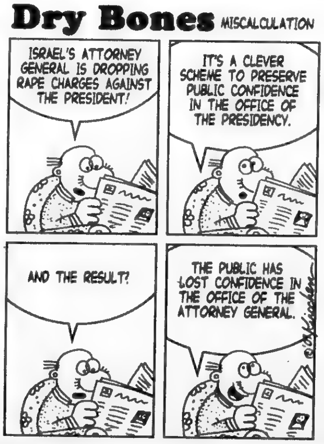
Dry Bones
MISCALCULATION
ISRAEL'S ATTORNEY GENERAL IS DROPPING RAPE CHARGES AGAINST THE PRESIDENT!
IT'S A CLEVER SCHEME TO PRESERVE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY.
AND THE RESULT?
THE PUBLIC HAS LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.
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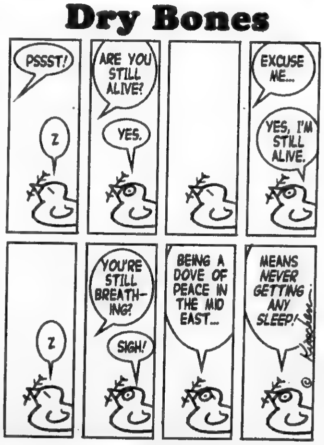
Dry Bones
PSSST!
Z
ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?
YES.
EXCUSE ME...
YES, I'M STILL ALIVE.
Z
YOU'RE STILL BREATHING?
SIGH!
BEING A DOVE OF PEACE IN THE MID EAST...
MEANS NEVER GETTING ANY SLEEP!
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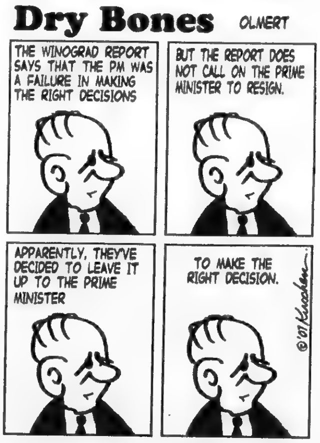
Dry Bones
OLMERT
THE WINOGRAD REPORT SAYS THAT THE PM WAS A FAILURE IN MAKING THE RIGHT DECISIONS
BUT THE REPORT DOES NOT CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER TO RESIGN.
APPARENTLY, THEY'VE DECIDED TO LEAVE IT UP TO THE PRIME MINISTER
TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION.
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Indifference, not apostasy, is the threat

He's not the only Christian who regularly attends services at the synagogue in Jerusalem to which I belong, but he is unique in that he was born a Jew. After coming on aliyah to study at Hebrew University, he found Christianity. Today he is a respected member of the Jesuit community in Israel.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

Blessed with enormous charm and a brilliant mind, he has deployed both attributes in teaching his faith as well as promoting mutual respect and understanding between Muslims, Christians and Jews. Well regarded in many circles in the Middle East, his personal friends include practising Jews, some of whom are rabbis.

Not long ago I wrote in this column about a Polish priest who as an adult discovered that his birth parents were Jews and later connected with his father's surviving family in Israel. In addition to his work as an academic, he has become a most effective exponent of interfaith dialogue in his country. He is one of the most attractive human beings it has been my privilege to know, and I am proud to consider him a friend.

I thought about both men when I read about the recent death of Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger. He, too, was born a Jew and embraced Christianity as a teenager during World War II. Despite lingering open hostility from some Jews, Cardinal Lustiger always insisted that his Christian faith in no way diminished his Jewish status. He counted many prominent Jews among his personal friends. At his funeral in Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, *Kaddish* was recited by one of his Jewish relatives. Another read a Psalm in Hebrew and French.

A few years ago, Cardinal Lustiger was in Toronto and a Catholic student of mine tried to arrange a meeting between us. Unfortunately, it did not take place. I deeply regret not having had the opportunity to meet this remarkable man.

When Jews lived as persecuted minorities, every conversion to Christianity was viewed as betrayal – apostasy in the fullest sense of the word. Today, when Jews are equal citizens virtually everywhere in the Diaspora, and Israel is a Jewish state, they can afford to recognize that an individual Jew may embrace another religion out of conviction, not to betray his or her Jewish heritage. In the same way as we have learned to welcome with open arms those who have chosen to become Jews, so we must respect Jews who have found their vocation within another faith.

Today, the real threat to Judaism is not the conversion of a few Jews to another religion, but the cynical indifference by many Jews to all religion, and their willingness to live by the godless mores of our time.

Students must speak out for Israel

Israel is the biggest challenge facing Jewish student leaders as they return to school this month – not the country, but the issue of how it is perceived on campus and how to deal with it.

I'm sure the Jewish Students' Association in Ottawa would like to talk about many issues, from ensuring kosher food is available in the cafeteria to building its outreach programs, but it all comes back to Israel.

Mark Masters in Ottawa

You cannot escape it.

The problem is many people on campus use Israel as an excuse to undermine Jewish students' opinions and avoid addressing issues important to our community.

In my first year at Carleton, I was pledging Alpha Epsilon Pi, the Jewish fraternity. When I headed out to an event one night, I was taken aback when the friend of my roommates asked accusingly if we were going to build any walls. The question was in reference to the controversy surrounding the security barrier that Israel was constructing at the time.

I found it odd that everything people thought Israel was doing wrong half a world away was seamlessly downloaded as the fault of every Jewish student on campus.

Regardless of whether Israel is right or wrong in pursuing its own policy decisions, there is no sense in punishing individuals for the perceived crimes of a nation-state.

Do Christian students get blamed for perceived errors made by the U.S. government? Are Muslim students targeted for any number of the human rights abuses perpetrated by predominantly Muslim countries in the Middle East?

Most students I encounter at Carleton and the University of Ottawa are apolitical. They don't want to get dragged into the petty and oftentimes personal life of campus politics. They don't want to protest, they don't want to shout, they just want to get their degree, have a good time and get out.

However, they are still forming their opinions about global politics during their time on campus, even if it is subconsciously. The problem is, the information they are getting is coming from the small percentage of politicos on campus who are loud, in-your-face and, simply put, not sympathetic to Israel. The "apartheid wall" must fall, the illegal occupation must end, and the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people must be stopped. This is the rhetoric that fills the halls year after year.

In Ottawa, the Jewish response on campus has not been coherent, has not been loud and has not been heard.

Two years ago, the Israel Awareness Club at Carleton was distributing literature on campus calling for the end of terrorist attacks against innocent civilians in Israel. The literature was banned by the Carleton University Students' Association, and the head of the club was called into the president's office for a tongue lashing. The images, he was told, were too violent to be distributed. They were upsetting Muslim students.

This should have been cause for outrage. I was editor-in-chief of the campus newspaper at the time. I found out what had happened, but chose not to create a controversy. I was afraid of how it would be perceived if a Jewish editor started a fuss about pro-Israeli activism. I made a mistake. We have to stop making these mistakes.

And herein lies the problem. As a community on campus, we have at times shied away from talking directly about Israel because we are afraid of being seen as creating trouble or being radical and therefore being discredited.

I have come to a realization. We need to be honest with ourselves. Israel is our heart. It's at the centre of who we are. It's our home – the Jewish state.

While we should not ignore other issues, we must focus on Israel. If we can ensure Israel is getting a fair shake on campus, that will open other doors and increase the profile of Jewish groups on campus and help build our network.

Starting right now, no criticism of Israel in campus politics or the campus press can go unanswered. No anti-Israel event can go on without criticism, and plenty of events must be held promoting the Israeli side – not just its culture but its politics.

After all, Israel connects us. It has to be the centrepiece for what we do on campus.

Lots of possibilities for Jewish students

I had a plan. I was going to leave the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (better known as CHAT), leave Toronto, leave my parents and all of my friends and go to Halifax for the year. I was going to enrol in the University of King's College, study hard and learn as much as I could. At the end of my first year, I was going to transfer to the University of Western Ontario for the year, and following that, I would go to Israel.

Jesse Mintz in Halifax

Nowhere in my plans did falling in love with Halifax fit. However, here we are – I am now preparing to return to Halifax for my third year.

Most people may read this and think that I've missed out, that I should have taken any opportunity for a change of scenery and to travel. But few people realize that Halifax can meet and surpass the needs – social, academic and Jewish – of incoming students.

I'm not writing this to convince anyone that Halifax is the city for them. That's something people must discover on their own. I'm writing this to inform nervous first-year students – and their anxious parents – of the amenities Halifax has to offer. Halifax is neither a Jewish cultural hub, nor is it the most popular Jewish student destination; however, it does provide all the necessities of a young and energetic Jewish community.

-First and foremost for me, Halifax took me out of my comfort zone. This may sound scary for some, but rest assured, it offers the opportunity to grow and mature as a person. In Toronto, I was reminded daily of my Judaism by friends and school, and was given a strong grounding in Jewish tradition by my family. Judaism was never a personal choice for me.

After moving to Halifax, I found myself uprooted. Most of my friends were studying at Western, my family was in Toronto, and my school was no longer a Jewish institution. For the first time in my life, the question of religiosity, and even affiliation, became a personal one. Such seemingly obvious choices like which synagogue to attend and where to break the fast had new meaning for me, as I now had to make the choice.

Throughout the year, the wonderfully diverse mosaic of Jewish life in Halifax became more and more apparent as I struggled to sculpt my own Judaism. The synagogue – the epicentre of Jewish life next to the home – was an obvious first step for me. Halifax offers two synagogues, Beth Israel and Shaar Shalom, both of which are welcoming to students.

At the synagogue I attended, I was personally greeted by the rabbi and invited to lunch with him after services. His graciousness was extended not only to me, but also to many other students who lacked a proper meal. His family has welcomed me into their home to dine several times since then – including for a Passover seder – and I look forward to the rebbetzin's delicious brisket every time.

It seems that all a Jewish student has to do to find other Jews nearby is to hang a mezuzah on the door. Within one week of classes starting, I had a Jewish Student Association (JSA) member at my door informing me of everything Jewish in Halifax, from where to get the best kosher challah to when the next Chabad Shabbat dinner would be. The JSA, as it turns out, also hosts numerous events throughout the year, some social, some educational.

In first year, I tried to avoid eating cafeteria food. I was thrilled to learn that in Halifax, it is a rarity for a single Friday night dinner to pass without a home-cooked Shabbat meal offered to students somewhere. Between synagogue events, JSA dinners and parties, and Chabad Shabbat meals, first-year students can avoid cafeteria food at least one night a week.

The most important issue that I've faced in my two years in Halifax, an issue I hope to expand on in my remaining two years, is the question of how to make Judaism my own. Removed from my mother's kosher kitchen and my family's Shabbat table, I have to decide what elements within Judaism I want to embrace. Halifax has the facilities to help me with this decision.

The Kirshner File

Letter from Tel Aviv

From the 49th-floor enclosed observatory of one of the Azrieli towers, conceived and built by Montreal real estate tycoon David Azrieli, Tel Aviv shimmers under a hot Middle Eastern summer sun. The world's first all-Jewish city, which marks its centenary in two years, is a megalopolis, blending seamlessly into Jaffa, Bat Yam, Ramat Gan, Ramat Aviv and Givatayim. From this elevation, residential buildings look squat and blinding white. Skyscrapers, the hallmark of modern Tel Aviv, poke into the pale blue sky.

Sheldon Kirshner in Israel

The Mediterranean Sea, Tel Aviv's finest asset, sparkles in the brilliant sunshine. The low mountain range of the West Bank – the redoubt of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas since Fatah's blood-soaked split with Hamas in June – appears hazy. The Ayalon expressway, speckled with hurtling vehicles, is an undulating black ribbon.

At street level, Tel Aviv comes into clearer focus.

Dizengoff Square, designed by Genia Averbuch, built in 1934 and once considered the nerve centre of Tel Aviv cafe society, is a pale imitation of its former self. The construction of an overpass in 1978 ruined the ambience of this iconic piece of real estate. Some say that the mistake will be rectified some day soon. Let us hope so.

Tel Aviv, with a view of the busy Ayalon expressway, shimmers in a Mediterranean sun.

Sheinkin Street, an artery off sedate, tree-shaded Rothschild Boulevard, is a mix of cosmopolitan cafes and restaurants, fancy boutiques, chic shops, drab grocery stores and crumbling Bauhaus apartments. It is the heart and soul of the secular kingdom of Tel Aviv, as some wags in Jerusalem – Tel Aviv's rival – describe it. Yet unusually enough, haredim can also be found on Sheinkin Street, walking from their homes to neighbourhood synagogues and institutions.

Call it live and let live, an attitude sometimes in short supply in Israel.

The Carmel Market is a few minutes away by foot. The city's largest and oldest outdoor bazaar, it is a kaleidoscope of sights and a cacophony of sounds. Plump and aromatic fruits and vegetables, ranging from green grapes and apricots to cherry tomatoes and zucchini, attest to Israel's virtual self-sufficiency in food production. The variety of olives, glistening in marinade, is astonishing. The vast array of cheese under glass invites comparisons to Paris. Fresh mounds of breads, rolls and pitas impart a heady aroma. The cakes, chocolates and candies on display are tantalizing. Merchants shout, praising their goods in sing-song fashion.

The Hassan Bek mosque, near the market and close to the luxurious David Inter-Continental Hotel, is a reminder of things past. Prior to the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, this section of southern Tel Aviv was the northernmost extension of the Palestinian Arab town of Jaffa. Once hostilities ended, the neighbourhood was abandoned and fell into disrepair and disrepute. The mosque, with its distinctive minaret, mouldered away in silence as land speculators shamelessly lobbied to convert it into an upscale shopping mall.

Today, everything is different. New commercial buildings have sprouted, and the mosque, with its cool garden, has been renovated and put back into service as a house of prayer. On the day I was there, five Arab men knelt on a carpet, facing Mecca in supplication.

Seconds by foot from the mosque is Tel Aviv's spruced up beach-front promenade, which is named after Shlomo Lahat, the mayor of Tel Aviv from 1974 to 1993, and is perfect for strolling.

The sandy beaches across the street from the Dan Hotel brim with bathers sitting on folding chairs and under umbrellas. This pleasant stretch of sand meeting the roar of the surf gives Tel Aviv a real Mediterranean feel. On a rocky outcrop pounded by the sea, two amiable African men lean against a marble monument commemorating the 1948 Altalena incident, during which Israeli forces, commanded by a future prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, fired on a ship carrying Irgun fighters and war materiel. The inscription is bland and non-confrontational, as if nothing of historical importance ever occurred in this briny part of Tel Aviv nearly 60 years ago.

The American Embassy, walled off and doubly protected by concrete barriers to ward off a possible terrorist attack, faces the sea. It is next to Mike's jazz bar, which was bombed by two British Pakistani suicide bombers a few years ago, at the height of the second Palestinian uprising.

The Hassan Bek mosque on the edge of Jaffa

[Sheldon Kirshner photos]

Jaffa's famous promontory, a staple of coffee-table books lauding the charms of Tel Aviv, is easily seen from here. Formerly the beating heart of Palestinian nationalism, Jaffa is now a melange of old and new.

The Turkish clock tower at the foot of Yefet Street dates from a time when the Ottoman Empire reigned supreme in Palestine. Winding cobblestone lanes in the refurbished artists' quarter, a haunt of drug addicts and prostitutes until the 1960s, lead to avant-garde art galleries and expensive private residences.

The Abulafia bakery, which serves up incredibly tasty pitas topped with fried eggs, pitted with baked olives and sprinkled with a fragrant herb known as zaatar, attracts customers from afar and is busy at all hours.

The flea market is alive with commerce. Amid prowling cats and the co-mingled odour of salt air and rotting garbage, tourists inspect hole-in-the-wall shops, examining kitschy souvenirs and haggling over prices.

Deeper inside Jaffa, where mainly Israeli Arabs live, the homes run the gamut from the neglected to the palatial.

The brightly lit branch of a Nazareth bakery displays super-sweet Arabic pastry dripping with honey and slathered with nuts.

At the Abu Nasser restaurant, a waiter brings delicious Middle Eastern appetizers to the table. As the sumptuous meal ends, the plaintive wail of a meuzzin in an adjacent mosque pierces the evening air.

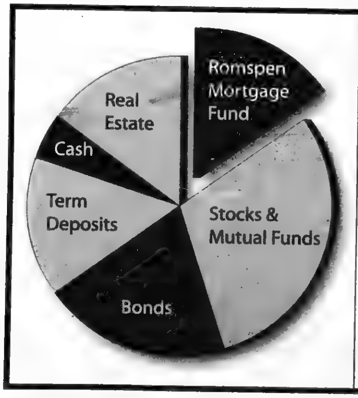
On a quiet, nondescript street off Jerusalem Boulevard, Sana, a celebrity fortune teller of Arab and Jewish origin sporting bottled blonde hair and a discerning demeanour, pores over Turkish coffee grounds, shuffles tarot cards and divines the future in a 20-minute session. All for the equivalent of about $50. Is she a seer or a charlatan? Probably both.

On a Friday evening on the other side of town, in the shadow of the immense Reading power plant, the former port of Tel Aviv pulsates with joie de vivre. Its lively cafe scene, far removed from the days of austere Zionism, is emblematic of Tel Aviv's hedonistic lifestyle. Young and middle-aged couples sit in outdoor cafes on the boardwalk, contentedly sipping cold drinks and hot beverages, slurping sundaes and licking ice cream cones. Waves occasionally wash over the seawall, splashing passersby and causing a frisson of excitement.

Further south in the middle-class suburb of Bat Yam on a sultry, lazy Saturday afternoon, the wide, sandy beach is one of the big draws.

Black flags flap in the breeze, warning swimmers that the waters are rough and dangerous. Lifeguards in overhead cabins implore reckless bathers to return to shore immediately, lest they drown.

Along Ben-Gurion Street, cafes and restaurants, ranging in decor from simple to posh, cater to tourists and locals alike. Luxurious condominiums, some of which are apparently owned by French immigrants, rise on the sandy bluff. A skinny, pale orange cat, its tail sticking up straight and its ears pricked, slinks along the sidewalk, taking in the sights and looking for leftover falafels.



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Riding is ground zero in faith-based funding debate

By RON CSILLAG
Special to The CJN

It's little surprise that in Ontario's most Jewish riding, the funding of faith-based, private schools is a hot issue. But so are transit and health care.

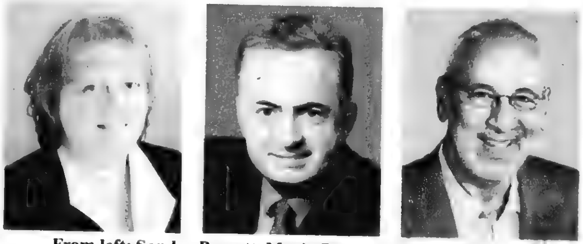
Thornhill

The 2001 census showed that Thornhill was 37 per cent Jewish, but officials believe the number today is closer to half. Represented since 2003 by Liberal Mario Racco, the riding is home to at least a dozen Jewish day schools, synagogues and religious outreach facilities.

Thornhill is bounded by Highway 404 in the east, Highway 400 in the west, Steeles Avenue in the south and Rutherford Road, Bathurst Street and Highway 7 in the north. The average family income is just over $100,000 a year, and unemployment is around five per cent.

Racco, who defeated the Conservative incumbent in 2003 by just 796 votes, concedes he's in a tough fight in Jewish neighbourhoods over his leader's refusal to extend public funds to private schools.

"I'm prepared to lose votes if I have to," said the 52-year-old MPP. "I don't want to lose any votes, but if I have to [risk being] called a liar or lose votes, quite frankly, I prefer to lose the votes."



From left: Sandra Parrott, Mario Racco and Peter Shurman

Racco, like Premier Dalton McGuinty, said the publicly funded school systems needs improving first.

"But I have always been interested in hearing what I call reasonable ways of addressing the issue. Unfortunately, we hear two sides: 'No' and 'You must' [fund]. We cannot reach anything reasonable if we take this approach."

Asked what he meant by "reasonable," Racco replied: "It could be anything where people say, 'We believe the public system is the one that everybody, if they choose to, can go to. But if some of us decide that we want to provide a private school because of religious or personal reasons, then we would expect the province to appreciate our effort and potentially provide us some programming that you provide for the public system.'"

That type of apolitical approach "could lead to something," he added

Meanwhile, it's the premier and education minister who speak on the issue, he said.

"To suggest anything different, quite frankly, is playing politics, and I don't want to do that," Racco said. "This is too big an issue and too charged an issue for me to try to suggest that I would do something different. Nobody will be able to do something different than what the party wants."

Racco chafed at suggestions the Liberals have not delivered on health care and transit.

He pointed to a community health centre being built at Jane Street and Rutherford Road that's slated to open next spring and to be replaced by a full-fledged hospital within five years.

He also takes credit for the $2.1-billion extension of the subway into the City of Vaughan planned by 2020. "This is my project and nobody else's. It's mine."

Peter Shurman, a 59-year-old former radio executive and CFRB on-air personality, said he's heard from "many" Jewish voters who say they'll switch to his Progressive Conservatives for the party's $400-million proposal to fund the 53,000 Ontario children now attending non-Catholic religious schools.

"The overwhelming issue is what appears to be bias in Ontario," said Shurman, a Jewish ex-Montrealer who is making his first attempt at public office. "Even the United Nations said that Ontario's school system… is discriminatory.

Continued on page 14

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Liberal MPP faces challenge in Thornhill riding

Continued from page 12

"I would have a hard time offering an argument to Dalton McGuinty if he said he would scrap the Catholic system. But he's not saying that."

The Conservatives' proposal is to "include a system of schools that exists now [under] the public umbrella so that what you've got is a secular aspect of education that operates in parallel and at a common standard; that teaching standards are the same [as public schools]; that testing standards are the same; that even intramural sports are integrated so that what you've got is a reflection of the real Ontario and notably the GTA."

Shurman called the Liberals' health premium "the largest tax grab in the history of Ontario. It's not a premium. It's a tax. It's generated about $10 billion, [which] has not been earmarked for health, and I defy anyone to tell me the health system has improved in any marked way in the last four years. Arguably, it's deteriorated."

Making her first foray into politics is New Democratic Party hopeful Sandra Parrott, a 51-year-old former employee of the York Region District School Board and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

For the past 27 years, Parrott has lived in Thornhill Green Co-Operative Homes, and she says affordable housing and the rights of the disabled are priorities.

So are the need for dedicated bus lanes in York Region, "a quicker fix than waiting for the subway to be built," she told *The CJN*. "We can't wait 20 years."

The NDP, she said, supports "fixing" funding formulas for public and separate schools, and Parrott leaves the door open to the possible funding of private schools.

"Once you can at least get a grip on funding and have the two systems that are existing right now flowing properly, then I think you can start looking at other alternatives. Once the formula is fixed, then I think you can open the doors to everybody else and even it all out," she said.

"But I don't know how you can open the floodgates to more now, when it's already broken."

To shore up the NDP's traditionally low support in Thornhill, "we're going to start real grassroots and just work our way up. I'm well aware [the riding] is either going to be PC or Liberal because of the way the money goes," Parrott said.

Also running in Thornhill is the Green Party's Lloyd Helferty, who ran in the riding in last year's federal election and received 1,934 votes, or 3.4 per cent of ballots cast. Provincially in Thornhill, the Green Party received 705 votes in the last election, or 1.5 per cent of the total.

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MEETING FUTURE VOTERS

Ontario PC leader John Tory chats with students in Thornhill riding at Associated Hebrew School's Kamin Education Centre last week after discussing his party's position on funding for faith-based schools.

* www.TorontoPartyGuide.com
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Send your entry to: ***"Jackie Mason"* Contest**,
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Perfume and produce for Rosh Hashanah

By JULIEN BAUER

Guest Voice

The days leading to Rosh Hashanah are marked in Jerusalem by two approaches, a mercantile-business one and a religious-political one.

The mercantile aspect is omnipresent. On radio, on TV, in the written media, there is an unending avalanche of publicity for everything that is apparently needed to celebrate the new year.The obvious priority is food, every kind of food from every company and every grocery chain, with heavy emphasis on wine and honey.

Less obvious is publicity for clothing: how can you celebrate Rosh Hashanah without a new dress? More remote from my idea of what the Yamim Nora'im, the High Holy Days, mean is the publicity for perfume. The message is clear: spend money and enter the new year in an atmosphere of consumerism.

The religious-political approach is quite different – 5768 is a shmittah year, a sabbatical year in which it is forbidden to work the land.

Shmittah is perceived quite differently by different groups of Israelis. There are three main groups: those who don't care, those who adhere strictly to it and those who adapt it to modern circumstances.

According to surveys, about 60 per cent of Israelis do not relate to shmittah, do not know its meaning and are not interested in it. This is the first group.

The second group, the haredim, strive to apply all the laws of shmittah meticulously. During the seventh year, they insist, the land will remain unworked, enabling farmers to study Torah. In total, about 20,000 farmers apply the laws of shmittah and receive both public and private funds to support them in doing so. Haredi consumers rely on special *hechsherim*, certifications, stating that produce has been grown according to the laws of shmittah, i.e., either coming from non-Jewish farmers in Israel or from neighbouring Arab states such as Jordan, Egypt and, of all places, Gaza.

In between these two groups are the religious Zionists. They want to follow shmittah regulations, but are aware of the negative impact it could have on Israeli society. This is why they use a legal device called *heter mechira*, devised before the creation of the state. In this case, Jewish farmers transfer ownership of their land to non-Jews. Jewish consumers are allowed to buy the produce, because the land on which it was grow was, at that time at least, not owned by Jews. The *heter mechira* was introduced in order to preserve Jewish agriculture in Israel.

Nowadays the respective positions concerning shmittah are becoming firmer.

At a recent symposium organized by Beit Avi Chai, the haredi college in Jerusalem, a surprising variety of positions and statements emerged about observing the laws of shmittah.

The left-wing Meretz party member of Knesset said he supported the haredi position. He was, of course, joined by the haredi representative, who refused to discuss the fact that buying from Gaza theoretically boosted Hamas, and theoretically, at least, weakened Jewish-Israeli agriculture.

The religious Zionist participant said he would prefer to strictly apply the laws of shmittah, but in the circumstances, preferred to keep the use of the *heter mechira.*

The discussion was fascinating and revealed deep undercurrents in Israeli society. Who is actually in charge, some participants asked.

Grocery stores purchase goods with a *hechsher*, a certification, provided by a local rabbi. If he rejects goods and produce that were bought by the store through the use of the *heter mechira*, the stores will have to buy produce from non-Jews, grown under the strictly applied laws of shmittah, and obviously at an inflated price.

But how can a local rabbi, authorized by the chief rabbinate, refuse to accept the *heter* that was created in the first place by that very same chief rabbinate?

These kind of questions – from what is the best perfume to buy for Rosh Hashanah to what does it mean to be a Jew in Israel? – make the days before Rosh Hashanah in Jerusalem very different than they are anywhere else.

I wish the readers of *Canadian Jewish News* and the Jewish people *Ktivah vechatimah tovah*. Have a good year.

Julien Bauer, professor of political science at the Université du Québec à Montréal, is on sabbatical in Jerusalem.

Don't shoot the messenger

By RABBI YEHIEL BENAYON

Through A Sephardi Window

They are calling him "the old idiot," the "Jewish Ayatollah" and one who has again succumbed to his chronic affliction of "foot-in-mouth disease" – and these are only a few of the printable quotes about him that can be found in the media. Elsewhere (everywhere?), he is vilified and ridiculed as a primitive relic of another era.

He is Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, pre-eminent and world-renowned Torah scholar, author, former Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel, and the spiritual leader of Israel's third largest political party, which is also a powerful social movement. He presides over his own nationwide separate school system, which offers education from preschool to post-graduate studies. His guidance and his rulings are sought and respected in countries worldwide, and well beyond Sephardi Jews of Spanish and Middle Eastern origin.

And yet, once again, his comments, made during his popular late Saturday night discourses, have apparently managed to irk many people.

I, for one, will honestly admit that I have not seen the full text of the rabbi's lecture, as most certainly neither have any of his many complainants. But I understand that the ideas he expressed go something like this: God exists. God has certain expectations of mankind. Mankind will sometimes meet and exceed these expectations, and, being human, will sometimes fall short of these ideals. Both of these – the successes and the failures – will result in consequences that are, respectfully, good or bad.

So far, so good. After all, a rabbi is somewhat expected to – and even entitled to – dabble in theology.

But then the rabbi went on to say that this concept applies equally to the soldiers in the Israel Defence Forces. They, like the rest of us, are bound by this principle. Hence, their wounds and casualties are attributable to sin.

In this, Rabbi Yosef really didn't say anything new nor newsworthy. Belief in reward and punishment is part and parcel of the 13 fundamentals of our faith, right along with the belief in a single knowing and guiding God.

While this principle is found in all the midrashic, talmudic and rabbinic literature, its source is in the Torah, in whose verses it is found again and again, from the story of creation onward.

It's the right and duty of every religious educator to educate. At times, such instruction will inevitably displease, and indeed even anger, some people. But a true leader/educator will not change the nature of God's words for the temporary gain of false popularity.

The indignant cries and subsequent fallout over the rabbi's words are also neither new nor newsworthy. Our history, again beginning in the very verses of the Torah, records the deviations from, and uprisings against, our leadership. This is all nothing new. We Jews have at various times muted, incarcerated, exiled and even executed our own prophets, because their messages so displeased us.

It's easier to shoot the messengers than to deal with the message. Notwithstanding that, the words of God to us remain true, pure, immutable and undiluted.

Jewish Life

Prayers written for women

Books

Bernard Baskin

***Hours of Devotion* by Fanny Neuda, edited by Dinah Berland, Random House.**

Written in the mid-19th century, this compilation of prayers was the first Jewish prayer book for all occasions written by a woman for women.

The author, Fanny Neuda, who was married to a liberal rabbi, was educated in both secular and Judaic studies. Growing up in Moravia, the centre of the movement for religious change during the period of the Enlightenment, she was eager to bring the ideals and teaching of Judaism to women who were usually denied religious education.

Her unique prayer book was reprinted more than two dozen times in German, and appeared in Yiddish and English editions between 1855 and 1918. Then, surprisingly, it was largely forgotten until Dinah Berland, a poet and book editor, discovered it in a Los Angeles used bookstore.

For her, the book provided comfort as well as inspiration and served as a spur to her renewed interest in Jewish study and practice.

The volume contains 60 prayers that are gracefully and elegantly translated in poetic form. What is remarkable is the range and variety of the prayers – not only for the synagogue but also those for a new bride; on the approach of childbirth; for an unhappy wife; for a mother whose son is in military service; after withstanding danger; and for a mother whose children provide for her. There is also a group of memorial prayers and some for healing.

Dinah Berland writes, "Her personal devotions, each one imbued with deep humility and sincerity, an unwavering reverence for God, generosity toward the less fortunate, and compassion for human suffering, have the power to open the heart and lend courage to all readers – men as well as women, non-Jews and Jews alike. I will always be grateful to have discovered this book and to have been able to serve as a conduit for its rebirth so it might, with God's grace, help others as it has helped me."

The excerpts that follow are taken from longer prayers.

For an Unhappy Wife

Love does not dwell in my house,
And kindness does not live here.
Instead of mutual understanding,
All that thrives is the sullen spirit
Of conflict and argument.
Only discord and misunderstanding,
Along with their sad offspring, anger and pain,
Amble and wander through our home.
You, Almighty One – you who guide hearts
Like channels of water –
Draw our hearts toward each other,
Let our feelings come together in love and oneness,
Let them flow into each other. You who know
The deepest strings and stirrings of our beings,
Let the stones of our hearts ring there,
Against each other.
Let our hearts unite in harmony.
Let every ungodliness pass away from us
So peace might make its heavenly roof
Above our home again.
Let blessed trust and mutual care
Be a mighty shield around us,
And I shall rejoice and praise your name
Forever and ever. Amen

Erev Rosh Hashanah

With the first rosy glow of dawn
May we enter the new year
In a renewed, happier state of mind,
One that brings contentment and well-being
To us and to our loved ones –
Health and strength to our bodies,
Purity and good cheer to our souls,
Growth and prosperity to our children –
A blessed and productive year,
Untroubled and undisturbed in our enjoyment of it –
Peace and contentment to our hearts,
Peace upon our houses and our families,
Peace and blessing to our nation.
Amen

Spiritually rich and vital, *Hours of Devotion* evokes the mystery and power of prayer.

The shofar: a listener's guide

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish Highway

A hush falls over the congregation. The shofar is raised and the first blast – tekiah – is sounded. The shofar is one of Judaism's most famous symbols and is responsible for some of the religion's most profound writings. Today, some insights into the shofar from the far reaches of the web.

Rav Saadiah Gaon gives 10 reasons for blowing the shofar on Rosh Hashanah. Among them: "Rosh Hashanah is the day that commemorates the creation of the world and it is described as the 'coronation' of God. As it is customary to sound a trumpet at a king's coronation, so we blow the shofar on Rosh Hashanah. By blowing the shofar, we recognize the 'purpose' of the creation." **[tinyurl. com/32oyox]**

Every so often I come across a site that blows me away by its thoroughness, range and dedication to a topic. Arthur Finkle's Shofar Sounders Webpage is one of them. Finkle has sections you'd expect, such as Sounds of the Shofar, the Meanings of the Sounds, and Biblical and Mishnaic Citations. But did you ever consider Mouthpiece Importance or the Physics of a Shofar? And then there are his practical tips on how to blow a shofar: make sure your lips are moist. Don't forget to use your diaphragm. **[tinyurl. com/2vplsb]**

You may have perfected your blasts, but what do they all mean? My Jewish Learning has a great mini-site about the shofar including the page Jewish Morse Code: four shofar sounds, endless messages. "The cries of the shofar disturb the peace, calling upon us to open our sleepy eyes and see the untold thousands around us who are victims of human injustice. In the pensive, sad wail of the shvarim we can hear the moans of the world, the pain and suffering that surround us. In the staccato screams of the truah, we can hear the summons to do battle. 'Charge!' calls the shofar. 'Go out and do battle with injustice. Go out and make this world a better place.'" **[tinyurl.com /yqvso8]**

For the Jew, the urge to hear the shofar can be extremely powerful. Rabbi Eli Hecht tells the heartbreaking story of how a rabbi risked his life to sound a shofar in Auschwitz for hundreds of doomed children. **[tinyurl. com/2hbmt5]** And then there's the story of how some Conversos, Spanish Jews who officially converted to Christianity, were able to listen to the shofar on Rosh Hashanah without provoking the ire of the Inquisition. **[tinyurl. com/4ukp9]**

Sure you can buy a shofar at your local Judaica shop or through the web, but why not make one yourself? All you have to do is get your hands on the horn from a kosher animal: goat, ram, antelope, gazelle, bighorn sheep or ibex. (No cows please. Too much a connection to Exodus' golden calf and the sin of idol worship.) Then get an electric drill, soft wire, Borax and a coping saw. Presto! Your own homemade shofar. **[tinyurl.com/3d6krh]**

If you don't have an ibex handy but want to see what its shofar would look like, download Rabbi Natan Slifkin's Exotic Shofars. This 18-page booklet has shofars – some kosher, some not – from an incredible menagerie, including deer, gemsbok and eland. **[tinyurl.com/2h3blx]**

If you are lucky enough to have your own shofar, you may marvel at its beautiful craftsmanship and appreciate its evocative tones. But you may also come to the realization that it smells. How to clean a shofar? All it needs is some vinegar or baking soda and a good soaking. Just don't expect perfection. "Most shofars retain a slight, lingering reminiscence of their humble origin, the ram." **[tinyurl.com/ 26k4mx]**

For generations, shul-goers have been informally judging their shofar-blower's musical performance. Too soft! Too sharp! Too staccato! If those comments remind you of a reality TV talent show, then take a gander at Shofar Idol to see how three judges – including one sporting a black T-shirt – would review a High Holy Days routine. **[danmeth.com/shofaridol. htm]**

Shana Tova Umetuka, have a good and sweet new year. And have a blast, too!

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Undermining COR threatens the community

By RABBI MARVIN PACHINO

Guest Voice

One of the distinct advantages of Jewish life in Toronto is the existence of a single, competent, reliable and almost universally accepted kashrut supervision agency: the Kashruth Council of Canada, which is known by the acronym COR.

Anyone who has some familiarity with the confusing proliferation of individuals and organizations that offer kashrut certification today will know that COR ranks among the top few, worldwide, for its integrity and credibility. The Jewish community of Toronto is the stronger, and the better, for having established and maintained COR as our communal kashrut authority.

During the years that I served at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, we had no problem holding senior class banquets, and other school affairs, at Beth Tzedec Congregation, Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue and Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, as well as at Beth Avaraham Yoseph and Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, because of the comfort level that COR provided for our diverse constituency. The same can be said for events in the broader community that are sponsored in synagogues or hotels by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the Jewish National Fund, and any number of other organizations. And what about the countless number of family simchahs that take place in a variety of venues across the GTA?

In all of these cases, the kashrut supervision of COR has been the unifying force that has permitted Jews who identify with every diverse segment of our community to come together for private and communal events.

As well, the assurance which the COR stamp of approval provides is most welcomed by visitors to Toronto, who are spared the otherwise daunting task of investigating the varying standards of kashrut supervision that may apply to individual caterers and restaurants.

If multiple kashrut supervisions are allowed to take hold in Toronto, doubts will be raised as to which is reliable and which is not. People will be put into the uncomfortable position of having to make inquiries and investigate the qualifications of those who stand behind the respective supervisions. The average layman will be confused, and probably incapable of doing due diligence. Those for whom kashrut is really important will simply avoid participating in functions whose kashrut supervision they feel is questionable.

This is the reality in other communities where there is no central kashrut supervision agency, and where, in its stead, there are multiple hechsherim. It is true of New York and elsewhere, and it is especially evident in Jerusalem, where there has been a proliferation of private hechsherim over the last several years. The result is communal and familial bickering over which supervision is truly reliable, and the straining of social and family relationships.

Already, we are witness to this occuring in Toronto in the wake of a recently established private kashrut supervision body. The person who is behind this is, essentially, unknown in the community, and it would appear that he has no track record in the complex area of kashrut supervision, or the organization of a structure for kashrut supervision. He may have noble intentions, but that is really not enough in the contemporary field of kashrut supervision where up-to-date expertise in food chemistry and technology is an indispensible requirement, alongside a thorough knowledge of Halachah. Consequently, there are those who will not attend any function that is catered under this supervision, nor will they patronize any business establishment that bears its certificate of kashrut.

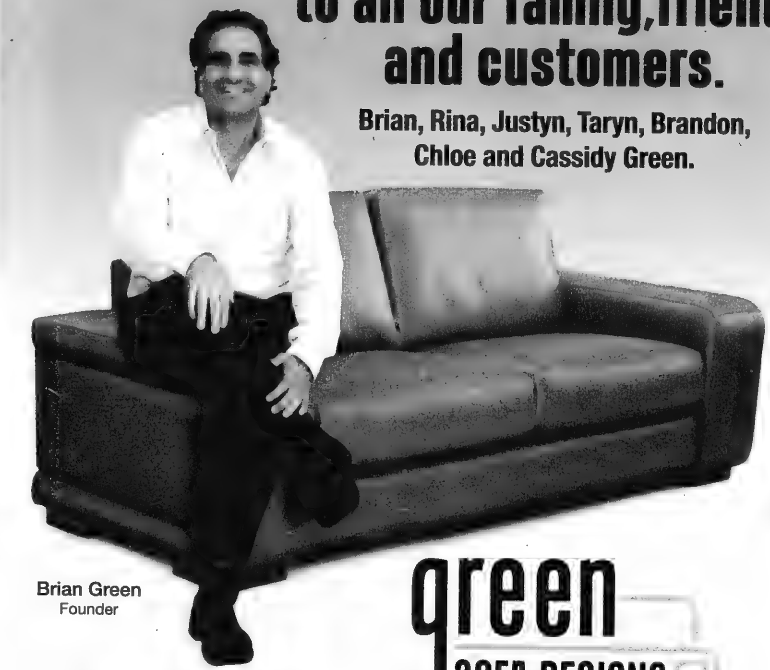
The seeds of dissension have been sown, and the community will, ultimately, suffer.

All of this having been said, we must acknowledge that COR is a human enterprise and, as such, one can imagine that there is always room for improvement, especially on the administrative and operational levels.

If, for example, the COR office has called a synagogue on a Thursday evening, as has been claimed, to say that it cannot provide a mashgiach for a Shabbat affair, this represents a serious administrative failure that should not have occurred, and that dare not be repeated. And if there are other legitimate complaints within the operational sphere of the agency, those who are affected have a right, maybe even an obligation, to express them and to have them addressed in a mutually satisfying manner.

However, none of this justifies the call to encourage multiple kashrut supervisions within the city. Quite to the contrary, such a call should be rejected for its potential to undermine not only the integrity of kashrut in our city, but the solidarity of our community.

Rabbi Marvin Pachino is the former headmaster of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.



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Bar mitzvah boy sponsors dinner for homeless youth

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

When most kids think about their bar mitzvah, they hope their friends will have a good time at the party and they pray they won't make a mistake during their aliyah l'Torah.

But Zachary Baruch wanted to make sure that his bar mitzvah would be more meaningful to his family and the people in his community.

On Sept. 16, four days after his 13th birthday, and about a month before his bar mitzvah celebration, Baruch is hosting a dinner for 40 aboriginal youths at a homeless shelter in Toronto called Tumivut.

Zacharey Baruch

Zachary, a Grade 8 student at Upper Canada College (UCC) and a former Bialik Hebrew Day School student, came up with the idea with his father, Ron, who is on the board of directors of Ve'ahavta – the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, which assists the needy both locally and nationally.

"We came up with the idea of how can we parallel our festive celebration by helping others," Baruch said, adding that his son wanted to sponsor a dinner with the gifts he'll get from his bar mitzvah as it's scheduled so close to Thanksgiving.

"I inquired with the people at Ve'ahavta and it so happens that Tumivut, an aboriginal youth shelter, in the St. Clair [Avenue] and Bathurst [Street] area, were looking for funding for a dinner that they promised to the kids, about 40 youth, in the summer. They didn't have funding for it."

Zachary decided this was a good opportunity to help.

"When I heard that they were promised a steak dinner and a party, and they couldn't do it because they didn't have enough funds, I felt really bad. And because I'll be getting bar mitzvah money, I thought since I'm really fortunate, I should help them," he said.

Baruch and his father felt that since they were preparing for a night of dinner and dancing for his son's bar mitzvah, it would be nice to treat others to a similar kind of celebration.

"Before UCC, I went to Bialik and I learned about tikkun olam and [that] you should also give back to the community and people that are needy. I thought that this would be a really good opportunity and it helps them a lot. They're going to have the dinner they were promised, and they're also going to have a DJ," he said.

Baruch said his son and six or seven of his friends will help run the party. They will prepare loot bags for the teens, which will include toiletries, and there will be some fun giveaways.

"It isn't just a matter of funding but a matter of participating, and he and his friends are going to go that night on Sept. 16 and help out and serve and grill and participate," he added.

Zachary said that when he sent out e-mails to his friends to ask if anyone wanted to help, he got an enthusiastic response.

"One of my friends said he'd help right away, and he said that next year he wants to do something like that for high school, when you have to do community service."

This isn't the first time Zachary has participated in a project to help the needy.

"On a field trip last year, we went to a shelter, and we helped out by handing out food and clothes and it felt, when someone enjoyed it, it felt really good inside that you're helping someone less fortunate than you."

"I think it is important," his father said. "That's why I'm in Ve'ahavta. There are so many charities one can work for in Toronto, but what I like about Ve'ahavta is that they are hands-on. It is Jews helping not only ourselves, but all members of our community."

He added that he hopes that his son's sponsoring the dinner will encourage others to get involved.

"One of the important parts of this is that I want it to be contagious. I want people to know about it, and Zachary knows that. Hopefully, [his friends] will get the idea for their bar mitzvahs. For me, it is more about setting an example for others."

His daughter, Rebecca, has her bat mitzvah next May, and she, too, will be part of a project that will give back to the community.

"It is something we do as a family. Now, symbolically, he'll become a man, and hopefully it'll be something he'll take on into adulthood."

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Greater Toronto Area

Temple Emanu-el marks 50th anniversary

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld, now rabbi emeritus at Temple Emanu-el, was the congregation's founding spiritual leader.

Temple Emanu-El will kick off its 50th anniversary year over the High Holy Days with the distribution of a commemorative calendar to members and recognition of groups ranging from past leaders to children starting school for the first time.

"We're just planning on having everything sparkle a little more" over the holidays, said the temple's spiritual leader, Rabbi Debra Landsberg.

The coming year, which will culminate in a gala event next September, will include a speaker series, a family fest, a Yom Ha'atzmaut trip to Israel, and innovative educational programming spearheaded by Dan Mendelsohn Aviv, director of the temple's new Centre for Jewish Living and Learning.

His role in "transforming the educational program" at the synagogue is part of the anniversary year.

"We're using this as an opportunity to launch a new innovative vision of how we learn as Jews and how we live as Jews," the rabbi said.

"We do want to define ourselves as a centre for excellence and learning," she said, adding however, that the existing educational program has been a strong one.

"We're not trying to transform ourselves from educational weakness, but educational strength. That's an exciting way to embark upon change."

Mendelsohn Aviv, who has a PhD in Jewish education and taught most recently at Bialik Hebrew Day School, will be dealing

Continued on page 22

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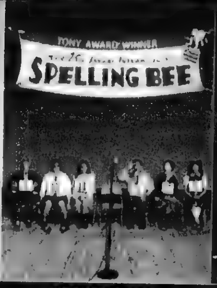
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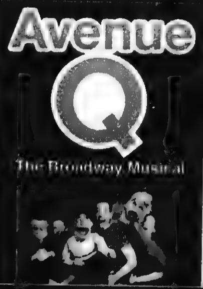
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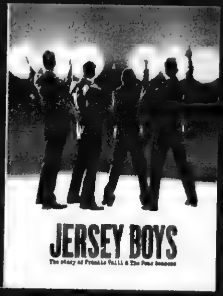
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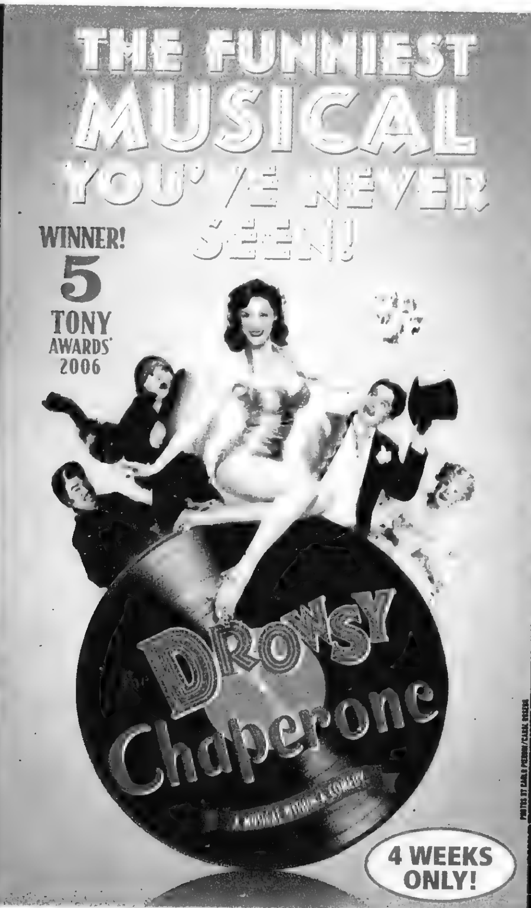
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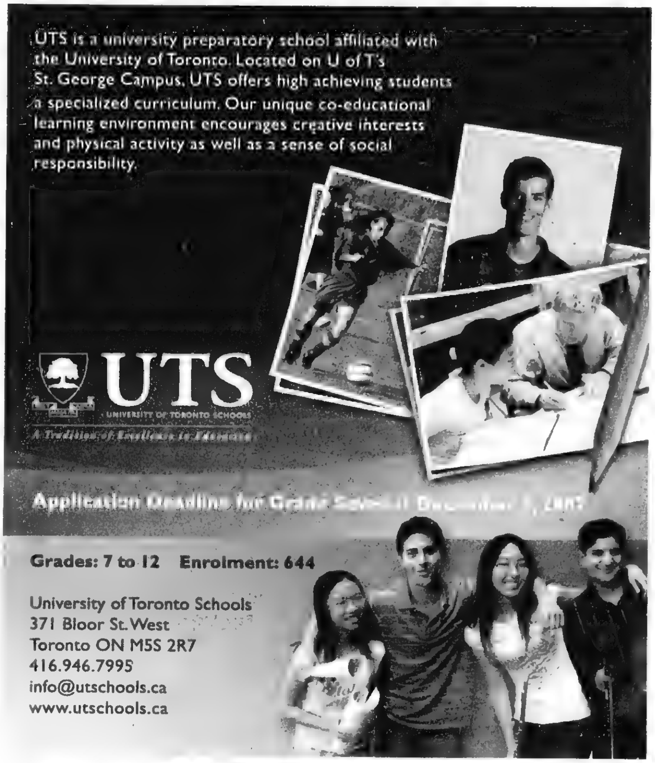

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Greater Toronto Area

Congregation founded by small group of Reform Jews

Continued from page 20

with the entire age spectrum. He envisions adults learning together with children and plans to implement such a program on an experimental basis over the winter.

Traditional Hebrew school is "not touching enough kids," said Rabbi Landsberg. Also, she added, "too many parents are disconnected."

The new program will be designed "for people who only have time to dip their toe in and those who are ready for radical, intensive engagement, and everything in between."

The rabbi describes the 360-family congregation as warm and open. A mother of 22-month-old triplets, she said the congregation "has enveloped my family with love."

The temple was founded by a small group of Reform Jews who initially met in the basement of a church on St. Clair Avenue. Services have been held in the current location on a 6.5-acre site on Old Colony Road since 1963, and in 1969-70, the congregation merged with Beth-El, a more traditional congregation.

Murray Koffler, a founding member, was attracted to the congregation by its "contemporary approach to Judaism," he said. "It suited our new, young family at that time."

Over the years, the congregation has incorporated more traditional aspects, he said. "I think it's for the better, because it's in keeping with what's happening.

Dan Mendelsohn Aviv

"I think it was one of the things I was most gratified I was part of from the very beginning," he said. "It's been a blessing to us."

Under the leadership of Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld, now rabbi emeritus, from 1968 to 2001, the congregation became known for its involvement in social action initiatives, including the founding of Mazon Canada, Casey House and the Campaign against Child Poverty.

It also housed the Leo Baeck Day School before it had its own building.

The congregation "recognized the need for a Reform Jewish day school at a time when day schools were not particularly popular in the Reform community," Rabbi Bielfeld told *The CJN*.

Rabbi Debra Landsberg

The rabbi was ahead of his time in pioneering social service projects for youngsters celebrating their b'nai mitzvah. At the time, his initiative was "viewed with a certain amount of skepticism, and dare I say diffidence… I think it was viewed as a rather radical proposal," the rabbi recalls.

Rabbi Bielfeld also favoured interactive discussions rather than traditional sermons on Shabbat. "I found it was more productive and led to a greater sense of involvement in the service and in the ideas themselves," he said.

Since Rabbi Landsberg joined the congregation in 2001, she has strived to strengthen congregants' "love and connection with Torah and the Jewish world from here to Bathurst Street, to Israel and beyond," she said.

Lorne Krongold, president of the congregation and chair of its 50th anniversary year, said the sanctuary is intimate and designed like a theatre in the round, resulting in "an accessible congregation."

Dolores Wallis, who has been an active member of the congregation for more than 35 years, said that over the years, she has seen the introduction of more Hebrew and more singing into services.

Helene Rudolph, a past president and member since 1973, said that the temple "gave us that feeling of belonging" when she and her family were new to Toronto. "It's warm, very welcoming to new members."

She added that at morning minyan, even non-members "feel so supported." Minyans are held in a kiddush room overlooking the temple's biblical garden, which, Rudolph said, is "magnificent, and full of flowers in the summer."

The Centre for Jewish Studies at York University

Celebrates its Chai Anniversary - 18 years of Scholarship and Growth

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Sara R.Horowitz, *Director*

It is customary, as the *Yamim Nora'im,* the High Holidays, approach, to wish one another a sweet year. The apples and honey that accompany our holiday meals symbolically emphasize this wish.

As we celebrate the Chai anniversary of the Centre for Jewish Studies at York, we are embarking on a new academic year that holds sweet promise. The year 5768 – the academic year 2007-2008 – marks the 18th year for our Centre, and also the first year of our new BA Program in Jewish Studies.

In the rabbinic tradition, the two days of Rosh Hashanah – celebrated as such even inside the borders of Israel – are considered to be one long day, *yoma arikhta,* in Aramaic. Although we eat two dinners, two lunches, attend two sets of services, and sleep for two nights, the two days are deemed a unit.

If, as a great Canadian thinker famously said, the medium is the message, what can we learn from this unique concept? Pragmatically, the days are separate, but conceptually, they are unified. This suggests the possibility of divisions that, paradoxically, unify, and of a whole that is greater than its parts.

Our new Jewish Studies BA Program, under the directorship of Professor Eric Lawee, will focus on undergraduate teaching. The Centre for Jewish studies will focus on research, graduate study, and public programming in Jewish Studies. Distinct but working harmoniously toward a shared educational mission, they may be considered Jewish Studies *arikhta* – extended – at York.

Together, our Centre and Program have a far-reaching mandate. York offers the largest university-level program in Jewish Studies in all of Canada, and one of the four largest outside of Israel. Outstanding scholars and dynamic teachers, our faculty members engage with students in ways that help define and deepen life commitments. We serve as advisors and consultants for projects and institutions important to the Jewish community at home and abroad. Through a wide range of activities on and off campus, the Centre promotes Jewish Studies for Jewish and non-Jewish students, and offers stimulating programs for the community. We teach about Judaism, Jewish texts, history, culture, languages and literatures.

Our unique Jewish Teacher Education Program promotes Jewish education across Canada, training future teachers, and offering professional development for Jewish school teachers and administrators. We are delighted that Professor Elliott Malamet has joined our faculty, directing our Jewish Teacher Education Program.

The Centre welcomes Barbara Bank as the new Chair of our Centre's Advisory Committee. Known for her inspriational leadership in national and international programs for the enhancement of Jewish life, Barbara has a particular interest in Jewish campus life.

The year 5768 – the academic year 2007-2008 – marks the 18th year for our Centre, and also the first year of our new BA Program

Our Centre owes our success to our faculty, our students, and to our many friends and supporters in the Jewish community.

I invite all of you to become involved in the activities at the Centre. Join us for lectures and cultural events, check out our courses, and help us to grow and develop further.

On behalf of my colleages at the Centre, I wish all of you a fruitful and sweet New Year. *Shana Tova.*

The Mark and Gail Appel Program in Holocaust and Antiracism Education - "Learning from the Past, Teaching for the Future"

– an initiative of the Centre for Jewish Studies and The Canadian Centre for German and European Studies at York University.

The project brings together Canadian university students and fellow students from Germany and Poland, to explore how best to counter racism – including anti-semitism – through teaching about the Holocaust. Thirty-one students participated in the field study this summer. The program also involves experts and members of the broader public in all three countries.

A follow-up symposium, including a public conference, will take place in February, 2008. The 2007-2008 cycle represents the fourth phase of the project, which began in 2001.

York professors Mark Webber and Michael Brown, co-founders of the program, are at the top of the railing, second and fourth from the left.

Annual Leonard Wolinsky Lecture on Jewish Life and Education - March 11, 2007

The theme of this year's Leonard Wolinsky Lecture was Jewish Issues in Medicine and Technology.

Right to Left: Professor Susan Kahn, Harvard University, who spoke on "Are Genes Jewish?" Professor Edward Reichman, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, New York, who spoke on "Jewish Medical Ethics in the Past, Present and Future: From Smallpox to Stem Cells." Professor Elliot Dorff, University of Judaism, Los Angeles, spoke on "Matters of Life and Death: A Jewish Approach to Modern Medical Ethics."

Special Announcement

Barbara Bank, community leader, well-known for her outstanding contributions to Jewish life locally, nationally, and internationally, has taken up the gavel as Chair of the Centre for Jewish Studies Advisory Committee.

Barbara has a special interest in Jewish campus life. She has spearheaded important projects to enrich and enhance the experience and education of students both in Canada and around the world. She has led many trips on the March of the Living and the March of Remembrance and Hope. She was honoured as the 2006 Person of Distinction by the Toronto Chapter of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

We are delighted to have Barbara's experience and expertise guide us through the Centre's next period of growth.

In 1998, **Julia Koschitzky,** dedicated to the advancement of Jewish education, took on a leadership role at the Centre for Jewish Studies as the first chair of the Advisory Committee. Over the years, she inspired many others to become involved with the Centre. We thank her for her wisdom, guidance and grace during her fruitful term of office. She continues to serve on the York University Foundation Board of Directors, one of her many volunteer positions.

Twenty-eight students participated in the 3nd Annual Hebrew University-Osgoode Hall Law School Summer Exchange Program.

"...it was one of the most incredible experiences of my life. The program gave me a great opportunity to learn about my cultural background, as well as to familiarize myself with the current state of affairs in Israel." *Rahmiel Rothenberg, Osgoode Hall Law School*

Exchange Program participants in Jerusalem (left to right): Tracy Coates, Alexei Goudimenko, Kathryn Smithen, Aida Valois

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Sara R. Horowitz, *Director;* Eric Lawee, *Associate Director;* Sydney Eisen, *Founding Director*
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To have your name added to the Centre's mailing list or to become involved in Centre activities, please contact us at cjs@yorku.ca

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The Jewish Education Report

From the desk of Epi

What's in a name?

Seymour Epstein, Sr. Vice-President, the Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education

The Board of Jewish Education (BJE) has become a new, vibrant pillar of the Federation as a result of UJA Federation's Task Force on Jewish Day School Education. Aside from the new name – the Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education (המרכז לקידום חינוך יהודי in Hebrew, from which our nickname, The Mercaz, originates) – there are significant changes afoot, and they bode well for our Federation's ongoing commitment to Jewish education.

Both UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and its BJE have a wonderful record in the world of Jewish education for decades of service to the schools and hundreds of millions of dollars in day school tuition subsidy. Careful study, however, revealed certain areas of our operation which needed re-thinking and re-structuring.

We are now governed by a Federation committee, reflective of the various educational activities connected to the community - day schools, supplementary programs, youth work, camping, Israel experiences, and teacher education. Comprised of 12 members, the committee is responsible for the mission and policies of The Mercaz and for strategic educational planning in the community. Our "clients," as it were, are the Jewish families of Toronto and our concern is for every Jew to find a meaningful portal into the Jewish life of his or her choice. Traditionally, those gates were ones of study, and although the technique may now vary from books to YouTube to virtual/digital whatever, we are still convinced that the right mixture of identity and literacy sustains us as a people and leads to Jewish creativity, a much bolder goal than mere continuity.

Two of the key Task Force recommendations have become operational policy for The Mercaz. We must find ways to assist middle-income and less-affiliated families into the sphere of Jewish learning. New forms of financial assistance coupled with experimentation in new modes of schooling must combine to build capacity in the system.

And, two, capacity building also means quality enhancement. Through a rigorous program of Quality Review and Enhancement (QRE), all educational institutions which receive The Mercaz support will be asked to assess their own operations in the context of their specific ideology and pedagogy, and to determine with The Mercaz staff how to implement improvements in curriculum and instruction. These are but two of the changes in the new operation. Both the lay leadership and the professional staff of the Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education are optimistic that these new challenges and our new name will lead to greater Jewish educational capacity, both in quantity and quality.

Educator awarded for excellence in Jewish education

By Jenna Adler

As a dedicated educator with a passion for teaching, Joy Reiter has earned accolades from those who have worked with her. Now her commitment and hard work have been recognized with the Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education, which was presented to her at a recent awards ceremony. The award recognizes educators who have a lasting impact on the lives of Jewish children.

Reiter is currently a principal at Kingsview Village Junior School within the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Chair of Equity for Kingsview Village's affiliated schools and is also involved with promoting equity within the TDSB. Reiter, who has worked with the Downtown Jewish Community School for 22 years as a teacher, now acts as an educational consultant for the school.

Originally hailing from New York City where she began her teaching career, Reiter has worked at several Jewish schools, including Leo Baeck Day School, Netivot HaTorah, Bialik Hebrew Day School and Holy Blossom. "This award has validated all that I have tried to achieve, and I feel very honoured," she said.

Aside from having been officially acknowledged with the award, Reiter has also won praise from her colleagues.

"Joy is a first rate professional in every respect, an extraordinary teacher who uses multiple intelligences techniques, and is an excellent asset and mentor among the staff," said Joan Schoenfeld, Principal at the Downtown Jewish Community School.

Reiter is also a strong believer in promoting tolerance, and she has participated in professional development at the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance in California. She feels her work in the public school system and Jewish school system are linked through the importance of promoting equity and in "building tolerance and acceptance of different cultures, races and religious beliefs." Reiter said she plans to continue working with the Simon Wiesenthal Center in promoting tolerance and hopes to attend the conference that it is sponsoring for educators in Israel next year.

Having dedicated 33 years of her life to the Jewish education system, Reiter believes Jewish education is essential because it is "an integral part of keeping the Jewish religion alive. Jewish education touches the souls of the children so they feel that Judaism is part of who they are and what they want in their lives."

Joy Reiter (centre) pictured with Joan Schoenfeld (left), Principal of the Downtown Jewish Community School and Jennifer Turack (right), an educational consultant with The Mercaz. (Photo by Orly Azeroual)

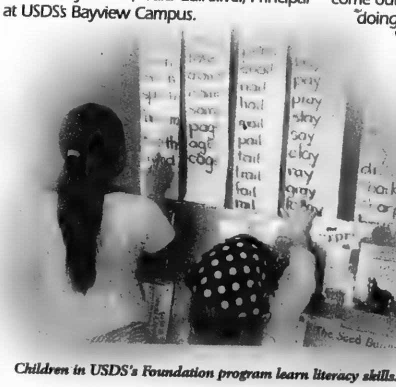
USDS alternative programs a success

by S.I. Stein

Three new alternative programs at United Synagogue Day School (USDS) have garnered success thanks to their ability to cater to children who require individual attention and are more suited to learning Jewish studies in English.

Launched a year ago, The USDS Foundation, Adaptive and Prep Stream programs have seen enrolment increase for the 2007 – 2008 school year.

"We're accommodating the difficulties that we've seen across the board in keeping children in day school," said Gail Silver, Principal at USDS's Bayview Campus.



Children in USDS's Foundation program learn literacy skills.

The USDS Foundation program is targeted towards primary grade children who require individual attention to develop their math and literacy skills. The teacher, a literacy and math specialist, will individualize the program based on the children's needs within a class of 10 children or less.

"The teacher identifies which way the child will learn best whether it's through a visual program, auditory program or a combination of programs and then the program is tailored for that child," said Silver. "Children come out and they're reading, printing and doing math."

What makes the Foundation program unique is that the children are integrated with their peer grade class for Hebrew language instruction, Shabbat, prayers, holidays and customs, according to Silver. "They participate in the full life of the school," she said.

The program was initiated in response to the recognition that there is an increasing number of children with learning difficulties in the early ages, according to Silver.

Children can remain in the Foundation program until grade 3, at which point they would move into USDS Adaptive program for children in grades 3 through 8.

In the Adaptive program Jewish studies are taught in English and Hebrew language instruction is maintained. The program is open to both children who are already enrolled at USDS as well as children new to the school who may not have a background in learning Jewish studies in Hebrew.

For middle school students with no previous education in Hebrew or Jewish studies, USDS created a Prep Stream program. Geared to children in grades 6, 7 and 8, the Prep Stream program has mostly attracted families looking to send their children to TanenbaumCHAT, according to Silver.

The greatest benefit of these new programs is that they enable children who might otherwise struggle within a day school environment to remain within the system.

"Our mandate is to keep Jewish kids in Jewish day school," said Rosemary Tile, USDS Admissions Coordinator. "That's what we're all about - Jewish education and - first and foremost - keeping kids in Jewish day school."

THE JEWISH EDUCATION REPORT IS PUBLISHED BY UJA FEDERATION'S CENTRE FOR ENHANCEMENT OF JEWISH EDUCATION.

The Jewish Education Report

New forum provides networking opportunity for teachers

by S.I. Stein

A new forum will provide both new and experienced teachers with an opportunity to network and share information in an open environment.

While UJA Federation's Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education (The Mercaz) has always offered workshops, this is the first time a comprehensive forum that meets on a regular basis is being offered to teachers.

"Teaching is a very reflective practice, so this will give teachers the opportunity and the space to develop a professional learning community," said Ora Shulman, supervisor of The Mercaz Teacher Centre and an early years consultant with The Mercaz.

The Teachers Forum was initiated after Shulman received feedback from teachers who said they wanted the opportunity to network with other educators, exchange ideas and explore available resources.

Shulman also sensed there was a need for an ongoing teachers' forum based on the workshops she has conducted. "From feeling the pulse of the teachers who came in to the workshops, I knew there was a need to create this," she said.

Two elements are central to the forum: introducing teachers to innovations and new techniques and providing them with a support network so they can reflect on those techniques after they've tried them out in the classroom.

"Teachers can benefit from hearing other teachers when it's not just two minutes in the hall," said Shulman. "This is a more relaxed environment – it's non-judgmental and very confidential."

Janine Pokroy, a nursery teacher at Leo Baeck Day School, said she signed up for the Teachers Forum to gather new information, share ideas and meet new people in the field.

"I believe all the information I can get will be very beneficial to the children I teach," she said. "I'm willing to try anything that will benefit the kids and broaden my own resources and knowledge."

Shulman hopes teachers participating in the forum will acquire the tools to critically assess the way they teach and allow their students to demonstrate their learning in a variety of different ways.

"I believe that every teacher wants to succeed and every child wants to succeed in their learning," said Shulman.

Beginning on September 18, the Teachers Forum will meet on the third Tuesday of every month until May. The forum aims to have 15 to 20 teachers participating on a regular basis.

A new Teachers Forum will give educators an opportunity to network and learn about new techniques.

New Beth Tzedec initiative integrates children with special needs

A new initiative at Beth Tzedec congregational school will provide support to children with special needs while integrating them within a regular classroom setting.

Launched this month, the "Gesher" initiative offers children with special needs with a "shadow" in the classroom who will work one-on-one with each student, giving them individual attention. Special education support materials are also being purchased.

"We had some students who were struggling and we wanted to help them," said Elly Bauman, Director of the Institute for Jewish Family Living at Beth Tzedec. "And then we had a family that gave us a very nice gift in order to help children with special needs access education."

Children at Beth Tzedec take part in a sing-a-long. Beth Tzedec's new Gesher initiative keeps children with special needs integrated within the classroom.

Keeping children with special needs integrated within the classroom is a major feature of the initiative.

"I think they get much more out of being in a classroom environment, meeting other children and being involved in the whole school experience than they would with just one-on-one tutoring in their house," said Bauman.

UJA Federation's Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education (The Mercaz) fully supports the "Gesher" initiative and will be offering Beth Tzedec consulting support services, according to Chari Schwartz, The Mercaz coordinator of supplementary programs. "The 'Gesher' initiative falls in line with our mission statement that all children, regardless of exceptionality, can achieve their greatest potential," said Schwartz.

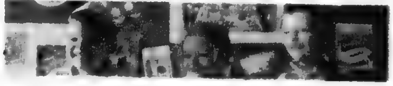
This is the first time Beth Tzedec has developed a defined program to assist children with special needs.

"In the past if we needed to hire a 'shadow' we have, but now it's a true initiative that we know we have the funds to hire 'shadows' and [buy] materials," said Bauman, adding that a shadow is someone who is qualified in special education and will work one-on-one with the student. In the past, children who required additional help were taken out of the classroom to work with a reading specialist. "This initiative will enable the kids to stay in the classroom for longer periods of time with somebody helping them," said Bauman. "I think it's important for all children to have access to Jewish education – I feel that any child deserves to have the avenues open to them to be able to learn Hebrew and to learn about their history and their Judaism."

Beth Tzedec congregational school operates every Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon. The "Gesher" program, which accommodates children in grades 1 to 7, is open to both members and non-members. Registration is still available.

The Mercaz launches Israel at 60 with educational workshops

This year will be filled with celebrations for Israel's 60th anniversary. To launch what promises to be an exciting year, the Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education recently held workshops that explored and celebrated Israel through various media, including literature, cartoons (pictured above), websites, film and visual art. More programs are sure to follow!



For more information about Jewish education in Toronto:
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e-mail themercaz@ujafed.org

Don't miss the 2007 Jewish Education Fair! Sunday, October 21 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at TanenbaumCHAT's south campus (200 Wilmington Avenue).

THE JEWISH EDUCATION REPORT IS PUBLISHED BY UJA FEDERATION'S CENTRE FOR ENHANCEMENT OF JEWISH EDUCATION.

Israel plans to double tourism by 2012

By **PAUL LUNGEN**
Staff Reporter

Israel's tourism industry has endured something of a roller-coaster ride in recent years, plunging from a best-ever year in 2000 to several years of sub-par performance, thanks largely to the Palestinian intifadah and 9/11.

The industry has rebounded considerably and now, Israel's Tourism Ministry is setting its sights on setting new records.

Something like 2.5 million visitors flocked to Israel in 2000 – a record year – but the ministry believes that figure can be doubled by 2012, said Oded Grofman, the newly installed head of the Israel Government Tourism Office (IGTO) in Toronto. The number of Canadians visiting Israel can also be doubled, from around 60,000 to about 100,000, he suggested.

Grofman, who has been on the job only a couple of weeks, said the Israeli government "wants to reach five million [visitors overall]. In order to do it, you need a strategy and a budget."

The ministry commissioned Ernst and Young to study the travel industry, and the professional services corporation found eight priority markets for Israel to tap. The ministry has decided to focus on one for now, Canada and the United States, Grofman said.

Some $12 million (US) of a projected $50 million budget has been set aside for advertising and other marketing tools in North America.

As Grofman described it, the plan will see the ministry focus on Israel's cultural history, push for an Open Skies policy that reduces restrictions on airlines and will promote investment in new hotels and attractions.

The print ad campaign has already begun, Grofman, 35, said, while the IGTO's website features a new section on "best deals" to Israel.

Oded Grofman

Grofman, a native of Tel Aviv who served as a paratrooper in the army, joined the Israeli tourism ministry after eight years as a sales manager in the private sector. "I saw the opportunity to market and sell Israel," he said. "We have one of the best products in the world."

The IGTO's target market in Canada is threefold, he said. First there is the Jewish market, then there are Christian groups and finally there is the "sophisticated traveller" with no particular emotional attachment to Israel but with an interest in cultural attractions, fine hotels, good weather and in making their currency go far.

Jerry Adler, manager of marketing and public relations for the IGTO, said "there's a great curiosity" about Israel among non-Jewish travellers, who are familiar with the bible and current history. Many will package a trip to the Jewish state with visits to neigbouring Egypt and Jordan.

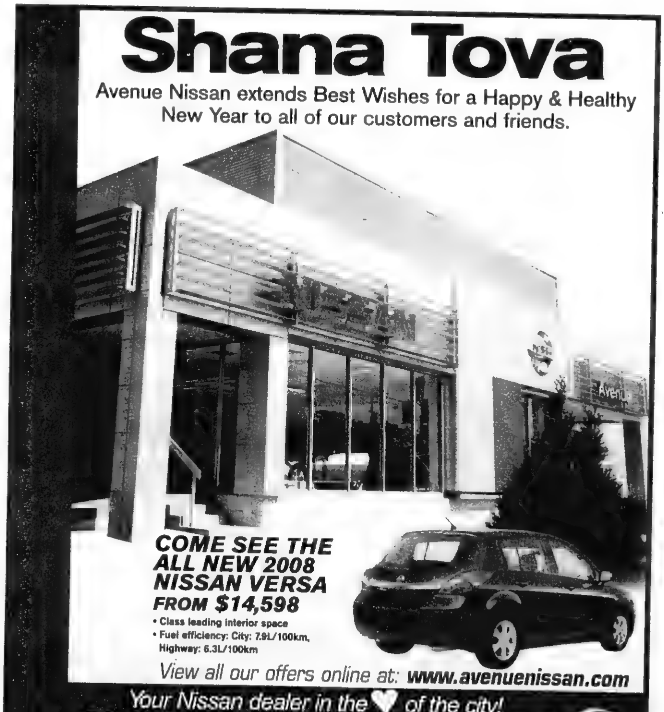
Grofman, who served for a short time as adviser to Tourism Minister Yitzhak Aharonovitch, said there is plenty of room to grow the Jewish market. Only about 10 per cent of Canadian Jews have ever been to Israel.

First time visitors often opt for the "classical tour" that includes Jerusalem, Masada, the Dead Sea and Tel Aviv, while repeat visitors are offered "niche tours" that may involve yacht rentals or winery visits in the vicinity of Jerusalem.

The Christian market remains a focus of the IGTO and as many as 4,000 Christian groups from around the world – 20 per cent more than in 2005 – are expected in Israel this October and November.

While the fall and winter have proven to be most popular with Christian groups, the peak tourist season remains the summer along with April (Passover), with hotels in Tel Aviv, Netanya and Jerusalem fully booked this past July. In fact, the 6,500 visitors to Israel that month marked a 36 per cent increase over July 2006 while overall in 2007, Canadian visits to Israel are expected to jump to 67,500, a 25 per cent increase over 2005, another good year.

Adler said a major marketing campaign is expected to highlight visits to Israel in 2008, the 60th anniversary of the country's independence, with a full year of activities and attractions planned.



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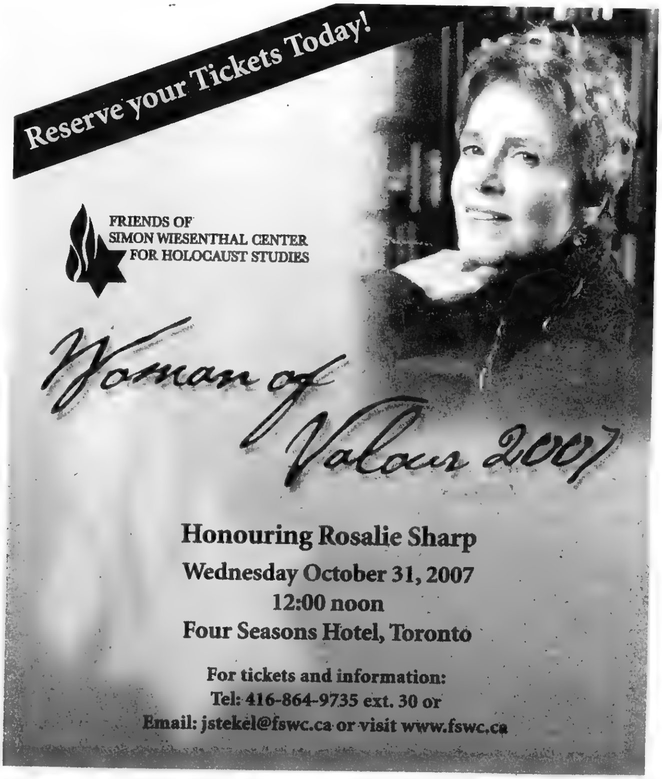

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Canada's stand welcomed

Continued from page 3

Last summer, Canada lined up squarely behind Israel in its conflict with Hezbollah, with Prime Minister Stephen Harper saying Canada would not be even-handed in a conflict between a fellow democracy and the terrorist organization.

Baker welcomed that position, saying "you can't take a middle position between terrorism and a democratic state. You have to stand strongly against terrorism, or you'll find terrorism at your back door."

Baker acknowledged Canada's international role, saying "the relationship has continued to be very strong and very supportive. The Canadian government under Mr. Harper has maintained the staunch stand of supporting Israel, of intervening in international events to prevent them from becoming Israel-bashing events."

Baker noted that during then-foreign affairs minister Peter McKay's visit to Israel, he met with the parents of three captured Israeli soldiers.

And Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Tzipi Livni, during her visit to Canada, "gave a strong push to the Canada Israel Chamber of Commerce," which is working to expand trade between the two countries.

Baker acknowledged Canada's influence in international fora, such as the United Nations and its agencies, and he urged Canada "to take an active role to prevent ganging up on Israel and the turning of these organizations into useless organizations."

Three key items remain on Israel's agenda when it comes to relations with Canada, he said.

The first is soliciting Canada's help in freeing the three captured Israeli soldiers, or at least getting more information about them.

The second is maintaining "an uncompromising and strong position about Hamas and Hezbollah and not be drawn into a false position about opening dialogue that would moderate them."

And finally, the third is addressing the threat posed by Iran not just to Israel and its Middle East neighbours, but to the wider international community, Baker said.

Looking to the year ahead, Baker said he would continue to speak out on campuses to Jewish groups and the wider student body, attempting to correct the distorted picture of Israel being reported in the Canadian news media.

He also urged the Jewish community "to devote as many resources as they can to help Jewish students on campus." They are subject to a well-organized campaign by Muslim students and other who are attempting to delegitimize Israel. "It's where minds are moulded, and it's the future of the Jewish community as well," he said.

And in keeping with the tenor of the season, he called on the Jewish community "to pray very sincerely for the lives of the Israelis… being held captive. These are our kids and we should pray for them, hope for them that they are safe and alive and come home during the course of this year.'"

Blue dogtag project underway

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

A blue dogtag on a long metal chain now available in Toronto bears the names of kidnapped Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser, Eldad Regev and Gilad Shalit.

A new project of the Toronto Zionist Council, the dogtag is intended to remind people of the plight of these men, who were kidnapped by Palestinian militants last year, and to help the citizens of Sderot, who are under almost daily rocket attacks from the Gaza strip.

The tags are sold at the two Israel's Judaica stores for a minimum donation of $18. The funds raised will help provide for the unemployed, and for shelters, trauma victims and general social assistance in Sderot.

Shalit was kidnapped by Hamas militants June 25, 2006. His captors recently released a tape purportedly from him, asking Israel to release various Palestinian prisoners, and saying he needed medical help.

Goldwasser and Regev were captured July 12, 2006, by Hezbollah. It is not known whether they are still alive.

Izzie Kaplan, vice-president of the Toronto Zionist Council and owner of Israel's Judaica Centre, is funding the new project.

He said he got the idea when UJA Federation of Greater Toronto started its campaign of lawn signs just after the Second Lebanon War. "The signs said, 'We don't leave our sons behind.' We got the message that the typical position of the IDF was to bring Israeli soldiers home – dead or alive."

But when the war ended, Kaplan said, media reports showed that Prime Minister Ehud Olmert had given up on bringing them home, because it would cost too many lives.

"Those federation signs were a lie. We did leave them behind," Kaplan said bitterly.

He said that he and the council decided to remember the soldiers and use Sderot to send the message to "keep those boys in our hearts – to pray for them, and to feel the pain of their parents."

Pidyon shvuyim, redeeming the captives, is an important mitzvah, Kaplan said, one that is very easy to forget.

Sderot, a city in the northwest part of the Negev desert, 20 kilometres from Ashkelon, is attacked daily. Kaplan said that "the Israeli government never tolerated cities being bombed daily – Israel has gone to war over that. Now Sderot citizens have been left out to dry."

The bombing has had a devastating effect on the city. According to media reports, the economy has suffered and many of the buildings have been destroyed. Unemployment is high, and many of the residents are seriously traumatized.

The publicity generated by the sale of the tags might serve as an impetus for the captives to be freed, Kaplan mused, as well as reminding people here about what is happening in Sderot.

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PR practitioner honoured for community work

'I hope I can continue to encourage others to be involved' — Monty Mazin

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

To add to his other awards for outstanding service to the community, 80-year-old Monty Mazin recently received the Shield of Public Service Award from the Canadian Public Relations Society (CPRS).

An organization of people who practice public relations in Canada and abroad, CPRS has more than 1,600 members who work to maintain high standards and share a uniquely Canadian experience in public relations. Mazin has been a member for more than 35 years.

The retired, ebullient public relations advisor is also a fundraising guru whose energy level belies his age. He has a talent for reaching out to others and motivating them to join his quest for communal service.

"I was overwhelmed to know that I was selected for the award and that the Shield of Public Service was last presented to a member in Ontario 20 years ago," Mazin said in an interview.

Karen Dalton, executive director of the Canadian Public Relations Society, presents the society's Shield of Public Service Award to Monty Mazin.

At the award presentation, Karen Dalton, national executive director of CPRS, said the award is presented to an accredited member of the society "for distinguished and dedicated service in the public interest."

She added that the award is presented to a member who has made a personal effort on behalf of public service entirely apart from the work done for clients.

And Mazin has indeed done a great deal for the community. He is the first vice-president of the resident's council and co-chair of the program committee of the Reuben Cipin Health Living Community, where he lives with his wife, Bleema. In 1999, he received the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award from Adrienne Clarkson, then the governor general of Canada.

He was has been active with Rotary International, which twice presented him with the Paul Harris Fellowship, and he received a lifetime achievement award for his community work from the Rotary Club of Toronto Don Valley.

Mazin describes himself as "a true Cockney." He was born in London, England. When he was three years old, he was struck with polio and walked with crutches until he was nine.

At that time, without the proper facilities for children labelled "cripple," he was sent to a school for the developmentally challenged. This made it difficult for him to have a proper education, he said.

During World War II, when Mazin was 12, his mother died of cancer, and he and his sister went to live in a Brighton evacuees facility.

He attended evening classes at South Devon College where his teachers recognized his writing skills, and he then took a job as a reporter at the East London *Observer*.

In 1956, Mazin moved to Montreal with his first wife and their son, Stephen. When he was told by his doctor that he should not be physically active or travelling so much in his job as a journalist, he began his career as a public relations advisor.

Over the years, he worked for Israel Bonds in Calgary, the Jewish National Fund (JNF), Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto, B'nai Brith Canada and the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

His community service includes raising thousands of dollars for the Salvation Army at Christmas for many years, assisting children with physical disabilities, serving four times as mayor and chair of the B'nai Brith Jerusalem Pavilion during the Metro International Caravan, serving as chair of GEMS (Global Ed-Med Supplies) of Hope, an organization that helps people in need in the developing world. He still finds time to assist at bingo games for seniors.

"Many accomplishments would not have been possible without the encouragement and support of my wife Bleema," Mazin said.

He noted that the gap between those who have and those who do not have is growing. "And with government cutbacks, the need for volunteer public service is greater than ever. I hope I can continue to encourage others to be involved."

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Coast to Coast

Family seeks to recover looted painting from Liz Taylor

Appeals to U.S. Supreme Court

By **ABIGAIL CUKIER**
Special to The CJN

HAMILTON — Members of a family who claim that actress Elizabeth Taylor has their great-grandmother's van Gogh painting are taking their case to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Hamilton lawyer Andrew Orkin and his cousins Mark Orkin and Sarah-Rose Adler of South Africa state in their petition last month that the late Margarete Mauthner was forced to give up the oil painting – 1889's *Vue de l'Asile et de la Chapelle de Saint-Remy* (*View of the Asylum and Chapel at Saint-Remy*) – because of Nazi economic and political coercion before she fled Berlin for South Africa in 1939.

The family seeks to overturn rulings of the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and the California District Court, which found that the the statute of limitations for the family to file a claim had expired.

But the heirs claim the painting is subject to the 1998 Holocaust Victims Redress Act, a U.S. law that regards artwork sold or forfeited as a result of the policies of Nazi Germany as having been wrongfully confiscated by Nazi authorities and requires such works to be returned to their original owners or heirs.

"We are asking the Supreme Court to consider… that when Taylor and her art dealer father bought the painting in 1963, they disregarded strong evidence that our great-grandmother lost the painting in Berlin in the late 1930s as a result of Nazi coercion," Andrew Orkin said in a statement.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule in fall whether it will hear the case.

A brochure published for Taylor by Christie's auction house when she tried to sell the van Gogh in 1990 acknowledges that Mauthner was "among the first and most important collectors and patrons of van Gogh's work in Germany." It also referenced the *catalogues raisonnées* by renowned van Gogh expert J.B. de la Faille.

A catalogue raisonné is a complete documentation, compiled by a recognized scholar, of an artist's production. These are widely accepted in art circles as the definitive history of a piece of art.

But, the petitioners argue, Taylor's 1990 brochure did not disclose that the painting was registered in the two latest (1939 and 1970) *catalogues raisonnées* as having been owned in Berlin by Mauthner in 1937 or later. Instead, the brochure only said that Mauthner "kept the picture until at least 1928."

They also argue that Taylor's brochure asserted, contrary to the provenance in the two de la Faille *catalogues raisonnées*, that two dealers had owned the van Gogh between Mauthner and collector Alfred Wolf, from whom Taylor bought the painting in London in 1963.

Continued on page 32

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LEGAL NOTICE
Re: Rabbi Tobias Gabriel

This firm represents Rabbi Tobias Gabriel in a lawsuit recently commenced by a member of the community against the Rabbi and the Beth Tzedec synagogue. On August 27, 2007, the synagogue sent a letter to its entire congregation advising of this lawsuit. This letter was reproduced in its entirety in the August 29th edition of the Toronto Star. In view of the contents of this letter and its subsequent publication, this notice is being issued to advise the community that this letter was sent without the knowledge or consent of Rabbi Gabriel. This firm has been retained and instructed by Rabbi Gabriel to vigorously defend all allegations made against him in this lawsuit.

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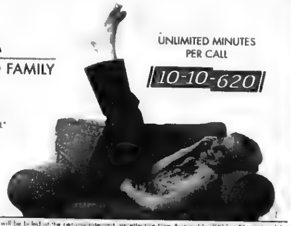

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Ruling showcases Israel's legal freedoms

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Last week, considerable media attention was focused on an Israeli Supreme Court ruling that the military must reroute part of its security barrier near the West Bank village of Bilin.

The barrier separates Bilin farmers from large parts of their land. With the help of Israeli lawyers and activists, the Bilin villagers petitioned Israel's highest court to hear their case. A three-judge panel ruled unanimously in the Palestinians' favour, ordering the Israeli government to move a mile-long section of the barrier in a "reasonable period of time."

In "Israeli Court Orders Barrier Rerouted" (*New York Times*, Sept. 5), Isabel Kershner reported: "Chief Justice Dorit Beinish wrote in the ruling, 'We were not convinced that it is necessary for security-military reasons to retain the current route that passes on Bilin's lands.'"

Kershner added: "The Defence Ministry, which oversees the planning and construction of the barrier, said it would 'study the ruling and respect it.'"

About 10 per cent of West Bank land is affected by the security barrier. While there have been a few other cases in which the Supreme Court has ordered the barrier moved, generally, the court has ruled in the government's favour, determining that security requirements must prevail despite regrettable hardships in certain areas to Palestinians.

The court's effort to achieve a balance between Israel's security needs and preventing undue hardship to Palestinians is termed "proportionality."

In "Israeli court hands down order to reroute West bank barrier," (*Globe and Mail*, Sept. 5), Carolynne Wheeler carefully covered both sides of this complex subject. She noted that Bilin has been the scene of protests and clashes with the Israel Defence Forces for more than two years.

Wheeler quoted Bilin resident, Abdallah Abu Rahmed: "We're ecstatic about the court's decision… It is a step in the right direction."

Wheeler also quoted Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mark Regev: "Obviously, the executive branch will fully implement the decision of the Supreme Court. I think in Israel we're all proud we live in a country where there are checks and balances, where there is an independent and powerful judiciary."

Wheeler added that, according to Regev, "the barrier remains a 'legitimate means' of protecting Israelis from suicide bombers."

* * *

Israel's legal system was also the subject of a *Washington Post* editorial last week ("Israel's example," Sept. 4) on the controversial issue of whether to extend due process to terror suspects from other countries. Israel does. The United States does not, but this is being challenged in its Supreme Court.

The *Post* wrote: "No one would say that Israel is soft on terrorism, which makes it all the more fascinating that a country that essentially lives under siege provides so many legal accommodations to those it detains as unlawful combatants."

As is well known, non-U.S. citizens who are deemed terror suspects and incarcerated at Guantanamo Bay currently have no right to the constitutional protections afforded Americans.

Far less known is the fact that in Israel, as the *Post* notes, "even non-citizens captured outside the country and designated unlawful combatants are entitled to due process in Israeli civilian courts. They are guaranteed judicial review of their detention within 14 days of capture. They are guaranteed the services of a lawyer no later than 34 days after capture. And they are guaranteed a review of their detention by an Israeli district court judge every six months thereafter."

It's little wonder the *Post* wrote that Israel's approach is "a stark contrast to the Bush administration's approach and one the [U.S.] administration may be able to learn from."

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Anti-Semitic graffiti found in Bowmanville

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A Bowmanville home was trashed and defaced with anti-Semitic grafitti, including swastikas, in an incident that police are not treating as a hate crime.

Durham Regional Police are continuing to investigate the incident and are treating it as a property mischief case, said Sgt. Paul McCurbin, media relations officer for Durham police. "Although the swastika is there to insult, under the Criminal Code it doesn't fall as a hate crime," he said.

The incident was discovered last week when the owners of the Bowmanville rental property, accompanied by a sheriff, arrived to evict a longstanding tenant for not paying the rent.

Marion Schwarz and her son Alan were stunned to find the two-storey home in central Bowmanville, east of Toronto, gutted and covered with anti-Semitic epithets. They were greeted with swastikas painted on the front door and on the inside, along with, "F--k Jews," "Kike," "white power," and "SS." In addition, the ceiling and walls were destroyed.

"It looks like a baseball bat and a hatchet were used," Alan said.

"We walked in and it hits you in the stomach.

"We lost a lot of people" in the Holocaust, said Schwarz, whose father, Joe, fled Germany in 1938 to escape the Nazis.

"We never expected to have this. The weird part of it all is that we tried to accommodate these people."

Schwarz said his mother, who received the property as a gift from his father on their 40th wedding anniversary, dropped the rent $100 a month when the tenants had trouble paying. Nevertheless, rent cheques began bouncing and they hadn't been paid since May.

Schwarz disagrees with police that the incident is not a hate crime. "I think it was a targeted thing. I think it was a hate crime, putting up symbols to intimidate people."

As of *The CJN*'s press time, no arrests had been made and police would not say if they were treating the tenants as the primary suspects.

Chassidim considering shift to Tories in Outremont

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The large chassidic community in the riding of Outremont, which tends to vote as a bloc, appears to be split on whom to cast its ballots for in the Sept. 17 byelection.

Like other voters in this safe riding, the chassidim have historically been strong Liberal supporters, but a significant number of them are looking seriously at the Conservatives this time around, according to one community spokesperson, Meyer Feig, president of the Jewish Orthodox Community Council.

"There's definitely talk of the Conservatives. People like their defence of traditional values, they seem more family-oriented, and we are very happy with the way [Prime Minister Stephen] Harper has treated the Israel portfolio. There's a feeling the Conservative government means what it says," he said.

A lot of chassidim, who are affiliated with a half-dozen different communities, were disillusioned with the Liberals over the legalization of same-sex marriage, Feig said. Nevertheless, the great majority voted Liberal in the last federal election in January 2006.

A more seasoned political observer, Alex Werzberger, head of the Coalition of Chassidic Organizations of Outremont, thinks that when they reach the voting booth, most chassidim will remain Liberal.

The reason is mainly pragmatic: the riding is almost certain to remain Liberal, despite a spirited challenge by the NDP's Thomas Mulcair, and it's wise to back a winner. "Basically, things haven't changed. The bulk will go to the Liberals. I don't see a major shift to the Conservatives," Werzberger said.

The Conservatives came fourth in Outremont, which was held by former cabinet minister Jean Lapierre, in the last general election in January 2006. The Bloc Québécois was second and the NDP third.

Feig said he and many other chassidim are not keen on the views of the current Liberal candidate, professor and journalist Jocelyn Coulon, whose past positions on Israel and the Middle East have caused concern in the mainstream Jewish community as well.

B'nai Brith Canada, in fact, called on Liberal leader Stéphane Dion, who personally chose Coulon because of his international affairs expertise, to withdraw his candidacy when it was announced in July.

Coulon, who has written extensively over the years on the Middle East in French-language newspapers and for academic publications, reversed his position that Hamas should not be shunned by Israel and the West, while speaking to Jewish community leaders last month, because Hamas, which has been designated as a terror group in Canada, has not renounced violence.

The Outremont chassidim are, in varying degrees, theologically anti-Zionist, but that does not mean they do not care deeply for Jews living in the land of Israel, Werzberger said.

About 10 per cent of Outremont riding's 66,000 voters are Jewish, and about a third of those are chassidim. Their generally high turnout during elections and voting solidarity has given them political clout beyond their numbers.

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‘Genocide cannot properly be subject to a statute of limitations’

Continued from page 29

Mauthner died in 1947 at the age of 84. As a young lady in Berlin, she had been part of an association of progressive artists. She was instrumental in introducing van Gogh to Germany, as she translated his letters to German in 1907.

Reported cases in many countries tell of Jewish citizens who were forced to sell artwork for food or to obtain passports, or under policies directing Jews to deposit artworks at municipal pawnshops.

The U.S. government long ago warned U.S. art dealers, museums and other purchasers of artworks that were in Germany during those years to be aware of the possibility of questionable provenance and the original owners’ right to restitution.

“Genocide cannot properly be subject to a statute of limitations and there must be an enduring right to Holocaust redress, especially in the compelling context of a case like this,” Harvard University law professor Alan Dershowitz, co-counsel to the family, said in a press release.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Holocaust Victims Redress Act in 1998 to assist in the restitution of assets looted or extorted from Holocaust victims.

At the time, Rep. James Leach said, “While little is more difficult than to judge the past, to establish what in this case must be called retrospective justice, it must be understood that history does not have a statute of limitations. People cannot be allowed to disappear from earth without tracks, without moral if not monetary restitution.”

Richard Altman, one the the family’s lawyer’s, says it’s “intolerable” that various U.S. Circuit Courts approach Holocaust-era claims differently.

“It is unjust that in California, a Holocaust claim can be too late, while in New York the same claim could be heard,” Altman said in a statement. “We hope that the Supreme Court will accept this case and establish a uniform nationwide rule, one that allows Holocaust survivors and their heirs to have their day in court at last, no matter where they happen to live, or wherever their property may be found.”

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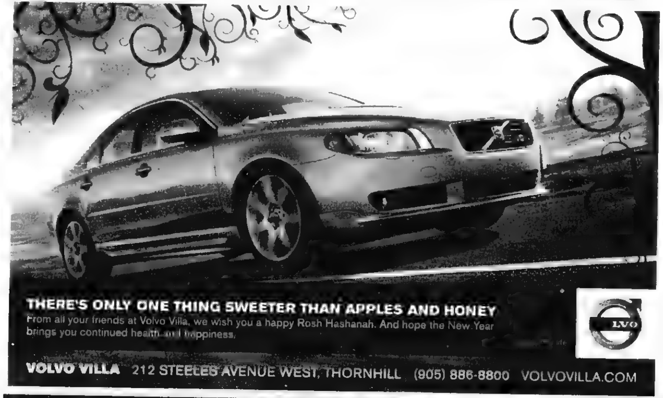
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Canadians train for Israeli cycling fundraiser

Wheels of Love hopes to raise $3 million in support of children's rehab hospital

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Three Ottawa men, along with some 60 men and women from the Toronto area, are training for a five-day bicycle ride in Israel known as Wheels of Love.

The ride is in support of Alyn Hospital, Israel's premiere comprehensive rehabilitation centre for physically challenged and disabled children. Since its inception in 2000 when nine Israelis rode for five days and raised $65,000 for the hospital, it has grown to attract approximately 500 participants from around the world this year and the fundraising goal is $3 million. Wheels of Love is not only the largest annual fundraiser for Alyn Hospital, but it's now Israel's single largest athletic fundraising event.

Joel Diener, co-owner of Saslove's Meat Markets, is one of three people from Ottawa, along with Roger Greenberg and Ian Bodnoff, who will be taking part this year.

Diener has been training since May, when he decided to sign up, but prior to that, he had not been doing any serious cycling.

"I started from nothing and now am doing 70 kilometres with relative ease," he said.

"I think it is going to be an exciting experience. We have pledged to each other that if we survive we will come back and spread the word in Ottawa. Hopefully, next year there will be a much larger contingent from Ottawa."

David Gershuni, a retired actuary from Toronto (formerly of Montreal) will be returning for his fifth Wheels of Love.

"It incorporates three of the things that are dear to my heart: bicycle riding, being in Israel and riding in Israel," he said.

"The work that those people do, at the hospital, is, at the end of the day what drives me to go back… I have children and grandchildren and I am blessed that they all function… it is so good that there is such a hospital in Israel, for children that in many cases would be written off. It really tugs at the heartstrings."

Jerry Solomon, executive director of Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot Girls' School

Jerry Solomon, executive director of Yeshivat Or Chaim-Ulpanat Orot Girls' School in Toronto, has been cycling for a number of years and has participated in several other charity bike rides. He frequently travels to Israel, where two of his three children now live, but he has never seen the country by bike.

Although he cycles regularly, Solomon has stepped up his training for the Wheels of Love event.

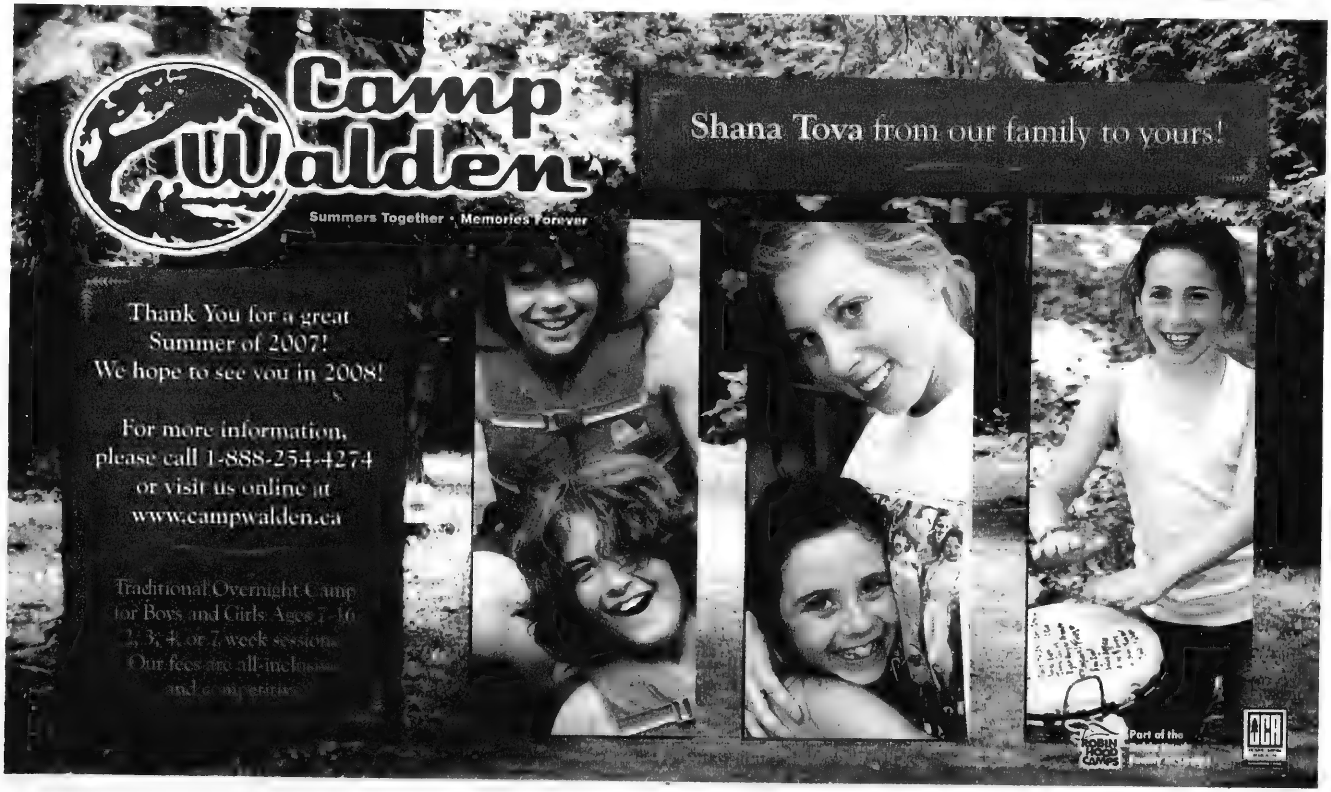
"I am doing special training now, going out into the country to practise hills, because it is a hilly ride. I have been training specifically for this ride for three months now, and I also jog, so I have been increasing my jogging distance and will be doing a half-marathon at the end of September."

"One of the things that appeals to me about this ride is that it brings together a group of people from around the world and also all kinds of Jews, across the spectrum, working together for one purpose. It doesn't matter if they are religious or secular or where they come from, everyone will be enjoying themselves while working for a good and worthwhile cause," Solomon said.

In addition to its physical demands, Wheels of Love also presents a fundraising challenge. The riders not only pay their own airfares to and from Israel and take at least a week off work, but each pledges to raise a minimum of $2,000 for the hospital.

The ride begins on Oct. 28 in Tiberias and ends five days – and almost 300 miles – later in Jerusalem.

For information – how to participate, volunteer opportunities, and direct links to sponsor a rider – go to www.alynride.org.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U of T student does it all

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Alex Goodman

It seems that there aren't many challenges 19-year-old Alex Goodman is afraid to face.

An accomplished musician, academic, world traveller and public sector worker, Goodman has done and seen more than some do in a lifetime.

Goodman, a student at the University of Toronto, made the switch this year from McGill University where he spent two years pursuing two degrees concurrently – a bachelor's in music in jazz performance, and a bachelor's in political science, minoring in Spanish and French.

After deciding he would take a semester off last year to take advantage of work and musical opportunities, the Toronto native applied to U of T and was offered a full scholarship – the prestigious Phil Nimmons scholarship through which he could continue pursuing his two degrees.

As if managing two degrees isn't overwhelming enough, Goodman is an active member of the Toronto jazz scene, and also spends his spare time working for not-for-profit organizations.

"It's a little bit intense but I really enjoy the things I'm doing. Even though it is a very heavy workload and it requires organization to get through it, I'm really happy doing all these things and it'll be nice to have the opportunity to pursue different career paths," he said.

Last year, Goodman was approached by Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace, a non-profit organization that holds annual conferences about peace education, who asked him if he would start a centre based in Quebec. He founded the bilingual PaixQuebecPeace organization, which runs annual peace education conferences and local social justice outreach programs.

He even found a way to combine his interest in this kind of work with his academic pursuits.

Last year he wrote an undergraduate thesis titled *Canadian Policy Oriented Peace Research Organizations*, which focused on the think-tank community in Canada and the work that has been done in peace building and foreign affairs.

Goodman spent this summer working with a think-tank in Toronto called the Dominion Institute, which has a mission to "build active and informed citizens through greater knowledge and appreciation of the Canadian story."

The Dominion Institute is responsible for putting out the Annual Canada Day Survey and organizing state funerals for Canadian war veterans.

But despite how devoted he is to public sector work, music seems to be his true passion, although this wasn't always the case.

Continued on page 35

שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

ארץ השמש

אני נוסע בדרכי מבית החולים הביתה ומקשיב לחדשות ב- סי.בי.סי. לפתע אומרת הקריינית: "את הידיעה הבאה קיבלנו מישראל", ואני, אחרי נסיון ארוך, מחכה לכתבה שתספר על איך שישראל מתעללת בפלשתינאים, ואיך אנחנו הורסים את החיים של עם אחר ובדרך כלל בלי איזכור הטרור והסיבות מדוע ישראל עושה הכל למנוע מטרוריסטים להתפוצץ ברחובותיה. ה סי.בי.סי לדעתי, בדרך כלל חד צדדי ובלתי מאוזן. ואז באה הפתעה שהביאה שמחה ללבי: ישראל היא המדינה המובילה בעולם בפיתוח אנרגית השמש. באוניברסיטת באר שבע הצליחו לאחרונה לייצר מראה ענקית שמגדילה בעשרות מונים את כמות החשמל שאפשר לייצר מיחידת כות. בימים אלה מפתחת החברה הישראלית תחנת כוח שתספק חשמל לארבע מאות אלף אנשים בקליפורניה!

ואז מציין המדען שפיתח את התגלית שבישראל עצמה, אחת המדינות הכי עניות בעולם באנרגיה, לא התחילו עוד להתלהב מן התגלית שלו.....ואחרי מאמצי שכנוע רבים יקימו עכשיו תא אנרגיה ראשון.

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קבוצת הכדורגל של הפועל תל אביב נסעה למשחק בבוסניה במסגרת מפעל אירופאי כלשהוא . במשחק הובילה הפועל 1:0 כשאוהדיה התחילו להשליך אבוקות בוערות לכל עבר. אבוקה אחת נפלה באזור המושבים של הקבוצה המקומית ואז נכנסה למגרש המשטרה ופינתה את קומץ האוהדים התל אביבים. בעיתון התלוננו האוהדים על "הברוטאליות של המשטרה הבוסנית כלפיהם". לדעתי הם צריכים להודות לאלוהים שהם יצאו בחיים כי אין ספק שאם אוהדים בוסנים היו מעיזים לזרוק אבוקות בבלומפילד-היו אוהדי תל אביב הורגים אותם פיזית ללא היסוס תוך שהם מכנים אותם אנטישמים.

אוהדי כדורגל בכל העולם הם תמצית החוליגניות, הברבריות והפרימיטיביות של התרבות ממנה הם צמחו . הם תמיד מבטאים את הצדדים היותר גזעניים והיותר חייתיים של המין האנושי. בבית"ר ירושלים למשל, האוהדים משמיעים קולות של קופים בכל פעם שהכדור נמצא ברגליו של שחקן כושי מן הקבוצה היריבה. ולחשוב שאת זה עושים יהודים שבמשך אלפי שנים סבלו מגזענות-עוברת בי צמרמורת.

ישראל מנסה שנים רבות להצטרף למפעלי ספורט ותרבות באירופה בטענה שבאסיה יש מדינות רבות שאינן מקיימות איתה יחסים. התקרית בבוסניה היא דוגמא לכך שישראל של שנת 2007 כנראה שייכת לאסיה יותר מאשר לאירופה.

מאיפה הגיעו ישראלים יהודים ילידי הארץ, אפילו אם הם מהמעמד הבזוי של חוליגני כדורגל, לכזאת רמה של אַרְוֹנְנטיות ויהירות!

מאיפה יש להם את השילוב הקטלני הזה של שחצנות ומוגבלות להביא כל כך הרבה נזק! אבל שישאר בינינו.

אל על

ואם מדברים על אַרְוֹנְנטיות ישראלית-עוד שיא נשבר בימים אלה:

בראיון שקיים לאחרונה הצהיר מנכ"ל חברת התעופה הלאומית אל-על , מר רומנו, שהחברה שלו כיום "יותר טובה מלופטהאנזה". להזכיר לכולם: מדובר בחברה שמסיימת רבים ממאזניה בשנים האחרונות בגרעון, שיש לה ועדים חזקים שאינם מאפשרים ייעול, שהשירות שלה זוכה לא אחת לציונים נמוכים, ושצפיפות המושבים במטוסיה היא מן הידועות בעולם. כן, זו החברה שלנו, אנחנו נמשיך לתמוך בה ולהתגאות בבטיחות שלה, אבל דיר באלאק!! להזכיר את השם שֶׁלָה בנשימה אחת עם לופטהאנזה זה בערך כמו להשוות את נבחרת הכדורגל של ישראל לזו של בראזיל

ברמה יותר רצינית-אם מנכ"ל אל-על באמת חושב שהוא הגיע לרמתה של לופט האנזה-ברור שהוא מעולם לא יגיע לשם. אבל שישאר בינינו.

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Played piano at age 9

Continued from page 34

He said he started playing the piano when he was nine years old. In just three years, Goodman came within two marks of passing his Grade 8 Royal Conservatory exam. Despite the fact that it came so naturally to him, he decided it wasn't for him.

"I just didn't want to do it anymore. I gave up and I didn't really think about music," he said.

"I picked up guitar when I was in high school because I thought it was the cool thing to do. I was probably about 14 when I started and I was over at UTS [The University of Toronto Schools – a school that offers specialized curriculum for high achieving students].

"I started studying classical guitar because I liked the sense of challenge and I liked the idea of being able to grade [my progress] and that there was structure to what I was learning. I figured I'd approach it like that so no matter what I was doing I'd have a solid foundation," Goodman said.

In the summer after Grade 11, he went to the Interprovincial Music Camp at Camp Manitou, where he learned with a "very high caliber faculty," and started to think about making the switch to jazz guitar.

"In the next year, I started to study with jazz guitarist Rob Campbell, and it really just took off from there," he said.

He decided to take a year off between high school and university in 2005, he said, so he could pursue other opportunities including a job with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and playing gigs in Toronto-area restaurants and at corporate events with other musicians his age.

Before he knew it, Goodman was taking his musical talents half-way across the world. With his parents, Goodman travelled to Hong Kong, Thailand and India.

"I actually organized some performance opportunities beforehand so I was able to play in hotels in Thailand, and in India I recorded with a fantastic Indian jazz guitarist. Then I went backpacking in the southwest of India. It was amazing."

He said that as of last year, he began to play with a renowned violinist in Toronto named Ed Vokurka, who he considers a mentor.

"I met him at a jam and he gave me his card and I gave him my card and for two or three months, just to get my foot in the door, and be able to play with him, I played with him for free... After some time, he let me join his group and since then I've been a member [of] the Ed Vokurka Swing and Jazz Violin Ensemble."

He said that now, he feels like working in the music industry is something he'd like to pursue.

"It's been going very well lately, and the thing is, some paths have opened up for composition work and studio work."

Goodman was commissioned to write the musical scores for two short films, one of which, *Goodbye Rosebud*, aired on Global Television and was screened at the Calgary Film Festival.

"I've been lucky that the door has been opened up to me to do film composition, which is an area where you can kind of have as your day job because it is very hard to support yourself performing jazz gigs. You do need to find something to supplement it."

With so much on his plate, Goodman said it was too difficult for him to think about what the future holds for him, but he did know that graduate school was in the cards. And he is aiming high.

"I'd probably apply to the Manhattan School of Music and Juilliard for music, and I'd probably apply to Columbia, Harvard and probably Oxford. I'd like to do something different that I could go into later, like law."

He said that when he does find the time to play gigs, he does so at jazz clubs in Toronto such as The Rex and every Wednesday, he plays at a restaurant called Bon Vivant on Avenue Road.

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but a speck of dust floating somewhere in this vast universe. If this is the case, how big are you? How big am I? Who are you? Who am I? I don't know about you, but I do know about me. I am what I understand, and only what I understand. And what I understand about our Mother Earth is that she's in one heck of a mess! It is up to you and I to fix it - let's fix it. Peace begins at home.
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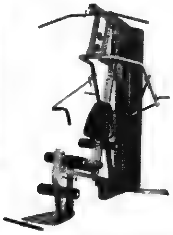

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And now for something completely different:

HEEBONICS

New online network sets its sights on Facebook

By JENNA ROSMAN

Special to The CJN

A new web platform called Inter-Canal is creating a buzz in the entertainment industry.

Greg Donskov, director of business development for Inter-Canal, a new advanced interactive network based in Toronto, said a digital renaissance is about to occur.

A musician who has written music for various television shows, including CSI Las Vegas, Donskov was the business development manager of the Bank of Montreal from the mid to late 1990s.

Inter-Canal CEO, Avi Gerber, 40, was an executive with the telecommunications company Ericsson Israel for more than 20 years.

Inter-Canal president, Erez Yerushalami, 30, is a veteran of the Israel Defence Forces' special forces.

Together, Donskov, Gerber and Yerushalami founded Inter-Canal two years ago.

"[Gerber] left his position with Ericsson. He took a huge gamble [in order to focus on this] startup. He uprooted his whole family to form this here in Toronto," Donskov said.

This past June, the Montreal-born Donskov and Israeli immigrants Gerber and Yerushalami launched Inter-Canal's "golden egg" – the Venice Chronicles, a social online network that they hope will blow sites like Facebook out of the water.

"You know of [websites such as] YouTube, Facebook and MySpace. All of these are great websites. All of them have certain functions, such as blogging, video and broadcasting capabilities. But they don't have everything," Donskov said. "If you look at Inter-Canal, we have all of them."

Donskov describes the venture as a "social platform for the entertainment industry."

The Venice Chronicles has so far attracted the 26- to 36-year-old demographic.

Las Vegas hotel executives from the Luxor, MGM Grand and Venetian hotel-casinos have expressed interest in using Inter-Canal's technology and web capabilities.

Aside from being able to upload photos to their profiles, site members can participate in role playing.

After uploading a photo, a new user is asked to choose a Venetian "mask," which is digitally placed over the picture, and then the user chooses a Venetian family to be a part of.

"The family has a history, and it's a unique way to have an alter ego, and a political rift – a difference between each other," Donskov said.

He said what separates this network from others is that users have the option of being part of every aspect of the online community.

"Normally [on Internet networks] you have segregation between the gaming community and the other types [of web surfers] that are into hooking up or dating, or just innocent networking.

"The Venice Chronicles is a cooler way of talking. We kind of amalgamated them, not just through the platform, but [through] the fans of this that are coming on board.

"We're getting young and professional and more mature women coming on board to network, maybe innocently flirt in a sophisticated way," Donskov said.

The site currently has more than 2,000 members.

Inter-Canal offers free membership to users through a system it created, in which users can obtain "internal credits," Donskov said.

The credits, or points, help the users advance within the game through various means, including by viewing a video commercial.

"We don't want [static banners] because it's unprofessional and it takes away from the atmosphere. We want an ability to have the advertiser happy and the user happy to say that they saw that commercial and they really liked it," he said.

"You would watch this if you get points, and these points serve to be real incentives. The advertisers are going to give incentives to those who view their advertising."

The Venice Chronicles website also has 24-hour-a-day live moderators online to assist members, including to help them collect internal Venetian currency, which serves to advance the user within the game.

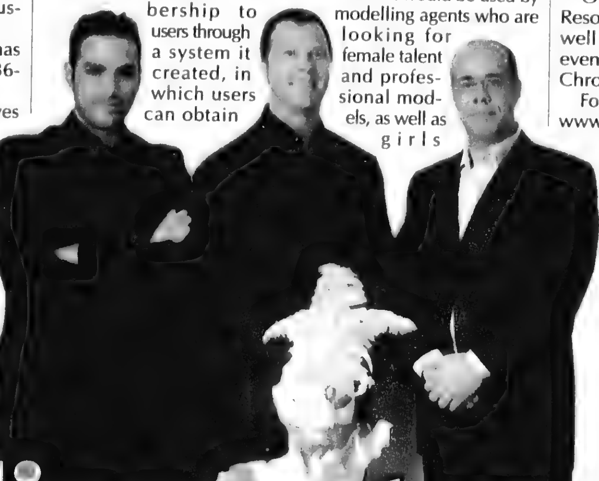
In the future, Inter-Canal has plans for at least two more websites.

Catwalk would be used by modelling agents who are looking for female talent and professional models, as well as girls who would like to become models.

The Sports Chronicles, featuring celebrity or professional athletes, "would focus on what they do and all the aspects of their careers," Donskov said.

On Oct. 31, the Venetian Resort will host an online as well as a live masquerading event to promote the Venice Chronicles website.

For more information, visit www.venicechronicles.com.



The Inter-Canal team that created The Venice Chronicles

[Joe Shimoni photos]

The images on the left and below are examples of what a profile photo would look like.

Back to school

NEW YEAR, NEW GRADE: Grade 1 students at Netivot HaTorah Day School – from left, Mia, Alexandra, Yakir and Sammy – started learning about Rosh Hashanah last week. [*Rebecca Ansel photo*]

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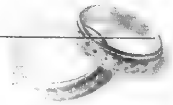

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FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Lorne & Carol Alter congratulate their daughter Amy upon simultaneously graduating from the University of Cambridge (Law) and from Paris Sorbonne II (Maitrise de Droit). Amy is continuing at Columbia Law School for a Master's Degree (Law).

Mazel tov to Martine Segal
& Rob Halberstadt on their marriage
in Toronto on June 21.
Love from both families.

Ilana & Perry Shak are proud
to announce the birth of their son
Noah Kai Shak on June 7.
He weighed 9 pounds, 8 ounces.

Welcome Samuel Aaron Avi Greenberg.
Ecstatic parents are Natalie & Neil,
grandparents Tobie & Albert Baker,
Roslynne & Harry Greenberg and
great-grandmother Dora Greenberg.

Miriam & Peter Shell announce the
engagement of their daughter
Jennifer to Jordan,
son of Beverly & Steven Stroll.
A long and happy life together!

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Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES. Monday, Sept. 17 is the deadline for the Oct. 3 issue; Wednesday, Sept. 19, is the deadline for the Oct. 11 issue; and Monday, Oct. 1, is the deadline for the Oct. 18 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0949 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com. I receive calls on deadline days only.

Saturday, Sept. 15

SHABBAT SHUVA DRASHA

Rabbi Moshe Stern will speak on "The Sanctity of Human Life." 5:45 p.m. at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. All welcome.

Sunday, Sept. 16

GREEN PARTY INFO NIGHT

Green Party of Canada leader, **Elizabeth May**, and Green Party of Ontario leader, **Frank de Jong** will speak followed by questions and answers. 7:30-9 p.m. at the Herb Carnegie Arena, 580 Finch Ave. W. Info, call **Barbara** 416-633-1970.

Monday, Sept. 17

CAARI MEETING

Canadian and American Active Retirees in Israel (CAARI) is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Join them for a meeting and find out about doing community service, helping JNF in forests and touring Israel. 2:30 p.m. at the home of **Anice** and **Arnold Stark**, 1201 Steeles Ave W, #706. 416-665-2482

JEWISH DIABETES MTG

Celia Fredericks, clinical nurse specialist/diabetes at Mount Sinai Hospital discusses " Diabetes: Shoot For the Best." at the general meeting of the Jewish Diabetes Chapter. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $1. 416-363-0177, ext. 7403

Tuesday, Sept. 18

LUNCH AND LEARN

Temple Israel of London begins its 5768 Tuesday lunchtime meetings, 12:15-1:30 p.m. today. For info call 519-858-4400.

THE POLISH WALLENBERG

The Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada presents **Grzegorz Lubczyk**, former Polish ambassador to Hungary, and author of the book and film *Henryk Slawik, a Polish Wallenberg*. Lecture and screening ,7:30 p.m. 15 Devonshire Pl. Free.

Wednesday, Sept. 19

STUDYING BIBLE

Shaarei Shomayim and Mekorot offer a free introductory class to **Shoshana Zolty**'s The Creation Story course. Zolty will define basic terms such as the written Torah, the Oral Torah, *pshat*/the plain meaning of the text and *drash*/interpretation, as well as the methodologies of the commentators Rashi and Rashbam. Although geared toward new students all are welcome. 10-11:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. To register and for information on other Mekorot study opportunities visit www.mekorot.ca. or call 416-877-2050.

ADULT MINI SCHOOL

Classes begin today for the Florence Melton Adult Mini School fall term. Classes meet once a week for two hours, for 30 weeks in either the morning or evening. Call 416-789-7400 to register.

JF&CS GROUP

Participate in a workshop for parents When You are About to Separate and find out how and when to tell the children about divorce and get ideas and strategies to best meet your child's needs. 6:30-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #303, Call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215, or visit www.jfandcs.com.

SUPPORT GROUP

Are you the parent, relative or friend of a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered person? Come and chat about the new challenges in your life. Beth David Synagogue, 7:30 p.m. For info, 416-633-5500.

Continued on page 39

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Continued from page 38

CREATING A FAMILY TREE

Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and area will host **Ruth Goldberg**, experienced genealogist, on "Growing My Family Tree From 20 to 200-plus," describing how she took a list of 20 relatives in 1979 and expanded it into a list of 225. 7:30 p.m. at Temple Anshe Shalom, 215 Cline Ave. North. Non-members $5.

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Judith Tinkl, noted fibre and quilt artist, will give an illustrated slide lecture, "Colour as Trickster," on colour composition. The Guild will introduce a members' challenge. Members are invited to sign up for mini-workshops to be held on Oct. 17. Guests welcome. $5. 8 p.m. The Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. info@pomegranateguild.ca.

GENEALOGICAL MEETING

The Jewish Genealogical Society presents an audio-visual presentation of a personal journey to Poland to discover what remains of the shtetl and Polish Jewry, followed by a talk on the restoration of the Ivansk Cemetery presented by **Mark Pinkus, Sheila Rich Pinkus**, **Gord** and **Bernice Starkman** and **Lisa Newman Greenspan**. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Non-members $5. www.jgstoronto.ca

LIZZIE OLDTIMERS

The Lizzie Oldtimers host their 24th annual dinner at the North Toronto Memorial Centre, 200 Eglinton Ave. W. Tickets, call **Harvey** 905-886-6580.

Other News

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto has one-stop shopping for all of your High Holy Day needs including updated list of congregations with extra seating for High Holy Days, visit www.jewishtoronto.com.

Join **Chabad of the Beaches**, 323 Kingston Rd. 1 block east of Kingston Rd. for Rosh Hashanah services, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. followed by traditional meal. Reserve, 416-809-1365 or rsvp@chabaddb.com. Thursday, Sept. 13 and Friday Sept. 14, services 9:30 a.m. shofar 11:15 a.m. Yom Kippur services, Friday, Sept. 21, Kol Nidre 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, services 9:30 a.m. Yizkor 11:30 a.m. Neilah 5:45 p.m. Breaking the fast meal 7:45 p.m. All welcome.

The Winchevsky Centre hosts a secular humanistic celebration of Rosh Hashanah, Thursday, Sept. 13, 10:30 a.m. led by members of the community, includes shofar blowing. Yom Kippur services Friday, Sept 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for each holiday, adults $30, children $18, unwaged/students $22. Reservations, 416-789-5502.

HOLIDAY NON-SERVICES

Anshei Minsk Shul invites the community to "Non-Services for Seekers," free High Holy Day learning experience which explores the spiritual meaning of Rosh Hashana with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**. Includes teachings, stories, meditations, bring your questions. Thursday, Sept. 13 and Friday Sept. 14 at 10 a.m. and Yom Kippur services, Kol Nidrei, Friday, Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m. 10 St. Andrew St. For info, 905-761-0040.

HEAR THE SHOFAR

Come out on Thursday, Sept. 12 and Friday, Sept, 13, 2:30-4 p.m. and hear the shofar service, learn the 10 reasons for hearing the shofar, sing Rosh Hashana melodies and ask a rabbi any questions you might have, 3636 Bathurst St., main entrance. Free. 416-787-9747 or shlomoeg@uno.com

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

The Family Resource Centre at the Promenade Mall has space available for their children's programs: Boogie Babies and Jammin Tots; Drumming Fun and Artsy Craftsy. The Centre also offers a daily drop-in program and a weekly Shabbat Circle. Newcomers can join our Conversation Café, a joint program with JIAS, Tuesdays 10:15-11:15 a.m. beginning Sept. 18. Register now for the Child Emergency Workshop October, 24, 7-9 p.m. For information call **Fran**, 905-882-8509.

STUDY ON LINE

Torah in Motion offers classes online including: "Teshuva Tefilla UTzedakah: How to Use the Yamim Noraim for Spiritual Growth" with **Rabbi Aharon Adler**, Rosh Yeshiva, Yeshivat Bnei Akiva Ner Tamid, Hashmona'im, Sundays Sept, 16 and 23, 8:45 a.m.; "Torah is for Life: The Halakhic Issues of Eating on Yom Kippur" with **Rabbi Adam Mintz**, of Kehilat Rayim Ahuvim, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 9-10 p.m. and "Sukkot, Hakhel, Shmittah: What's it all About?" with **Rabbi Nati Helfgot**, of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 9-10 p.m. Register, www.torahinmotion.org or 416-633-5770.

YIDDISH CLASSES

The Committee for Yiddish, Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage and UJA Federation offer Yiddish language classes for adults at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Conversation, reading and writing are included at each level. All classes take place Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon, beginning September 23. $110/12 sessions. "Conversational Yiddish," with materials provided in transliteration, is offered Tuesdays, beginning October 9, 1–3 p.m. $90/10 sessions. A free children's Yiddish class involving language, culture and the celebration of Jewish holidays is offered Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Registration is Sunday, Sept. 23, the first class is Sept. 30. There is a $20 supplies fee. All classes are held at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. For more information contact **Ethel Cooper** at ecooper@ujafed.org or 416 635-2883, ext. 389.

ONE FAMILY BIKEATHON

Join One Family Fund on Sunday, Sept. 30 for a Bikeathon through the countryside around historic Unionville to raise funds for victims of terror and their families in Israel. Choose between a 20 km or a 50 km route. Lots of prizes and giveaways. Register at www.onefamilyfund.org.

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

National Council of Jewish Women hosts a women's support group that meets every second Tuesday to network, share, address concerns and have fun, in an informal and friendly environment. 10-11:30 a.m. at 4700 Bathurst St. TTC & wheelchair accessible. For information call **Rachel**, 416-633-5100. This program is free and is open to all women in the community.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer, or for more information on these programs call 416-630-6481.

Volunteers are needed for JIAS Telephone Language Companion program. Call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

JUMPStart, If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer call **Elisa**, ext. 24.

Family-to-Family, welcomes newcomer families and provides informal advice and orientation to our community. To participate, call Joanna, ext. 30.

FOR SENIORS

The Association of Jewish Seniors' Sukkah Luncheon will take place Thursday, Oct. 2 at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation with entertainment and lunch. Members $15, guests $20. Reserve by Sept. 20, call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Senior Social Bridge Club meets at the Forest Hill Library, two afternoons a week, 12-3:15 p.m. Call **Anne** 416-783-5368 for information.

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park. Sunday dance, Sept. 23; Casino Rama. Thursday, Oct. 11; Casino Fallsview Niagara, Wednesday, Oct. 24. Activities include mah-jong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; duplicate bridge, Wednesdays, 12-3 p.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m. For information, call 416-395-7881.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Trip to ROM, Monday, Sept. 17, 10:30 a.m. returning at 2 p.m. Members $13, guests $16. Reserve at ext. 2267.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Ask the Expert an alternative medicine panel, Wednesday, Sept 19, 1-2:30 p.m. free.

Trip to Casino Rama, Monday, Sept 24, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Members $3, non-members $6. Lunch included.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Red Cross Babysitting Course for 11-14-year-olds takes place at the BJCC Sunday, Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required, call ext. 235.

BGL, La senteur de mes mains/The Marks of My Hands is on display at the Koffler Gallery through Nov. 25.

Join the BJCC for Jewtopia, Sept. 23, 7 p.m. Supporting the event will send children to Centre Camp. Tickets $118 or $150. E-mail bjcc@bjcc.ca or call ext. 271.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Divine Proportion: The Medieval Jewish Body, New Works by **Myriam Nafte** exploring Jewish faith in the Jacobs Lounge Visual Arts Space.

55 Forward Focus Group, let the Miles Nadal JCC hear your ideas about the programs you want to be part of. Program Focus Group, adults ages 55 +, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2 p.m. RSVP, **Randi Sokolsky**, ext. 154.

The 2007-08 Miles Nadal JCC program book is now available at www.mnjcc.org. To register, call ext. 0.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 41

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OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Geri Willinsky	Aug 25/07	265 Ridley Blvd.
Tal Doron	Aug 26/07	31 Amberty Street
Harold Wolfe	Aug 27/07	205 Cummer Avenue
Claire Spring	Aug 27/07	3560 Bathurst Street
Hi Hundert	Aug 28/07	110 Promenade Circle
Gittie Gollish	Aug 25/07	3900 Yonge Street
Shilamus Katchky	Aug 29/07	3303 Don Mills Road
Bess Shockett	Aug 27/07	25 Canyon Avenue
Milton Teitel	Aug 30/07	242 Old Forest Hill Road
Taschia Rotenberg	Aug 30/07	Stoney Creek, Ontario
Celia Ungerman	Aug 30/07	3000 Bathurst Street
Simon Wittes	Aug 29/07	100 Central Avenue
Beila Ber	Aug 31/07	2 Neptune Drive
Paul Halpern	Aug 30/07	131 Beecroft Road
Lillian Gasee	Aug 31/07	5935 Bathurst Street
Jeanette Train	Sep 1/07	275 Betty Ann Dr.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Horowitz, Rivka	August 23/07	Private
Ianovsky, Rachel	August 23/07	Private
Pernica, Bayla	August 23/07	Private
Myasnik, Raisa	August 25/07	6250 Bathurst St..
Weinreich, Mietek	August 25/07	98 Brookview Ave.
Rosenkrantz, Lenke	August 25/07	17 Deverell Cres.
Berlin, Jack	August 26/07	2911 Bayview Ave.
Yaacobi, Gad	August 27/07	Israel
Gilbert,Basil Joseph (John)	August 28/07	Private

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

Risette Schwartz	Aug 27/07	2 Buchan Court

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The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

SADIE MILLER ז״ל

will take place

Sunday, Sept. 16th, 1:00 p.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park

Beth Sholom Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

LAWRENCE JUSKO ז״ל

will take place

Sunday, Sept. 16th, 2:00 p.m.

Beth Tzedec Memorial Park

#15 Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of

GLORIA AWERBUCK ז״ל

will take place

Sunday, Sept. 16th, 2:00 p.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park

Kiever Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument honouring the memory of the late

BENJAMIN APPLEBAUM ז״ל

will take place

Sunday, Sept. 16th, 10:00 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Adath Israel Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

ABRAHAM ALSPECTOR ז״ל

will take place

Sunday, September 16th at 2:00 p.m.

Dawes Road Cemetery

Lubliner Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

GEORGE BRONET ז״ל

will take place

Sunday, September 23rd at 11:30 a.m.

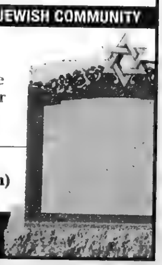
Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Dufferin St., N. of Major Mackenzie

Community Section CCCC

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

followed by light refreshments at Cemetery-Centre Road House



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Toronto dancers wow Israelis at Galilee festival

By RAPHAEL SUSSMAN
and EDITH KLEIN
Special to The CJN

KARMIEL, Israel — Braving 40-degree temperatures and blazing sun, Toronto's own Nirkoda dance group appeared at the prestigious Karmiel Dance Festival, held in the Galilee town of the same name from July 30 to Aug. 2.

The annual event, which regularly draws more than a quarter of a million spectators and 5,000 performers, is the highlight of the Israeli dance scene.

Nirkoda, the Israeli folk dance performing group associated with Toronto's Koffler Centre for the Arts, was warmly welcomed to the four-day event in northern Israel, appearing in several concerts over the course of the festival, which marked its 20th anniversary this year.

At each of the concert venues, reaction to the Canadian troupe was enthusiastic. Over the years, the festival's program has been filled by more and more modern, hip-hop, and avant garde dance, and Nirkoda's traditional approach to Israeli folk dancing was seen as a much-needed return to the festival's roots.

"It was great!" said Dvora Wolfe, a longtime resident of Karmiel. "It was such a pleasure to feel the music and recognize the history that the dances represented."

After each of Nirkoda's six appearances, the MCs called special attention to the Canadians' contribution, sparking applause and even a standing ovation after Nirkoda's tribute suite of dances based on Hebrew songs devoted to the Israeli north.

Over 250,000 attend annual event

The Karmiel Dance Festival has taken place each summer since 1988 and is the largest annual festival in Israel. During the 2006 war, when rockets fell on Karmiel every day, the event was postponed to the fall, but it was difficult for many professional troupes to reschedule their plans, so the program was a somewhat muted affair.

The entire town of Karmiel organizes to accommodate the event's 5,000 performers, putting schools, sports stadiums and cultural centres to festival purposes.

Dance styles run the gamut from modern ballet, hip-hop, ballroom and flamenco to, of course Israeli folk dance. The calibre is extremely high, as each performing group goes through a progressively more difficult selection process, beginning with a review of videos of their previous performances.

Ori Yinon, the senior director of Be'er Sheva's dance troupes who has been with the festival for the last 19 years and produced three of the shows in which Nirkoda performed this year, said that "Nirkoda brought us a taste of the old and beautiful Eretz Israel."

Yinon continued: "Shared cultural experiences like this serve to increase the solidarity between Israelis and Jews from the Diaspora."

Other countries represented at the festival included Turkey, Poland, the United States and Georgia. Several groups performed Indian and Japanese dances.

Continued on page 44

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Wednesday, September 19, 2007 7:30 p.m. OR Thursday, October 18, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:
Beth Emeth Synagogue
100 Elder Street
Parking off of Wilmington Avenue

Registration Deadline: November 02, 2007

For more information contact Sherri Rotstein
416.398.6931 x359 or srotstein@ujafed.org

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The TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Countefeiters highlights an intriguing footnote of the Holocaust

Karl Markovics, left, plays a Jewish counterfeiter. Devid Striesow, centre, portrays an SS commander, while Martin Brambuch, right, depicts a sadistic Nazi.

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The Counterfeiters, written and directed by Stefan Ruzowitzky, an Austrian filmmaker, is a portrait of a Jewish master forger, Salomon Sorowitsch, whose dazzling technical skills enabled him to scrape through the Holocaust.

The movie, adapted from Adolf Burger's memoir, *The Devil's Workshop*, is based on real events and is an intriguing footnote in the annals of the Holocaust.

It was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival last week.

In 1942, the SS police force formed a team of counterfeiters recruited from the Sachsenhausen and Auschwitz concentration camps. In exchange for barely tolerable living conditions and the hope of survival, the inmates, consisting of Jews, dissidents and common criminals, agreed to help the Nazis counterfeit British and U.S. banknotes in Operation Benhard.

Its objective was to destabilize the British and American economies by flooding Britain and the United States with excellently forged currency.

Ruzowitzky's taut German-language film, starring Karl Markovics, revolves around Sorowitsch (Sally), a professional criminal of Russian origin who does not identify with his fellow Jews but who shares their fate when he is arrested and dispatched to a concentration camp.

The film opens in a Monte Carlo casino after the war, shifts to Berlin, where Sorowitsch was a wheeler-dealer before the war, segues to Mauthausen and Sachsenhausen, and ends in Monte Carlo.

Continued on page 61

Ronit Elkabetz nad Sasson Gabai

The Band's Visit is simple yet profound

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A simple yet profound Israeli movie was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival last week.

The Band's Visit, by Eran Kolirin, turns on the magic of everyday conversation to break down the barriers created by political differences.

Kolirin is not interested in big, flavour-of-the-month issues. Instead, much to a viewer's pleasure, he looks for the small moments and the still smaller details that comprise a life.

Israel's relationship with Egypt, the first Arab country to formally recognize Israel within the framework of a peace treaty, is the broader context in which this modest yet thoroughly appealing film unfolds.

Although the treaty has endured through thick and thin since 1979, Egypt has recoiled from entering into cultural exchanges with Israel. Yet culture, in its wider sense, is the platform on which *The Band's Visit* is staged.

A big white van deposits the Alexandria Police Ceremonial Orchestra at a waiting area in what is presumably Ben-Gurion Airport.

Its eight members, dressed in snazzy powder blue uniforms, have arrived to perform at an Arab Cultural Centre somewhere in Israel. They wait patiently to be picked up, their suitcases and instruments resting on the pavement, but no one greets them.

Continued on page 61

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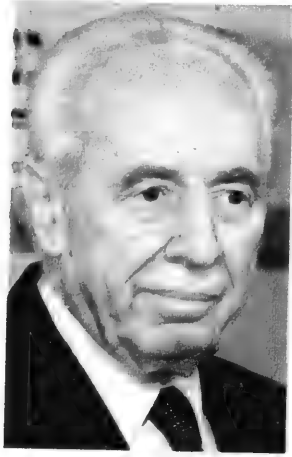
A time for unity — at home and abroad

A message from the president of the State of Israel, Shimon Peres, to Jewish communities of the Diaspora on Rosh Hashanah 5768.



Israeli President Shimon Peres

As we stand upon the threshold of the Jewish New Year and as I assume the presidency of the State of Israel, I would first and foremost like to share with you my deepest and most sincere desire for the continued prosperity, security, intellectual wealth and well-being of the Jewish people throughout the world, and that of all those who seek peace and tolerance.

It is a time for unity – both at home and abroad.

Within the wider framework of the dilemmas and challenges we face in the new era, the Jewish people are called upon to deal with issues and questions pertaining to our existence, our role in global initiatives and the shaping of our own identity. For many years, Israel had been perceived as a global "problem". Today, global challenges are as much on the Israeli agenda as they are issues which trouble the entire world.

It is thus called for that we work together to address these and future challenges – not merely to respond to them, but to dream and to create... to come up with strategic priorities, as profoundly as our people have demonstrated throughout history... to believe and to carry out... It is only via the consolidation of our efforts – those of Israel and the Jewish people – that we may truly lend a hand to shaping the future and the well-being of our people.

Living in a globalized world, "reality" inevitably becomes a dynamic and forever changing phenomenon, within which different communities are faced with varying circumstances and challenges. The Jewish people must not neglect the importance of collecting the single voices throughout the Jewish world and combining them into a comprehensive and meaningful whole. Our responsibility as a people, is to allow for all such voices to be heard. We must, both in Israel and throughout the Diaspora, learn the art of sensitivity and wisdom, which may allow us to extract the potential embedded in such voices. Our aim, throughout this process, must remain to promote an intellectual as well as qualitative partnership for the good of our people.

It is an inherent part of the Jewish heritage to seek global responsibilities within the framework of tikkun olam. Despite its small size, Israel has proved that it is capable of creating a unique economy. Similarly, it has become a global pioneer in the realm of scientific development. It is crucial that Israel continues to carve out a role for itself in the sphere of global science and technology and to serve as a pioneer in the infinite search for solutions to global challenges in the fields of education, telecommunications, agriculture, global warming and more. The Jewish people throughout the world have been, and continue to serve, as the backbone to such achievements. Together, the State of Israel and the Jews of the Diaspora have the inherent potential to contribute to forwarding peace and prosperity on a global level in general, and to consolidating Jewish existence in particular.

In order to make the aforementioned aspirations into a reality, regional partnerships must be nurtured and all available natural and human resources wisely used, in a bid to promote regional economic development and education for peace. No opportunity can be missed and every lead must be followed, in order to promote peace among ourselves and with our neighbours. Simultaneously, we must take the necessary measures to ensure the safety of Jewish life wherever it may be.

The State of Israel deeply values the participation of the Jewish communities around the world in the process of ensuring its well-being. Of particular value is the continued participation of the Jewish youth of today, and the leaders of the future. While we must continue to proudly cherish the Jewish heritage and ethics of our forefathers, our sights must also be set upon our children – for we must pave the way to their integration and growth within the new age.

Indeed, we stand on the edge of the present. We still face all manner of challenges and the greatest is not to let galloping prospects pass us by. This is our resolve. This is our prayer.

With Rosh Hashana at our doorstep, I convey, once more, my warmest personal wishes to you, your families and your communities for a year of peace and well-being.

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Location: Hart House at the University of Toronto
Community Members $18, Students $10
Other upcoming events:
• Sept. 20 - First "Fanan" party of the year for Israelis see www.fanantoronto.com for more info.
• Regular Shabbat dinners
• Volunteer opportunities
• Israel trips
• Kosher BBQs
• and much more
For information about these programs, or to register on our mailing list, contact: info@hilleltoronto.org or 416.913.2424

CJC presidents' message

Continued from page 2

While we watch our brothers and sisters in Israel with trepidation and pride as they defend our Jewish state, we must realize that we, too, have a sacred trust – each of us must uphold Jewish honour in the Diaspora. We do so by becoming involved with amcha. We Jews are a small family, but we are joined by our common history and our love of both Canada and our spiritual home, Eretz Yisrael. We owe it to future generations to ensure both are strong, free and fiercely independent.

As we enter the High Holy Day season, we must commit to working for community now – we cannot put it off for another time. There is no greater threat to Jewish life in Canada than our own indifference. That is why we urge all of you to maintain an unflinching commitment to community. Stay informed, stay involved, and encourage those around you to help ensure Canada remains a country with uncompromising values, with no room for bigotry, hate or intolerance and plenty of room to achieve great things together.

Anti-Semitism has never been, and will never be, merely an isolated hatred. It is a blight that reaches beyond the Jewish community and acts as a precursor to a more massive hate that explodes onto society as a whole, spreading in all directions. An attack of anti-Semitism directed at the Jewish community is, for all intents and purposes, an attack on everything Canadians hold precious and dear. Canadian Jewish Congress stands on guard for the Jewish community and by so doing, stands on guard for Canada, in an effort to stamp out this insidious hatred.

We fervently wish members of the Jewish community a peaceful New Year, and we wish continued prosperity to Canada and to our beloved Israel.

Nirkoda performs Chassidic Dance (Shirei Shabbat) in Karmiel.

5,000 perfomers at Galilee festival

Continued from page 41

There were also tribute sessions to individuals such as famous Israel songwriter Yossi Banai and modern dance representations of traditional Jewish themes such as prayer rituals. There were performances by blind dancers, wheelchair dancers and dancers with special needs.

Many ordinary people come to Karmiel to dance themselves.

Folk dancing is very popular in Israel, and it's possible to dance every night of the week virtually anywhere in the country. New dances are being created weekly, with young and old rushing to learn the latest ones. The outdoor and indoor venues at Karmiel were packed all day and all night with folk dance enthusiasts from all over Israel and abroad.

Nirkoda was founded in 1957 in Toronto by Teme Kernerman and has performed at Jewish and Israeli events throughout Toronto.

It stopped performing in the mid-1980s. In 2001, some former members got together under the tutelage of Ronit Eizenman to form a new company. As the demand for performances at community events grew, the group expanded its ranks and repertoire, and it became affiliated with the Koffler Centre for the Arts in 2004.

The troupe members who could attend this year's Karmiel Festival were Sam Askenasi, Susie Blackstein-Adler, George Brody, Ronit Eizenman, Phillis Haimovitz-Willer, David Lefkowich, Abba Lustgarten, Manny Maya, Dalit Sharer, Ella Sussman, Raphie Sussman, and Ruthie Sutton.

"It was an honour to be a Canadian ambassador at such an event and to have our professional capabilities recognized by the leading choreographers of folk dance in Israel," said Eizenman, the group's artistic director and choreographer. "The warm receptions by the enthusiastic crowds made us feel right at home. It was a wonderful experience."

Yinon said that it's "important for Israelis to see that their passion for folk dancing is shared by the Jewish community all over the world. I would love to see more performances and youth groups from the Diaspora in the Karmiel Festival. It would provide them with a unique opportunity to experience an Israel that is full of fun and joy.

"We hope that Nirkoda will continue to participate in this annual celebration of Israeli dance".

Introducing Israeli food to the world

By DAVID BRINN
Special to The CJN

If you think that Israeli food consists of Jaffa oranges, Manischewitz wine and gefilte fish, then Janna Gur would like to set you straight.

Israeli food editor Janna Gur says pita is a way of life there, adding that you eat on the go.

The editor of *Al Hashulchan* (*On the Table*), the leading food and wine magazine in Israel, Gur is on a mission to show the world that through its location and a confluence of cultural factors, there's something special and exciting happening gastronomically in Israel.

"Food here is so – everything. It's politics, culture, esthetics, history, and I just love the whole thing," Gur said before a briefing she gave to foreign correspondents in Jerusalem upon publication of her new coffee table book of recipes – *The Book of New Israeli Food.*

Gur said the fact that Israel is a western society nestled in the heart of the eastern Mediterranean, and a society of immigrants who have brought a diversity of traditions from places as far-flung as Hungary and Morocco, Yemen and Poland, India and North America, Argentina and Algeria, has contributed to what she calls the "new Israeli food."

"Israeli food has changed drastically over the last 15 years. One thing is the improvement in the raw materials to produce wine, cheese, bread – you name it – and the ability to obtain fresh herbs and spices which are now available in every market and supermarket," Gur said.

She added that this, combined with a virtual revolution of upscale Israeli eateries and world-class chefs, propelled Israeli food into a new sphere unthought of a couple of decades ago when the culinary staples were basic and unimaginative.

"We should separate Israeli food from Israeli cuisine," Gur insisted. "When you're taking about cuisine – like French or Italian cuisine – Israeli cuisine as such doesn't exist yet. It's too soon, and besides, it's changing all the time.

"Israeli food is defined by the character of Israelis – we're outgoing, impatient. The climate is warm and sunny and that all reflects on the way we eat. The climate also affects agriculture – there's so much fresh produce all year round, it greatly influences the way we eat."

And the way Israelis eat encompasses everything from couscous and stuffed vegetables to unlimited variations on eggplant, lots of chicken and fish, loads of olive oil, and of course the staples – falafel and shwarma.

Gur said that, if necessary, a formula can be created to define Israeli food: salad, which accompanies almost every meal ("We're probably the only people on the planet that eats vegetables for breakfast"); pita ("A way of life here. You eat on the go"); hummus ("Nowhere in the world has hummus reached such an elevated state as in Israel – it's almost a cult food"); and lots of fresh fruits, vegetables and grilled meats.

"Then you add in the Jewish traditions of holidays and Shabbat, and you basically have the chapters of my book," she said with a laugh.

The Book of New Israeli Food (in English) is a large-format, full-colour illustrated album brimming with more than 150 recipes – both traditional and innovative – stories and images of the nation and its unique landscapes and cityscapes, and plenty of advice on special ingredients, cooking techniques and serving suggestions.

The varied dishes and creations of talented local chefs are highlighted by snapshots from streets, markets, village and city life, restaurants, cafes and home kitchens, creating what Gur hopes is a culinary and cultural voyage.

Born and raised in the former Soviet Union, Gur immigrated to Israel as a teenager in 1974 and worked as a translator before entering the publishing business with her husband in the early 1990s. While she's become known as an Israeli gastronomic expert through her connection with the 17-year-old *Al Hashulchan*, Gur's decision to write a book on the subject was slow to percolate.

"I was sort of 'cooking' it for awhile," she said. "I like the concept of estrangement – to write about something you know so well for somebody who comes from the outside. I believed strongly that there was a story to tell here, in terms of both Israeli food's uniqueness and its quality."

A visit to a New York City bookshop that specialized only in cookbooks proved to be the impetus for her to actively begin thinking about a writing a book about Israeli food.

"That was the first seed. I was talking to the staff there and formulated the idea for a book that someone could buy for a Rosh Hashanah present or a gift to bring back from a visit to Israel. There's this genre of books, a combination of cookbook, tourist book and coffee table book," she said.

"In many books like this, the recipes end up being there just for decoration, an afterthought. What was important, and what I hope we achieved is that the recipes are all relevant and useful."

Gur and her staff were meticulous about providing background for the various dishes highlighted, and were careful to check all the ingredients to make sure they would be available in other locales besides Israel.

Continued on page 48

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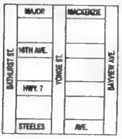

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Continued from page 45

"There are so many Middle Eastern markets and groceries around the world that if you want to buy techinah or halvah, you can get it pretty easily," said Gur.

One area regarding Israeli food that Gur deliberated on for a long time is the kashrut factor. Ultimately, she made all the recipes and ingredients in the book kosher, but said that ironically, the best Israeli restaurants are not kosher.

"It's very sad," she said. "But the best restaurants and chefs like Haim Cohen at Keren in Tel Aviv and Ezra Kedem at Acadia in Jerusalem are not kosher. Israeli food definitely does necessarily mean kosher food.

"But it's not that difficult in Israel to make kosher recipes. The traditional ingredients here don't include seafood or pork. Using butter and cream in recipes is not part of most Mediterranean recipes; you can just as easily use olive oil."

Despite the decision to exclude non-kosher recipes, Gur sees the book as an Israeli cookbook, not a kosher cookbook.

"These are recipes of Israeli food, not necessarily Jewish food. That's why, in the holiday chapter, you have a section on the Muslim holiday of Ramadan – it's a valid part of Israeli culture," she said.

Gur demurs when asked to choose a favourite dish from the dozens of recipes in the book, but admits a weakness for the chapter on stuffed vegetables. While the cobbler's children don't quite go barefoot in this case, Gur's home culinary skills centre around the non-Israeli staple pasta, according to her teenage son Amit, who accompanied her to Jerusalem.

"I think that's my forte, along with salads," she said, adding that she's a food writer, not a chef.

This is fine, because quality chefs now abound in Israel, a development that Gur attributes to many things.

"The new generation of Israeli chefs almost all were either trained abroad or worked abroad at some point. And more importantly, they all chose cooking because they loved it. It used to be that people would choose it as a vocation, the same way they could have gone into computers or become an airline pilot," she said.

"The whole global development of food as recreation has also affected us, and the local chefs draw their inspiration from local ingredients and sources often within the character of their own family – especially if they come from a place with a rich culinary heritage like Iraq, Morocco or Persia. The chef at Raphael in Tel Aviv has a legendary Moroccan grandmother named Aviva, who was his first cooking teacher. He loved the dishes she made. And there you'll find the fusion of many of the top restaurants today, mixing the old and the new."

Gur hopes her book will do its part in helping inform the world that the words Israel and food should be mentioned in the same breath. She says tourists and food professionals who visit are stunned by the variety and quality of Israeli restaurants.

The book has already been licensed for translation in Germany, and Gur is looking for a publisher in the United States. In the meantime, she is selling it herself via the *Al Hashulchan* website.

"My mission is to tell the world about Israeli food – that there's something interesting going on food-wise."

HOMEMADE SHAWARMA

This process is very different from the way traditional shawarma is made, but the result is quite similar and extremely tasty. Deboned chicken thighs are baked in the oven and stir-fried prior to serving. Extended marinating in a massive amount of spices gives the chicken fantastic flavours and a tantalizing colour. While you're at it, prepare a double quantity of the seasoning mix and keep in the freezer. This recipe was developed by a talented amateur cook, Israel Scherrer.

Continued on page 49

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Food, Scrumptious Food

Friends share their favourite holiday recipes

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

More than 17 years ago, a group of about 10 mostly Thornhill women decided to meet on Tuesday evenings in order to conduct their own weight loss group.

They would weigh in, talk about their week, and because they all had small children at home, enjoy an evening away from their family responsibilities.

Eventually, friendship got in the way of weight loss discussions, and although they still weigh in monthly, evenings now consist of talking about their week, supporting each other through life's ups and downs, and generally having fun.

Of course, no group of Jewish women has ever met without talking about food and what they plan to serve or prepare for their holiday meals. The following is a sampling of some of their favourite recipes:

SWEET POTATO PUFF

Submitted by Barbara Winberg

4 large sweet potatos, peeled, cubed and cooked in salted water until fork tender
¼ cup butter or pareve margarine
½ cup brown sugar
2 eggs
2 tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. nutmeg (optional)

Mash the sweet potatoes to a smooth consistency. Allow to cool slightly.

Stir in butter, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg (if using). In a separate small bowl, whip eggs with a fork until light yellow colour, stir into sweet potato mixture. Place in a greased casserole with high sides (e.g. souffle dish) and bake at 350 for about 45 minutes.

Makes a nice fluffy dish best served in the container it was baked in. Works well in a buffet.

ZESTY GARLIC CHICKEN

Submitted by Lillian Sweet

Lillian says that since before she got married, Norene Gilletz has been a constant source of recipes, "because her instructions are clear enough for the most novice cook." This is one of her favourites from *Meal-lean-i-Yumm*.

3 onions, sliced
11-oz. can tomato mushroom sauce
3½ lb. chicken, cut up
15 cloves garlic (about 1 head), peeled
pepper, paprika and basil to taste
½ cup Szechuan-style duck sauce

Preheat oven to 350. Spray a large roasting pan with non-stick spray. Place onions in bottom of pan. Remove skin and trim fat from chicken. Place chicken in roasting pan on top of onions. Crush 3 of the garlic cloves and rub them over the chicken. Season with pepper, paprika and basil. Pour tomato sauce and duck sauce over chicken. Scatter remaining garlic around chicken. Cover pan tightly with foil. Bake at 350 covered for 1½ hours. Uncover and bake 30 minutes longer, basting occasionally with pan juices. Reheats and/or freezes well. Recipe can be doubled.

GEFILTE FISH LOAF

Submitted by Shirley Kellerstein

2 lb. whitefish (or your favourite combination – I use whitefish and pike)
2 carrots
2 large onions
2 tbsp. oil
¼ cup cold water
3 eggs
2 tbsp. matzah meal
2½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. black pepper
1½ tbsp. sugar

Preheat oven to 350. Line loaf pan with heavy-duty foil and brush lightly with oil. Grate carrots and onions (can be done in food processor) and saute lightly in oil. Beat eggs in large mixing bowl, add water, seasonings and matzah meal and mix. Add veggies and fish to egg mixture and mix very well. Pour into loaf pan (can brush lightly with oil, if desired). Bake for 1 hour and 10 minutes.

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Shawarma with a difference

Continued from page 48

3-lb. 5-oz. deboned chicken thighs

Marinade
¾ cup olive oil
3 tbsp. curry powder
2 tbsp. garam masala (Indian seasoning mix, available in spice shops)
1 tbsp. chicken soup mix

For Frying
3 tbsp. oil
3 onions, sliced
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Mix the marinade ingredients in a disposable baking dish (the most practical because the process is messy). Add the chicken and mix well. Marinate for a minimum of 5 hours (or overnight) in the refrigerator.

Preheat the oven to 400. Bake for 45 minutes. The entire process up to this point may be completed a day or two ahead and the baked chicken stored in the refrigerator.

Before serving, finely slice the chunks of chicken. Fry the onion in oil until golden and remove from the pan.

Add the chicken with some of the marinade to the pan. Season and stir-fry for a few minutes, until the edges are golden-brown. Spread the fried onions over the meat and serve.

David Brinn is editor of ISRAEL21c, a media organization focusing on 21st-century Israel.

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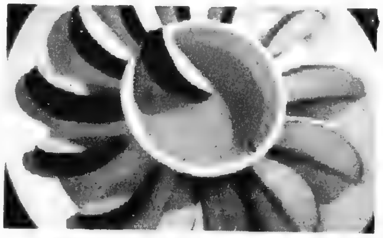

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Food, Scrumptious Food

Women like to compare notes on food

Continued from page 49

HONEY CRUMB CHICKEN

Submitted by Frieda Woznica

1 chicken, cut into eight pieces
seasoned bread crumbs or seasoned matzah meal (seasoned with paprika, garlic powder, salt and pepper, to taste; or use a "Shake 'n Bake" type mix like Croydon House NoFri)
1/2 cup honey

Preheat oven to 350. Wash the chicken. Coat the chicken pieces with the crumbs. (It is best to put the crumbs in a Baggie and shake the pieces to coat evenly.) Spread the chicken in a single layer on a flat cookie sheet and place in oven. After 30 minutes, drizzle witht the honey and put back in the oven for another 20-25 minutes. This freezes well. I usually undercook it by 5-10 minutes, then thaw out at room temperature and reheat in a 350-degree oven for about 15 minutes. This recipe is originally from *Second Helpings, Please.*

CRANBERRY BRISKET

Submitted by Sandy Kershen from her friend Shelly

1 brisket
1 can whole cranberries
1 cup water
1 package onion soup mix

Mix cranberries, water and soup mix together in roasting pan. Add brisket and cover with mixture. Marinate at least one hour, but I prefer overnight in the fridge. Preheat oven to 325. Cook covered until done. The time will depend on the size of the roast.

If it is a really large piece of meat, you can double the mixture. I prefer to add a bag of small baby carrots and small potatoes around the brisket.

BANANA CHOCOLATE CAKE

Submitted Nadyne Gazen

1 package chocolate cake mix
7 extremely ripe bananas (black peel)

Puree bananas and mix with cake mix. Do not use eggs or oil. Bake according to instructions on box. Test before removing from oven. Might need a few extra minutes. Can be frosted with any icing. I like the banana icing recipe from *Second Helpings, Please* (recipe below).

BANANA ICING

2 tbsp. butter or margarine
1/4 tsp. lemon juice
1/4 cup mashed bananas
1 1/2 cups sifted icing sugar

Combine all ingredients and blend until smooth. Yields enough icing for a 9-inch-square cake.

POMEGRANATE-GLAZED CHICKEN as seen in *Jewish Cooking for All Seasons* by Laura Frankel, John Wiley and Sons publishers.

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Captured Hamas chief is bargaining chip for Shalit

© *Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.*

JERUSALEM — The kidnapped senior Hamas commander Mahawesh al-Qadi is a bargaining chip in the effort to free captive Israel Defence Forces Cpl. Gilad Shalit, said Public Security Minister Avi Dichter on Monday.

Dichter was partially lifting an official veil of secrecy over the kidnapping last week of the Hamas executive force officer.

The IDF and Israeli officials have refused to comment on Palestinian accounts of the kidnapping, in which undercover Israeli soldiers, dressed in the uniform used by the executive force, reportedly lured Qadi out of his car by having one of their members pose as an old man needing help at the side of a rural road. The soldiers, waiting in a Subaru in a grove on the outskirts of Rafah, then allegedly bundled him into the car and drove to the nearby Dahaniya airfield, from which witnesses said he was flown by helicopter to an unknown destination.

Qadi is a senior operative in Hamas' military wing. He is believed to have been closely involved in the June 2006 kidnapping of Shalit during a Hamas-led attack on an IDF post within Israel and adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

Without mentioning Qadi by name, Dichter confirmed in an interview with Army Radio that the government viewed him as a bargaining chip in negotiations for Shalit's freedom.

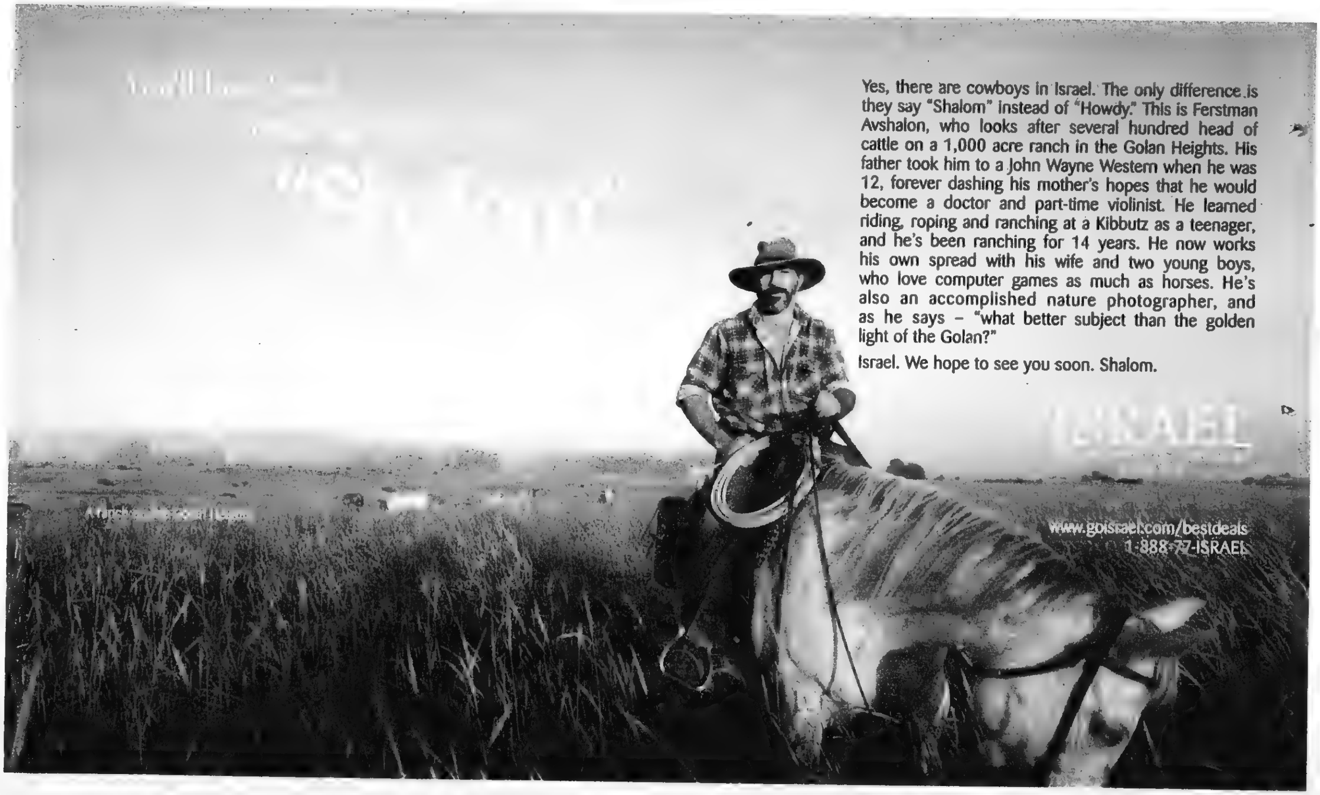
He cited the cases of Sheikh Abd al Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani, Lebanese militant commanders abducted by Israel and later freed in an exchange for the bodies of three IDF serviceman and a kidnapped Israeli businessman. Dichter called Obeid and Dirani "very important bargaining chips in bringing our boys home – to my sorrow, the bodies of our boys."

Avi Dichter

Dichter said that while the intelligence that Israel could gain from Qadi was mainly relevant to the period up to the point of his capture, "there are additional elements that are always current.

"Every method, every technique used to gain additional intelligence is welcome and very important to the effort to bring Gilad Shalit home. Second, the ability to obtain additional 'assets' with concrete relevance to the release of Gilad Shalit is an enormous advantage.

"We will free Gilad Shalit through negotiations, at the end of which terrorists will be released to the Palestinian Authority or to Hamas in Gaza, and we will receive Gilad Shalit in return," Dichter said.


Yes, there are cowboys in Israel. The only difference is they say "Shalom" instead of "Howdy." This is Ferstman Avshalon, who looks after several hundred head of cattle on a 1,000 acre ranch in the Golan Heights. His father took him to a John Wayne Western when he was 12, forever dashing his mother's hopes that he would become a doctor and part-time violinist. He learned riding, roping and ranching at a Kibbutz as a teenager, and he's been ranching for 14 years. He now works his own spread with his wife and two young boys, who love computer games as much as horses. He's also an accomplished nature photographer, and as he says – "what better subject than the golden light of the Golan?"

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PM, Abbas discuss Palestinian statehood

© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas met on Monday in an effort to narrow differences over Palestinian statehood ahead of a U.S.-sponsored conference in November.

Israeli and Palestinian officials said the talks, which took place in Jerusalem, sought to lay the ground for next week's planned visit of U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

While Abbas is pushing for a detailed document that will include a precise timetable for implementing an agreement, Olmert prefers a one-page document that lists five general principles that will serve as guidelines.

Prior to Monday's meeting in Jerusalem, Israeli political sources said that Olmert and Abbas would not sign an agreement of principles but would focus on formulating an "agreed-upon" document.

It is still unclear how the document would be presented during the summit – whether in the form of a joint declaration by the two leaders, or parallel declarations; or as a summary statement in which U.S. President George W. Bush, who will host the summit, would also participate.

For his part, Abbas has asked Olmert to begin writing the document of principles that will be presented at the summit, Palestinian sources say. The two leaders have so far carried out "brainstorming sessions" during their meetings, but now Abbas would like to progress to formulating a document that can be used as a basis for an agreement.

One of the main purposes of Monday's meeting was for the two leaders to pinpoint the points of both agreement and dispute, in anticipation of their planned meeting with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Rice will try to negotiate the points of dispute with the two.

Palestinian sources said Sunday that the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia have asked the United States to pressure Israel to make it possible for an agreement of principles to be completed by the date of the summit. The same sources maintain that these countries have threatened not to participate in the meeting unless an agreement is ready.

The prime minister has also briefed Attorney General Menachem Mazuz on the developments in the talks with Abbas, sources in Jerusalem said. The attorney general is of the view that Olmert will have to bring any agreement with the Palestinian Authority before the Knesset for its approval. However, Mazuz believes that in the case of a less definitive document, such as a shared declaration, it would be sufficient, from a legal point of view, to seek only cabinet approval.

It is therefore likely that Olmert will make do with the lesser document, one that only his cabinet will be required to support, thereby minimizing political friction and possible pressure from his right-wing coalition partners.

Meanwhile, Shin Bet chief Yuval Diskin briefed the cabinet Sunday on what he described as "the incessant efforts of terrorist organizations to carry out attacks in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip." Diskin said that there has been a rise in both the number of Qassam rocket attacks and the efforts to carry out manned attacks.

"Hamas is trying to restore its military infrastructure in the West Bank in order to carry out an attack," Diskin said, adding that the PA's security forces are hard at work to contain such efforts, even though "their capabilities at this stage are limited."

Eisen inaugurated at JTS

JTA

NEW YORK — The new chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America said his mission is to focus on mitzvah, mission and Muslims.

At his official inauguration last Wednesday at the Conservative movement's flagship seminary, Arnold Eisen laid out an ambitious program for the coming year that includes a review of the seminary curriculum for rabbinical and cantorial students, expanded dialogue with Christians and Muslims, and a sharpening of the movement's message, beginning with a focus on the concept of mitzvah.

Arnold Eisen

Eisen, the institution's seventh chancellor, said he wants to provide "clear formulations, well-articulated and cogently argued, of my understanding of this movement. I want to share my understanding, in all humility and with full respect for other voices in our community, that this is the way on which God and Torah want us to walk."

He rejected talk of the Conservative movement's supposed "malaise," a term used by his predecessor, Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, in his final commencement address last year.

"Malaise is in the eye or head of the beholder," Eisen said, as Rabbi Schorsch, seated behind him on the dais, looked on. "It is certainly not in mine."

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— Marni M., mother of two participants

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THE EXCERPTS ABOVE ARE TAKEN FROM ACTUAL LETTERS WRITTEN BY THE PARENTS OF ALUMNI. PHOTO COURTESY OF ALUMNUS EVAN KESTENBAUM.

Young U.S. Jews less attached to Israel, study finds

By SUE FISHKOFF
JTA

SAN FRANCISCO — Young American Jews are increasingly alienated from Israel, according to a report released last week.

For the most part, the report, titled *Beyond Distancing: Young Adult American Jews and their Alienation from Israel* and commissioned by the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, substantiates current suspicions rather than revealing new surprises.

The major findings are that successively younger American Jews feel increasingly distant from Israel, and that this trend has been increasing steadily for decades. For example, less than half (48 per cent) of respondents under 35 agreed that "Israel's destruction would be a personal tragedy," compared to 78 per cent of those 65 and older. And just 54 per cent of the younger group are "comfortable with the idea of a Jewish State," compared to 81 per cent of those 65 or older, 74 per cent of those 50-64 and 64 per cent of the 35-49 age

The report is based on data from the 2007 National Survey of American Jews, a mail-back and web-administered survey conducted in December 2006 and January 2007 by Synovate, Inc. It only considers the attitudes of non-Orthodox Jews. Of 1,828 respondents, 124 Orthodox Jews were removed from the sample, on the assumption that their relationship to Israel is markedly closer than that of their non-Orthodox peers.

According to one of the report's co-authors, Steven Cohen, a sociologist and research professor at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, the generational differences are more a function of the decade people were born than where they are on the life-cycle continuum. That means the American Jewish detachment from Israel will increase as younger Jews age and replace their parents and grandparents' generations.

"There is growing discomfort with the drawing of hard group boundaries of all sorts," Cohen said of the so-called "millennials," those born after 1980. "The idea of a Jewish state reflects hard group boundaries, that there is a distinction between Jews and everybody else. That does not sit well with young Jews."

Overall, the picture of detachment from Israel is not as dismal as those figures might suggest, Cohen argued. More than 60 per cent of Jews under 35 in the study show "some level" of attachment to or caring about Israel.

"The glass is still half-full, it's just not as full as it used to be," said Cohen, who co-wrote the report with Ari Kelman, assistant professor of American studies at the University of California at Davis.

The overall slide in attachment to or interest in Israel does not mean that young American Jews are less "Jewish." On the contrary, numerous recent studies and anecdotal evidence demonstrate great cultural and religious vitality and creativity among young Jews. Israel is just not as much a part of the picture, and that should concern the greater community, the report warns.

"It's worrying that young Jews may be creating a latter-day Jewish Bundism, which affirms Jewish belonging but is neutral to the Zionist enterprise," Cohen told JTA. "We're seeing this growing phenomenon of Jews who have no problem saying the *Shema*, but won't sing *Hatikvah*."

More trips to Jewish state said to increase affinity

One factor that seems to increase young Jews' attachment to Israel quite dramatically is, not surprisingly, spending time in Israel, according to the new report.

While 19 per cent of young Jews who have never been to Israel exhibit a "high" level of attachment to the country, that number jumps to 34 per cent after a first trip, and 52 per cent after two or more trips to Israel.

Conversely, 42 per cent of young Jews who have never been to Israel report a "low" level of attachment. That number drops to 17 per cent after just one trip.

The policy implications? "Trips matter," Cohen and Kelman write, "more trips are better than fewer, and trips of longer duration have more impact than those with shorter duration."

"In some ways, that's the most dramatic finding" of the report, said Barry Chazan, professor of Jewish education at Spertus College in Chicago and educational director of birthright israel, which has taken close to 150,000 college-age and post-college Jews to Israel over the past seven years.

The finding confirms what Chazan and his colleagues have been telling people: taking young American Jews to Israel on these free, carefully organized trips is a powerful tool in Jewish identity building.

"The motivation is strong, they're not being dragged there," he said. "They get a hefty dose of Zionist history, Jewish history and contemporary Israel. It's very explicitly about that."

Chazan has just finished a book about birthright, scheduled for publication in spring 2008, with Leonard Saxe, director of the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University.

The two dispute the Cohen-Kelman report's prediction of a continuing downslide in American Jewish attachment to Israel and say birthright has a lot to do with their optimism.

"Tens of thousands of young adults are having these experiences in Israel," Saxe said. "It will create a generation of people who know Israel and are interested in Israel that is unprecedented."

Saxe pointed out that registration for this winter's birthright programs opened Sept. 5. By 10 a.m., 6,000 people had signed up.

"If there's that much interest in Israel and in travelling to Israel," he concluded, "it's hard to say we're facing a crisis."

* * *

Tilly Shames, the associate director of Hillel of Greater Toronto, said that although there are sure to be generational differences on the issue of Israel, she suspects that the American experience is different from the Canadian one.

She said she agrees with the report's findings that trips to Israel help build stronger connections.

"Statistically, Canada has a much higher percentage of youth who have spent time in Israel on short-term programs, like birthright, and long-term programs, like university abroad or volunteer experiences. These experiences create a stronger connection to Israel among our youth, a stronger connection to Jewish community at home, and a greater desire to return to Israel on follow-up programs," Shames said.

Based on her experience at Hillel, she said students are more interested in Israel programming than any other type.

"This is why we balance our programming with social action projects, Jewish learning, social events, sports, etc. We know Israel doesn't resonate with all our students and we have to offer them a diverse array of opportunities to connect to their community."

With files from The CJN's Sheri Shefa.

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Shana Tovah!

Anti-Semitism in Britain stoking unease among Jews

By **VANESSA BULKACZ**
JTA

LONDON — With anti-Semitism in Britain at record levels, life is changing in subtle and not-so-subtle ways for the country's Jews.

Vendors sell Arabic-language editions of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* outside train stations. Academic and labour unions routinely issue calls to boycott the Jewish state.

Jews in Britain say they feel a growing sense of unease and insecurity.

"Jews today, compared with three or four years ago, are feeling increasingly worried about anti-Semitism," said Mark Gardner, a spokesperson for the Community Security Trust (CST), the organization charged with providing security for the country's Jews.

Apparently, they have good reason to worry. A recent CST report showed that all forms of anti-Semitism in Britain increased in 2006.

Last year saw the highest number of reported anti-Semitic incidents in Britain since record-keeping began in 1984 – a 33 per cent increase over the previous year. Anti-Semitic incidents in Britain have doubled in the last decade.

Jews are violently assaulted and subjected to threats. Schoolchildren face abuse. Communal property and synagogues are damaged and desecrated. And Britain is home to a growing cottage industry of mass-produced, anti-Semitic literature.

The sharp rise in anti-Semitism has not gone unnoticed in Parliament, which in 2005 formed an investigative committee to address the Jewish community's concerns.

In its first report in September 2006, the All-Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism recommended investigating the reason for the low number of prosecutions of anti-Semitic crimes and developing strategies to combat rising anti-Semitism. The report, which is available at http://thepcaa.org/Report.pdf, found that only a minority of police forces in the country were even equipped to record hate crimes as anti-Semitic incidents.

"Anti-Semitism has not been taken as seriously as other forms of hatred in some parts of our society," Iain Wright, the parliamentary undersecretary of state for communities and local government, acknowledged this summer.

Wright pledged to increase significantly funding for monitoring and classifying anti-Semitism as a hate crime.

But are any of these responses to the problem making Jews feel safer?

In some communities, residents are volunteering to help provide security for Jews.

"Community leaders are trying to find ways to harness the fact that people want to help," Gardner said.

For secular Jews in Britain, who may not be subject to the same street dangers that visibly Orthodox Jews face, the country's increasingly populist anti-Israeli campaigns have been unsettling.

"When people start talking about how terrible Israel is behaving, I feel sensitive about it and how it might possibly be linked to anti-Semitism, even if it wasn't meant that way," said Lauren Tobias, who works in London. "Then I find myself acting very defensive."

Gardner said the boycott Israel movement "has an anti-Semitic impact psychologically on the Jewish community. Boycotts remind us of the Nazi boycott of Jews."

One British journalist, Richard Littlejohn, said bashing Israel has become so trendy that it is "this year's AIDS ribbon."

As in other places in Europe, anti-Semitism in Britain isn't limited to the extreme right. On the far left, in unions and other forums where liberal-leaning Jews once felt politically at home, activists now leading the charge against Israel are driving Jews away.

Josephine Bacon, director of a Hebrew and Yiddish translation company, said she feels under attack at her volunteer office job in the Labour Party.

"I get incredible hostility at work at the Camden Labour Party," said Bacon, who holds dual British and Israeli citizenship. "The only reason it's not the same as the anti-Semitism of the '30s is that Israel exists now."

Bacon says many Jews are "voting with their feet" and cutting ties with the Labour Party, Bacon said, or "if they stay in the party, they don't talk about their past."

Anti-Israel activists by and large reject accusations that their campaigns are anti-Semitic.

Ian McDonald, a senior lecturer from Brighton who supports the University and College Union's proposed academic boycott of Israel, said in debates about the boycott, "We have to challenge the notion that to be anti-Zionist is to be anti-Semitic."

At a recent debate on the All-Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism, Wright called the boycott proposal "anti-Jewish in principle." But that pronouncement hasn't changed matters much on the streets.

Last year, the CST launched a program to safeguard Jewish schools and community centres, pledging more than $6 million (US) over a three-year period to install bomb-proof windows in some 600 community buildings.

Despite those efforts to help religious communities across the country beef up security, for some it hasn't been enough.

British Jews are choosing to move to Israel in record numbers. British aliyah last year set a new record with 738 new immigrants, a two-thirds increase over the year before, according to the Jewish Agency for Israel.

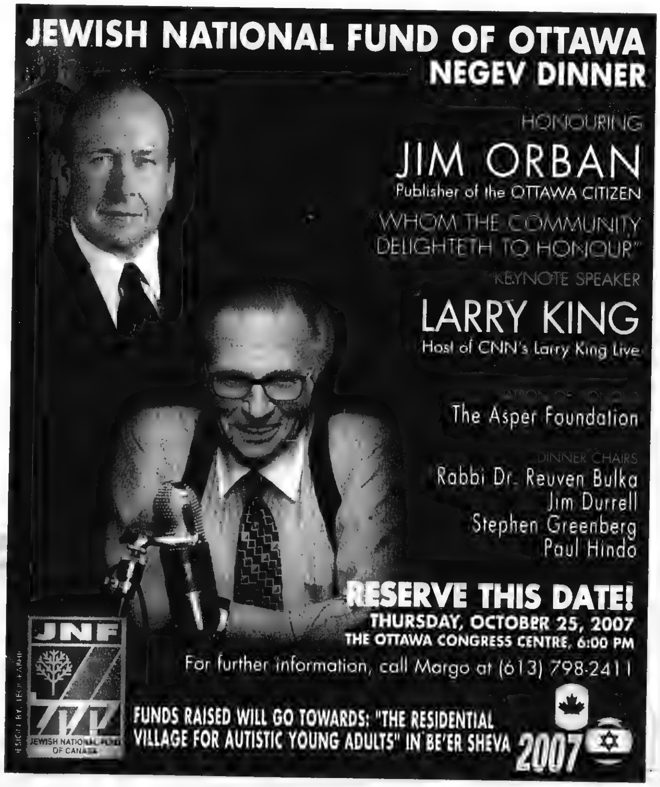
Nevertheless, agency spokesperson Michael Jankelowitz doesn't believe the aliyah is the result of British Jews fleeing anti-Semitism at home.

"By and large the reasons for aliyah are positive ones," he said.

Bacon said that despite the hostility she faces in Britain, she has no plans to move.

"I'm determined to tough it out. I think that the current wave of anti-Semitism will eventually die out.

"But I can't say how soon."



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Controversial prof resigns from DePaul

JTA

CHICAGO — A DePaul University professor who suggested Jews have exploited the Holocaust for political gain has resigned.

Norman Finkelstein quit after the university cancelled his only remaining class. Finkelstein and DePaul announced the resignation in a joint statement Sept. 5, the day Finkelstein had vowed to present himself at his office and commit an act of civil disobedience if denied entrance. Finkelstein would not disclose the terms of his departure.

Finkelstein had drawn ire for his trenchant criticism of Israel and suggesting that the legacy of the Holocaust has been exploited. Earlier this year Finkelstein was denied tenure at DePaul after a public campaign waged against him by Harvard University law professor Alan Dershowitz.

Some see in Finkelstein a courageous truth-teller suppressed for failing to toe the party line.

Last week, Finkelstein told supporters it was time to move on "for everybody's sake," Associated Press reported.

"DePaul students rose to dazzling spiritual heights in my defence that should be the envy of and an example for every university in the United States," Finkelstein said after a rally held on his behalf.

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Israel Briefs

Syria fires on warplane

Syria fired at Israeli military aircraft that Syria said entered its airspace. The incident occurred in the early hours of last Thursday morning, according to the Syrian military, which said several Israeli planes flew over the country near the Turkish-Syrian border and dropped some ammunition. Other Syrian sources said four or five planes dropped fuel tanks in the Syrian desert. The Israel Defence Forces declined to respond to the report, saying, "It is not our custom to respond to these kinds of reports." But sources told Israeli media it appeared the IDF committed an "operational mishap." Israel's air force regularly trains in Turkey, raising the possibility that a warplane or warplanes had gone off course. Israel also conducts regular reconnaissance flights over Syria.

Israel censured

Israel, not Hezbollah, was to blame for most civilian deaths during last year's Lebanon war, Human Rights Watch said. In a scathing report, the New York-based watchdog said its investigators had determined that Israeli air force and artillery shelling caused most of some 900 Lebanese civilian deaths during the July-August conflict. It rejected Israel's argument that Hezbollah invited the heavy toll by operating among noncombatants and thus turning them into "human shields." Israel disputed the report's findings, reiterating that its armed forces abided by rules of war. A Foreign Ministry spokesperson noted that during the 34-day conflict, a UN official censured Hezbollah for shielding among civilians. Human Rights Watch has also condemned Hezbollah's wartime launch of 4,000 rockets into Israel.

Refugees get citizenship

Israel's interior minister said Israel will offer citizenship to some of the estimated 300 refugees in the country from Sudan's Darfur region. Meir Sheetrit said that some of the refugees will become Israelis but that Israel may cap the number it will naturalize. Some 2,500 to 3,000 Sudanese have crossed illegally into Israel from Egypt in recent years, but Israeli government sources say only about 10 per cent are said to be from Darfur. They say the remainder are economic migrants or refugees from other conflict-torn regions of Sudan.

Prince Edward visits Israel

Britain's Prince Edward was in Israel for a four-day tour last week. This first visit to Israel by a member of the British Royal Family in more than 10 years was prompted by an invitation to the 43-year-old Earl of Wessex by the Israel Youth Award program, which was started some 50 years ago by Edward's father, Prince Phillip. Edward visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, where a tree was planted in honour of his grandmother, Princess Alice. She was recognized in 1993 as a gentile from the Righteous Among the Nations for sheltering three members of the Cohen family in her home in Athens during the Holocaust.

Fence to be rerouted

Israel's High Court of Justice ordered a controversial section of the West Bank security fence rerouted. A three-justice panel under High Court President Dorit Beinisch ordered the Defence Ministry to come up with a new plan for Bil'in, a Palestinian village currently slated to lose swaths of farmland to the fence. Finding in favour of a petition filed two years ago by Palestinian activists, Beinisch wrote that the fence threatens to cause "significant hardship" to Bil'in residents and therefore should circumvent the village. Bil'in has seen almost weekly clashes between pro-Palestinian protesters and Israeli security forces.

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'We need to keep striving,' cancer researcher says

Dr. Aaron Schimmer, seen in his lab at Princess Margaret Hospital.

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Aaron Schimmer has an unexpectedly frequent smile for someone who oversees about 30 cancer research projects.

"There've been some dramatic success stories," he said in an interview earlier this summer in his office at Princess Margaret Hospital.

One leukemia patient who received experimental therapy went into an extended remission that outlasted her predicted survival time without the therapy.

Although her cancer returned and she did not survive – highlighting "how we need to keep striving to improve our treatments," Schimmer said in an update last week – her remission and similar results encourage him and his colleagues "to keep moving forward… even if [we're talking about] the rare outcome.

"When you're dealing with very serious conditions, you make a real difference in the lives of patients… and I guess for some subgroups who do extremely well," he said. "For those groups of patients, it's exceptionally gratifying to be able to help them."

In May, Schimmer, 38, was named one of Canada's Top 40 under 40, a program of the Caldwell Partners, a national executive search firm. The awards are based on achievements in areas such as vision and leadership, innovation and achievement, and community involvement.

It is one of more than 30 awards and honours Schimmer has received for academic achievement, including an award from Ontario's ministry of research and innovation for young researchers. His studies are funded by national and international granting organizations, including the Canadian Cancer Society and the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

"I like to think what drives a lot of research is the experience in the clinic," said Schimmer, who has authored more than 40 papers. "As you treat patients, it generates questions [such as], 'Why didn't the drugs work?' Or sometimes even more interesting, 'Why did this medication, which didn't work in many others, work in this patient?' "

Research is rarely done in a vacuum, he explained, citing published studies and clinical work as sources that generate new research projects. Although most of his time is spent in research, Schimmer also spends a half day a week treating leukemia and related disorders.

An assistant professor in the departments of medicine and biophysics at the University of Toronto, Schimmer found his niche in hematology – particularly the study of blood cancers – when he spent time working in a research lab as part of his training in internal medicine. He received his PhD in molecular biology in 2001, and spent two years in La Jolla, Calif., doing a post-doctoral fellowship.

In his earlier student years, Schimmer – a graduate of Associated Hebrew Schools and the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto – took part in a different type of research, studying the changing Bedouin culture in the Israeli desert on a Weizmann Institute of Science program. He is still involved with the institute through Weizmann Science Canada.

Current research is focused on finding targeted therapy that will kill cancer cells without affecting normal cells, as well as on "repurposing" existing drugs that are used for other conditions but might have anti-cancer properties.

A benefit of the latter type of project is cost-effectiveness, said Schimmer. "It costs [a drug] company almost a billion dollars to make new drugs."

One project that he's involved in focuses on the effects of cyproheptadine, which is related to Claritin, the allergy medication.

"We've shown that it kills leukemia cells and shrinks tumours in mouse models," he said. "We don't know if you can achieve the dose needed to produce its anti-tumour effects [in people]. That's actually why you need to do formal studies. You'd need a dose that would far exceed what you need to treat allergies, and we just don't know if that dose is achievable.

"We are looking to repurpose cyproheptadine or other off-patent drugs as new treatments for leukemia and are anticipating a clinical trial within the next one to two years," he said.

For a change of pace from the lab, Schimmer – inspired by birthday parties his children have attended – goes out with his wife and a group of friends for an evening of indoor rock climbing, beach volleyball or trampolining. They are also involved in Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation.

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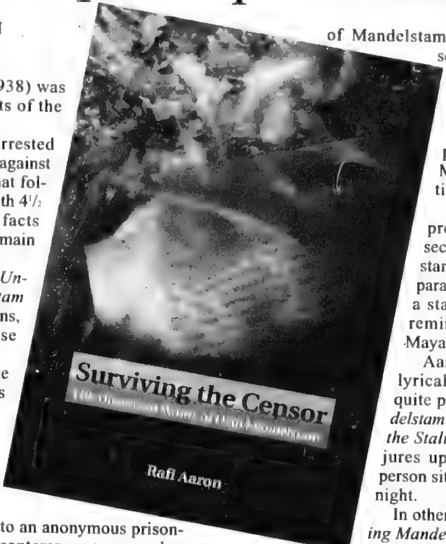
A poetic chart of Soviet poet's persecution

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN



Osip Mandelstam (1891-1938) was one of the major Russian poets of the 20th century.

On May 13, 1934, he was arrested for writing and reciting a poem against Josef Stalin. The persecution that followed was ended only by his death 4½ years later. Some important facts about Mandelstam's last days remain unclear.

Surviving the Censor - The Unspoken Words of Osip Mandelstam by Rafi Aaron (Seraphim Editions, 2006) is a poetic chart of those years.

Poet and scholar Aaron lets the reader experience Mandelstam's life through four distinct voices. Most highly individualized are those of Mandelstam and his wife, Nadezhda, as Aaron endeavours to shed light on their inner life.

The other two voices belong to an anonymous prisoner from the gulag camps, and a contemporary researcher of Mandelstam's life. These voices are somewhat less personal, and give Mandelstam's life historical context and relevance for a present day in which the arbitrary evil of power is far from dead. Mandelstam lived in a dark time, but so do we.

Most of the book is in prose poems. However, one section, "Falling," in Mandelstam's voice, is in alternating paragraphs of poetic prose and a staggered-line form that is reminiscent of Vladimir Mayakovsky's poetic syle.

Aaron's style is stark, yet lyrical. In some poems, he is quite pictorial, as in *What Mandelstam Meant to Russians During the Stalin Years*, in which he conjures up the image of a fearful person sitting alone by a window at night.

In other poems, such as *Translating Mandelstam*, instead of painting detailed pictures with words, Aaron uses more transitory images. He can move quickly from one image to another apparently unrelated one, though the sequence as a whole is evocative: "The sudden breaking of glass, winter walking through summer, the parade of exotic animals, colours I have never seen and little fires that warm me here and there."

This tendency to hint at some things, rather than describe them, is a fitting approach to a subject that is still partly obscure.

Eight years ago, Aaron began a literary journey, researching Mandelstam's life and work. In October 2004, that journey took him to St. Petersburg, Russia. There, he delivered the Alexander Mackenzie Memorial Lecture, presenting "Surviving the Censor" to a Russian audience on behalf of Canada.

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Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

HOMEGROWN SOPRANO SINGS WORKS OF JEWISH COMPOSERS AT JCC CONCERT

Soprano **Karen Wierzba**, originally from Mississauga, began singing as a child in her hometown in her family's congregation, Solel. She became a prize-winning voice student at the University of Toronto and pursued further training at Tanglewood, New York and Paris.

Acclaimed in a number of roles, Wierzba, now a young wife and mother living in Paris, teams with pianist **Joshua Grunmann** to perform *My Favourite Things – Songs and Arias of Jewish Composers*.

The diverse program consists of songs and arias by **Mahler**, **Felix** and **Fanny Mendelssohn**, **Bernstein**, **Zemlinsky**, **Copland**, **Finzi**, **Sondheim** and **Szpilman**. Miles Nadal JCC, Al Green Theatre. $30-$15. 416-978-8849 or www.uofttix.ca

* * *

Literary Readings: Penguin Canada slyly announced publication last month of Toronto writer **Stephen Marche**'s *Shining at the Bottom of the Sea*, an "expansive anthology of fiction, poetry and criticism from Sanjania, an ersatz island nation in the North Atlantic boasting a 100 per cent literacy rate and a socio-political history strikingly similar to our own."

Note the word "ersatz" – which means that Sanjania is actually a fictitious realm, like Lilliput or Ruritania. Penguin's e-mailed announcement also included a link to a fake Wikipedia Internet page outlining Sanjanian history and culture.

Marche participates in an evening of readings, with authors **Shauna Singh Baldwin** and **Robert Hough** and host **Richard Clewes**, in the International Readings at Harbourfront series. Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. $8. www.readings.org

* * *

Music & Film Series: The Miles Nadal JCC presents Music Sundays with **Jordan Klapman**, a series of eight lectures on the theme of great Jewish composers from Tin Pan Alley to the birth of rock. First lecture, "The Origins of American Popular Music," Sept. 23, 11 a.m. $55 for series.

Great Jewish Film Makers, a series of six breakfast lectures with **Shlomo Schwartzberg**, begins Sept. 30, 11 a.m., with "Hollywood's Early Days – From the Jazz Singer to the Marx Brothers." Series pass, $40. 416-924-6211, ext. 0

* * *

Arts in Brief

- The Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Bye Bye Braverman*, **Sidney Lumet**'s absurd comedy from 1968, introduced by **Stuart Hands**. Miles Nadal JCC, Al Green Theatre. $15. Sunday Sept. 24, 4 & 7:30 p.m. www.mnjcc.org

* * *

At the Galleries

- The Japan Foundation of Toronto presents "The Satoyama Story: **Vivian Reiss** in Japan," an artist's reflection of life and art in a Japanese rice-farming village. The works are currently on view at the Japan Foundation, 131 Bloor St. W., 2nd Floor (www.jftor.org). Opening reception, Thursday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m. RSVP, 416-966-1600, ext. 300. Reiss lectures and discusses her art with Phillip Silver, dean of fine arts at York University, Thursday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m.
- *La senteur de mes mains/ The Marks of My Hands* is a new site-specific installation created by the celebrated Quebec collective BGL whose principals are **Jasmin Bilodeau**, **Sébastien Giguère** and **Nicholas Laverdière**. "Challenging the ways we define and experience art, BGL invites us to relinquish preconceived notions and to question the boundaries between art and life." At the Koffler Gallery until Nov. 25. www.kofflerarts.org
- "Divine Proportion: The Medieval Jewish Body" is a showing of new painted works on canvas, sculpture and glass by **Myriam Nafte**. The show is an exploration of Jewish faith in the arts and sciences from **Ben Kallir** to **Einstein**. At the Miles Nadal JCC, Jacobs Lounge, until Oct. 9. www.mnjcc.org, 416-924-6211, ext. 0
- Camera Lucida Photographs and **Steven Evans** Vintage Photography present a joint exhibition and sale of vintage photographs. This Ain't The Rosedale Library Gallery, 481-A Church St., 3rd floor. Sept. 21 to 24

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U.S. politics still butt of Mort Sahl's jokes

By ABIGAIL BIMMAN
CJN Intern

Mort Sahl

Mort Sahl has been making people laugh – and think – for more than 60 years.

The Montreal-born comedian, famous for politically charged humour that broke the mould of standup comics, is performing in his hometown on Oct. 6 and in Toronto the next day.

Sahl, who always appears on stage in a trademark red cardigan with the *New York Times* in hand, has been termed a revolutionary and iconoclast for tackling American politics head on and developing new forms of comedy that strayed from the standard setup and punch-line delivery.

He is credited with developing on-stage intellectual banter and improvised joke telling.

"I thought the mould was not serving the audience. It was kind of a false premise. Comedy was escapism. You have to confront people with what's going on," Sahl told *The CJN*.

Sahl's political jabs, most notably of the Warren Commission's investigation of the assassination of former U.S. president John F. Kennedy, were rarely made by comedians in the 1950s and '60s.

He got his start at the legendary hungry i nightclub in California, and said the audience wasn't always on his side in the beginning.

"It was sort of like the Christians versus Hawaiians," he joked. "It was not so great. I didn't know what I was doing, they didn't know what I was doing. Eventually, I found a path."

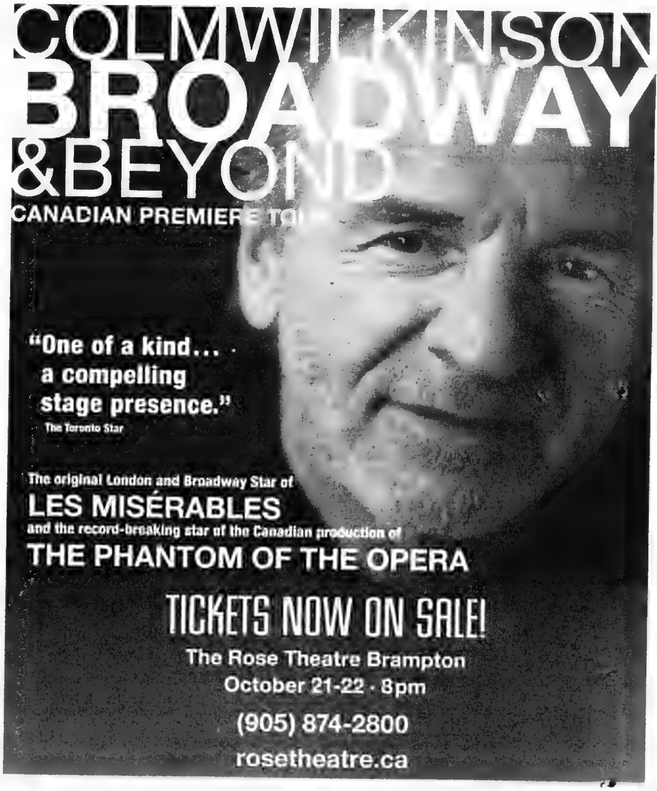
That path led him to inspire other comedians, such as close friend Woody Allen and talk-show host Jay Leno. Political commentary on late-night talk shows is now widely accepted, but Sahl faced much criticism in earlier decades.

Sahl just celebrated his 80th birthday, but Canadian audiences can expect the same comic of years past.

Sahl said his humour hasn't changed much over time but has become more fluid with experience. "The act is basically about politics and movies and women. All the things you need to get ahead," he joked.

Sahl said the show will probably touch on Canadian politics but usually opens with American politics.

Continued on page 60



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Kirk Douglas discusses good times, bad times and Judaism

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

In entertainment circles, they don't come much more legendary than Kirk Douglas.

This summer, the nonagenarian silver-screen icon, multiple Oscar winner and goodwill ambassador for the U.S. State Department, published his ninth and (he says) last book, *Let's Face It: 90 Years of Living, Loving, And Learning.*

From the foreward on, where recently deceased friend and former Motion Picture Association of America president, Jack Valenti, dubs Douglas "the last surviving Hollywood global superstar," readers know they're about to catch a glimpse into the mind of a man who has seen and done it all in the entertainment world.

Similar in style to his last memoir, 2003's *My Stroke of Luck*, a colloquial affair chronicling the actor's rehabilitation from a crippling stroke, *Let's Face It* is "an audit" of Douglas' life as seen through his experiences.

It reveals a man who played virile characters in such classic films as *Spartacus, Ace in the Hole, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* and other action-adventure vehicles throughout the latter half of the 20th century, coming to grips with his creeping mortality.

"I've become fascinated with the game of death," he writes in an early chapter.

By turns mirthful and morose, the book is a self-homage to the actor's extraordinary life, as he reflects upon the many friends and acquaintances who have died and his many loves throughout the decades.

Along the way, Douglas scatters a myriad of anecdotes about good times and bad shared with other actor friends – Frank Sinatra, John Wayne, Burt Lancaster, Laurence Olivier and Ava Gardner to name a few.

Born Issur Danielovitch Demsky to Russian immigrant parents in 1916 after fleeing the pogroms and settling in Amsterdam, N.Y., Douglas keeps returning to his Jewish roots throughout *Let's Face It.*

Kirk Douglas recently in Israel [Isranet photo]

He recounts his conflicted and unresolved feelings for his abusive and distant father, which still sting to this day, and takes pride in his studies with a Los Angeles rabbi in these latter stages of his life.

Citing these two concurrent themes in his life, Douglas told *The CJN* he hopes the experiences have taught him how to be a better father.

"I have decided that any religion that makes you a better person who cares for other people is the right religion for you… Judaism is the right religion for me," he said.

Though most of his progeny are not Jewish – his first and second wives were both non-Jews – Douglas writes he never cared whether his children and grandchildren understood his need to embrace Judaism.

Despite that, one of his granddaughters insisted on having a bat mitzvah last year.

"I never imposed my Judaism on my kids, but they always respected my Judaism," he said, adding that he's received numerous gifts from them over the years, including menorahs and trees planted in Israel in his honour, among others.

Douglas also notes his concern for the state of today's world, and in a riff of the book's title writes, "Let's face it: the world's a mess," citing the spread of AIDS, numerous wars and the ever-present Israel-Palestine conflict.

He dedicates much time reflecting on the death of his youngest son, Eric, to an overdose of drugs and alcohol in 2004 and the impact it had on him and his wife.

"No matter how much you think about such an event, you are never really prepared," Douglas writes. "I feel guilty that my youngest son lived a life of pain and died before I did. Is it my fault? Did I somehow cause him to choose this path? I will never forget the sound of my shovelful of earth falling on his casket."

Of course, not all is doom and gloom, as Douglas *sheps nachas* when talking about his surviving sons and grandchildren, giving special attention to famous son Michael and his daughter-in-law, Catherine Zeta-Jones.

Many other tidbits are revealed in *Let's Face It* for Douglas fans to discover, including his many philanthropic projects and the fact that he's never watched any of his old films.

"I'm always trying to change them. And of course, I can't," he said.

In the end, Douglas has few regrets. Although one more Oscar would have been nice, he said.

"If I had to do it all over again… I would not have turned down the role in *Stalag 17.* William Holden played it and won an Oscar," Douglas said. "But all in all, I lived a life I wanted to live."

Veteran comic keeps fire burning

Continued from page 59

"We force everybody to live our lives anyway," he said, mentioning Canadians fighting in Afghanistan as an example.

"It's not as agitated up there," he said about Canada. "America's insane. Everyone's on their Blackberry, everyone's afraid they're going to lose their e-mail and thinks that money is going to save them. They defer to materialism."

He said Canada has not fallen into that materialistic trap to the same degree.

A trailblazer, Sahl was the first performer on the cover of *Time* magazine and the first non-musician to win a Grammy Award. He also co-hosted the Academy Awards and wrote speeches for three presidents, including Kennedy.

This fall, Sahl is going to be teaching a course called the Revolutionary's Handbook at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, Calif.

Sahl said he has never "taught consciously.

"I'm looking forward to the kids because that's where I got started."

As final words at the end of the interview, Sahl kept the revolutionary fire burning with a message.

"Tell everybody to put their fists up and keep fighting for what they know is right," he said.

For more information about Sahl's October shows, call Ticketmaster for Toronto or Ticketpro for Montreal.

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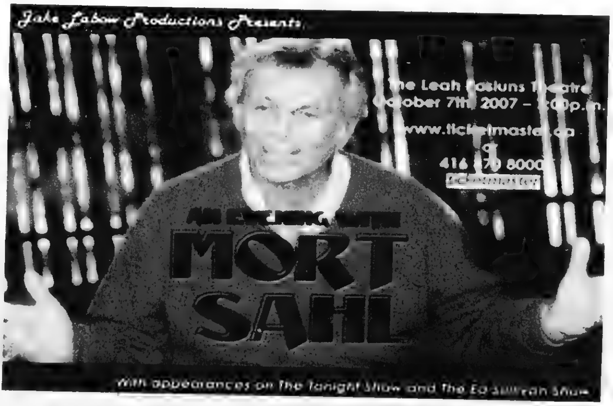

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Nazis hoped to destabilize Allied currencies

Continued from page 42

As reconstructed by Ruzowitzky, Sorowitsch is a talented, resourceful and ruthless figure who earns a livelihood as a counterfeiter of American dollars and fake foreign passports.

He moves in sleazy circles, as a smoke-filled nightclub scene in Berlin attests. Even here, anti-Semitism rears its ugly head. A rough-hewn man refers disparagingly to Jewish business methods, while a flowzy blonde turns away in disgust from Sorowitsch after she intuits that he is Jewish.

Charged with the crime of counterfeiting, he is sent to Mauthausen in 1939. He survives by painting portraits of SS men and murals extolling Nazism. Transferred to Sachsenhausen, he is welcomed by Herzog (Devid Striesow), the Berlin detective who arrested him in the first place and is now an SS officer in charge of recruting inmates for Operation Bernhard.

Although the counterfeiters enjoy certain privileges in their "golden cage," like soft beds and passable food, they realize that they are very expendable and always at the mercy of sadistic SS officers such as Holst (Martin Brambach).

Given the circumstances, the mood of the film is dark and sombre, but there are occasional flashes of Jewish-inflected black humour, as when an inmate cracks a clever joke. "Why isn't God in Auschwitz?" he asks mockingly. "He didn't get through the selection process."

As befits its theme, *The Counterfeiters* concentrates on their success in duplicating British pound notes and, later, U.S. dollars.

Ruzowitzky achieves dramatic tension by pitting one group of counterfeiters against another. Idealists like Burger (August Diehl) want to sabotage Operation Bernhard so that the Nazis cannot use false currency to finance the war effort. Pragmatists like Sorowitsch, who dismiss Burger's anti-Nazi principles as nonsense, value their lives too much to interfere with Nazi plans.

Thanks to Ruzowitzky and his cast *The Counterfeiters* moves along at a steady pace, enveloping us in its plot twists and intrigues.

In a film replete with compelling scenes, one of the most remarkable occurs after Sachsenhausen is liberated. The counterfeiters, having been freed, are suddenly called upon to convince their fellow prisoners that they are not Nazi collaborators. Rolling up their sleeves, they display the concentration camp tatoos on their arms.

It is an unforgettable scene in a workmanlike movie.

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Israeli film a pleasurable delight

Continued from page 42

The stoic conductor, a colonel named Tewfiq (Sasson Gabai), stubbornly refuses to contact the Egyptian embassy in Tel Aviv. He instructs Khaled (Saleh Bakri), a ladies' man, to ask for directions to a place called Beit Hatikva, when in fact their real destination is Petah Tikvah.

The bus lets them off in a remote development town in the desert, and at this point, with the musicians utterly stranded, the film takes flight.

The pathos of their plight is highlighted when a boorish local inhabitant drives by and derisively calls Tewfiq a "general" and when his famished men threaten to mutiny unless they are promptly fed.

Tewfiq, played with wondrous restraint by Gabai, brings them to a flyblown cafe. Dina, the wry, kind, playful, sexually charged proprietor (exquisitely portrayed by Ronit Elkabetz), takes the Egyptians under her wing, providing food as well as lodging for the night.

Dina shows Tewfiq around town, and as they converse, he drops his mask, revealing his passion for fishing, admitting a fondness for the singer Chet Baker and talking about the death of his wife. Music, both Arab classical and the George Gershwin standard, *Porgy and Bess*, also draws them closer.

In a roller skate disco, meanwhile, Khaled helps a shy and awkward Israeli man land a date.

As these developments occur, the band's second-in-command, Simon (Khalifa Natour), who is struggling to finish a clarinet concerto, consoles a man whose marriage has hit troubled waters.

Kolirin handles these interlocking situations with effortless authority, leaving us with the universal message that, notwithstanding our radically different backgrounds, we're ultimately vulnerable human beings in need of warmth, understanding and empathy.

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Artist's "storehouses of memory" evoke prewar Poland

They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust **by Mayer Kirshenblatt and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, University of California Press.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Mayer Kirshenblatt, a Polish Jew who immigrated to Canada in 1934, is that rarity of rarities, a person who launches a new, exciting career at an advanced period in life.

In 1990, when he was 73, he began painting. His subject was the Jewish community in the town of Apt (Opatow) in prewar Poland.

His wife, daughter and son-in-law had for years been urging him to paint. He finally relented. His first drawing was of his mother's kitchen.

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and Mayer Kirshenblatt

Since then, Kirshenblatt has made it his mission to portray Apt's long-lost Jewish community on canvas. Kirshenblatt, a Torontonian, is clearly a talented painter, his works having been exhibited in the Jewish Museum in New York and the Koffler Gallery in Toronto.

Kirshenblatt's manifold talents are showcased in a handsome, lavishly illustrated volume, *They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust*, in which he and his daughter, Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, resurrect Jewish Poland through nostalgic text and vivid paintings.

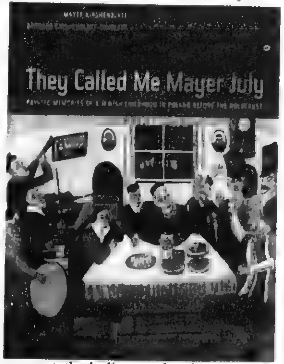
Thanks to this father-and-daughter team, a reader is inexorably drawn into a universe that was obliterated by the Nazis and only really exists in the minds of survivors such as Kirshenblatt.

He draws mainly from memory but also from stories heard from friends and read in Apt's memorial book.

Apt, in southeastern Poland, had a population of nearly 8,000 in 1921, of whom more than 5,000 were Jewish. By 1931, its population had grown to 9,512, of whom 5,436, or 57 per cent, were Jewish. Jews settled in Apt in the 1500s, and at the dawn of the 20th century, it was an important Jewish centre in Poland, having been the home of many famous rabbis.

The majority of its Jewish inhabitants were tradesmen and artisans, concentrated in the manufacture of brushes, clothing and food.

Kirshenblatt's father had a modest store where he sold candy, ice cream and soda water by the glass. Since his shop did not flourish, he opened a leather and shoemaking supply store.



As Kirshenblatt recalls, the wealthiest Jew in town was Layzer Mandelbaum, who owned a big soap factory on the edge of Apt. "The Mandelbaums were completely assimilated," he says. "I don't remember them ever coming to synagogue. If they did, it would have been once a year for *Kol Nidrei* on the Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the year."

Jews lived all over Apt, but many appear to have dwelled around Jewish Street, or Berek Joselewicz Street, which was named after a Jewish hero who fought with Tadeusz Kociuszko for Polish independence in the 1794 uprising against the Prussians.

Apt's intelligentsia was Polish. In general, Poles worked in various trades, though some were employed in Mandelbaum's factory and as maids in Jewish homes. Polish farmers were better off than most Poles in Apt. "Not only could a farmer feed himself, but he could sell the milk and the butter and cheese he made," Kirshenblatt observes:

He leaves the impression that Apt was quite underdeveloped, like much of Poland. As he writes, "People travelled by horse and wagon."

And Apt had no newspaper of its own. "The papers came from Warsaw. My family did not bother with Polish newspapers. We read the Jewish newspapers in Yiddish."

Three families would typically share newspapers such as *Moment* and *Haynt*. "I loved to read the newspaper at the table while I was eating," Kirshenblatt recalls. "But my father would not allow this. He would say, 'You cannot read at the table because you'll stain the paper with food and this paper has to go to the neighbours.'"

Judging by their diet, life was hard. Take this passage, for example: "We lived on potatoes year-round. A Jewish housewife really had to be a gourmet cook to prepare potatoes 52 different ways."

Herring was also a staple. As he puts it, "A woman could make a whole banquet from a herring." He adds, "In Canada, the head of a herring or other fish is discarded. In the Old Country, it was considered a delicacy… reserved for the head of the family."

For a poor family, he elaborates, a few boiled potatoes, bread and a piece of herring constituted "an excellent meal."

Rendered fat, whether from chickens, ducks or geese, was widely used. "Fat was an important item," he notes. "If a woman or man were thin, the person had a hard time attracting a partner. The man or woman was suspected of having a lung disease, like consumption. If the man was heavy, the saying was 'Look at him! What a belly! He must be wealthy!'"

He waxes rhapsodic in describing Apt's Jewish bakers. In a reference to the baker Saul Marmurek, who survived the German occupation and settled in Toronto, he lists in mouthwatering fashion the delicious baked goods the Marmureks mass-produced.

The Sabbath was the highlight of the week, and in Kirshenblatt's hands, the preparations for it are worthy of a passage in a novel: "Mother got up very early Friday morning. After she was done with the cooking and baking, she bathed us in a big wooden laundry tub in the kitchen. The last thing she did was to scrub the kitchen floor."

Given the parlous state of Poland's economy and the prevalence of anti-Semitism, the Kirshenblatts were prime candidates for emigration.

Palestine was the preferred destination, but the British Mandate authorities issued few entry permits. Canada was not easy to get into either. But since they already had blood relatives there who could help them financially, Kirshenblatt's father was able to immigrate to Canada in 1928. His son soon followed. "I just could not see any future in Poland."

Kirshenblatt's first six months in Toronto were very difficult. Yet he managed, eventually earning a livelihood from a paint and wallpaper store and as a house painter.

His paintings, however, have given him the greatest satisfaction. "I feel that [they] expose a whole new world that nobody knows except me, the friends of my youth and people from my town who survived the Holocaust."

Kirshenblatt's charming and playful paintings, which remind me of the American stylist Grandma Moses, are indeed evocative of the 1920s and 1930s, when Poland was home to 3.3 million Jews.

This great community was ruthlessly destroyed by the Nazis in a few short years. In Apt, ghettoization was followed by deportation to death camps.

But thanks to Kirshenblatt's wonderful paintings and his "storehouses of memories," the Jews of Apt will live forever.

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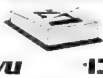

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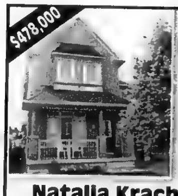

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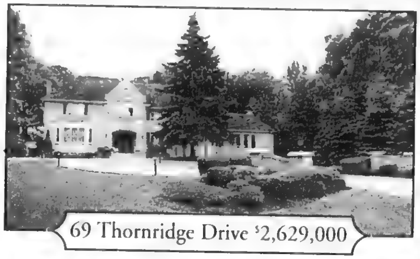
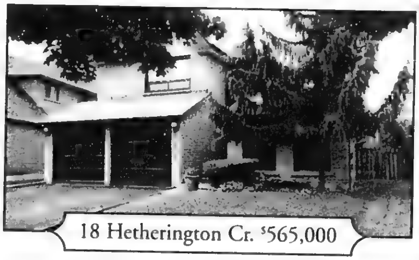


69 Thornridge Drive $2,629,000



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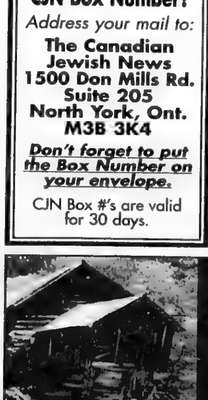

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Israel sinks Serbia to survive in EuroBasket 2007

By MATAN KRAKOW
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

GRANADA, Spain — Even after one of the best games of his life, Yaniv Green was characteristically quiet, peaceful and relaxed.

Last week, he led Israel to an 87-83 victory over Serbia in its third and final game of the preliminary round at EuroBasket 2007, helping his team clinch a spot in the next stage and hand Serbia its earliest exit from the tournament in 60 years.

"We had a problem at the beginning believing that we could win this game because of what happened against Russia [a 90-56 loss two days before]," he said softly and slowly. "But in the second half, we showed a lot of determination. Every one gave 100 per cent of himself because we knew that these could be our last 20 minutes together. Now we can continue together for at least a few more days."

Israel, which took control of the game in the third quarter by outscoring Serbia 25-15, was the last squad to reach the European championship.

"In the locker room during halftime, we talked only about defence," said coach Zvi Sherf. "We can't score 90 points every game, but this time good defence in the second half gave us confidence on offence, too."

Israel during the second half was a completely different team. Green finished offensive plays as a trailer, shooting from about halfway out and going to the free-throw line again and again, finishing 10-for-11 from the charity stripe.

Guy Pnini put on a defensive show against Milan Gurovic, who led his team with 19 points but was only 6-of-17 from the field. "The entire team stopped Gurovic, not just me," Pnini said. "Altogether, we played amazing on defence."

Israel ended the preliminary round with a 1-2 record, while Serbia lost its third game. As Yugoslavia, the team won eight gold medals between 1973 and 2001.

"It's all my fault, and I take the full responsibility. I picked the players, so I can't blame them," Serbia coach Zoran Slavnic said.

Russia claimed first place in Group A with a 61-53 victory over Greece.

The top three teams from the four groups move into two groups of six in the qualifying round, with the results from the first round carrying over.

In Palma de Mallorca, Sarunas Jasikevicius steered Lithuania to the top spot in Group C with an 84-80 win over Germany. The 31-year-old former Maccabi Tel Aviv player turned in another inspirational display with 15 points, four rebounds and 10 assists, eclipsing German forward and Dallas Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki, who notched 28 points and nine rebounds.

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Peer's U.S. Open run ends in quarterfinals

By RAMI HIPSH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

NEW YORK — Anna Chakvetadze defeated Shahar Peer 6-4, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open last week. It was the first time an Israeli woman had advanced that far at Flushing Meadows.

"That is the reason why Anna is in the top 10," Peer said. "She has been playing wonderful tennis the last two months."

Peer, who is No. 19 in the WTA singles rankings, opened the match against the sixth-seeded Russian by capitalizing on her opponent's errors to take a 4-2 lead in the first set.

However, Chakvetadze refocused and went on the attack. "I just started playing more aggressively," she said.

Peer lost the next four games and couldn't answer Chakvetadze's strength. Breaking Chakvetadze's serve in the first game of the second set didn't help, as Peer's serve was broken immediately afterward.

At one point in the second set, Peer had triple break point, but she couldn't convert, as her confidence in the match fell.

"I came into the U.S. Open after the worst two months of my career," Peer said after the loss. "I also suffered an injury right before the tournament, and I didn't even know if I would be able to play, so I am satisfied that I reached the quarterfinals, but I am disappointed in the loss, because I beat her just a few months ago [at Indian Wells]. She raised her level of play after 4-4 [in the first set]. She returned many precise shots, and I couldn't find an answer."

The tournament restored Peer's faith in herself.

"I believe that I will eventually break into the top 10," she said. "I don't know when, because I have to continue to work hard and improve a lot of areas of my game, but I believe it will happen."

Peace through soccer?

By ELI ASHKENAZI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — In the hope of giving Palestinian children a better future, Hapoel Tel Aviv will begin operating soccer schools next month in villages outside Nablus.

"The goal is for 2,500 children in five villages to be participating within a year-and-a-half," says Meir Orenstein, the education and social project manager of Hapoel Tel Aviv.

His partner in the project is the United Kibbutz Movement's (UKM) Yoel Marshak.

"We'll try to give the children hope of a better future," Marshak said. "Who knows? Maybe this activity will sow seeds of peace where now there's only enmity."

Several weeks ago, Orenstein asked Marshak, who heads the UKM's special assignments division, to set up contacts with Palestinian village leaders in the Nablus area. Marshak already has ties with these leaders in agricultural assistance projects. The two visited Kafr Salem and met with the local council heads of both Salem and Dir Hateb.

"We intentionally went to remote villages, where conditions are hard – there's no running water there and the pitches where they'll be playing are just gravel surfaces," said Marshak, who considers himself a Beitar Jerusalem fan.

Education, Culture and Sport Minister Raleb Majadele met with Marshak last week, expressing his support for the project. Majadele also called up Palestinian Authority contacts, asking for their support as well.

Orenstein said Palestinian co-ordinators would rum the schools in the villages, employing local coaches to be trained by Hapoel Tel Aviv.

"Each child will receive four weekly hours of sports, tutoring and social activities," he said. "I saw a great thirst for activity during our visited to Salem."

Some 23,000 youth take part in Hapoel Tel Aviv's educational programs across Israel, most of them from outlying areas.

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Religious, and happy

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

David Rosmarin recently posed the following question to me: "If you knew, beyond a shadow of doubt, that there was some sort of higher power – call it a God-being – watching over you and making sure your life was a good one, would you be a more or less anxious person?"

I weighed my answer: On one hand, I'd probably feel less anxiety about my life, were I to know for sure that (a) God wanted my life to be a good one and (b) that He was looking out for me, personally, all the time. Then again, assuming both "a" and "b" are true, why the heck is my life – like most lives, I imagine – so imperfect? If God is supposed to be looking out for me, and this is how He's chosen my life to turn out, what gives?

Rosmarin has been asking this same question to a lot of people lately. The query – and, more importantly, how people who suffer from stress, anxiety and depression answer it – is the subject of his doctoral work in clinical psychology at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He and two professors in BGSU's department of psychology, Kenneth Pargament and Annette Mahoney, recently co-wrote a paper, titled "Religiousness, anxiety, depression and happiness among Jews."

The study of the relationship between religion and psychology is nothing new. Freud, the most well-known of psychologists to the layman, considered the topic in great detail. He thought of religion as a sort of neurosis, associated with repression, delusion, paranoia and helplessness. For Freud, religiosity is an expression of anxiety, and so can only aggravate human symptoms of anxiety.

But more recent research into the relationship between religion and anxiety diverges from Freud. Over the last 30 years, studies have shown that, for the most part, higher degrees of religious observance lead to lower levels of anxiety.

Until now, however, all the evidence of an inverse correlation between religious observance and anxiety, stress and depression has been focused on Christianity.

Rosmarin's work is the first to consider the relationship between Jewish religiousness and anxiety. His study finds a strong link between what he terms "trust in God" and lower levels of anxiety among Orthodox Jews. Similarly, he finds an association between "mistrust in God" and higher levels of anxiety and depression among the same demographic.

So far so good. But what about non-Orthodox Jews? As Rosmarin writes: "Among non-Orthodox Jews, mistrust in God was a consistent predictor of increased anxiety and depression, though trust in God was not a significant predictor of psychological health."

That seems weird – does the mere practice of religion lead to increased mental health, or does mental health depend on the seemingly less significant details of how one practises religion?

Rosmarin's study seems to point to the latter hypothesis — that the manifestation of religious belief, more than the simple belief itself, is a predictor of mental health. If study after study detects a positive relationship between mental health and religiosity, does that mean religious groups who don't fit the results are less religious? Should we be stocking up on straitjackets for the non-Orthodox?

My answer to Rosmarin's question, by the way, is yes. I would, I think, be less anxious, less stressed about life if I believed, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that there was God up there looking out for me, making sure I lived a good life.

Then again, I'm an Orthodox Jew, and Rosmarin's study clearly outlines the benefits that I can expect for believing.

As for all the non-Orthodox Jews out there who also believe in God, what can I say? Apparently, God doesn't like you quite as much – that's why you're all a bunch of mental marshmallows compared to us blissed-out Orthos.

In any case, the non-Orthodox are in trouble whichever way they choose to look at it: either God is just not convinced that they really trust Him, or they all have one hell of an oedipal complex.

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salt and pepper to taste
2 tblsp apple cider vinegar
1/2 cup olive oil (not extra virgin)

Whisk apple cider vinegar & apple syrup in bowl. Add olive oil, salt and pepper; mix together.

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4 handfuls of mixed greens

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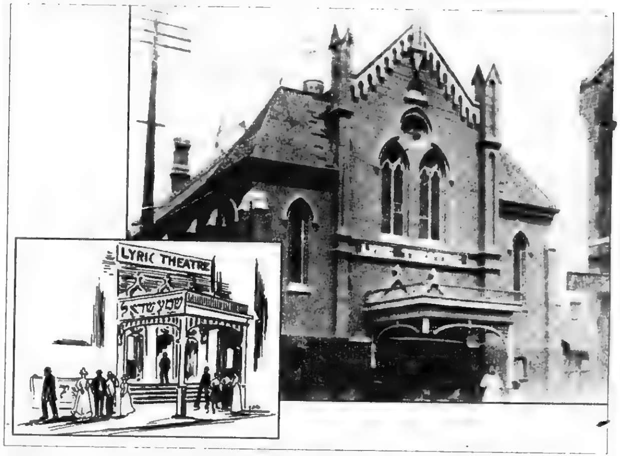
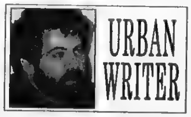


The former Agnes Street Methodist Church, built in 1870, was sold and converted into Toronto's second Yiddish theatre, the Lyric. It opened in 1909 with a production of the play *Shma Yisroel* by Osip Dimov, as a magazine illustration from the day attests. The Lyric (later the National) stood at what is now the corner of Bay and Dundas streets, and burned down in 1922.

Awaken, o sleepers!

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG



On the High Holy Days we do a most peculiar thing. We blow a horn, a shofar, a Jewish instrument. I say it's "peculiar," because musical instruments are not generally part of the Jewish treasure chest of rituals (although they were in fact played in the Temple), especially one made from the horn of the ram.

The shofar is a fascinating little thing. I have blown the shofar a number of times over the years, and I delight in the opportunity to do so. I do because, like a blues guitarist playing a haunting melody in a hall, where the lights are low and a collective feeling of introspection and wonderment is prevalent, the moment I wrap myself in a tallit and blow the shrill notes of tekiah, truah, shvarim, a spiritual quiet envelops the shul.

Sometimes I will peak out from underneath my woolen shawl as I blow this Jewish horn and watch as others close their eyes, tilting their head ups at the sound of the tekiah and truah – described in the Mishnah, as the "wavering cry."

The shofar is blown every day during the month of the Elul, the 30 days leading up to the High Holy Days. It is said that Moses ascended Mount Sinai and blew the shofar so that the children of Israel would not fall back into idol worship and forget the important meeting that was happening between God and their leader.

According to the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, the shofar is considered to be one of the earliest musical instruments known to humankind. According to the American Heritage Dictionary, fourth edition, the word shofar is related to the Akkadian word *sapparu*, meaning wild sheep, and to the Sumerian word segbar, meaning fallow deer. It is mentioned 69 times in the Torah and regularly in the Talmud.

Anthropologists say the shofar was blown to scare off demons, the Satan and evil spirits, so it is, therefore, appropriate that we blow it on the High Holy Days to frighten away the prosecuting attorney.

The great Jewish philosopher Saadiah Gaon listed 10 reasons we blow the shofar, including to proclaim the sovereignty of God; as a reminder of the Akedah (Abraham's near offering of his son, Isaac), since the ram that was substituted for Isaac was caught in the thickets by the horns; to inspire awe; as a summons to the heavenly court to be judged on the Day of Judgment; and as a reminder that the shofar will call together Israel's scattered remnants to return to Israel.

Maimonides (the Rambam) says that we blow the shofar to, "Awake O sleepers from your sleep, O slumberers arouse ye from your slumber, and examine your deeds, return in repentance and remember your Creator" (*Yad Teshuvah* 3:4).

On the High Holy Days, listen closely to the blowing of the shofar. Some say it is a crying instrument, each note signifying tears that have rolled down the faces of millions of our people over years of suffering.

That may be, but watch the face of the ba'al tekiah, the shofar blower, once he has completed his task of blowing that little horn.

Frequently, he will express a joyous look, one of great triumph. Could it be that between the cries, he has heard the sounds of happiness emanating from the great accomplishments of our people despite the pogroms, destruction of the Temples and the Holocaust.

Wake up, oh Jews! Wake up all nations!

Learn from the shofar and understand that there have indeed been reasons to cry, then and now, but even more reasons to embrace the bliss and exhilaration that exists around us, within us and within every moment of our existence.

Tekiah, shvarim, truah. Wake up from your slumber and examine your deeds.

Avrum@veahavta.org. Sedrot? Sudan?

The Israeli Source would like to wish everyone a Happy and Sweet New Year, a year of health, prosperity, success, and peace for us and for all our fellow Jews worldwide.

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ROSH HASHANAH

Greetings 5768

The Canadian Jewish news
Section B

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Photo courtesy of JNF Canada

A time for renewal

Editorial

These two adorable girls planting the tiny green sprigs of future trees hold Time in their puffy little hands. But, of course, they don't know it. How could they? They are so very young.

They are new life helping to bring forth new life.

They perfectly embody the forward-looking idea, if not also the hope, of renewal that has been the aspiration of every generation since parents first sang lullabies to their children.

Renewal – personal and communal – is the theme of this year's Rosh Hashanah Greetings supplement.

It is not without irony, many readers will undoubtedly observe, that we use an image of toddlery innocence to evoke the weightier, less innocent version of renewal prior to Rosh Hashanah, the Yamim Nora'im and Yom Kippur. For the renewal contemplated at this time of year through the upcoming holy days is that born of lifelong experience, introspection, self-evaluation and possibly repentance. It is a holiday whose liturgical and spiritual essence is aimed directly at the contemplative hearts of adults, not at the guileless imaginations of very young children.

And yet there is a connection.

It is this: young children and "old" adults – ironically – share the same sense of urgency about Time. Children, because they are blissfully unaware of Time's inexorable countdown nature; and old people, because they know it all too well.

As we respond to the shofar, the siren of Rosh Hashanah, and reflect on our lives, we might be wise to do so with the same urgency that is characteristic of both the very young and the very old.

The essays in this supplement are intended to inform and possibly inspire readers about the idea of renewal, about how we might consider renewing aspects of our own lives, about possibly igniting to a higher level of flame, the pilot lights of our respective Jewish identities.

The CJN asked a number of creative thinkers and inexhaustible doers to write about various aspects of renewal.

The subjects include renewing our belief in God; our forms of prayer; and our commitment to community, to the other, to justice, to tikkun olam, to Jewish reading, and even to Zionism.

We hope that you enjoy and find some inspiration in the supplement.

We hope, too, that at some point in the holiday, we all understand the importance of grasping tightly and for urgent purposes – much like the youngsters in the image above planting their future trees – the fleeting tendril that we call Time and that we hold, alas only evanescently, in our hands.

Chag samayach.

The editor

Renewing Our belief in God

By RABBI YOEL GLICK

The Jewish New Year is a time of renewal and reaffirmation, when we reassert our commitment to our highest aspirations and ideals. Yet, there is one area of commitment that is often overlooked, and that is the commitment to make God a real and living presence in our lives.

Religion has come to mean so many different things to us – community, identity, social justice, self-fulfilment – that we have forgotten its original meaning, which is "to rejoin" (from the Latin *ligare*): religion is the path of rejoining ourselves with God.

In Chassidism, the word *dvekut* is used – a binding or clinging to God. The Ba'al Shem Tov, the founder of the chassidic movement, teaches that all the mitzvot (commandments) have been created in order to help us to join with God. In fact, he states, the outer form of the mitzvah is only a garment or vessel to hold this inner power, which is the life force and essence of the commandment.

The experience of the reality of God is the activating principle that underlies all faiths. It is the inner foundation upon which the outer edifice of the world's religions has been built. The experience of the reality of God is the engine that drives the motor of the spiritual life.

The key to awakening this inner experience is a shift in our consciousness from a narrow, physical way of thinking to an expansive, spiritual manner of seeing and perceiving reality.

We inhabit a physical world and have a physical consciousness. We analyze and concretize everything that we experience. We leave nothing untouched; we experience nothing in its pure state. Everything is reflected through the mirror of our preconceived mental notions and ideals.

We are pulled in every direction by the sensual stimuli that we receive. We are programmed into set modes of perception and behaviour. Through the constant assault of the mass media, new information and opinions permeate our consciousness, without our being aware that this has even occurred.

Rosh Hashanah is about breaking out of these set patterns – this prison of the mind and the emotions – and entering the freedom of our true self. It is about awakening ourselves to full conscious awareness.

The Ba'al Shem teaches that there is a world called shofar gadol – the great ram's horn, which is the natural world of the soul. It is a world of total freedom, a world of infinite expansion, where there are no boundaries or limitations. On Rosh Hashanah, we forge a link with this sublime world and open a door to inner freedom.

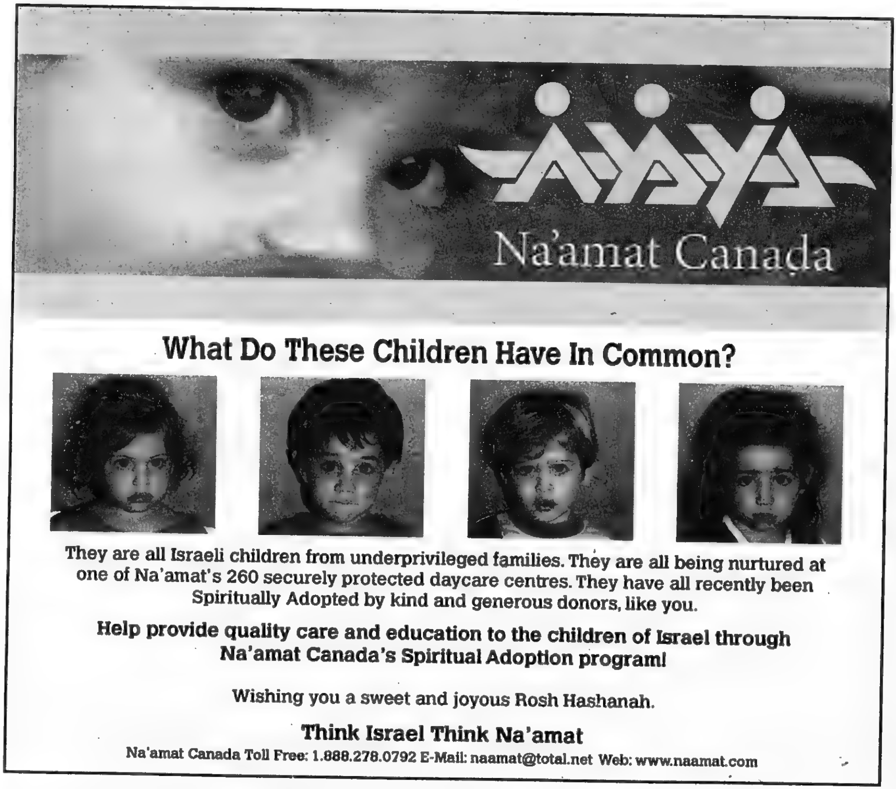
Rosh Hashanah is about ... entering the freedom of our true self

The shofar is also sounded to announce the beginning of the *yovel* – the 50th year, when all slaves are freed from their bondage. When we sound the shofar on Rosh Hashanah, we are freed from our bondage to material consciousness and enter into the liberty of Divine life.

The chassidic master, Rebbe Israel of Karlin, says this is the meaning of the rabbinic teaching that on Rosh Hashanah, we are "written in the Book of Life or Death": "If we hear the shofar of inner freedom on Rosh Hashanah, then 'spiritual livingness' becomes engraved in our heart and mind on this day. But if we are deaf to its call, then we will remain trapped in the slavery of our material consciousness, and 'spiritual death' will be written on the tablet of our soul."

Whatever the consciousness that we experience on Rosh Hashanah, that is the consciousness we take with us into the New Year. That consciousness will become the filter through which we experience reality. It will be the lens through which we view the world.

Continued on page B3



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A transformation in our consciousness

Continued from page B2

The prayers and rituals of the Yamim Noraim – the Days of Awe that begin on Rosh Hashanah and reach their culmination on Yom Kippur – are structured to create the necessary conditions to stimulate this transformation in our consciousness, a transformation that takes place in a three-stage process.

The first stage in the process is to expand the boundaries of our awareness beyond the narrow view of reality that our physical mind perceives. This change in awareness is facilitated by a powerful influx of expansive ideas, images and experiences on Rosh Hashanah. The central motif of these experiences and images is that God is real and that the spiritual realm – His heavenly kingdom – is a living reality.

A compelling example of this imagery occurs during the service for the reading of the Torah. In the Sephardi version of the Rosh Hashanah service, after the Torah is taken out of the ark, the cantor stands facing the congregation with the Torah scroll in his arms and together with them, he repeats,12 times, the phrase, "Your Word, O Lord, stands forever in the Heavens."

As the whole congregation repeats these words over and over again, it is as if, with this act, we are breaking through the barrier created by our material consciousness and experiencing the reality of the heavens. Through the force of this affirmation, we transcend the temporal truth of this physical world and touch God's eternal "Word."

A second example of the effective use of ideas and imagery to expand our consciousness on Rosh Hashanah is the Musaf or additional service. This service is structured around three major themes: Malchiot (kingship), Zichronot (remembrance) and Shofarot (shofar blasts). These three themes form the basis for a process of inner reflection that is meant to deepen our awareness and lead to the first stirrings of the experience of the Divine realm.

The first theme is Malchiot: God is King.

The universe is not a random event. There is a power behind creation, a unifying presence that infuses all life. There is one God who ties all life together into an interconnected unity of infinite Oneness. We all are part of God, all part of that infinite Oneness.

The central motif of these experiences and images is that God is real

The second theme is Zichronot: God remembers.

The unifying presence that dwells in all life is a conscious force, a higher power that oversees all of creation and remembers everything that has occurred. There is a Divine purpose and a Divine plan that are driving the universe forward toward a place of love and light. We belong to a brotherhood that includes millions of souls on higher planes that comprise the soul of Israel and the soul of humanity. We have a shared source and a shared mission. All are part of God's universal plan.

The third theme is Shofarot: God is calling out to us.

The blowing of the shofar takes the breaking of our material consciousness into the realm of direct experience. It is a blast that shatters our complacency. It is a trumpet call that breaks down the wall between us and our soul. It is an urgent plea that cries out: "God is not in some far off heaven; He is inside each and every one of us. God can be known by anyone. He can be reached at any time. All we have to do is dive deep within our hearts and find the place at the very core of our being where He dwells."

Continued on page B4

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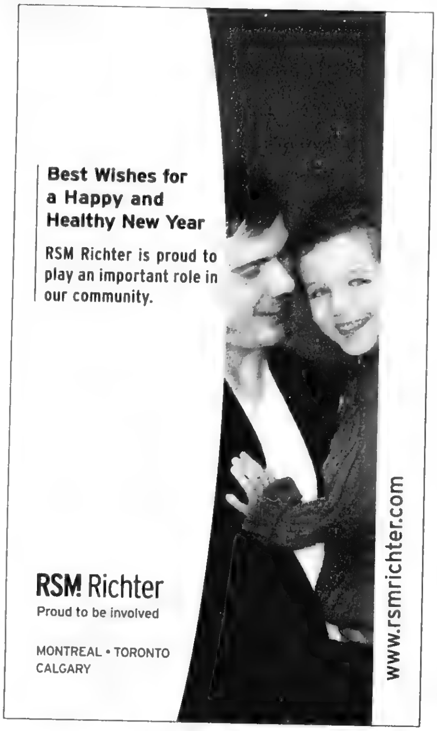
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'We get a glimpse of who we are'

Continued from page B3

Meditating upon these ideas, our thoughts reach out to touch upon a greater reality and a greater vision than what we can experience with our five senses. It broadens our consciousness to include other planes of existence and other worlds inhabited by light-filled souls. It stretches our mind beyond the selfish and shortsighted goals of our personal plans and schemes to visualize a Divine plan that covers vast eons of time and affects myriads of lives.

Contemplating these ideas, we are stimulated to explore beyond our outer personality to find the higher self within. We are driven to look past the concrete facts of accepted knowledge to search for the living truths that are inside us. We are pushed past mere intellectual musings and emotional fantasies to discover real Divine inspiration that will give a higher purpose and meaning to our lives.

Reflecting on the elevating themes of the Musaf service arouses within us a deep desire to know and serve God. It gives us our first glimpse of the Divine reality, which is the fruit of the preliminary stage of our inner awakening. The process of liberating our consciousness from physical bondage and lifting it into the freedom of the world of the shofar gadol now moves on to the second stage.

We are stimulated to explore beyond our outer personality to find the higher self within

On Rosh Hashanah, we get a glimpse of who we really are. Once we have seen our true self, we can no longer continue to maintain the "false image" that is our present identity. Therefore, we commit ourselves to a process of self-transformation and purification during the coming year. All through the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we turn to God in prayer and supplication, asking Him to guide us in transforming our personality self into the active embodiment of our Divine self.

On Rosh Hashanah, we get a glimpse of the living God inside each of us. As a result of this revelation, we can no longer bear to cause suffering to another person. We feel compelled to act immediately to relieve the pain and mend the hardship that we have already caused.

Therefore, during the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we go to anyone whom we have offended or hurt, and ask them for forgiveness. And we do not leave them until the breach between us has been repaired.

Seen in this light, the tradition of asking for forgiveness is more than just an act of regret or repentance. It is the expression of our unconditional love for every human being.

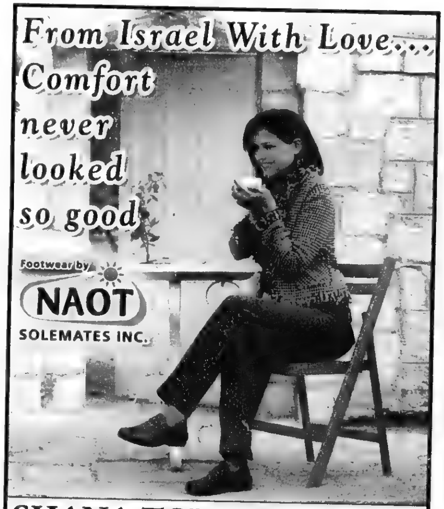
This second stage of self-transformation and self-awareness prepares us for the last step in the process of liberating our consciousness that takes place on Yom Kippur. In this final stage, we withdraw from the world and enter into our inner solitude to find the living presence of God that is within.

On Rosh Hashanah, we get a glimpse of the Divine reality by contemplating ideas that will expand our consciousness. On Yom Kippur, we deepen that experience by living as if that higher reality is our only home.

From the *Kol Nidre* service on Yom Kippur Eve until the Neilah service at the conclusion of the fast, all of our waking time is spent in prayer and contemplation. We put all mundane matters aside and focus our thoughts on the Infinite and the Eternal. We forget about all of our physical and material needs, and consider only that which is good for the well-being of our soul.

On Yom Kippur, we do not eat or drink for the whole of the 25-hour period of the holy day. In the Kabbalah, we are told that the only reason that we need to eat and drink is because we fell from the Garden of Eden. Only on this lower plane of existence do we need to sustain ourselves with the bodies of dead plants and animals. If we were in our rightful state, we would not have to eat or drink at all. Instead, we would be able to receive our nourishment directly from the Divine energy that is all around us.

Continued on page B5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Happy New Year

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Inner awakening culminates at end of Yom Kippur

Continued from page B4

We are told in the Bible that Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights on Mount Sinai without any food or water. We are also told that an angel fed the prophet Elijah in the desert, and that this meal sustained him for 40 days and nights.

The fast on Yom Kippur is an expression of our desire to return to this sublime state, our wish to be so alive with the presence of God that we need no other source of sustenance.

On Yom Kippur, we put aside all outer signs of worldly importance or achievement and contemplate our own insignificance. We do not wear leather or jewelry, and we do not bathe or anoint ourselves with perfume and cologne. We strip away all the external facades that we have created to protect us from the truth that we are only mortal creatures who, as it is says in the prayers, are "like a fragile potsherd, as the grass that withers, as the flower that fades, as a fleeting shadow, as a passing cloud, as the wind that blows, as the floating dust, and as a dream that vanishes."

On Yom Kippur, we live in recognition of the temporal nature of this physical existence. We live with the understanding that all fame is fleeting and all material possessions meaningless – that we take nothing with us when we leave this world.

On Yom Kippur, we accept that life will be ever-changing and our condition never static – that one minute we may be up and the next we may be down. We acknowledge the truth that no matter how hard we work, no matter what talents we possess or what fortune we have amassed, our destiny ultimately rests in the hands of God.

As it is written in the prayers: "Who shall live and who shall die; who shall attain the full measure of man's days and who shall not attain it… who shall rest and who shall go wandering; who shall be tranquil and who shall be disturbed; who shall be at ease and who shall be afflicted; who shall become poor and who shall wax rich; who shall be brought low and who shall be exalted."

On Yom Kippur, we renounce all of our individual plans and ambitions and place ourselves at the service of the Divine plan.

"All the created beings will prostrate themselves before You, and they all will form a single band to carry out Your will with a perfect heart."

On Yom Kippur, we relinquish all illusions of personal grandeur and rest in the knowledge that the Lord has created and is guiding the world.

"May everything that has been made know that You have made it; everything that has been created understand that You have created it; and everyone who has the breath [of life] in his nostrils declare that the Lord, God of Israel, is King and His Kingship has dominion over all."

On Yom Kippur, we acknowledge that our little wills mean nothing. We acknowledge that it is only when the will of God is behind an endeavour that it will have any lasting effect. For when the energy of God's goodness flows into a situation, there is nothing that can stand in its way.

As it is written in the prayers: "Injustice will shut its mouth and all wickedness will go up in smoke, when You will remove the rule of evil from the earth."

On Yom Kippur, during the Avodah service to commemorate the worship in the Temple, we bow down to God with the whole of our being – falling flat on our face before the Lord. This full prostration is symbolic of our total surrender – the dedication of our heart, mind and soul to Divine service. On Yom Kippur, we are filled with such an intense love for God that we want to make an offering of ourselves to Him.

This whole process of inner awakening comes to its culmination at the end of Yom Kippur, when the entire congregation chants out loud the first line of the *Shema*: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is Our God, the Lord is One;" the phrase: "Blessed be the Glory of His kingdom forever and ever"; and the affirmation: "The Lord, He is God," which is repeated seven times. Then, the shofar is blown for a last time, ending with a long ascending blast.

This year, as we chant the *Shema*, let us strive to experience that great Oneness that encompasses all, gives life to all and is the true home of all.

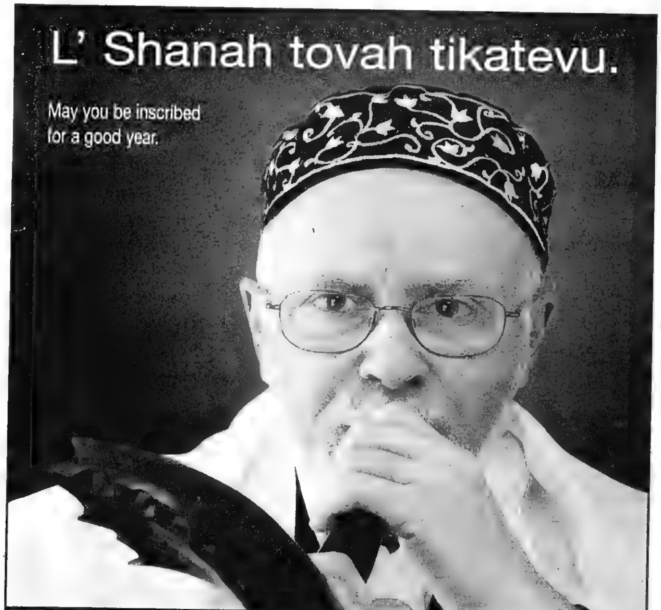
As we proclaim the glory of His kingdom, let us abide in the expansive plane of consciousness that the Ba'al Shem calls the world of the shofar gadol.

As we affirm the words "the Lord, He is God," let us renew our commitment to fill our life with purpose and meaning.

As we listen to the sound of the shofar, let us hear the cry of the spirit for the breath of Divine life.

Rabbi Yoel Glick is a teacher of Jewish meditation and spirituality. He is a native Torontonian who now lives in France and Israel. Rabbi Glick welcomes your comments and questions: rabbiyoelglick@gmail.com

Rabbi Glick will be speaking at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto on the evening of Nov. 26 at 7:30 p.m. He will also be leading, together with Michelle Katz, a one-day meditation retreat just north of Toronto on Dec. 2, and a spiritual tour to Israel in March 2008. For more information, contact Michelle Katz at: michellekatz@rogers.com.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FALLOUT FROM THE SECOND LEBANON WAR

Eliyahu Winograd hands over a copy of his committee's interim report on the Second Lebanon War to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, in which the prime minister's judgment was severely criticized. Inset, thousands of Israelis call for immediate elections in the wake of Winograd's interim findings. **[Isranet photos]**

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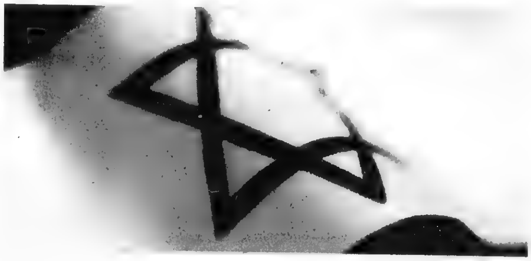

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Renewing Prayer

By RABBI
MARTIN LOCKSHIN

Prayer may be a very personal matter, but Judaism has always seen it as a communal activity, too. Synagogue attendance is one of the standard ways of measuring commitment to Judaism – particularly in the Diaspora. But synagogue attendance rates appear to be receding from year to year, and Jews wonder what this bodes for our future. We are, thankfully, witnesses today to some creative ways to revitalize and renew Jewish liturgy. What is surprising is that this creativity is not limited to the more liberal branches of Judaism. Orthodoxy, too, is experiencing its own forms of renewal in prayer.

One of the central concepts of Jewish prayer is that it provides us with a connection to our past. There is something very moving about the thought that when we recite a prayer such as "Hear O Israel," we are joining ourselves to a chain of Jews who have prayed that way for thousands of years. The talmudic rabbis realized the value of that historical link when they spoke out strongly against those who change the wording of prayers.

Despite the rabbis' injunction, Jewish prayer has hardly been static over the years. Over the centuries, liturgical poets added many prayers to the service when circumstances seemed appropriate. The style, format and melody of the synagogue service have changed, as has the architecture and layout of the buildings in which people pray, and even the way that people dress when they go to synagogue. Thus, the experience for a Jew praying in a synagogue in Poland in the 18th century was very different from that of a Jew in Spain in the 11th century.

In pre-modern times, these changes probably did not result from conscious decisions of rabbis or lay people to try to attract more Jews to synagogue. But in the last two or three centuries, the consciousness of intentional change has been stronger and the pace of change has been faster.

The first and strongest impetus for planned change in synagogue prayer came from the Reform movement. The minutes of the meetings of early Reform rabbis spell out their fears that services with too much Hebrew or with too long a Torah reading were inappropriate in 19th-century western Europe – they would not appeal to members of their communities. Since then, non-Orthodox Jews have continued to make conscious, calculated changes to the liturgy and to the synagogue. For an idea of the range of current and past Reform opinions, see Rabbi Richard Sarason's fascinating discussion (http://urj.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=10572) of the ways Reform rabbis have debated whether to use the traditional text of the *Shema* prayer, or an edited version that removes parts whose theology "to the modern scientific mind… seemed rather primitive and gross." Reform prayer books today – and, to a lesser degree, Conservative prayer books, too – offer a veritable smorgasbord of readings and prayers for individuals and congregations to use in their local services.

Jewish prayer has hardly been static over the years

The reaction of most Orthodox Jews to conscious changes in the structure of the synagogue experience was consistently negative throughout the 19th century and most of the 20th. Today, the situation seems to have changed. Orthodox Judaism still eschews the possibility of changes in Halachah (Jewish law). This precludes the possibility of changing the wording of prayers or deleting prayers that some might see as insufficiently modern or progressive. But all denominations today make attempts to restructure and repackage the synagogue experience in order to attract more Jews.

Changes in musical style are one feature of the movement towards renewing synagogue services. One of the hottest and most interesting synagogues today is B'nai Jeshurun in Manhattan, a synagogue with both Conservative- and Reform-trained rabbis and a very unorthodox style. Its membership has blossomed from 100 households in 1985 to around 2,000 today. Many otherwise uninvolved upwardly mobile young urban professional Jews drop in at BJ straight from work on Friday for a spiritual experience to begin their weekend.

According to the report of a recent Friday evening visitor, the service has a pop band with guitars, electric keyboards, Middle Eastern drum, cello and mandolin. Participants sit in a circle around the rabbi and the band. The worshippers "stand, sing lustily, rock back and forth, and move as the spirit moves them. At one point they join hands and start dancing around the room, they're just that blissed out." (http://fearnotthegods.blogspot.com/2007/01/stage-lighting-lion-of-judah-and-bar.html)

Continued on page B8

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'Inclusion of women the greatest challenge for synagogues'

Continued from page B7

It goes without saying that musical instruments are not to be found in Orthodox Sabbath services, as their use is understood as violating Sabbath laws. But over the last few decades, the Orthodox world has seen the proliferation of what some call "happy minyanim" – services that are based on the music of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach and that often involve ecstatic congregational singing and dancing.

"Reb Shlomo" ironically turned into an Orthodox cult hero mostly after his death in 1994. During his lifetime, he was a man of controversy – often criticized by other rabbis and also by feminists – though no one could deny his musical and spiritual gifts. Today, his heritage lives on in many Orthodox (and some non-Orthodox) synagogues in Canada, the United States and Israel.

Many religious Jews will gladly stay in synagogue twice as long for Carlebach-style services that they feel meet their spiritual needs. As one Orthodox rabbi recently explained to me, Carlebach-style services are popular because they "express 'happy Jewish' as opposed to a Judaism based on obligation. People will go to shul if it is enjoyable and engaging, whereas you and I will go to shul whether it is enjoyable or not."

Another method that has been used to renew people's commitment to prayer is changing the content of the service to something ostensibly more relevant. As noted above, in theory, changing the liturgy is unacceptable to Orthodox Jews who are bound by Halachah. But even here some Orthodox synagogues have found a way of working around the restriction.

Some Orthodox synagogues – particularly those interested in "outreach" – have begun using the model of "learners' services." In some cases, this simply means that the rabbi makes explanatory comments during the service in order to guide newcomers. But sometimes it means that no attempt is made to recite the standard liturgy – the "service" is basically a text-study session, sometimes based on one of the prayers and sometimes not. A "straight" service may be occasionally interrupted by an announcement offering a choice between staying in the sanctuary for the full service or leaving to join a study session in a different room.

Amazing advances and changes in Orthodoxy in the last few years

One rabbi admitted to me that offering such a choice allows him to get around another problem: while Halachah requires him to separate men and women at prayer, he knows that some of the young couples who come to his outreach service really want to sit together. He lets the word reach these couples that if they opt for the study option, they can sit beside each other.

And this problem – the inclusion of women – may represent the greatest challenge for synagogues that are attempting to renew themselves. Canada is an egalitarian country: the workforce and society at large take the egalitarian approach as a given. Yet any student of Jewish law knows that the traditional texts do not support an egalitarian approach to prayer. Synagogues were never egalitarian, as far as we know, during any stage of Jewish history. Far from being allowed to lead services, in some periods, particularly medieval times, some synagogues were built in such a way as not to allow any woman to attend services.

While I know that many Jews are frustrated by what they perceive as the slow pace of change on this issue, I am actually astounded at how quickly changes are taking place today. Reform Judaism has adopted a full egalitarian approach. Much of Conservative Judaism in the United States has also adopted full egalitarianism, although here in Canada – particularly in Toronto, where the Conservative movement has a stronger commitment to tradition – the pace of change has been significantly slower.

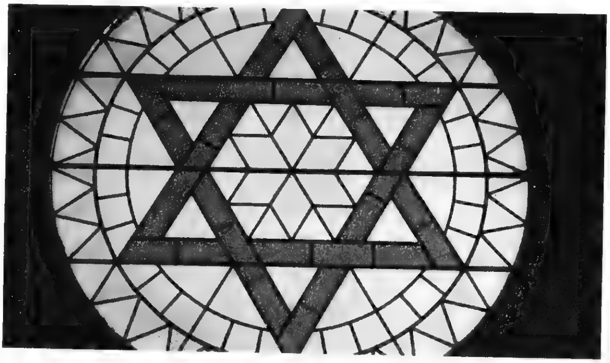
And what about Orthodox Judaism? Prayer aside, there have been amazing advances and changes in Orthodoxy in the last few years, expanding women's participation in roles traditionally reserved for males. For the first time in history, first-rate women scholars of Talmud and rabbinic texts are graduating from Orthodox institutions, some of which train and certify those women as experts in Jewish law, authorized to provide halachic guidance to both women and men.

Those who understand the basic structure of traditional Judaism realize that this change – the creation of a class of women who have vast knowledge and credentials in rabbinic texts – might be more significant than any changes inside the synagogue. Power in traditional Judaism was historically not in the hands of those who led synagogue services, but in the hands of those who solved halachic problems. Admittedly, this distinction is of little comfort to the individual woman who might feel excluded inside the synagogue that she attends.

It may be too early to judge its significance, but a fascinating and controversial development is now occurring in Orthodox synagogue life – the proliferation of "partnership minyanim." A partnership minyan is a prayer group that is committed both to maintaining halachic standards and to the inclusion of women in ritual leadership roles to the fullest extent possible within a relatively liberal understanding of the boundaries of Jewish law. At a partnership minyan, women and men are separated by a mechitzah. But women have public roles in the service: among other things, they read the Torah and are called up to the Torah for an aliyah.

Continued on page B9

Shana Tova



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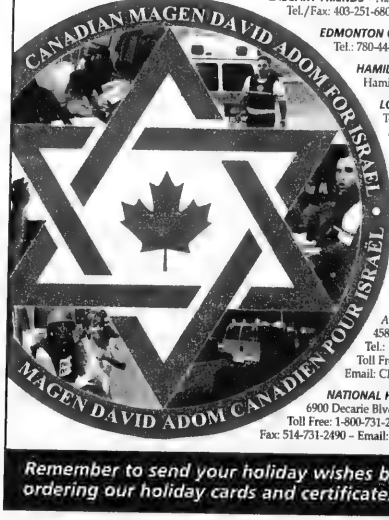
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'Partnership minyanyim' — a new movement

Continued from page B8

This movement was created a mere six years ago, resulting from an article in the *Edah Journal* written by Rabbi Mendel Shapiro, an American-trained Orthodox rabbi in Jerusalem. Some of Rabbi Shapiro's technical halachic argumentation is crucial for understanding the current controversy. (The full text of his historic article can be found at http://www.jofa.org/pdf/uploaded/907-NPMN0726.pdf.)

The argument centres around the talmudic passage in Megillah 23a: "All may be called up among the seven [who are called to the Torah on Sabbath morning,] even a minor, even a woman. But the rabbis [later?] said 'A woman should not read the Torah because of the dignity of the community [kevod hatzivbur].' "

Over the centuries, much was written about this short text. In the most straightforward reading, it seems to say that at some time in history, women were called to the Torah, but at a later point, the practice was stopped. The talmudic text does not explain how calling women to the Torah might constitute an affront to the dignity of the congregation or the community. Talmudic commentaries do not help, as they offer more than one explanation of what "the dignity of the community" means.

Rabbi Daniel Sperber: No halachic barrier to Torah reading by women at a service of men and women

Rabbi Shapiro's article surveyed other texts where the concept of the "dignity of the community" appears, and he demonstrated that rabbis over the years recognized that different communities had different understandings of what constitutes their dignity. Some of the greatest halachic decisors have recognized the right of communities to define or to redefine their perception of their own dignity. Accordingly, if a community feels that having women read the Torah would not reduce (and might even enhance) their dignity, then they have the right to do so.

Rabbi Shapiro's article elicited much reaction. Some criticized it sharply. Others offered more measured criticism. *Tradition* magazine, the leading publication of Modern Orthodoxy, refused to publish Rabbi Shapiro's article six years ago, ostensibly because the issue of aliyot for women was not of interest to their readership. Curiously the interests of *Tradition* readers must have changed sufficiently in the last six years to justify the publication of a (generally respectful) rejoinder to Rabbi Shapiro in 2007. Another respectful rejoinder by Rabbi Yehuda Herzl Henkin, a talmudic scholar with a world-class reputation, essentially argued that almost all of Rabbi Shapiro's arguments were well-founded, but that his conclusion was outside of the halachic "consensus." (The full text of Rabbi Henkin's article may be found at http://www.jofa.org/pdf/uploaded/908-RODV8998.pdf.)

But now in the summer of 2007, another Orthodox rabbi, Rabbi Daniel Sperber, has published an entire book (*Darkah shel halakhah: keri'at nashim ba-Torah, perakim bimediniut pesikah* [Reuben Mass: Jerusalem, 2007]) dedicated to analysis of the issue, with the conclusion that there is no halachic barrier to Torah reading by women at a service of men and women. Rabbi Sperber salutes Rabbi Shapiro's pioneering work and builds on it. But in many ways, Rabbi Sperber's support for this Orthodox innovation goes far beyond Rabbi Shapiro's.

First, some halachic naysayers dismissed Rabbi Shapiro's work because it was written in English, not the standard language for halachic discourse. Rabbi Sperber's book is in Hebrew. (Rumour has it that an English translation is being prepared.) Furthermore, though any objective reader looking at Rabbi Shapiro's work immediately recognizes the depth of his understanding of complex rabbinic texts and concepts, still Rabbi Shapiro was essentially unknown in the world of rabbinic scholarship before he wrote his trail-blazing essay.

Not so Rabbi Sperber. He was the author of dozens of books on the history of halachah before he published *Darkah shel halakhah*. His eight-volume set *Minhagei Yisrael* is the acknowledged reference work on the history and development of "custom" in Jewish law. Rabbi Sperber, a professor at Bar Ilan University, won the coveted Israel Prize in Jewish Studies in 1992. He has been an honoured guest speaker in Orthodox synagogues around the world, and his books are found in most good Torah libraries. His view on the issue will be much more difficult to dismiss.

Moreover, a careful reading of both works shows that Rabbi Sperber's position is much more challenging to the status quo. Rabbi Shapiro had essentially argued that if some new congregation decided to constitute itself with a new definition of its "congregational dignity," they would not be transgressing Jewish law.

Continued on page B10

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‘Communal dignity’ or ‘human dignity’

Continued from page B9

But according to Rabbi Sperber’s book, the not-very-well-defined halachic concept of “communal dignity” is today now in conflict with another crucial halachic principle “human dignity” (*kevod habriot*). Rabbi Sperber argues that: (1) “human dignity” has traditionally been one of the factors considered when deciding the halachic permissibility of various activities; (2) halachic texts recognize that the concept of “human dignity” can and does change over time; (3) today, denying women the opportunity to read the Torah when they want to do so is an affront to their “human dignity”; (4) there is no contest: “human dignity” always trumps “communal dignity” in halachic decision-making; and (5) no one should say that allowing women to read Torah is placing a non-Jewish value, feminism, above Judaism. Rather those who give aliyot to women are showing more loyalty to the halachic value of “human dignity.”

Shirah Hadashah Shabbat services standing room only

As Rabbi Sperber’s book has been in print only since June or July, it is hard to gauge what impact it will have. But it is astounding to note that Rabbi Shapiro’s article just six years ago has already led to the establishment of some 20 “partnership minyanim” around the world. (A list can be found at: http://www.jofa.org/about.php/resources/partnershipm.) Some are more successful than others. But Shabbat services at the flagship minyan of the partnership movement, Shirah Hadashah in Jerusalem (around the corner from Rabbi Shapiro’s home, and not too far from Rabbi Sperber’s), are standing room only. Its 300 seats fill up within minutes of the start of the service. Interestingly, Shirah Hadashah in Jerusalem and many other partnership minyanim around the world combine innovation in the field of women’s participation with the spiritual tunes of Rabbi Carlebach, and with added emphasis on the spiritual experience of prayer.

Let us hope (and pray!) that the efforts in all movements to renew and rejuvenate prayer services will lead to added commitment and spiritual growth for our people in 5768 and beyond.

Rabbi Martin Lockshin is a professor of Jewish studies at York University. He is on sabbatical in Jerusalem in 5768.

Looking Back

HUGS AND KISSES FOR THE PRESIDENT

Shimon Peres holds his great-granddaughter during the celebration after his swearing-in as Israel’s 9th president. [Isranet photo]

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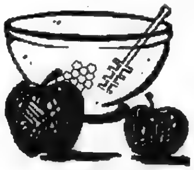

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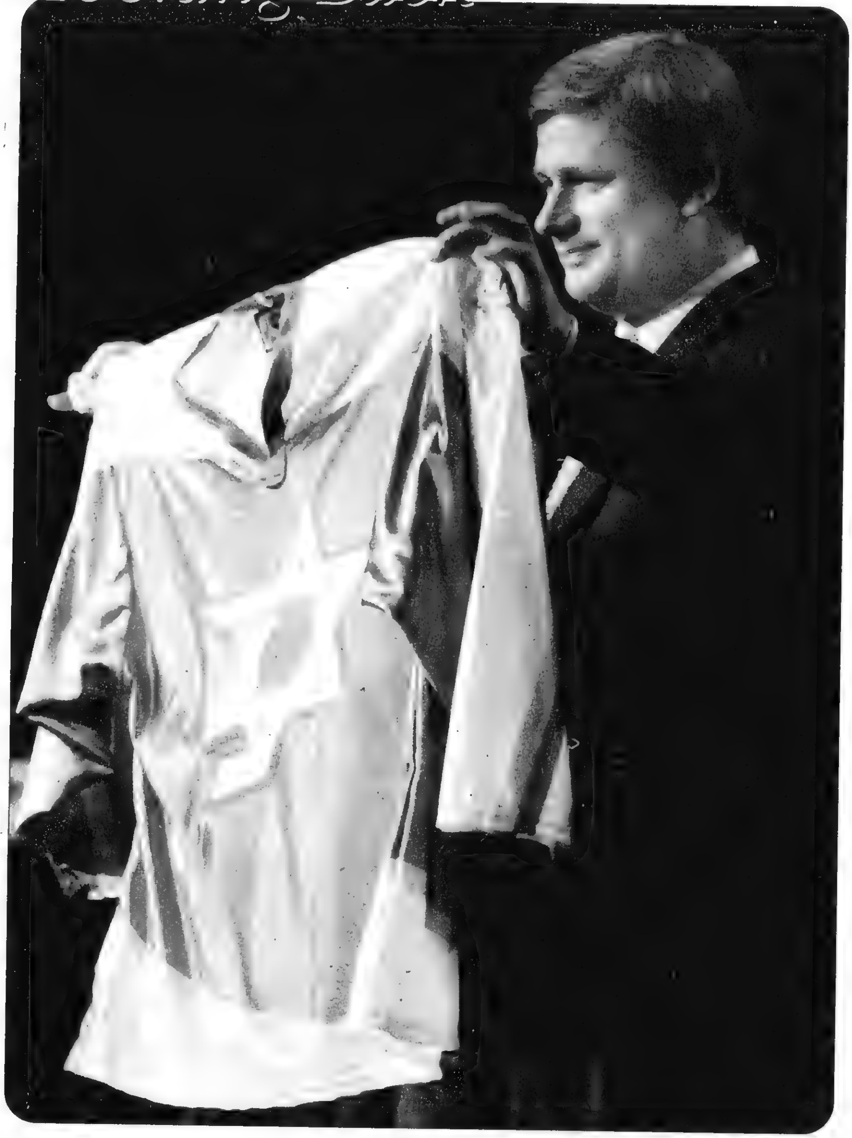

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Towards a better future…integrating people with developmental disabilities into the community

Renewing Jewish family life

By SCOTT A. SHAY

Is the Canadian Jewish community built on a foundation that will make it a growing and vibrant part of the Diaspora in the coming decades?

The truth is that we do not know the answer to the question.

Currently, it is the fourth largest Diaspora community in the world and is doing very well. Canadian Jewry is diverse, bringing together Holocaust survivors, Sephardim, third- and fourth-generation Jews from the Pale of Settlement, recent immigrants from the Former Soviet Union and many other communities, and offers Jewish families a myriad of possibilities in education and cultural activities. Canadian Jews are successful in all areas of Canadian life, and Canadian Jews have also made it financially.

Yet, unlike Jewish communities elsewhere in the Diaspora, where large immigration took place in the late 19th century, Canadian Jewry experienced continued immigration throughout the 20th century. In 1914, the Canadian Jewish community was less than a third the size it is today. Large demographic growth in the Canadian Jewish community took place in the postwar period.

According to Canadian census data about 40 per cent of Canadian Jews in 2001 were born outside of Canada. This is a high percentage of immigrants in comparison to other Diaspora communities, such as the United States and England. With so many Jews coming from abroad, it is fair to say that Canadian Jewry's ability to maintain Jewish community and identity has not yet been truly tested.

Therefore, the more precise question is whether Canadian Jewry will be able to flourish in the 21st century now that immigration is ending? In my view the answer to the question depends largely on whether Canadian Jewry can implement practical community-wide changes to strengthen Jewish education and Jewish family life.

While the Canadian Jewish community is still doing far better than other Diaspora communities overall with regard to their level of Jewish commitment, intermarriage rates, day school attendance, trips to Israel, and donations to Jewish causes, there have also been worrying signs that Canadian Jewry is now developing some of the problems that communities across the border and across the pond have been facing for the past 25 years.

Current demographic data on Canadian Jewry shows that the Jewish community is older than other immigrant groups, growing less than 20 years ago, and less than other religious groups in Canada. This information suggests that Canadian Jews are marrying later, having children later, and having fewer children than their parents.

Indeed, without immigration in the 1990s from the former Soviet Union, Latin American, Israel and South America, the Canadian Jewish population might have shrunk from 1990 to 2000. Also, similar to the United States and the United Kingdom, intermarriage rates have risen in the past 20 years: the intermarriage rate among Canadian Jews under 30 is 37.3 per cent, more than double the intermarriage rate of Canadian Jews over 39. In some communities, such as Ottawa and Vancouver, 70 per cent of Jews under the age of 30 are intermarried. Canadian Jewish education is also being challenged.

While many non-Orthodox also attend Jewish day schools in Canada, about 20 per cent are leaving after primary school. Further, an alarming number of young Canadian Jews, from 30 to 70 per cent, depending on the community, are receiving neither day school nor Hebrew school education and almost a third of Jewish adults in Toronto and Montreal are unaffiliated; the numbers are probably higher in other communities.

Canadian Jewry cannot ignore these worrisome trends. It must take practical steps to address these issues now in order to ensure a bright future for the good of Canadian Jews, Canada, and Jews around the world.

Continued on page B13

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‘Parents should start talking to their teenagers’

Continued from page B12

Canadian Jews, like American and British Jews, are increasingly delaying marriage or not marrying at all. Canadian Jewish parents, rabbis and educators need to change this pattern by encouraging young Jews to marry earlier for their own personal benefit and for the benefit of the community as a whole. In the 25-to-44 age cohort, 27.8 per cent of Jews are single and have never married compared to 6.9 per cent in the 45 to 65 cohort.

(For further information on the demographic situation of Canadian Jewry, I highly recommend the analyses of Charles Shahar who has carefully deciphered the Canadian census data as it relates to Jewry.)

Extending Jewish adolescence and pushing back the age of marriage has no discernible benefits and often creates emotional complication for young men and women. By the time a young Jewish man or woman turns 30, he or she has dated or had friendly relationships with so many people that it becomes harder and harder for them to decide who is “right.” Others have had long-term relationships without a clear view to getting married, which also leads to emotional issues and may further delay marriage to the right person. There is simply no proof that putting off marriage for whatever reason makes people happier.

Late marriage also creates additional personal distress for couples who want to have children due to complications with pregnancy after 35. It also contributes to the current decline in the Canadian Jewish birthrate.

Yet, despite the negative emotional and community impact of late marriage, current demographic trends suggest that many Canadian Jewish parents and community members are either passively or actively re-inforcing the general societal pressures to keep a “clear head” while finishing graduate school or achieving early career success, and/or sanctioning an extended adolescence, casual dating or pre-marital long-term relationships with the view that this will help individuals to find the right partner eventually. Other parents may be wary of addressing personal issues such as marriage with their children out of fear of infringing on their children’s privacy and personal freedom. This must stop.

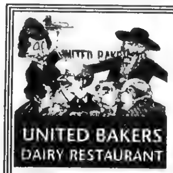
Canadian Jewish population is proportionally older than other ethnic groups

Parents should start talking to their teenagers and teenage boys, in particular, about the single most important decision their children will make: finding a soul mate. Community leaders, rabbis and parents must also warn young women and men of the emotional complications that arise from extending adolescence, dating aimlessly, or getting into long-term relationships without the prospect of marriage and encourage young Jews to marry any time after college if they find the right person. These initiatives would do wonders for the emotional well-being of young Canadian Jews and the future of the Canadian Jewish community.

Canadian Jews have too few children to sustain the current Canadian Jewish population: this too must change. While we do not know the current birthrate among Canadian Jews, we know that the Canadian Jewish population is proportionally older than other ethnic groups and children constitute one-fifth of the Jewish population, whereas in other ethnic communities they make up a third. As in America and Britain, the cultural norm for non-Orthodox Jews in Canada seems to be two children per family. If the current birthrate stays the same, Jews will be the only non-Christian group that will not increase its share of the total Canadian population in the next 10 years. In order to increase the current birthrate, the Canadian Jewish community as a whole must change the current cultural norm and send the message “the more children, the better” in a number of ways.

First, it can re-orient wedding planning and ceremonies toward preparing young couples for starting a family. Such a move is not only much needed but is entirely consistent with Jewish tradition. A key part of the Jewish marriage ceremony is kiddushin. Kiddushin is most often translated as “making holy,” but the word also has the meaning of “dedication” or “devotion.” To make holy is indeed to set aside (dedicate, devote) some time, action or object to a sacred purpose.

Continued on page B14



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‘Strengthen education’

Continued from page B13

As a preparation for kiddushin, it is appropriate for the rabbis involved and the parents to speak to the couple about the joys of having children, to ask them what kind of life they envision for themselves and their children, and to encourage them to imagine how their lives and the lives of their children can contribute to the Jewish people and the world. This is also an appropriate message to think about during the upcoming High Holy Days.

Second, synagogues and other Jewish cultural groups should offer child care during adult programming or meetings. Third, day schools, Hebrew schools, and camps should also offer discounts for parents who enrol more than one child into their programs. Fourth, rabbis, teachers, lay leaders, parents, and grandparents must all work to make Jewish life much more family friendly by offering additional support for young families.

Canadian Jews need to send the message that family is important, that children are a precious gift, that we need larger families and combine multiple initiatives to change the current cultural norm. With immigration waning, Canadian Jewry needs a baby boom.

Canadian Jewry also needs to strengthen Jewish day school education. While the percentage of Canadian Jewish children in day schools is certainly impressive, reaching as high as 56.2 per cent in Montreal, there is a clear drop off in high school. Currently, 15 to 25 per cent of Canadian day school children are leaving day school after primary school. In some communities such as Vancouver, the percentage of children leaving day school is even higher. This trend is worrisome since the number of years a child attends day school has a greater impact on adult Jewish involvement and in-marriage than any other variable, including being raised in an Orthodox home.

Communities across Canada should focus on bolstering their retention and enrolments at the high school level. In order to do this, they should conduct survey research and speak to local community members to address local needs across the country, be they distance, concern about the curriculum, or price, and address these issues accordingly. Canadian day school education is still going strong, but it is up to the community to keep the ball rolling and keep children in day schools, and increase enrolment at all levels.

An alarming proportion of Canadian Jewish children receive neither day school nor supplementary school education of any kind. Depending on the community, anywhere from 40 to 69 per cent of school-age Canadian Jews received no formal Jewish education in 2001. Indeed, only half of Jewish children across the five largest Jewish communities in Canada receive any exposure to Jewish education. These Jews are far less likely to marry Jewish or to engage in Jewish learning and community life as adults.

Alarming proportion of children receive neither day school nor supplementary school education of any kind

It is essential that the Canadian Jewish community reach out to these young adults with free Israel programs such birthright israel, which succeed in attracting unaffiliated Jews and provide an entry point for a greater long-term connection with the Jewish people. Birthright israel succeeds because of the enthusiasm, passion and energy it generates. The notion that the trip is a gift from the Jewish people adds a sense of gratitude that begets a spirit of camaraderie, openness and goodwill. In addition, the tight programming and intensity of the trip compounds the excitement of the birthright concept.

Birthright israel trips can have a tremendous impact on young Jews: they significantly increase participants’ desire to in-marry and have Jewish children. Moreover, the participants’ propensity toward inmarriage grows rather than fades over time as they leave Israel with the desire to “do Jewish” more often. Thus, trips to Israel draw young Jews into Jewish life and result in more Jews marrying Jews.

In my book about American Jewish renewal, *Getting Our Groove Back: How to Energize American Jewry,* I suggest that the North American Jewish community create an Israel voucher that would cover either birthright or longer programs to give young Jewish adults as many options as possible. This voucher would also be suitable for Canadian Jews.

Continued on page B15

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'An excellent opportunity to fulfil communal purpose'

Continued from page B14

The Israel voucher would function as follows: at age 16, Jewish teenagers would be issued a non-transferable voucher for either $2,000 of credit for an approved trip to Israel or a free birthright israel trip. This could be the new Jewish "sweet sixteen" for both sexes. The birthright israel trip could be taken only after the recipient turned 18. The $2,000 credit voucher, which is somewhat below the cost of a free birthright israel trip, could be used during high school or college to defer the cost for an approved four- to eight-week summer trip or applied toward a semester/junior year abroad in Israel. The voucher would expire upon the recipients' 25th birthday.

Canadian Jewry could offer this option to ensure that not only as many young Canadian Jews as possible are getting the chance to go to Israel but also to ensure that it is reaching out to young Canadian Jews without any formal Jewish education.

Canadian Jewry must also reach out to adult Jews and increase adult Jewish education. While the majority of Canadian Jews describe themselves both as Jews by religion and Jews by ethnicity, a third of Canadian Jews are unaffiliated and the number is higher in many local communities. The Canadian Jewish community needs to reach out to these Jews though adult Jewish education, cultural and social programs that suit a broad spectrum of needs and interests.

Increasing adult education not only benefits adult Jews but also strengthens their children's Jewish education. Uncommitted parents who subcontract Jewish education to day schools or Hebrew schools undermine their children's Jewish education and the potential richness of their family life.

Canadian Jewish adult education has grown in creative ways in the past two decades, be it women's education, non-denominational adult learning programs, Orthodox education programs or liberal Jewish education. Canadian Jews should continue to expand these efforts by bolstering current institutions, and building new ones in communities that do not yet have them.

The most effective teacher is the one who teaches by example

Jewish community groups can attract politically, socially, and culturally minded Jewish college students who may not automatically gravitate toward Jewish extra-curricular activities by offering a variety of programs on Jewish ethical teachings, Jewish perspectives on current events, Jewish history, and Jewish cultural life across the world today. Hillels and other Jewish campus organizations should also continue in their efforts to build more facilities and options for young Jews to socialize and learn together.

The community can also reach out to unaffiliated adult Jews through local cultural and social programs. In order to ease this task, local federations can sponsor surveys and research to help local boards of education address the particular needs and interests of unaffiliated adult Jews in their community.

If Canadian Jews can strengthen day school enrolment in the high school, Israel trips, and adult Jewish education they will build the foundation for a vibrant community in the 21st century.

The practical steps I have stated above are not out of financial reach. Canadian Jews have enough wealth to fund these initiatives. Canadian Jews are among the most generous donors to universities and hospitals. If such generous donors were to give even 50 per cent of their donations to Jewish causes, these efforts would certainly be enough to fund the programs I outlined above. Canadian Jews should encourage larger Jewish donations within the community by recognizing these donors on a community wide basis.

Canadian Jewry currently has an excellent opportunity to fulfil its communal purpose in the Diaspora in the 21st century. While we Jews in the English-speaking world have a lot to be grateful for, we can give back best by being a strong Jewish community.

The job of any Diaspora community is to be a light unto the nations. When Jews in the Diaspora, model Jewish traditions in everyday life such as being righteous in business, showing compassion and care in interpersonal relations, we teach others to do the same.

As everyone knows, the most effective teacher is the one who teaches by example. If Canadian Jewry takes the necessary practical steps to strengthen Jewish family life and education today, it will continue to flourish and shine brightly in Canada and the world.

Scott A. Shay is the author of Getting Our Groove Back: How to Energize American Jewry *(Devora Publishing, 2007). He is chairman of the board of Signature Bank, a New York-based financial institution.*

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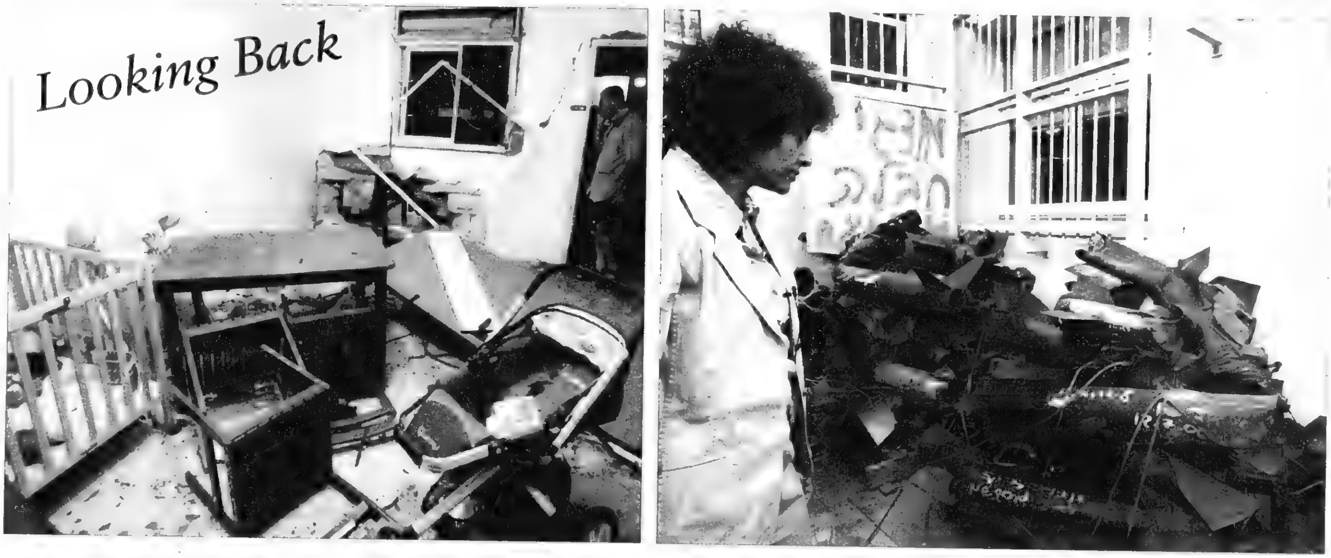
Looking Back



SDEROT STILL UNDER ATTACK

A resident of Sderot inspects his house, which has just received a direct hit from a Qassam rocket fired from Gaza. Right, Irene Kahn, secretary general of Amnesty International, examines a collection of spent shells from the thousands of rockets that have fallen in Sderot.

[Isranet photos]

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Renewing Modern Jewish life

By GIL TROY

In a world filled with fanatics threatening Jewish survival, we must do all we can to guarantee that Jews thrive, not just survive. We can ensure a Jewish future only by maintaining a high quality of Jewish life, making our community the best it can be. We have the power to shape the Jewish community of tomorrow. We must make modern Jewish life inviting, exciting, enlightening and meaningful.

We all know that growing up in the 21st century, our children and young adults face unique challenges, that this brave new world of the iPod and the Internet – amid its wonders – threatens traditional forms of Jewish identity and expression. We all understand that first-class Jewish educational and cultural experiences provide essential first steps in any Jewish journey. Most of us recognize that the modern Jewish community needs to be more attractive, welcoming, fluid and creative. And we all should admit that former McGill University Principal Bernard Shapiro's recent report is right on the money: we have underfunded most of our Jewish educational institutions and without a massive recommitment to Jewish education and identity-building, our flagship institutions – and our community – risk sliding into mediocrity.

Already, an honest, self-critical look would find many if not most Jews disinterested, unaffiliated, and frequently alienated from the Jewish community. The fate of our children – and grandchildren – is in our hands.

Our community is at a crossroads. Canadian Jews do not need a crystal ball to see what challenges will soon arise. Looking south toward the American Jewish community shows us what will happen if assimilation and apathy continue unchecked without bold, creative and proactive action. There, we see millions of Jews opting out, choosing not to be involved, not to marry Jewish spouses, not to build Jewish families, not to give to Jewish causes, not to find meaning in their lives through a Jewish framework. Although the American Jewish community has many vital organizations, there is too much redundancy, too many inert bureaucracies, too many corners of the community where inertia or mediocrity fester. The result: too many Jews who are turned off and not turned on, and too many Jews who fall through the communal cracks. We see a community with defining, world-class institutions, from New York's 92nd Street Y to Washington's Holocaust Museum; we see American Jews "making it" on Wall Street, in Hollywood, and on Capitol Hill, and yet we see a community in crisis, worried about its future, distressed about its youth.

Fortunately, the American Jewish community has had its wake-up call. For the last decade, led by philanthropic visionaries such as Charles Bronfman, the late Andrea Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, the community has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in identity-building, especially in the Israel Experience – notably birthright israel – and in Jewish day schools, Jewish camps, Jewish cultural centres, Jewish family educators and Jewish adult learning, Jewish "inreach" and Jewish "outreach."

These "continuity" projects have appealed to hundreds of thousands of Jews, especially the young and unaffiliated, inviting them to find a way back into their community and their tradition. These initiatives have launched hundreds of thousands of new Jewish journeys, each with its own unique individualized flavour, as befits the modern age.

These renewed Jews have discovered that modern Jewish life is about voyages of discovery, not guilt trips; about questioning, not following; about finding new meanings in tradition, not enduring empty rituals; about blazing their own unique paths, guided by the wisdom of the sages, not marching to the beat of some old and foreign drummer.

Throughout North America and Israel you can see, hear, taste and feel the rejuvenated Judaism, sometimes bopping to a chassidic beat and sometimes to a Springsteen tune; sometimes rooted in classical learning and sometimes enjoying a timeless family meal; sometimes Jon Stewart hip and sometimes Martha Stewart traditional.

Federations throughout North America must take the lead in generating positive Jewish experiences in their own communities and building Jewish identity for the next generation. Such a massive and ambitious reorientation and dramatic commitment is long overdue – and is often spurred in communities by "next generation" leaders in their 40s or 50s who as parents feel the challenges facing today's youth most intensely.

Continued on page B18

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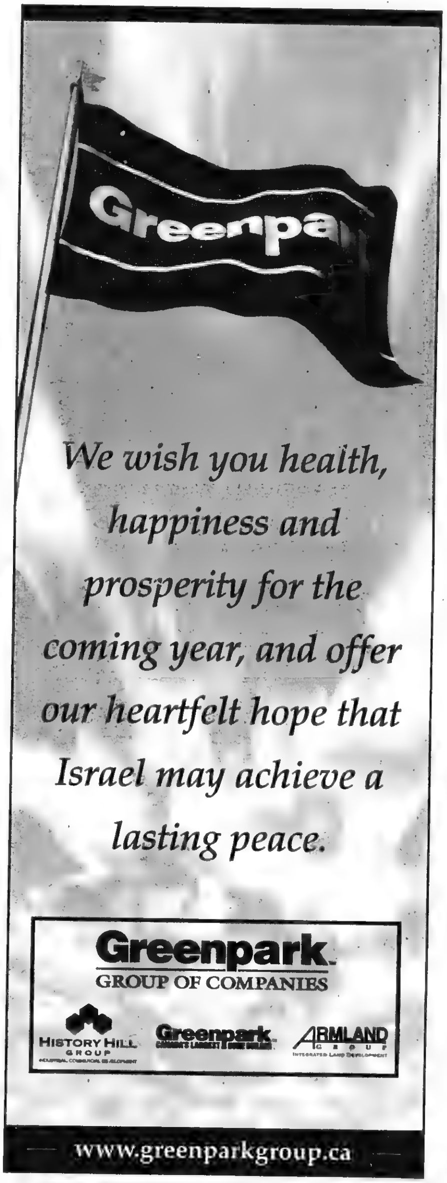
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'We must regroup and reach out'

Continued from page B17

Our community is changing, our demographics are shifting, and many institutions need renewing. Just as decades ago the synagogues, schools and Jewish communal offices frequently moved away from downtown and toward the suburbs, we must regroup and reach out to renew, learning what the modern Jewish consumer needs – and deserves – from a growing, inviting and dynamic community.

Visionary federation leaders understand that if we don't work on building a positive Jewish identity and guaranteeing our community's future, nobody else will. And with fewer Jews belonging to synagogues or identifying with one denomination or another, the federations – as central addresses of the Jewish community – have become the headquarters for engineering the Jewish future. With this dramatic shift of priorities has come a greater investment by donors in programming and tuition assistance rather than new buildings. Edifices we have – it's excited customers that we need. The Jewish infrastructure – the "hardware" – exists in most communities, but the programming – the "software" – desperately needs updating.

We need a dramatic investment in Jewish programming

Traditionally, the mainstream Jewish community, and especially the federations, focused on aiding the vulnerable. Yet today, federations and much of the Jewish communal infrastructure must take responsibility for building the Jewish identities of those whose Jewish connection is at risk. Many in our community, while physically comfortable, are Jewishly vulnerable, spiritually, intellectually, ideologically searching for direction, vision, passion and meaning within a Jewish framework. Our obligation to the needy remains strong, but, fortunately, other players in society also tend to most Jews' physical needs. Yet, if we don't build our community's Jewish identity and provide positive Jewish experiences for all Jews, young and old, who will?

Decades ago, when Rabbi Yitz Greenberg requested increased federation allocations to Jewish education in New York, the leaders hesitated.

"We don't have enough money to do what you request. What should we do? Shall we close down Jewish community centres, and the Jewish hospitals, nursing homes, and homes for the aged that we subsidize?" they said.

"Yes, close them down!" Rabbi Greenberg insisted. "But do you know what I'll teach the children who will receive the Jewish education that you will sponsor? I'll teach them to open up community centres, hospitals, nursing homes and homes for the aged!"

We, too, can plant those potent seeds, guaranteeing future generosity and leadership. We need a dramatic investment in Jewish programming at all levels, in all dimensions, from the young to the old, from the religious to the secular, reaching out to the culturally inclined, the politically connected, the intellectually engaged, the spiritually seeking, whoever they may be, wherever they may be.

We can already see such novel and effective identity-building vehicles at work.

Since late 1999, more than 130,000 young Jews have gone on trips sponsored by birthright israel, which has become the gold standard for gutsy, innovative, effective, youth-oriented programming.

In Montreal, every Friday night, the "Ghetto Shul" on Lorne Street welcomes more than 100 students, offering religious and secular Jews a rousing service, a home-cooked Shabbat meal and the opportunity to make lasting friendships as Jews, together.

In Boston, more than 2,500 Jews have finished the Me'ah program, devoted to 100 hours of Jewish learning over two years.

What unites all these innovations is the vision of the few dreamers who launched each of these now-established institutions and the passion of many participants who found that combining their interests as Jews and human beings created an exciting, mind-expanding synthesis.

Recently, various studies have helped define the problem for the next generation – and confirmed some strategies' effectiveness. One such study, "OMG!: How Generation Y is redefining Faith in the iPod Era" (OMG is text messaging shorthand for Oh My God!), discovered that the young "millennials" or twentysomethings of today are "the most diverse generation in history – only seven per cent of those polled have friends who are mostly the same religion as they are." Each young person's faith and connection to tradition therefore tends to be "informal" and "individualistic, without the reinforcement of institutional religious commitment."

Continued on page B19

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'Can't give up on this generation'

Continued from page B18

A follow-up study, "Grande Soy Vanilla Latte with Cinnamon, No Foam: Jewish Identity and Community in a Time of Unlimited Choices," concluded that "Young Jews are proud to be Jewish, but struggle to define a meaningful concept of a 'Jewish community.'" In their highly impressionistic, idiosyncratic and customized searches, they do not necessarily reject Jewish institutions. Rather, many believe "the institutions have become irrelevant to the way young Jews are living their lives."

We can't afford to give up on this generation. We must figure out how to re-engage them. Research proving the effectiveness of day schools and the birthright israel program, in particular, balances out some of these daunting conclusions.

Another study, "The Jewishness Quotient of Jewish Day School Graduates: Studying the Effect of Jewish Education on Adult Jewish Behavior," identified "extensive Jewish day school education" as "the most important contributor to the formation of strong Jewish identities, so that Jewish agencies should provide for continuing Jewish education, and in particular, encourage and make possible the establishment of Jewish high schools."

> **Great Jewish day schools today can guarantee a great community tomorrow**

A Montreal-based study, "The Jewish High School Experience: Its Implications for the Evolution of Jewish Identity in Young Adults," produced by demographer Charles Shahar, looked specifically at Jewish high schools and concluded that, "graduates of Jewish high schools were significantly more likely to attend synagogue services," to "observe Jewish rituals," to "donate to Jewish causes and volunteer for Jewish organizations."

Moreover, a team of Brandeis University experts has tracked birthright israel since it began, uncovering a significant positive Jewish impact among an overwhelming majority of birthright returnees, an impact that so far seems to be quite influential in their lives and impressively sustaining.

When mounted together and integrated, all these strategies have a multiplier effect. In "Linking the Silos: How to Accelerate the Momentum in Jewish Education Today," published by the Avi Chai Foundation, Prof. Jack Wertheimer of the Jewish Theological Seminary notes that all these experiences resonate most effectively when the different educational and identity-building institutions in a community co-operate, so that Jews young and old have overlapping and mutually reinforcing experiences. That conclusion underscores the importance of having federations as the central players leading and coordinating these initiatives.

Donors have responded with record-setting generosity. In Boston, Cleveland, and Washington, mega-donors are writing cheques for $10 million and more, while federations are launching massive multi-year campaigns to raise Jewish education and identity-building dollars.

Canadian Jews are also hopping aboard the transformation train. In Montreal, the Alvin and Leanor Segal Family has committed serious time and money to reviving the Saidye Bronfman Center as a Jewish identity-building performing arts centre, while in Toronto, mega-gifts have been invested in Jewish day schools and a broader re-orientation and modernization of the community.

We need to invest in community-wide, program-oriented superfunds in order to finance five critical gateways, five doors that are proven to welcome Jews in and offer them the quality experiences and meaningful engagement they want and deserve.

- Jewish education for our youth: Great Jewish day schools today can guarantee a great community tomorrow. We need a massive re-commitment to and reinvestment in all of our schools, most especially our Jewish high schools, so that they remain affordable to all who are interested while serving as centres of educational excellence and models of creative, meaningful, spiritually deep and intellectually rich Jewish living. Our schools must be known for excellence in general studies along with depth and flexibility in Jewish education. We need to tap the bankbooks of the older generation to educate the younger generation.
- Arts and culture: Our cultural institutions must pulsate with modern rhythms and multiple modes of artistic expression. Living, as we do, in a leisure culture, in an age of entertainment, we must build flagship cultural institutions that offer challenging, enriching, mind-expanding, soul-stretching Jewish and humanist experiences in order to appeal to young and old alike – especially the elusive "Generation Y" and "empty nesters/retirees" who are the demographic cohorts most likely to attend and be most open to these kinds of artistic experiences.
- Israel experience: Every young Jew deserves the opportunity to go on a life-changing Israel trip. Trips to Israel, especially through the birthright israel program and the March of the Living experience, have an impressive track record of success. We must expand these magnificent programs to reach more students at a critical moment in their Jewish journeys. We also must create effective follow-up programs for the returnees while pioneering other, equally effective projects that strengthen Jewish identity here by building connections to Israel and overseas projects.

Continued on page B20

Teltime watch

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'Now is the time to be Jewishly ambitious'

Continued from page B19

- Camps and youth programming: We need Jewish camps and youth groups that supplement whatever formal learning young Jews have with positive, interactive, friendship-building and soul-stretching Jewish experiences. Dollar for dollar, these programs deliver the most bang for the programming buck. Requiring minimal capital investment compared to schools and Israel trips, great camps and effective youth programs motivate young Jews at critical developmental stages in their lives, allowing them to experience the 24/7 Judaism that research shows to be most effective in identity building, especially for teens and young adults.
- Family programming: We need parent education for the 21st-century mom and dad, who are often overburdened, overwhelmed and overwrought, but able – if directed – to find anchors in Jewish values and wisdom. The latest research shows that adults and their children mutually reinforce each other's Jewish engagements. We need to give parents the tools to create influential Jewish family experiences and to deepen their children's positive Jewish experiences in camps, Israel and schools at home. Without a serious commitment to Jewish living and learning among adults, it will be difficult to pass on a serious Jewish identity to their children and grandchildren.

We need big events that bring hundreds of Jews together for enlightening, inspiring, mind expanding, soul-enriching experiences, and we need intimate moments delivering the same excitement to smaller groups, tailored to individual sensibilities. We need book clubs, study groups, lectures, websites and chat lines that speak to modern Jews in relevant language with the latest technologies. And we need synagogues open to new members and new ideas, reaching out to families with family educators, welcoming young people, while continuing to serve longstanding members who have been the backbone of the community for so long.

Taglit-birthright israel, is an example of a program that has inspired many young people to further pursue their Jewish identities. [Isranet photo]

After the Holocaust, we proved that the Jewish community could survive. In the last quarter of the 20th century, we proved that we could thrive as citizens of the world, winning Nobel prizes, earning good salaries, securing impressive positions, producing lasting works of art, literature and scholarship.

At the start of this new century and new millennium, now is the time to be as Jewishly ambitious as we are professionally ambitious, to commit to Jewish renewal while continuing to flourish as citizens of an exciting, ever-changing new world. We need to invest boldly and dramatically in identity-building educational and cultural programs that will reach out to the unaffiliated, energize the already involved, and make each community the toast of the Jewish world by saving our Jewish kids, by welcoming interested Jews in at many different points along the life cycle, and building an exciting and meaningful future.

Gil Troy is a professor of history at McGill University and the author of Why I Am A Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today.

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Looking Back

DIGGING ARCHEOLOGY

Two important archeological finds were announced last year. Left, in a modern-day neighbourhood in southern Jerusalem, the grave of Jesus and certain family members was said to be found by a team headed by Simcha Jacobovici. Right, archeologists from Hebrew University said they had found the burial site of Herod the Great, in Herodium.

[Isranet photos]

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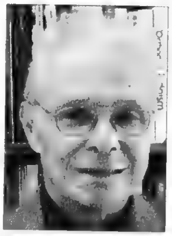

By CHAIM I. WAXMAN

One of the differences between traditional and modern societies is the nature of the relationship between the individual and the larger collective. In traditional societies, the focus is on the collective, i.e., the society, state, ethnic group, family, etc. The group members have authority over the individual and it is the obligation of the individual to comply with the collective.

In modern society, the focus is on the individual, and it is the role of the collective to satisfy the needs and wants of individuals. For example, it is the role of the state to maximize the individual's potential for the pursuit of his or her happiness. The notion of civil rights, which focuses on the rights of individuals is, essentially, a modern one. Traditional societies focus on individual obligations rather than rights.

Jewish communities, with all their variations, are based on some notions of traditional collectivity. Jews are a religio-ethnic or ethno-religious group that incorporates traditional notions of individual obligations. There are obviously many universalistic principles in Judaism, but Judaism is definitely particularistic, and one of the greatest challenges for Jews in modern and "post-modern" times is to maintain a balance between the obligations of individuals to the collectivity and those of the collectivity to individuals.

The term "community" is used in a variety of contexts and has varying meanings. Even when applied to the context of Jews, it has variations. Historically, Jews defined themselves as sacred communities, and it is for this reason that older traditional synagogues had the abbreviation, "K'K," as a prefix to their names. It referred to the synagogue as the central institution of the *kehilat kodesh* (sacred community), from which, not only prayer but virtually all communal services, such as kosher food, education and social welfare, flowed. The community provided a range of services for its members and correspondingly exerted very broad and strong social control over them. Conformity with communal norms, including financial support, was maintained by the subjective allegiance of the members and by the threat of sanction, the ultimate one being the denial of burial rights.

The term "sacred," as the French sociologist, Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) pointed out, means "set apart and forbidden," that is, something out of the ordinary, be it an object or an idea. Nahmanides translates the biblical verse, *Kedoshim tihyu* ("You shall be holy") as *perushim tihyu* ("you shall be separate," i.e., not indulge in everything). The beliefs and practices of the group serve as its boundaries and help maintain the group's distinctiveness. At the same time, Judaism does not strive for robots or complete uniformity. It has always allowed for, and indeed, encouraged diversity. The question has always been the fine line between acceptable diversity and unacceptable deviance.

To a large extent, the position with respect to that fine line is related to contrasting perspectives on the state of the community. Some view the community as existing in a hostile environment that constantly threatens the community's very existence. Therefore, the community strives to insulate itself from outside influences and draws very firm lines delineating acceptable behaviour, with everything beyond those limits being defined as deviant. Others view the community as having a message to convey to the outside world and as sufficiently strong to resist threats from the outside. In order to convey its message to the outside world, the community must be welcoming to newcomers, and not only be tolerant of diversity, but encourage it. These contrasting perspectives have been present in Jewish history for at least the past two millennia and manifest themselves in contrasting perspectives with respect to conversion, as well as to converts and a variety of other "others."

With respect to conversion, we find two contrasting perspectives in the Babylonian Talmud. One is implicit in this statement in Avodah Zara 3a: "Converts were not accepted either in the days of David or in the days of Solomon." A similar negative attitude is the statement by Rabbi Helbo: "Converts are as problematic for Israel as a skin sore" (Kidushin 70b). Both Rashi and Tosafot say the reason is that born Jews will learn from the careless behaviour of converts. Elsewhere (Kalah Rabati 2:4) we find the statement that "Converts… prevent the arrival of the Messiah."

On the other hand, Rabbi Elazar had a very positive attitude, as seen in his statement: "The only reason God dispersed the Jews in the exile was so that converts would join them." (Pesachim 87b)

Continued on page B23

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Contrasting perspectives on conversion

Continued from page B22

The contrasting positions on conversion are very relevant today, both in the Diaspora and in Israel. In the Diaspora, it is primarily relevant to the issue of children of intermarriages who consider themselves to be part of the Jewish community but are not Jewish according to traditional Jewish law, Halachah.

The more open position was expressed by the late Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (1895-1986), arguably the leading rabbinic decisor in the North American Orthodox Jewish community, who argued that many children of intermarried couples consider themselves to be Jewish, in any case, and will probably marry Jews. It is, therefore, preferable for them to convert, rather than preventing them from converting, and thereby increasing the rate of intermarriage.

A staunchly opposing position was recently propounded by Rabbi Moshe Sternbuch, the head of the Rabbinical Court of the Edah Haharedis and one of the leading decisors in the Israeli haredi community. Arguing, among other reasons, that such outreach only increases intermarriage, he asserted that "it is absolutely forbidden to try to proselytize a non-Jew even if he mistakenly views himself as Jewish." He staunchly rejected outreach efforts to them, and he then rejected all outreach efforts to the intermarried among Russian Jews.

The issue of intermarriage among olim from the former Soviet Union (FSU) is a very serious one in Israel, where it is estimated that approximately one-third of the million or so olim from the FSU are not Jewish according to Halachah but are sociologically Jewish in the sense that they view themselves as Jewish, their interactions are almost completely with Jews, most of them have no idea that they are not halachically Jewish, and their behaviour patterns are very similar to those of the Jewish population in Israel. How to deal with this pregnant issue is hotly debated, and robust positions are declared by both opponents and proponents of efforts to convert them. Ironically, there is reason to believe that only a minority would even be interested in such outreach efforts.

> ***Those who applied for conversion were traditionally discouraged, and only if they were very persistent, were they accepted***

In part as a result of the historically negative attitude toward converts, those who applied for conversion were traditionally discouraged, and only if they were very persistent, were they accepted for conversion. Even after conversion, they were frequently perceived and treated as outsiders, both ritually and socially. Maimonides, Rambam, drew a sharp line between the broader attitude toward conversion and the attitude toward the individual convert. Although he subscribed to the notion of Rabbi Helbo cited above, he was also very critical of the mistreatment of converts.

A convert, Ovadiah, asked if he was permitted to say prayers that included lines such as "Our God and God of our fathers," "Thou who hast chosen us" and "Thou who hast worked miracles to our fathers." He had, in fact, been told that he should not do this, but should change the wording for prayers containing such statements. Maimonides strongly disagreed and assured him that, contrary to popular prejudice, he was a complete and equal Jew. Moreover, despite statements in the Talmud to the contrary, Maimonides instructed Ovadiah to say all of the prayers in the same way as a born Jew.

In another responsum, Maimonides discussed the extent of our obligations toward the convert and indicated that we are obligated to honour and fear our parents and to obey the prophets, all of which can be accomplished without loving. It is only the converts whom we are obligated to love with all of our hearts.

The issue of conversion has been discussed at some length because it is probably the one in which contrasting positions in social norms are clearest. But there are numerous instances where one can also see the contrasting attitudes toward "others." For example, there is a biblical prohibition against *mamzerim*, offspring of specific incestuous relationships, becoming part of the Jewish people, and most rabbis take an unequivocally conservative stance on that prohibition. And yet, the Talmud (Kidushin 71a) relates Rabbi Yohanan's more lenient stance in situations in which there is some doubt. Despite the rule that with respect to doubts involving biblical prohibitions one is to be stringent, he found a way to legitimate the adoption of a more open approach.

Continued on page B24

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'Manifest identification'

Continued from page B23

The situation is similar with respect to attitudes toward those who unwittingly commit certain forms of relatively minor Sabbath and other infractions. For example, the medieval Sephardi scholar and decisor, Rabbi Yom Tov ben Avraham (Ritv'a, 1250-1330) and others ruled that when efforts to correct infractions would not be heeded, one should refrain from attempting to correct their ways, and "it is better that their transgression be the result of ignorance rather than of wilful sinning." Others, however, argued quite the reverse, saying that because of the widespread transgression, it is imperative to protest and to go to any lengths to prevent infractions.

In traditional society, individuals needed the community because it was through the community that they derived their identity. To be ostracized and rejected by the community was the severest sanction because it meant a loss of identity. That is why excommunication was so rare and reserved for only the most extreme deviants from communal norms.

To be ostracized and rejected by the community was the severest sanction

Excommunication was rare in Jewish history, and even when the community had strong social control over individuals, there were those who advocated a welcoming stance toward deviants, nonconformists and other "others," as will shortly be indicated. Today, however, western societies are non-traditional. Individuals no longer need religio-ethnic communities for their identity. They make their own identities. Today, in turn, the communities need the individuals. That is why "outreach" has become such a major part of religious institutions. As sociologist Peter Berger put it, we now have a population of uncoerced consumers and religious institutions have to "market" their "product" in order to attract "consumers." Clearly, the kinds of communal social controls that worked in traditional societies are no longer effective.

Not only have religious institutions become voluntary organizations, but the entire notion of "Jewish community" been transformed. In North America, both religion and ethnicity are increasingly voluntary statuses. Today, people choose whether to affiliate, and if they do, they opt for the religion of their choice. And, since most North American Jews are of multiple ethnic backgrounds, they can choose whether to identify ethnically and, if they do, with which ethnicity. Even among those who do identify as Jewish religiously and/or ethnically, the percentages who actually affiliate with the organized community are declining.

Jewish communities are almost entirely voluntaristic, consisting of individuals who are committed to serving the interests and values of Jews and Jewish togetherness and who have created and maintain organizations and institutions meant to serve and further these objectives. The organized life of the Jewish community is manifested through the ongoing existence and activities of the matrix of institutions, agencies and organizations that were created to serve a range of Jewish interests as variously defined in time and place.

To be a part of the Jewish community, therefore, requires a manifest, willing identification with it, through membership in any of the community's organizations, contributing to the community's philanthropic activity by pledging a donation, and/or engaging in any of the community's activities, formal or informal. As mentioned and as will be indicated, current evidence indicates that using these terms, we find a decreasing number of Jews displaying identification with the corporate body of the Jewish community as manifest in its formal organizational structures.

In 2000, the political scientist Robert Putnam presented, in his widely discussed book *Bowling Alone*, considerable data in support of his thesis that Americans are increasingly detached from social-communal groups and are less likely to be involved in civic activities. They are less likely to join PTAs, trade and labour unions, political parties and a host of other social groups, and this, he argues, has serious implications for the future of American society. The patterns are probably similar in much of Canada as well.

Although Putnam was impressed with the outpouring of voluntarism in the wake of the bombings of the World Trade Center in New York City, and he expressed the hope that this may have indicated a return to greater civic involvement, it appears that this is not the case. Last year, three sociologists presented in the *American Sociological Review* their findings that Americans say they have fewer close friends today than they had a decade ago, and that the number who say they have no one with whom to discuss important matters has doubled in that time to one in four. The weakening bonds of friendship have resulted in phenomena such as these: fewer people to turn to for help in crises such as Hurricane Katrina; fewer watchdogs to deter neighbourhood crime; fewer visitors for hospital patients; and fewer participants in community groups overall.

Continued on page B25

Retain the strong core while being open

Continued from page B24

North America's Jews are no different. Their engagement in civic activities has also diminished over time. Their rate of volunteering for communal causes has declined and they are much less likely to join Jewish organizations. Thus, the 2000-2001 National Jewish Population Survey found that the years between 1990 and 2000 saw a decline of close to 20 per cent in affiliation with major American Jewish membership organizations. Another indicator of the weakening bonds of community is the decline over the last few decades in rates of philanthropic giving to Jewish causes, which historically has been among the primary manifestations of belonging to the community.

Beyond the trends identified by Putnam, some of the reasons for the decline in communal participation relate to specific features of Jewish organizational life. Among these is the increasing perception that the communal leadership is elitist, parochial, self-serving and resistant to innovation, and discourages the active involvement of those who are not members of the "good old guys club," the circle of wealthy, older men who are at the helms of most major Jewish organizations. At least since the 1960s, younger people in the West have been raised to question authority and "the establishment," and they – and their children in turn – now do question, and adamantly at that.

Indeed, it is not only those who question authority that are left out of the community. Large numbers of Jews do not find a place in the community simply because they are "different," i.e., they do not conform to predominant patterns for reasons that have nothing to do with conscious challenging on their parts. I will mention only two, but there are considerably more.

One of the most conspicuous examples of "others" such as these is the large and growing singles population. Despite numerous articles, speeches and well-intentioned communal programs, there is still a large population of singles who feel that they are outsiders, that they have no place in the community because of their singles status.

Although the numbers are significantly lower, the poor, and even those with moderate incomes, are also left out of much of the life of the organized Jewish community, simply because it is very costly to affiliate Jewishly. It is probably the most costly in the United States, but the costs in most other western countries are not far behind. Indeed, there is evidence that part of the recent rise in the rate of aliyah – immigration to Israel – from the United States is due to the high cost of living Jewishly. If one takes a family of two parents and two primary school-age children, such cost typically includes synagogue membership dues and other fees ($1,000); day school tuition (up to $15,000 per child); summer camp ($4,000-6,000 per child), as a start. That means that a minimum of $40,000 annually is required just for the essentials of living Jewishly. (There is considerable evidence demonstrating the crucial role of day school education in reinforcing Jewish identity and identification.) Clearly, those who have moderate or low incomes, and even some who may have high incomes but have more than two children, including some in high school or college, may feel unable to be part of a community whose costs of affiliation are so high.

The challenge facing the community is to retain the strong core that makes it a real community comprised of interdependent parts, including common practices, common memory and interests that extend beyond itself, and to address the many goals that Jewish communities set for themselves, while, at the same time, being open to new ideas and practices that do not fly in the face of or undermine its basic values. It must constantly re-examine and re-evaluate the boundaries it sets for itself, and question to what extent those boundaries are based on clear communal principles and are, in fact, there for the well-being of the community; and to what extent personal prejudices have an impact on the establishment of those boundaries.

Sir Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth, once captured the so-called "golden mean" of many modern Orthodox Jews who are convinced that they have and practice the ideal: "Of this, I am sure: that every Jew, from Neturei Karta to the most radical Reform, is convinced he or she is a centrist Jew. Wherever a Jew stands in the spectrum of commitment, those to the right of him are the fundamentalists and those to the left of him are the assimilators. By a miracle of cognitive geometry, the midway point between fanaticism and unacceptable compromise always coincides exactly with wherever the individual happens to stand. 'There are,' he or she says, 'so few sane Jews left'" (Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Ed., *Orthodoxy Confronts Modernity*, Ktav 1991)

At the same time, it cannot be overlooked that those sectors of the large Jewish community with the most restrictive criteria for communal acceptance are precisely the ones that are not declining, whereas those with the more open stance have the higher rates of non-affiliation. Indeed, it appears that there is, in fact, an inverse relationship between the openness of communal standards and the rate of communal growth. Perhaps this suggests that rigidity of communal standards is a function of their clarity, which makes it all the more imperative that we find the "golden mean" that will balance the need for maintaining meaningful standards with the need to accommodate varieties of groups and individuals as well as creative novel ideas. These days of reflection are most appropriate for such communal soul-searching.

Chaim I. Waxman is a senior fellow at the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute in Jerusalem.

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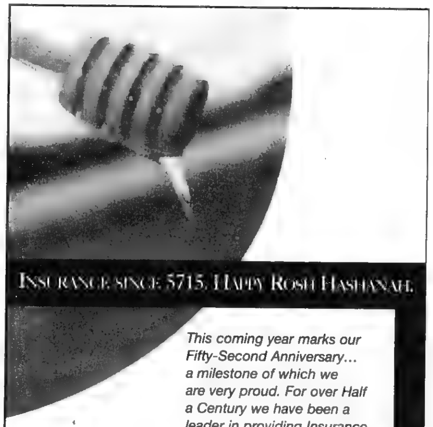

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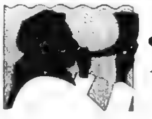

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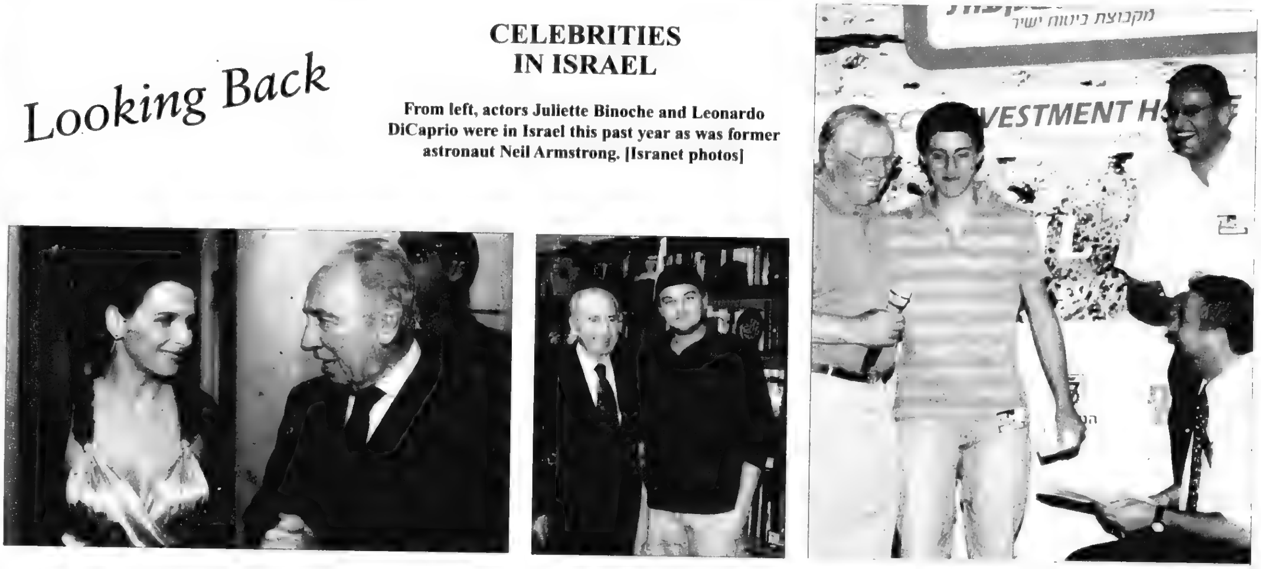
Looking Back

CELEBRITIES IN ISRAEL

From left, actors Juliette Binoche and Leonardo DiCaprio were in Israel this past year as was former astronaut Neil Armstrong. [Isranet photos]



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Renewing Tzedek, tzedek, tirdof

By IRWIN COTLER

I write these words in the month of Elul, on the eve of the High Holy Days, a period of remembrance and reflection, of repentance and resolution, and of moving toward a hopeful reaffirmation and renewal.

This essay addresses the renewal of ourselves as individuals, as a community and as a people, in the international arena under the rubric of the pursuit of justice – of "*tzedek, tzedek, tirdof,*" anchoring ourselves in the Jewish values that underpin this pursuit of justice.

I am not unmindful of the fact that the pursuit of justice in our day – the struggle for human rights and international law – may invite the not uncynical rejoinder that, to paraphrase the philosopher Jeremy Bentham, justice and international law is so much "nonsense on stilts," rhetoric without remedy, of rights without writs, of semantics without sanctions.

Twenty-five years ago, I wrote of human rights as having emerged as the new secular religion of our time. I said that we were witnessing the internationalization of human rights and the humanization of international law. At the time, Father Robert Drinan wrote that "the elevation of human rights into an international juridical norm is the most dramatic development in the history of contemporary jurisprudence."

Yet today, in the face of the "gathering storm" reminiscent of the 1930s – when Jewish conclaves abound with the question, "Is it 1938 all over again?" – talk of justice and human rights has a sometimes dissonant ring to it.

I believe it important that at this juncture, we transcend that which passes for moral relativism, political correctness, let alone cynicism, and ground ourselves in the more eternal verities, values and vision that underpin who we are, and what we can aspire to be.

* * *

I begin at this moment of remembrance and reflection, with the remembrance of the teachings and example of my parents – of blessed memory. (My mother died two years ago on the eve of Rosh Hashanah.)

As my father, who was effectively my first law teacher, taught me, and would always remind me – and this is my omnipresent remembrance and reflection at this time – the pursuit of justice is equal to all the other commandments combined. He taught me that the pursuit of justice is a foundational principle of the *shinantam l'vanecha* – that thou shall teach it unto your children, a basic principle of intergenerational continuity.

Moreover, as the sages tell us, a student should not study in a city that does not have a tzedakah fund, for that is a place without *neshamah* – without soul, without tzaddikim, without righteous people. This is why, in the Hebrew language, as my parents taught me, the terms "justice," "charity" and "righteousness" are all derived from the same three letter root: *tzedek* – and why the notion of "justice, justice, shall you pursue" is as prophetic as it is profound.

While being sworn in as minister of justice, I repeated silently to myself, "Son of Nathan and Faye Cotler" when taking the oath. This was not part of the official oath, but I knew that I was standing there only because of the values that had been imparted to me by my parents. I then began my media scrum, after being sworn in, by stating the following, "That I will be guided in my work by one over-arching principle, that of *tzedek, tzedek tirdof.* And within that, the promotion of the protection of equality not just as a foundational principle of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, but equality as a basic principle for the building of a just society; and the promotion and protection of human dignity, for the building of a society that was not only just, but one that was compassionate and humane." In stating these words, the teaching of my parents was finding expression in my first media encounter.

Thinking about this afterward – that if the pursuit of justice was to be my overarching priority – I went about the country to ask Canadians what they regarded the pursuit of justice as being – what would their priorities be if they were the minister of justice and attorney general of Canada?

> ***The pursuit of justice is equal to all the other commandments combined***

* * *

As it happened, my first meeting was with a group of aboriginal law students who were part of the first-ever aboriginal law school in Nunavut. It was a compelling experience that I believe has implications for our own understanding of *tzedek, tzedek, tirdof*, of who we are and what we might aspire to be.

The students said to me, "Professor Cotler we're not just law students, we're aboriginal law students. We come with a past, a history, a heritage, a language, a culture, an identity with our own indigenous legal tradition – and we've been dispossessed from all of that. We've been dislocated from our history, heritage, language, culture, identity and our legal tradition. It's not that we go to court because we want to nurture a grievance – rather, we go to court to reaffirm who we are."

Continued on page B28

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'We are not just atomized individuals'

Continued from page B27

They added, "We go to court to be reconnected to our history and heritage. We go to court to anchor ourselves in our language, in our culture, in our identity, in our own indigenous legal tradition… Regrettably, in whatever we do, we are accompanied by a great deal of pain. Tragically, the government doesn't understand – often the people of Canada don't understand – the pain that always accompanies us."

I shared with them a parable that comes from our tradition. In it, a group of students come to their rabbi and they say, "Rabbi, we love you." The rabbi says, "Do you know what hurts me?" The students ask, "Rabbi, why do you ask if we know what hurts you if we tell you we love you?" And the rabbi answers, "If you don't know what hurts me, you can't tell me you love me."

This is a profound principle of human relationships. It is also a profound principle that governments must themselves appreciate in their relationships with the disadvantaged and the most vulnerable in our society – such as aboriginal people.

I then went on to say something else to them. "I hope you won't find this presumptuous, but I also come from an aboriginal people – a people that still inhabits the same land, worships the same God, embraces the same aboriginal abrahamic religion, studies the same aboriginal Torah, harkens to the same aboriginal prophets, speaks the same aboriginal language – Hebrew – and bears the same aboriginal name – Israel – as we did 3,500 years ago." At that moment, the students came up to me and said, "We thought this was going to be yet another speech – yet another 'blah blah' – from a white man. Welcome one aboriginal person to another."

* * *

There is a message in all of this: we are not just atomized individuals – rather, we are part of an aboriginal people with a history and a heritage, a people anchored in the notion, in the principle, with all its universal resonance, of *tzedek, tzedek, tirdof*; and we should not compromise who we are on the alter of political correctness. For we will invite respect if we give expression to our own authenticity, our own history and heritage – our own ideals and our vision.

And if, as Hillel taught us, one can sum up the whole of the Torah in one sentence, "Do not do onto others that which is hateful onto you," so the whole notion of Jewish values and human rights – the jurisprudential norm for *tzedek, tzedek, tirdof* – can be summed up in Hillel's trilogy.

First, "If I am not for myself who will be for me." If we do not affirm our history and our heritage, our ethics and our ethos, our values and our vision, how can we expect others to understand who we are, let alone respect that sense of *tzedek, tzedek, tirdof* in its universal resonance?

Second, if we do not involve ourselves in the larger struggles for human rights and human dignity in our times – whether it be the struggle against racism and anti-Semitism, the struggle against discrimination of any kind, the struggle for women's rights, the struggle on behalf of the disadvantaged, the struggle for global human rights – if we do not involve ourselves in the larger struggle for human rights and human dignity in our times, we will not only diminish that struggle by our absence but we will also diminish ourselves as Jews.

Third, the struggle for human rights and human dignity, and the struggle for justice, has to have a sense of moral urgency about it. It is not something that can be done by marching with a placard once a year and saying, "I've done my thing for whatever the case and cause happens to be." Rather, the struggle means being in the trenches of human rights day in and day out.

* * *

May I share with you, however briefly, a set of seven basic Jewish values – that also have universal resonance – that underlie this Hillel idiom, and constitute the foundational principles of the pursuit of justice.

Whoever saves a single life, it is as if they have saved an entire universe

The first value is that of *zachor* – remembrance. As we say every year when we commemorate the Holocaust – unto each person there is a name, unto each person there is an identity, unto each person is a universe. As our sages tell us, whoever saves a single life, it is as if they have saved an entire universe, thereby giving expressing to the sanctity of human life in the context of remembrance – so appropriate in this period of remembrance and reflection.

Another feature of *zachor* is that it is inextricably bound up with Jewish identity. For what does it mean to say as we say at Passover every year – that in every generation each person must see himself or herself as if we, too, experience the oppression of slavery, and as if we, too, experience the exhilaration and the purpose of liberation?

We are reminded therefore – and this brings me to the second value – that *zachor* is bound up not only with Holocaust remembrance but also with Jewish identity in the most profound sense and with the principle of equality in our identity. For we are reminded at all times that we were strangers in Egypt, and the notion of stranger is repeated 36 times in the Bible to make the point that "you shall have one law for you and the stranger." The notion of equality, therefore, is at the core of this principle of *zachor*, as *zachor* is at the core of our identity.

Continued on page B29

Guard against assaultive speech

Continued from page B28

These principles of remembrance and quality – foundational principles of the Jews as an aboriginal people – give rise to a third value: the danger of assaultive speech. And here, too, I was taught early on by my mother, who exemplified this throughout her life, that "life and death is on the tip of the tongue"; that the pronouncement that we will be repeating during these High Holy Days, that one should not go up and down the community as a gossip, as a slanderer, is a fundamental moral precept. And indeed, the liturgy during the High Holy Days is replete with admonitions against hateful and assaultive, defamatory speech.

It is important, with respect to the whole question of assaultive speech, to guard against it in all its configurations. It has profound lessons for human relationships and can be destructive of those human relationships. It has profound lessons for a community, for a people, for it was this assaultive speech that brought about the destruction of the Temple. And it has profound lessons for relationships between states and peoples.

For one of the more enduring lessons of the Nazi Holocaust is that the genocide of European Jewry succeeded not only because of the industry of death and the technology of terror but also because of the ideology, the pathology of hate. It was this state-sanctioned teaching of contempt, this demonizing of the other, this is where it all began. As the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed in upholding the constitutionality of our anti-hate legislation: the Holocaust did not begin in the gas chambers, it began with words.

These, as the court put it, are the chilling facts of history – the catastrophic effects of racism. And we have been witness, in our own time, to a growing trafficking in hate, which took us down the road to ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, to the genocide in Rwanda.

And we are witness today, yet again, to state-sanctioned genocidal anti-Semitism whose epicentre is President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Iran, the toxic convergence of the advocacy of the most horrific of crimes – namely genocide, with the most enduring of hatreds, namely anti-Semitism, propelled in a publicly avowed intent to acquire nuclear weapons for that purpose, and dramatized by the parading in the streets of Tehran a Shihab-3 missile draped in the emblem, "Wipe Israel off the map."

It should not be surprising that the importance of *zachor*, of equality, of the dangers of state-sanctioned hate, should lead inexorably to the fourth value, "Thou shall not sit idly by while thy brother's blood is being shed." Indeed, it follows right after the admonitions against assaultive speech, and it is anchored in yet another lesson of *zachor* – which has universal resonance – the danger of silence, the consequences of inaction.

Indeed, the Holocaust and the genocides of history happened not only because of the industry of death and the ideology of hate but also because of crimes of indifference, because of conspiracies of silence, the conspiracies of bystanders to evil. And we have witnessed an appalling indifference in our own day that took us down the road to the unthinkable: ethnic cleansing in the Balkans – and the unspeakable: genocide in Rwanda – unspeakable because no one can say that we did not know. We knew and we did not act, just as today in Darfur, we know and we are not acting.

It is our responsibility, as a community, as a people, wherever we may be, to break down these walls of indifference, to shatter these conspiracies of silence, to stand up and be counted and not look around to see whoever else is standing before we make a judgment to do so. For in the world in which we live, there are few people prepared to stand – let alone to be counted.

We must remember at all times that the notion of "never again" must not just be an idle slogan – it has to be a call to action, it has to be a moral imperative; and it has to be anchored in yet another one of our principles: that each of us, wherever we are, are the guarantors of each other's destiny.

Continued on page B30

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'It just needs to be a touch of human kindness'

Continued from page B29

This leads us to the fifth value – the protection of the vulnerable. Indeed, our tradition teaches us – and the High Holy Days are a constant reminder for us – that the test of a just society is how it treats the most vulnerable among us: children, women, minorities, refugees, the elderly, the sick, the disadvantaged and the like.

At this moment of reflection, I am reminded of the words spoken to me by my daughter, Gila, when she was 15 years old. She is now a 27-year-old law student. Those words were a profound lesson in human rights for me. She said, "Daddy, if you want to know what the real test of human rights is, always ask yourself, at any time, in any situation, in any part of the world, is it good for children? Is what is happening good for children? That is the real test of human rights, daddy." At this period of reflection and renewal, children should be the focal point of our concern.

As our sages remind us – and this is a sixth value – it is as a result of righteous women that the Jewish people were liberated from Egypt. And so, the notion that women's rights are human rights, and that there are no human rights that do not include the rights of women must be a priority on the justice agenda; not just as a matter of rhetoric but also as a matter of principle and policy, and that holds true within our community as well. The principle of gender equality – of gender equity – must pervade whatever we do.

This brings me to the seventh and final value in this pursuit of justice – that tikkun olam must be the clarion call for the pursuit of justice in the international arena.

And I am reminded here of another profound teaching of my parents, that if you want to pursue justice, you have to have a sense of injustice; otherwise the pursuit of justice is an undue abstraction.

And if we look around, what we witness is a pervasive sense of injustice – the pervasiveness of mass atrocities, the pervasiveness of poverty, the pervasiveness of inequality. All this is so shocking and demeaning to the human condition that tikkun olam becomes an overriding imperative.

I am talking about a situation in which the assets of three of the richest people in the world exceed the combined gross domestic product of 48 of the world's poorest developing countries. I'm talking of a situation in which three billion people in the world live in poverty, earning less than two dollars a day. Half of them, 1.5 billion people, live in extreme poverty, earn less than a dollar a day. I'm talking about a situation in which 4.4 billion people – three-fifths of humanity – have no access to basic sanitation. I'm talking about a situation in which more than 130,000 Africans die every week of preventable causes.

In the face of these numbing statistics, it must be remembered that behind every one of these horrific statistics is a human being. It is not surprising that in light of these numbing and horrifying numbers, the question arises, "But what can I do, what can I do in the face of this pervasive injustice?" The words of our sages come back to remind us: it may not be incumbent upon you to complete the work, but it is incumbent upon you to begin it.

* * *

In the end, we must go back to the beginning – to the notion that *tzedek, tzedek, tirdof* is equal to all the other commandments combined, that it must pervade whatever we do as individuals, as a community, as a people and as a government – and that the pursuit of justice must always be anchored in that sense of injustice.

As Maimonides put it in his statement "On the Value of Good Action," one should look at the world as being half good and half bad so that with only one good action one can shift the balance for oneself, and the rest of the world, to the side of the good. In a time of assault on human rights, at a time of pervasive injustice, we should appreciate that each one of us must see himself and herself as having an indispensable role to play in this indivisible struggle with respect to tikkun olam, and the pursuit of justice, beginning now with resolve and renewal at the start of this Jewish New Year.

Each one of us, if we reflect upon it, and we act so as to renew ourselves, has the capacity every day to do something on behalf of some victim somewhere of discrimination and disadvantage and disability. It does not have to be the whole macro thing of "human rights in the abstract." It does not have to be tikkun olam only in the macro sense of the word. It just needs to be a touch of human kindness – a touch of chesed every day. It may be in the kind word spoken or the unkind word not spoken, in guarding ourselves against assaultive speech. It may be in the visiting of the sick, because as our sages remind us, those who do not visit the sick, it is as if they are shedding their blood.

It may be in the treatment of the stranger, the immigrant, the refugee. It may be in the respect for the elderly. It may be the realization that again, as our teachings put it – the world is a narrow bridge and we are all connected to one another in this global village. Pursuing justice, doing justice one by one, ourselves and in our human relationships, within our community and within our people, between peoples and between states – that is what tikkun olam and the pursuit of justice is all about. That is why remembering and reflecting, resolving and affirming, and now renewing our commitment to *tzedek, tzedek, tirdof* is so important.

We need not merely dream of building a just society. Through the doing of justice, through pursuing justice as a call to action, through our *ma'asim tovim* – good deeds – we need not only dream of building a just society. We can help build it.

Professor Irwin Cotler is the official opposition critic for human rights and former minister of justice and attorney-general of Canada. He is a professor of law (on leave, McGill University).

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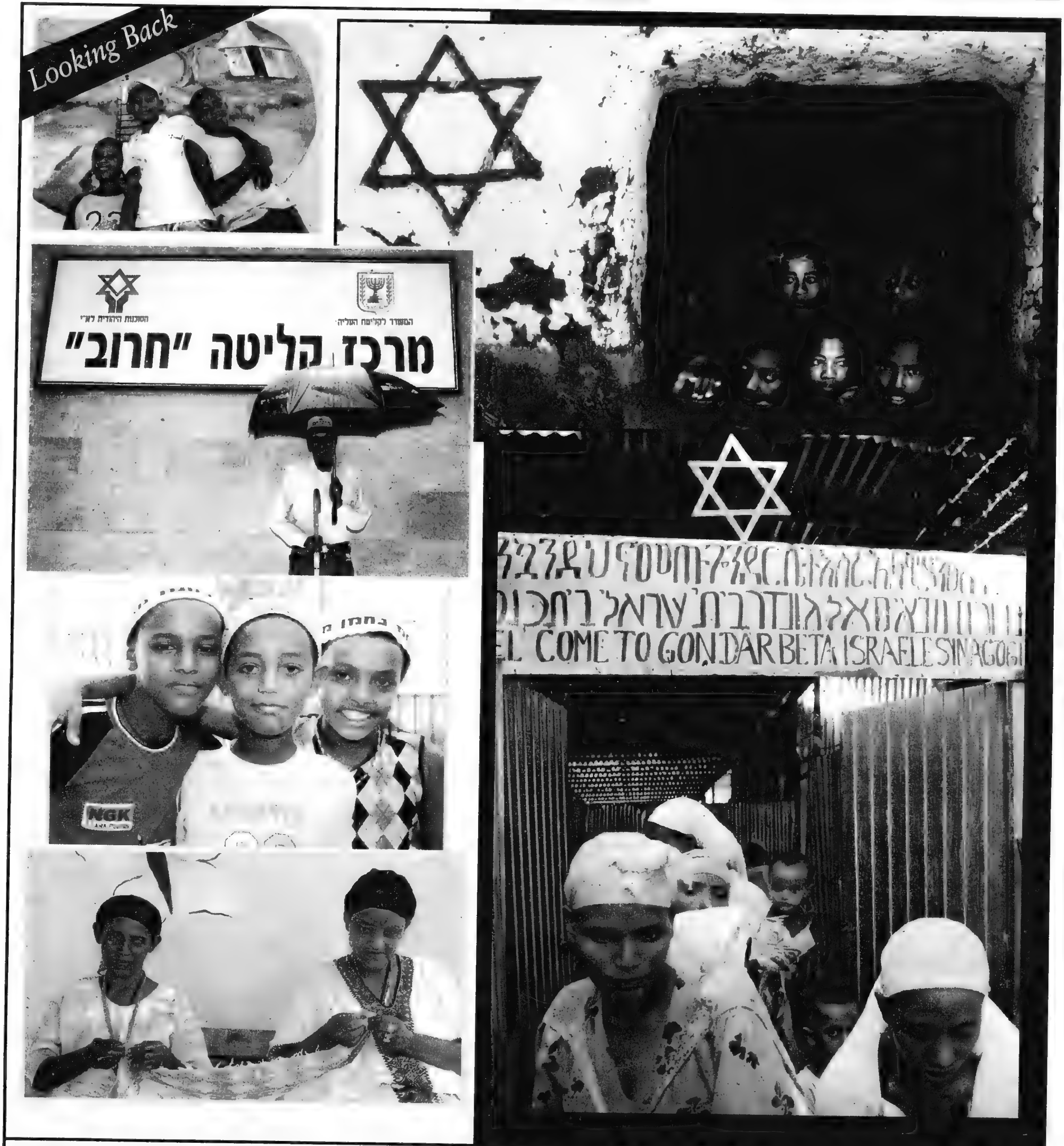
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NEW LAND, NEW LIVES, NEW HOPE: Immigrants from Ethiopia continued to arrive in Israel at the rate of 300 per month through the rescue program of the Jewish Agency for Israel. Clockwise from top right, prospective immigrants of Falas Mura in the compound and synagogue in Addis Ababa and then, bottom left, after their safe arrival in Israel, at the Charuv absorption centre in Be'er Sheva.

[Israel Sun photos]

Renewing Tzedakah and tikkun olam

By SALLY MENDELSOHN

For each of the past two summers, my family has spent three weeks in Rwanda, working on health care projects.

Why, you might ask, did we choose to spend summer vacations volunteering in Africa? Why Rwanda? Why work in a country so poor that it's hard to see how its people can escape their desperate poverty? Certainly there are people in our own communities who need our help.

Actually, our involvement stems directly from our Jewish roots, and the experiences we have had in Rwanda have contributed substantially to our Jewish and spiritual lives. We see this project as renewing and broadening our commitment to tzedakah and tikkun olam.

Finding Rwanda on our map

Three years ago, a friend, a pediatric AIDS physician, told us about his travels to Rwanda, where he helped develop medical protocols for the children of HIV-positive women. At that point, we had only a superficial awareness of this African country, and that was thanks to the movie *Hotel Rwanda*.

As the movie recounts, in April of 1994, a violent Hutu party took control of the government, the army and the country of Rwanda and launched a genocidal attack upon the Tutsi minority and moderate Hutus. In 100 days, an estimated 800,000 to 1.2 million men, women and children were murdered. An estimated 250,000 women were raped. In many if not most rape cases, HIV-infected Hutu men raped Tutsi women. According to survivor testimony, in many cases, the rapist made it clear to his victim that she would pass the disease on to her unborn child and that both would die a slow death.

After the violent Hutu government and army were defeated, many of the perpetrators of the genocide were indicted and incarcerated. In prison, HIV-positive perpetrators received anti-retroviral treatment, which allowed them to survive with a long-term chronic illness.

In contrast, the rape victims often returned to their homes with an undiagnosed and untreated disease. Over time, AIDS claimed the lives of an ever-growing number of these women and their children.

Listening to the story of genocidal rape, it seemed to me that the Rwandan genocide was not over. Every time a victim of genocidal rape dies of AIDS, every time a victim's child is born with AIDS, the genocide continues.

As we read and learned more, we found an eerie echo of Jewish history in the story of the Rwandan genocide. A radical group spewed forth propaganda of hate, gained control of the government and organized the society in support of a crazed program to murder and eliminate a whole people. Hundreds of thousands of people were selected from among their neighbours and slaughtered because of their ethnic heritage. And after the nightmare, thousands of people living in the Diaspora returned to rebuild their homeland.

But in this sub-Saharan African version of the story, we individually, and as North Americans, and as Jews, were the bystanders who were silent while one million died.

My husband, an idealistic and bold fellow, reached out to public leaders, including the former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, Stephen Lewis, to ask for advice about how we could act upon our desire to help Rwanda.

Lewis, who now operates the Stephen Lewis Foundation funds, which fund AIDS-related community-based initiatives in Africa, encouraged us to meet with a not-for-profit organization that provides medical care primarily to women and children with HIV/AIDS, with a special focus on women who were infected with HIV through genocidal rape, and on their families. This group was beginning to work with the medical staff of a rural health centre outside the capital Kigali, with the goal of improving maternity care at the centre.

After a few meetings, this organization invited me, a midwife with more than 20 years of clinical experience in hospitals, homes and birth centres, and eight years of teaching experience at New York University's midwifery education program, to visit its health centre, work with Rwandan midwives, and offer my assessment and advice. I found the invitation tempting. But the decision to go to Rwanda was really made for me when our 22-year-old daughter, Lea Lowenfeld, said, "Come on, Mom, a Jewish midwife and her daughter in Africa – we'll be like Shifra and Puah."

Continued on page B33

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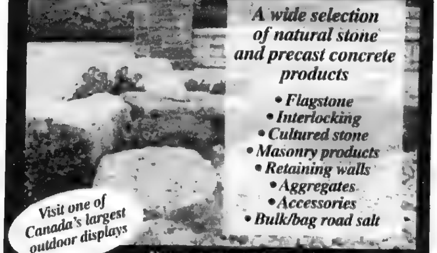

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Work of the staff was inspiring

Continued from page B32

That did it for me. We booked travel tickets for three.

Seeing Rwanda as a midwife

My goals were first to observe, listen and learn about maternity care in Rwanda. I knew from my research that Rwanda has one of the worst maternal mortality rates in the world. There are only a few obstetricians/gynecologists and midwives serving a country of more than eight million people with a birth rate higher than four per cent. Most women give birth at home, and many of these births are unattended. In the rural health clinics, most maternity care is provided by nurses.

I spent much of my time visiting different health-care facilities. I had an opportunity to work in hospitals and in health centres in the capital Kigali and in the countryside. I was repeatedly impressed by the courage and dedication of both the professionals and the childbearing women themselves. I found the care providers to be optimistic, willing to learn and eager to upgrade their skills. Many of them are as well prepared as their counterparts in North America. Unfortunately, adverse conditions challenge their ability to provide adequate care.

The health-care facilities, staffing and equipment are lacking in every respect. For example, at Muhima Hospital in Kigali, the busiest maternity hospital in Rwanda, the obstetric and midwifery staff deliver approximately 40 babies a day – that's more than 12,000 babies a year – yet the labour ward has only four beds. As a rule, there are two or three labouring mothers sharing each bed. Other women walk around, kneel or squat while they labour. Four delivery tables are lined up side by side in the one large delivery room.

A precious moment at the clinic

And it is common to find two or three tiny neonates sharing one infant-warming unit. Mothers are routinely sent home at six hours after a normal delivery, simply because the beds are needed for the next arrivals.

In the countryside health centres, the situation is even more challenging. The shortages of medical equipment and trained specialists are not the only problems at these centres. In many cases, it's the lack of hospital beds with clean mattresses and sheets, working sinks, working toilets and showers, or even reliable electricity.

It was inspiring to realize that a staff of dedicated professionals is able to achieve decent outcomes in a population of mostly healthy childbearing women, despite the inadequacies of the health-care system. But even the most dedicated staff cannot overcome these inadequacies when trying to meet the needs of acute and chronically ill patients.

Learning from Rwanda's helpers

Numerous aid workers assist the Rwandan Government in its efforts to improve health care. Idealists with vision as well as practical strategies assemble the resources and enlist the energy of others to bring about improvement and progress toward reaching the country's goals. We have been privileged to have some of these people as our guides and teachers.

Josh Ruxin directs Columbia University's Millennium Village and Access Projects in Rwanda. These programs strive to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals – the eight goals range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education – for 2015. Ruxin understands that poverty and its related problems can only be tackled through a comprehensive program. His teams work with the Rwandan government in the Mayange region in a co-ordinated effort to improve medical care, agriculture, education and economic development. (Ruxin and his wife, Alissa, also host and lead an annual Passover seder in Kigali.)

Paul Farmer, a medical anthropologist and Harvard MD, teaches that the poor deserve the same quality health care as the rest of society. With the support of the Clinton and Gates foundations, Farmer and his colleagues at Partners in Health (PIH) have rebuilt and refurbished an old hospital building in one of the poorest regions of Rwanda, and now run it as a modern, state-of-the-art hospital facility for the care of the destitute poor. The hospital treats patients with a range of problems, including AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and malnutrition.

PIH also serves the community beyond health-care needs. The organization works in conjunction with the public health sector to provide social support and to advocate for patients and their families to have access to clean water, decent housing, education and food in addition to primary health care. PIH's work demonstrates how supplementing medications with basic necessities such as food, housing and education has led to monumental differences in patient outcomes and the health of communities.

Continued on page B34

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5768

A New York City midwife (the author) with Rwandan traditional birth attendant

Optimism and energy in Rwanda

Continued from page B33

Katharine Anastos, an HIV/AIDS doctor and researcher from the Bronx, began working with community-based organizations in Rwanda early in 2004. She and her colleagues at Women's Equity in Access to Care and Treatment (We-Act) direct several health centres around Kigali, where HIV-testing, care, treatment, support and education is provided. In active partnership with the Rwandan government and several local NGO partners, the centres focus on empowering HIV-positive women and girls to take charge of their lives and become leaders in the fight against AIDS.

Anastos and her colleagues do not see their efforts as a western project. They see themselves as assisting and supporting local people who must direct and continue the effort.

In addition to the professionals with their technical skills, we encountered other people who came to Rwanda to help in their own ways:

We met a graduate student from New York who founded a theatre arts group for talented youngsters in Kigali. A group of students from Arkansas came to tutor Rwandan students in English and math. A recent graduate of the Parsons School of Design brought art supplies to a school in Mayange and ran three days of art classes. In the final session, she brought in four hand-held video cameras, taught students how to operate the cameras, and we watched as the students created impromptu videos of each other in the classroom. (These cameras were left as a donation to the school.)

Rwanda today is not just for volunteers and dreamers of the not-for-profit type. It is also attracting people who want to do business there. CNN.com recently quoted Eric Schmidt, Google's CEO, who said that in Rwanda there is "genuine opportunity for business," adding that "the country's reform-minded government is also one of the continent's most stable and least corrupt." The optimism and energy that we felt in the country draws others as well.

Seeing Rwanda through a Jewish lens

Some of our experiences in Rwanda made us see similarities between Rwandans and Jews. For example, even as they move forward, Rwandans are strongly committed to preserving their history and memorializing the genocide. The murders

Continued on page B35

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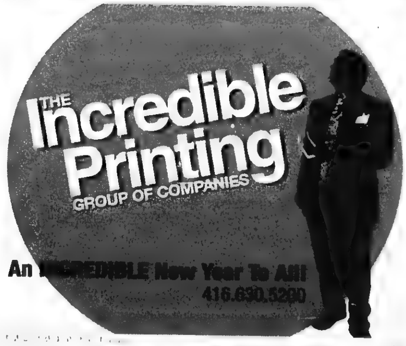

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'Praying for blessing of a good year is no metaphor'

Continued from page B34

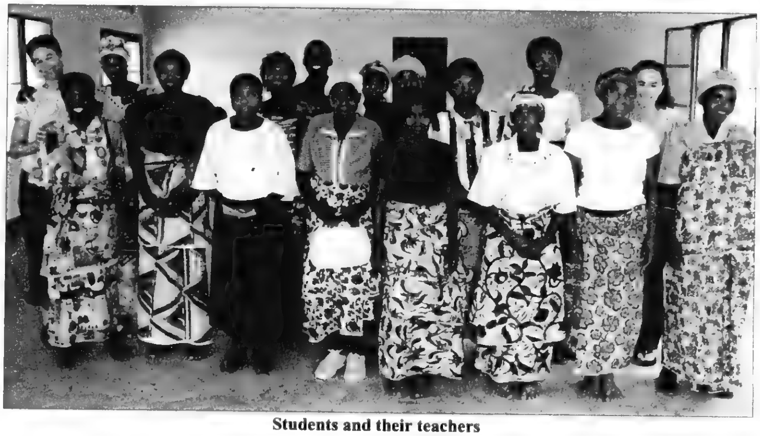
and the genocidal violence occurred inside the homes, churches, and schools of Rwandan communities, in the same places where they lived and where they still live. So genocide memorials are found in almost every town.

The most graphic memorials are found inside large churches and school buildings where tens of thousands of men, women and children who sought refuge were brutally murdered. Mass graves were created. Bloodstained clothing was hung on clotheslines. Rooms are filled with the actual skulls, skeletons and limbs of the victims, treated with lye, and laid out in endless rows, cataloguing and demonstrating the reality of the genocide beyond any possibility of denial.

As we viewed these dry bones, we read from Chapter 37 of Ezekiel. "And he placed me in the centre of the valley. It was full of bones. And he led me around and around and there were many bones spread out in the valley, very dry bones." The chapter describes Ezekiel's prophecy of the bones coming back to life, God's fulfillment of that prophecy, and God's promise to restore life to the dry bones of the vanquished people of Israel.

In this place, these lines read more like a literal description than like a poem rich in imagination. For the first time, I could picture the horrors, making me wonder what the prophet had seen that inspired this image.

Reading other Jewish texts and davening in Rwanda, a poor, pre-modern, vulnerable society, led us to read some of our familiar texts in a more literal way. For example, the words of the siddur seemed more immediate and less poetic. Praying for the blessing of a good year during which we are sated by the good of the land is no metaphor in a land of subsistence agriculture. Praying for the restitution of judges, justice and law is no metaphor in a country where the legal system had an acute collapse, and where almost five per cent of the population stands charged with genocidal acts.



Students and their teachers

It made us think of our rabbis who wrote the prayers not only as poets but also as social commentators and spiritual activists. Their words reflect the social needs of their day and should inspire us to see and address the social needs of our own times.

One more Jewish story from Rwanda

One Shabbat morning three young volunteers asked us, "What did the Jewish community do in 1994?"

Continued on page B36

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‘Jews can be strong workers on behalf of others in need’

Continued from page B35

“Why are you asking?” we replied uneasily, uncomfortable at being cast in the role of Jewish historian or worse, spokesperson, responding to these young Jewish volunteers, who asked further, “At our shuls and all over the Hillels at school, we see signs about Darfur. But what did the Jewish community do during the Rwandan genocide?”

We didn’t have a good answer to this question – only to say that perhaps this is why we are here now and why the Jewish community is actively trying to stop another genocide in Darfur.

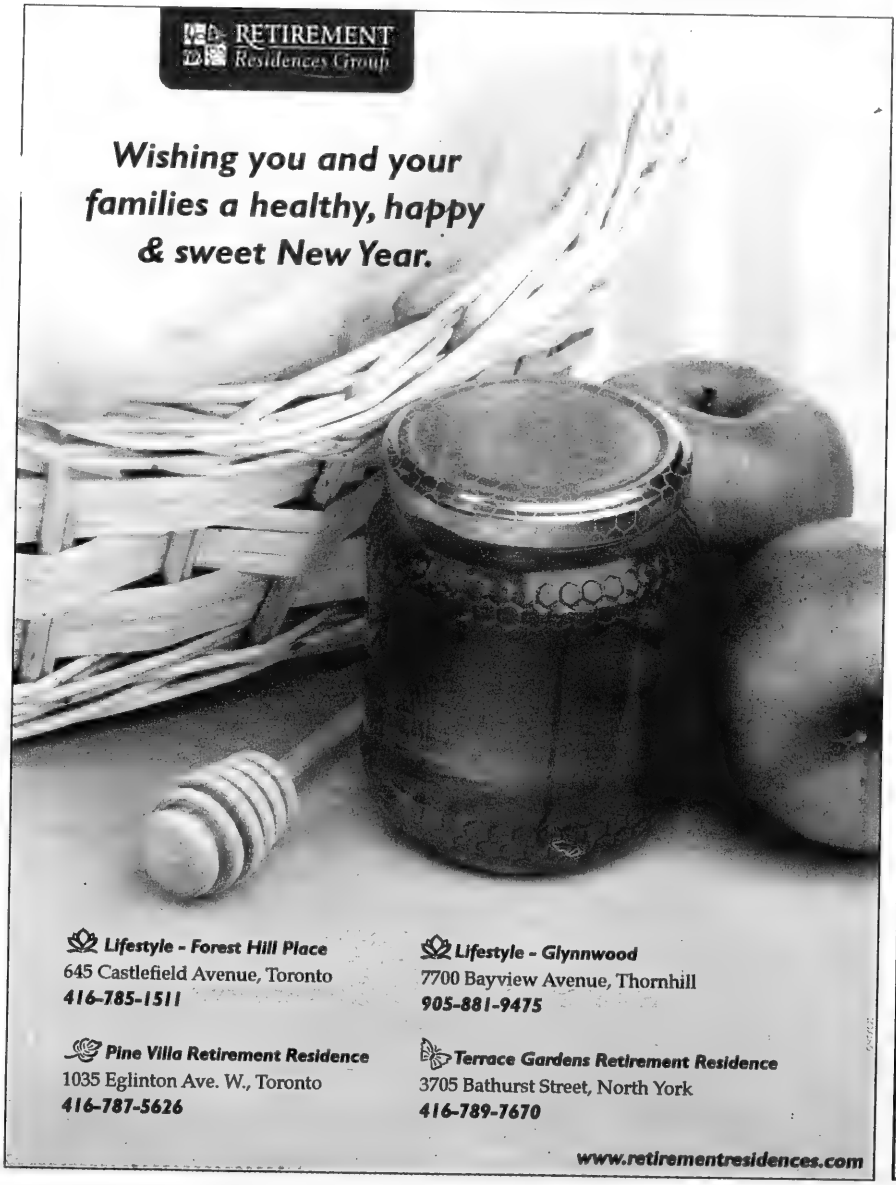
Thinking of Rwanda on Rosh Hashanah

When I sit in shul these upcoming Days of Awe, I know that I will think of Rwanda, especially when our liturgy quotes the prophet Isaiah as saying that God’s house is to be called a “house of prayer on behalf of all people.”

I’ll think about how we Jews can be strong workers on behalf of our own people as well as on behalf of others in need. I’ll pray that in the coming year, the vulnerable poor of the world will enjoy a bountiful harvest. I’ll think about those who are trying to bring the blessings of medicine, education, justice and prosperity to Rwanda. I’ll think about what I can do to improve the life of even one person in need, whether in my neighbourhood, in Israel, or someplace far away, yet not so foreign, like Rwanda.

Sally Mendelsohn is a certified nurse midwife living in Riverdale, N.Y. She was assisted in writing this article by her sister, Ruth Lockshin.

Mother and baby at a rural clinic outside Kigali



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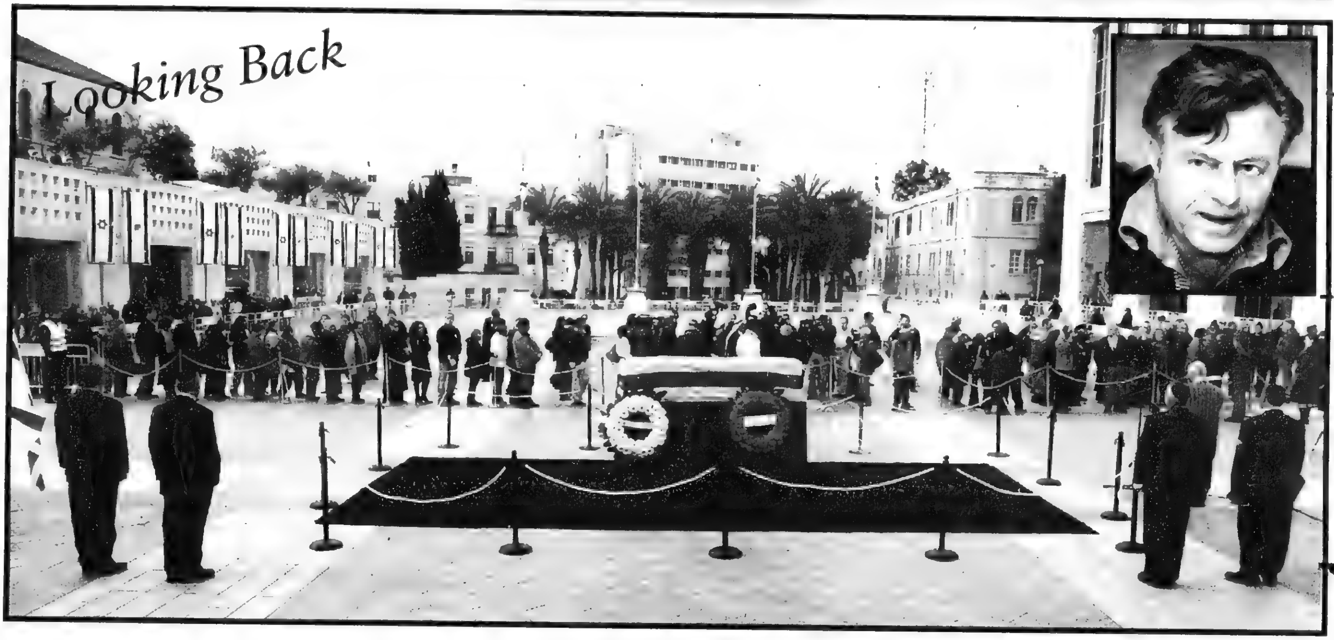

FAREWELL TO A FOUNDER
Teddy Kollek, inset, the legendary former mayor of Jerusalem died last year. A funeral ceremony was conducted in the courtyard of the Jerusalem City Hall. [Isranet photo]

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Renewing Jewish reading

By SARA R. HOROWITZ

Literary Confessions

Many among my friends and acquaintances confess that, along with their machzor, they tuck books into the tallit bags and totes that they bring to shul for the High Holy Days. The machzor, of course, is for davening. The book is for downtime, as defined by the individual reader: slow points in the service, overly long chazzanut, uninspiring responsive readings, less-than-stellar sermons. Common practice is for the reader to place the book inside the machzor, and to read it discreetly, while – to all outward appearances – looking like he or she is engaged in the service.

I can't say with any certainty just how widespread this practice is. Suffice it to say that – perhaps owing to the discretion of its practitioners – I became aware of it fairly late in my shul-going life (which began, I am assured, in utero). But I know now that many people cluster in Jewish book stores or in the Judaica section of large chains looking for just the right Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur read.

Not just any book will do. Although those engaged in clandestine shul reading are going against the grain, for most, it is a practice that has evolved certain principles. Most shul-readers I've spoken with agree that the High Holy Days is no time to catch up on Jason Bourne's antics or Oprah's latest picks. In fact, most view their reading not as resistance to Rosh Hashanah liturgy, but as an enhancement of its spirit. They look for books with a Jewish theme, ranging from High Holy Day readings to Torah commentaries to Jewish history, literature and philosophy.

While the shul-readers may constitute only a small subculture among High Holy Day worshippers, for many more, the act of reading is a prelude to, heightening of, or catalyst for the introspection and renewal demanded by Rosh Hashanah. As such, I take this sub-rosa reading as an emblem of the intensification of Jewish reading more broadly that also occurs before and after the holidays, helping to focus readers, to fine-tune their kavanah, and to deepen their thinking.

As the heat of summer gestures towards the crispness of autumn, people turn to me for suggestions for High Holy Day shul reads. Might I recommend a more contemporary novel, an author or a poet? Something dealing with penitence, perhaps, or with spirituality, with a bit of mysticism tossed into the mix?

Literature and Liturgy

Much as the literature professor in me warms to requests to dip into the magic barrel (to borrow a phrase from Bernard Malamud), these particular recommendations always give me pause. Can the literary impulse. with its delight in esthetics, its playfulness and its unruly impulses, be brought into the compass of the moral accounting and religious awe that are at the centre of these Yamim Nora'im, the High Holy Days?

Continued on page B39

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'Attentiveness to the poetry deepens prayer'

Continued from page B38

Cynthia Ozick, one of the finest living Jewish novelists, has commented on the sharp dichotomy between the literary and the Jewish sensibilities. In *Quarrel and Quandary*, a 2001 collection of essays, Ozick notes a fundamental distinction between the stringent ethical and ritual requirements of Judaism, on the one hand, and the boundless freedom of the literary imagination, on the other: "Fiction has license to do anything it pleases," she observes. "Fiction is liberty at its purest."

If so, does literature have a proper place in serious preparation for Rosh Hashanah, during the Ten Days of Penitence, or, most palpably, slipped between the pages of a machzor?

Cynthia Ozick

It is, of course, meaningless to ask whether literature has such a place. It already holds a central place. In the *Slichot* penitential prayers that begin in the month of Elul and throughout the machzor, literature holds a special, privileged place. The High Holy Day liturgy is thick with literary compositions, as well as highly refined and intricate poetic forms.

The two liturgical confessions that hold centre stage in the Yom Kippur machzor are literary constructs, whose recitation of transgressions follow the needs of literary form. Both the *Viddui zuta*, or the little confession – the one that begins with the words "*ashamnu, bagadnu, gazalnu*" – and the *Viddui rabbah*, or the great confession – the one that repeats the words "*Al cheit shechatanu*," for the sin that we sinned – are poems composed in the Geonic Period (ninth and 10th centuries) that are built on a single and a double alphabetic acrostic, respectively. These are only two examples of the acrostic poems that fill the machzor, following the contours of the Hebrew alphabet or spelling out an author's name or some central key word or concept. Moreover, the most powerful, dramatic moments of the service build on the power of poetic language. Originally intended for recitation on Yom Kippur, *Unetaneh Tokef* ("Let us acclaim"), for example, whose composition is attributed to Rabbi Amnon of Mayence (Mainz, Germany), so captivated the religious imagination of the Jewish communities who recited it that it was incorporated into the Rosh Hashanah liturgy as well.

Machzor
is densely packed
with devotional poems
largely composed
in the Middle Ages

The machzor that we have inherited is densely packed with *piyutim*, or devotional poems, that were largely composed in the Middle Ages. Yet many contemporary worshippers find the majority of these piyutim inaccessible – because of the denseness of the poetic language, the intricacy of the poetic form, and, for some, the often lacklustre translations. Ironically, it is often at precisely those moments when the service lingers on these stunning piyutim that people slip the extra reading matter into their machzor.

Sometimes, the very literariness of liturgical compositions can work against the ideas they express. For example, midrash scholar David Stern recollects the crisis of faith he experienced upon first realizing, as a yeshiva student, that the confession recited in the Yom Kippur *Viddui* followed the alphabet. In "The ABC's of Confession," he remembers, "I had been reciting this prayer… assuming not only that every word counted, but that every word was there to cover a different kind of transgression, to make us confess and acknowledge a different species of shortcoming or sin. And now I realized that this was not so – that the reason you had *bagadnu* after *ashamnu* was not because devastation led to betrayal or that these were even different types of transgressions, but because you needed a word for sinning that began with a bet."

Struggling with the tension between demands of esthetic form and religious meaning, Stern comes to recognize that plunging deeply into the prayer as poem dissolves the tension. A real attentiveness to the elements of poetry deepens the experience of prayer. From his wife, poet Kathryn Hellerstein, he comes to appreciate how "the most exacting and rigorous formal requirements elicit the most intense and concentrated expressions of feeling."

Bearing this in mind when called upon to recommend literary readings for the Yamim Nora'im, I like to recommend the machzor itself, along with a book or an article on medieval Hebrew poetry, such as Raymond Scheindlin's *The Gazelle: Medieval Hebrew Poems on God, Israel, and the Soul* or Jakob Petuchowski's *Theology and poetry: Studies in the Medieval Piyyut.*

Understanding how a piyyut works as a poem and what theological concept it frames opens up the liturgy in breathtaking ways. In the best of circumstances, the labour of working through a poem coalesces with the labour of working through one's self. Together, the two processes intensify the *cheshbon ha-nefesh*, the personal accounting, and the aspiring toward the Divine that open up the possibilities of renewal promised by the High Holy Days.

Continued on page B40

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The fiction of immigrants

Continued from page B39

Discontents of Modernism

Ozick's contention about an essential incompatibility between the literary and the religious impulse – the one, unfettered, the other beholden to morality – becomes more difficult to negotiate when looking for more contemporary Jewish literature to usher in and enhance the spiritual work of the Yamim Nora'im. From the Enlightenment onward, literature has valued individuality, skepticism and liberty, while Judaism calls for moral seriousness, restraint, and collective conscience.

Modern Jewish literature, in particular, has often been a secular venue that charts the search for alternatives to traditional ways of life. Nineteenth and 20th century literature in Yiddish and in Hebrew maps the author's struggles with a tradition ambivalently seen as overly confining, restrictive and parochial, but, frequently at the same time, also as stable, protective, nurturing and benign. Writers created esthetic works that traced their struggles with modernity and its impact on Jewish ways of life.

The same ambivalent mixture of love and repudiation of Jewish texts and traditions marks mid-20th century North American literature by such masters as Saul Bellow, Bernard Malamud, Mordecai Richler, Henry Roth, and Philip Roth. Drawing on Jewish texts, history and experiences but also shrugging off their particularism and constraints, these writers embrace modernity and the New World with its freedom and open invitation, and they also struggle with the anomie and void that comes with that embrace.

> **Narratives captured the process of acculturation**

Indeed, for much of the 20th century, the fiction of Jewish immigrants and their progeny wrote its way into American and Canadian cultures with narratives that captured the process of acculturation through a distancing from Jewish traditional practices, construed mockingly or nostalgically as relics of a European life left behind, a wellspring of historical or textual memories, that, depending on the author, the novel, or the poem, would oppress or elevate. You could say that for many Jewish North American writers and their readers, literature served, in a sense, as an alternative grounding for Jewish ethics and values that in the past had been derived more directly from religious learning and practice. Literary texts became, in some senses, the modernist's alternative to sacred text.

At first encounter, then, this body of literature may seem discordant with the mood of the High Holy Days. The irreverence, playfulness and irony of such authors, their reliance on self rather than on received authority, and their path from the synagogue to the civic arena, the marketplace, the natural world and the brothel, seems far removed from the mussarist movement or the chassidic traditions whose texts seem to hold more relevance for the holy days at hand.

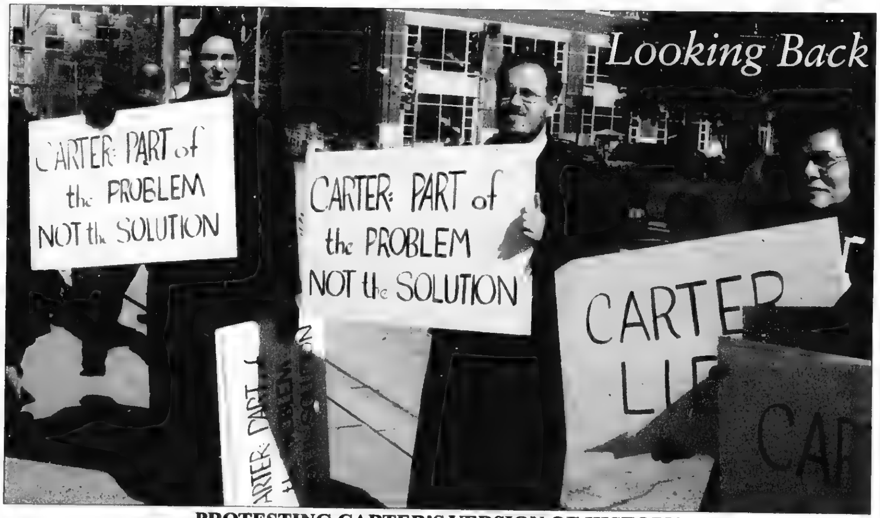
But it would be a mistake to toss out modern Jewish literature, however impious, from the textual arsenal for repentance, renewal and redemption, although its trajectory is not straightforward.

Existential Aloneness

Twentieth century Jewish literature reflects the vertigo of a world where traditional values and authorities have given way, where the world has lost its centre. Endless possibilities beckon, endless pitfalls await. In place of the certainties of a universe saturated with religious meaning, there are only the meanings that humans struggle to create in our time and in our world, provisional and fragile. How distanced this seems from the image in the High Holy Day liturgy of the Shepherd who passes over His flock, determining the destiny of all humankind.

But the empty place where once there was a moral centre does not lead modern Jewish writers to celebrate an existence where all is permitted. Instead, the literature of the past century reflects a struggle to maintain a sense of meaningfulness and moral order. By dint of human effort, a moral centre holds.

Continued on page B41


Looking Back
CARTER: PART of the PROBLEM NOT the SOLUTION
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PROTESTING CARTER'S VERSION OF HISTORY

A number of people at Brandeis University protest former U.S. president Jimmy Carter at a speaking engagement. His book *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid* was condemned as contributing to the delegitimization of the Jewish state.

[Carrie Devorah photo]

Open to literary imagination

Continued from page B40

While writers acknowledge the danger of idolatry in such an attitude – humans worshiping only ourselves – what they emphasize is the imperative of human accountability. If we slip up, if we do not take up the responsibility that is ours alone, there is only the void.

Paradoxically, this inward focus of modern writers parallels the insistence on self-scrutiny in the High Holy Day liturgy. Whether existentially alone, or existentially alone before the Divine, we humans shape our destiny and infuse the world with meaningfulness through our actions and attitudes.

I do not mean to suggest that modern novels serve as vehicles for straightforward moral instruction, with characters providing "positive role models" who conform to religious and other norms of their community. Literature proceeds through indirection. We might say that literature follows the model of Tanach, where human beings, flawed and imperfect, rarely exemplify flawless and perfect behaviour.

In reading the Torah's narratives, we make our way through morally ambiguous or difficult situations, with people driven by passions – love for one's children, for one's spouse, for a "forbidden" person, or hatred for those same close relatives. While Abraham's exemplary hospitality is often cited as a model for Jews to imitate, more often, we do not learn directly from a character's behaviour, but from the structure of the narrative in which that behaviour is inscribed.

> ***If we slip up, if we do not take up the responsibility that is ours alone, there is only the void***

The Torah, of course, has a governing moral vision that's not always present in contemporary literature. To the contrary. Literature hones in on pressure points, building on conflict and crisis. It compels us to imagine wildly, to drop our beliefs and habits and good sense, at least momentarily. It seduces us with words, fans our secret desires, tricks us into claiming parts of ourselves we prefer to deny.

I recently came upon a story about the Baal Shem Tov (or the Besht), the 18th-century mystic who is considered the founder of Chassidism, that struck me as emblemizing this aspect of literature. When the Besht was hired as a *melamed*, or tutor for some children, the children's father offered him a house that was thought to be invaded by "impure spirits." Despite its shady denizens, the Besht agreed to live in the house. According to the story, he "assigned the attic to the demons, God forbid, and when they [the demons] laughed, he scolded them and they became silent."

In this story, the Besht does not exorcise the demons, nor expel them from his house, nor destroy them. Instead, he shares his home with them, but without allowing them to take over. The story imagines a dynamic relationship between the Besht and the demons – one in which he hears their laughter, and then silences them – for a time.

We might think of these demons who dwell in the attic as parts of ourselves that we overtly repudiate – the parts of ourselves that literature often coaxes us into claiming. Like the Besht's demons, these aspects of self do not go away entirely. If unacknowledged, they may sit and sabotage what we do and who we like to be. But if we claim them, and we hear them, then – like the Besht – we may keep them in their proper place.

When I was a graduate student at Brandeis University, I had the privilege of studying with a brilliant professor of Hebrew literature named Yehuda Friedlander who was visiting from Bar-Ilan University. As a literature professor who was personally *dati* (observant), he was awake to the conflicting impulses of the religious and the literary sensibilities. During one class, he addressed his working through of this tension through an insightful reading of a verse in *Pirkei Avot* (*Ethics of the Fathers*).

"Rabbi Ya'akov omer, ha-m'halech baderech v'shoneh, umafsik mimishnato, v'omer 'ma na'eh ilan zeh,' 'ma na'eh nir zeh, ma'aleh,' alav ha-katuv k'ilu mit'chayev b'nafsho."

("Rabbi Yakov said: One who is walking along a path while learning, and interrupts his studying to say, 'How lovely is this tree!' or 'How lovely is this field!' Scripture regards him as though he was liable for his life [or, bears guilt for his soul]." (3:9)

In conventional readings, the verse in *Pirkei Avot* stands as a cautionary statement, a warning not to stray from learning, not to give way to the distractions of nature or anything else. But Prof. Friedlander understood it as warning against the allure not only of the beauty of nature, but of esthetics more broadly. Read in this way, the verse warned against the seductions of literature, and of any text that might compete with, and ultimately displace, the sacred one at hand.

Prof. Friedlander offered an alternate understanding for the ending of the verse. Rather than proclaiming the guilt of him who interrupts his study to contemplate beauty, he read the word *mitchayev* not as meaning "guilty" or "liable," but "responsible." Struck by beauty, opening oneself up to esthetic form and the literary imagination, one becomes *chayav b'nafsho*, responsible and answerable for his own soul, open to the perils of undoing, but also to the wondrous possibilities of renewal.

Prof. Sara Horowitz is director of York University's Centre for Jewish Studies.

Looking Back

INTERFAITH MEETING

A rare meeting of leaders of all faiths was held last year in Jerusalem. No policy pronouncements or statements of agreement resulted from the gathering. (Isranet)

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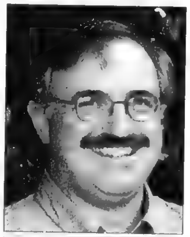
Renewing Commitment to the Hebrew language

"The Hebrew of your poets, Zion, is like oil upon a burn, cool as oil." Thus did American Jewish poet Charles Reznikoff begin the first poem in his volume *Jerusalem the Golden*, published in 1934 – with praise not for the language in which he composed his work, but instead for Hebrew. He ends on a personal note, with a lament: "Like Solomon, I have married and married the speech of strangers; none is like you, Shulamite."



By RABBI PERETZ RODMAN

Echoing the plaintive longing of a lover for his beloved as expressed in the *Song of Songs*, Reznikoff speaks for many modern Jews in bemoaning his detachment from the language that embodies not just the classical age of Jewish culture but the entire sweep of Jewish literature until modern times.

To call Hebrew a language "revived" or "reborn," as some have done, would be to invite a paraphrase of Mark Twain's quip that "reports of my death are greatly exaggerated."

Educated Jews throughout the ages were literate in the Hebrew of the Bible and the later Hebrew of rabbinic literature. Hebrew – sometimes with an admixture of Aramaic, its close cousin among Semitic languages – was the language of Torah learning and Jewish scholarship, with many new works written in Hebrew in every generation. From the earliest biblical legends to the vital journalism and *belles lettres* of the Jewish Enlightenment of the late 18th century and beyond, Hebrew was the medium in which Jewish culture thrived, even though it was no one's first language. Even works composed in other languages, such as the great philosophical works written by Sa'adia Gaon, Maimonides and Yehuda Halevi in Arabic, were preserved and studied among Jews worldwide in Hebrew translation.

Furthermore, many educated Jews could also cobble together a sentence or two of spoken Hebrew if they needed to do so in order to communicate with other Jews with whom they had no common spoken language, as we know from many medieval and modern sources. It was not ideology only that propelled Hebrew as the language of the renewed Jewish community of Eretz Yisrael in the late 19th century. Practical considerations alone had already caused Jews from vastly different parts of the world to choose Hebrew as a means of communication.

It is only in modern times, then, that one can find educated Jews – and even, most remarkably, Jews with a substantial education in Jewish culture and practice – for whom Hebrew remains very much a foreign language. Reznikoff's lament is a modern one.

Hebrew in modern Jewish life

For Jewish nationalists and for partisans of a modern secular Jewish culture, the restoration of Hebrew as the Jewish people's vernacular became a central pillar of their program for Jewish renewal. We have all heard of the efforts of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, first in Europe and later in Jerusalem, to expand the vocabulary of Hebrew to meet contemporary needs and even to raise his own children as the first native speakers of Hebrew in many centuries.

Ben-Yehuda represents only the crest of a wave. In the wake of the efforts of his generation, European Jews as well as Jews in Palestine created a network of Hebrew-speaking schools and even of Hebrew-speaking teachers' colleges. The opening of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1925 can be seen as the pinnacle of those early efforts.

Those efforts were parallelled here in North America, most notably from the 1920s to the 1940s, by the founding of supplementary schools, summer camps and teachers colleges in which Hebrew was the medium of instruction, a movement then called "Ivrit b'Ivrit" ([teaching] Hebrew in Hebrew).

As Jewish day school education advanced in the 1950s, '60s and '70s from being a marginal phenomenon to providing the education for some of the core group of North American Jews, many of the principals and teachers who directed those schools and taught Jewish studies in them were alumni of those Hebraist institutions. Some had been trained in Europe, some in Israel, some in North America. Whether trained in Warsaw, Jerusalem or Cleveland, they shared a commitment to the primacy of the Hebrew language as the medium of instruction for Jewish learning.

The foundations of that commitment were practical as well as ideological. It was not only a sense of unity with the new Hebrew-speaking Jewish community of Eretz Yisrael that led the Hebraists to advocate teaching modern Hebrew. They understood that their students were not about to make aliyah in great numbers, and they were fully aware that the culture of modern Israel could not be a substitute for an attractive, creative, dynamic Jewish culture in the Diaspora. Their commitment to modern Hebrew was not only about Jewish unity over space; it was about Jewish continuity over time as well. Acquiring facility in modern Hebrew as a medium of communication is, they understood, the most efficient path to learning to read classical Hebrew, the language of the Bible and the post-biblical Jewish canon.

Continued on page B43

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Desire to communicate motivates successful language learning

Continued from page B42

That insight was not at all obvious or intuitive, and the case for it must be made now as well. To do so, we need to take a look first at how people learn languages.

Language acquisition and Hebrew language instruction

People learn languages in one of two ways. They learn classical languages – Latin, Greek, Sanskrit – by formal study of grammar and vocabulary, and the goal of instruction is to learn to comprehend ancient texts. The method of instruction usually focuses on reading, whether aloud or silently, and translating passages from those texts. Alternatively, people learn modern languages by being exposed to their use to communicate messages, preferably in a controlled environment – that is, a classroom. The vocabulary, grammar and syntax of what is spoken or read begins with a very limited range, even a simplified version of the language, and progresses to a wider and wider circle of forms and words. To an extent, this characterizes the approach of the teachers of classical languages as well. The difference is the active use of the new language in the modern language classroom.

New immigrants to Israel in the 1980's learn Hebrew.
[Keren Hayesod photo]

The mental processes that we use to acquire facility in a modern language as a medium of communication are not the same as those we employ when studying a classical language, and the skills that foster success in one are not all the same skills that move us ahead in the other. Most people have an innate desire to communicate, and it is that drive that motivates most successful language learners.

Ivrit b'Ivrit advocates (and their counterparts among many European ethnic groups trying to foster the use of their minority languages) understood intuitively what researchers in applied linguistics have since realized and analyzed: one acquires a language through use, not by the study of its grammar, syntax and vocabulary. Having children put on plays in Hebrew, sing in Hebrew and discuss school subjects in Hebrew would be a far more efficient means of teaching than the old grammar-and-translation method that served to educate their parents and grandparents, and it would tap into their natural motivations.

Continued on page B44

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Familiarity with past and present essential for Jewish culture

Continued from page B43

Hebrew, an ancient language, has changed and grown over the centuries, but the degree to which some of its main features have remained the same is remarkable. The basic vocabulary of modern Hebrew is drawn directly from the Bible and rabbinic literature. Even more striking is the continuity in word formation: the way that nouns and verbs are shaped has changed very little over 3,000 years. As a result, Israeli schoolchildren can begin their study of Tanach (the Hebrew Bible) in the primary grades, with no need for more than a few tips on how to "convert" some of the archaic verb forms into their modern equivalents.

It is this closeness of modern Hebrew to its biblical and post-biblical antecedents on which the Ivrit b'Ivrit advocates seek to capitalize. Their bet is that the most effective and efficient way to prepare people to read classical Hebrew texts is to teach them to communicate in modern Hebrew, and from there, to make the relatively minor transition to understanding classical strata of the language.

Jewish continuity, Jewish creativity

Familiarity with the texts of the past is not the only goal of Jewish education. From the most traditionalist to the most radical, every Jewish group wants its adherents to create, to innovate, to move further and deeper than previous generations. Orthodox and "ultra-Orthodox" Jews want their students not merely to understand Torah and its traditional interpretation, they want to hear *chiddushim* – new interpretations, new insights. Conservative and liberal Jews want their students to question, to evaluate, to choose and to create new forms and new religious practices. Zionists want their students not merely to admire Israel, but to live in it and help build it, to be active contributors to a developing culture.

> ***The use of English in the Hebrew language classroom should be at a bare minimum***

For all of them, though, familiarity with the past and present is the essential basis for being able to carry Jewish culture forward. For the Jewish tradition more than most, cultural literacy is primarily textual knowledge. That knowledge is immediate and direct only for those who have reading comprehension skills in Hebrew. If the main road to that goal is through the medium of modern Hebrew, spoken and written, heard and read, then we must all examine how well our educational institutions pursue that path.

Hebrew in school, Hebrew at camp

When your children's school tells you they are teaching Hebrew, the first question to ask is: which Hebrew? The second is: which skills? Does the school's plan for Hebrew instruction delineate whether communicative proficiency in modern Hebrew is one of its goals? If it is not, can the school administration and your child's Hebrew teacher tell you clearly whether the goals include teaching children to comprehend (not just phonetically decode into sounds) written biblical Hebrew, or the Hebrew of the siddur, or the Hebrew of rabbinic literature? If the school and the teacher are not clear about their goals, little is likely to be accomplished.

If the school claims indeed to be teaching modern Hebrew, how is that instruction carried out? Does the teacher speak Hebrew in class? Are children speaking Hebrew, or just reading aloud? Are children active as they learn, acting and playing and creating, or are they in their seats throughout each lesson? An active, engaging atmosphere in which students are free to try new expressions and even make linguistic errors is preferable to one in which students are largely passive, and the use of English in the Hebrew language classroom should be at a bare minimum.

One reason we can be optimistic about the future of Hebrew language knowledge among Jews worldwide is that several of the leading private foundations that sponsor innovations in Jewish education have begun to invest in upgrading the teaching of Hebrew in Jewish schools. The AVI CHAI foundation funds the comprehensive NETA curriculum initiative for Jewish high schools. NETA, founded by Hilla Kobliner, a visionary Hebrew instructor from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and based at Hebrew College in Newton, Mass., supplements its curriculum with mandatory teacher education and objective, outside exams to upgrade the skills of instructors and teachers and provide comparative measurements of success.

AVI CHAI also helps fund an important Canadian curriculum initiative for modern Hebrew language instruction in elementary and middle school grades, the TaL-AM curriculum spearheaded by Tova Shimon of Montreal's Bronfman Jewish Education Centre. TaL-AM provides teachers with training in the use of the extensive materials provided to the teachers and students: games, songs and activities, as well as a series of textbooks. Furthermore, AVI CHAI supports a summer program at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York for upgrading the Hebrew skills of day school teachers.

The Jim Joseph Foundation, based in San Francisco, enabled the Union for Reform Judaism to develop an elementary school Hebrew curriculum for Reform day schools that is now used in a number of community schools across North America. That curriculum deserves further support and development. A new, privately funded initiative to promote the teaching of Hebrew for communicative proficiency in North American day schools is taking shape now as well.

With those curriculum initiatives well under way, teacher training now lags behind all other aspects of the field. Only a handful of academic programs anywhere in the world prepare their students to be teachers of Hebrew language. Brandeis University's Hebrew language program, under the leadership of Dr. Vardit Ringvald, has developed a degree program. At some other universities, too, that offer a degree in Hebrew language and literature (as distinct from Jewish studies), one can be a Hebrew major and train as a foreign language teacher. In Canada, students at Toronto's York University and Montreal's McGill University can receive specific training as day school teachers of Jewish

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Hebrew literacy can strengthen Jewish unity

Continued from page B44

studies in a program that offers Hebrew language courses and even Jewish studies courses taught in Hebrew, enabling them to carry on the tradition of Jewish studies instruction in Hebrew in Canada's day schools. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem also trains teachers of Hebrew as a foreign language.

None of these programs draws more than a small number of students, and together they do not begin to provide enough trained professionals to fill the positions that become available each year.

Some Jewish summer camps make an effort to use modern Hebrew in the daily life of campers and counsellors. They face some practical difficulties, with a scarcity of Hebrew-speaking North American staff members foremost among these. Their most intractable difficulty, though, is the effort to convince all their constituencies – parents, counsellors and, to a lesser extent, campers – that kids can get along and have a good time while immersed in an unfamiliar language, and that the effort to provide that immersion is worthwhile.

Hebrew at home

Those of us who learned a fair amount of Hebrew in our schools and camps and during shorter or longer stays in Israel now have many more opportunities than ever before to use our Hebrew and improve our skills. Two decades ago, we had to wait for onionskin copies of Israeli weekend newspapers to arrive by air mail from Tel Aviv. Then, until a decade ago, we had to rely on North American printings of those newspapers. Today, we have gone beyond just those newspapers, which are now available online and which feature talk-back opportunities to post responses to news items… in Hebrew. We can live-stream Israeli radio, watch Israeli television on our cable and satellite TV feeds, and access Israeli television shows on the Internet. Israeli films can be found at our local libraries and video stores. Hebrew books can be ordered online. One can even look up unfamiliar words in online Hebrew-English dictionaries.

> **Modern Jews have always been 'early adopters' of new technologies**

For anyone who has not yet acquired a working knowledge of modern Hebrew, a private corporation in Israel offers formal lessons in modern Hebrew online. At least one American college offers Hebrew language courses online, too, offering course credit for those who are interested. There are many on-campus programs as well, at ulpanim, colleges and universities in North American cities.

Hebrew in Israel

The most obvious change, and the most dramatic, in the status of Hebrew in Jewish life in the Diaspora is the existence of an entire Hebrew-speaking society in Eretz Yisrael. No better immersion could be imagined than to be among native speakers of Hebrew, listening to their speech, talking with them, reading road signs and billboards and bumper stickers, and writing notes to your neighbours, all in Hebrew. It is true that one can manage to get around in Israel today speaking and reading only English, but it is also worth discovering that Israelis are complimented when visitors make an effort to communicate in Hebrew and make an effort to be patient and helpful. Be persistent when they switch to English. They may think of English as a high-status language compared to their own minor Middle Eastern tongue, but you may find that they will accept your reticence about switching to English and speak Hebrew or switch between the two languages.

Israel is not only a living classroom for students of Hebrew, though. It is also a country and society different from that of Canadian Jews. Students of any language are affected by the way they view native speakers and their culture, and North American Jews have complex and ambivalent feelings toward Israelis. They often find Israelis direct and aggressive rather than, as they might prefer, subtle and understated. Those with a Zionist upbringing may feel negatively about someone who has left Israel to live in North America. Others may find "secular" Israelis so divorced from traditional Jewish behaviours and cultural references that they feel little kinship with them. All those attitudes and feelings are the background against which we need to understand and measure North American Jews' attitudes toward the Hebrew language and toward the Israeli teachers they encounter in their classrooms.

Jewish renaissance

The technology of communications has empowered us to build a worldwide language group that transcends the boundaries of nation-states. Modern Jews have always been "early adopters" of new technologies, at least in pursuit of prosperity. Can we do the same in pursuit of cultural continuity? If we can raise the level of Hebrew proficiency and Hebrew literacy among Jews worldwide, we will be strengthening Jewish unity and Jewish cultural vitality in Canada, in the worldwide Jewish community and in Israel.

Rabbi Peretz Rodman is a Jerusalem-based teacher, writer and translator. He is a visiting lecturer in Hebrew language and literature at Hebrew College Online (www.hebrewcollege.edu), in Newton, Mass.

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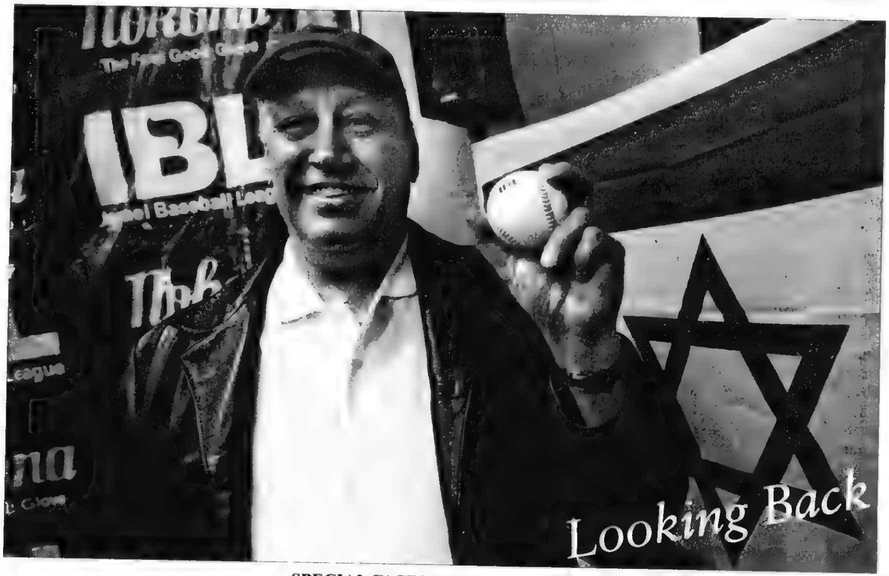

SPECIAL FACES IN ISRAEL'S NEWS

Former all-star Major League pitcher, Ken Holtzman, above, helped inaugurate Israel's newly launched baseball league. Immediately below, Warren Buffett, the second-richest man in the United States, invested $4 billion (US), for an 80 percent interest in the Israeli company Iscar. Prof. Roger Kronberg was awarded the 2006 Nobel Prize for chemistry. Kornberg is a fellow in the Department of Biological Chemistry at the Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences at the Hebrew University and has been a visiting professor at the university for the past 20 years.

[Isranet photos]

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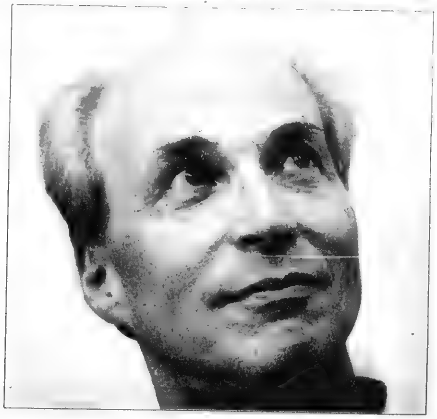

Renewing Zionism

(This essay appears as the foreword in New Essays on Zionism, *recently published by the Shalem Centre in Jerusalem.)*

By YORAM HAZONY

Though Jews have always lived in their historical homeland, it was not until the second half of the 20th century that a large part of the Jewish people returned to settle in the land of Israel. There they built major cities – Tel Aviv, Haifa, Be'er Sheva, and Jerusalem – a social and economic infrastructure, national institutions of culture and education, and a democratic system of government. They also built a sovereign state, the State of Israel, created in 1948 and subsequently recognized by most nations of the world. Today, Israel is home to the world's largest Jewish community. It maintains a vibrant free press, a diverse and dynamic culture, and a powerful citizen army. After 2,000 years of statelessness, the Jewish people have achieved a vital national home.

Should this state exist? Does this small, precariously positioned Jewish state have a moral, political, or religious significance that can justify the hardship involved in maintaining it, in defending it? And if it has such significance, is this something that can speak to non-Jews as well, or is it a matter of concern only to Jews?

There was a time when such questions seemed pressing. Throughout the 19th century, the idea of a Jewish state was invoked time and again, usually by Jews whose purpose was to emphasize that their people had long ago abandoned the dream of establishing a state of their own. Jewry had become a faith, they argued, and no longer harboured political aspirations that might stand in the way of their integration into the public life of Germany, Austria, France, England, or America. Later, at century's end, the tide turned. Resurgent anti-Semitism spread across Europe, in response to which arose the Zionist Organization in 1897. Under the leadership of a Viennese journalist named Theodor Herzl, this organization set out to establish the very Jewish state that many European Jews had insisted they did not want. From that time until the German invasion of Poland in the fall of 1939, the question of the importance of the Jewish state haunted the public life of the Jews the world over. Many felt that the future of the Jewish people hinged on the answer that was given to this question. History proved them correct.

In May 1948, the Zionist leader David Ben-Gurion declared the Jewish settlement in Palestine an independent Jewish state. A tiny minority of Jews still opposed this step, but by this point their influence on Jewish opinion had become negligible. It had become clear that even a weak Jewish regime in Palestine, in the years before and during the war, would have been able to rescue hundreds of thousands of Jews who perished, perhaps even millions. The Holocaust had persuaded nearly all Jews of the necessity of a Jewish state. Even the Communists and the Haredi Orthodox Agudat Israel, which had historically been opponents of the state, became signatories in the declaration of Israel's independence. The same was true among gentile friends of the Jews, most of who likewise came to think that the need for a Jewish state was self-evident.

The matter, it seemed, was settled. For nearly a generation, Jews and those who sympathized with their cause treated ideological opposition to the idea of a Jewish state as a marginal phenomenon, the province of a few anti-Semites and cranks. When in 1975, the General Assembly of the United Nations equated Zionism (i.e., the existence of a Jewish state) with racism, the declaration was dismissed in the free world as a hypocritical manoeuvre on the part of Communist and Arab dictatorships to defame a democratic country and the West in general. Jews now recognized that ideological opposition to the idea of a Jewish state could be turned into an intellectual truncheon in the hands of despots and terrorists not overly troubled by what had happened in

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Anti-Zionist propaganda's fearsome toll

Continued from page B47

World War II. But the possibility that such ideas could gain currency among decent people of goodwill remained inconceivable.

But the times have quickly changed, and what was inconceivable only yesterday has become reality. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, one can now give voice to anti-Zionist ideas without associating oneself with totalitarianism; and with the rise of a generation that has no memory of the Holocaust, the old taboos against such ideas are falling throughout the western world and even among Jews. Controversial Israeli policies in Lebanon, in the West Bank, and in Gaza have exposed the state to widespread criticism, facilitating the task of those who question its right to exist. In Europe, overt anti-Semitism has made a feverish re-appearance, for which hostility towards Israel serves as an all too effective cover. In North America, a generation of anti-Zionist propaganda – originally fanned by the Soviets, but now a part of mainstream discourse in the mass media and on university campuses – has taken a fearsome toll, with many young Jews withdrawing their support for Zionism entirely. In Israel, too, a new generation of academics and writers has placed the criticism of Zionism and of the idea of the Jewish state at the centre of their intellectual agenda, ravaging both the historical and the philosophical basis for the state.

Is it important that there be a Jewish state? It is now evident that this matter is not settled at all. The majority of Jews and their friends may still offer instinctive and unthinking support for the idea of the Jewish state. But with increasing frequency, one hears the voices of Jews and non-Jews whose answer to this question is in the negative. As Prof. Adi Ophir of Tel Aviv University has put it:

"Jewish sovereignty has turned out to be the biggest danger to Jewish cultural and moral existence… They tell us that the only question left open, the only real question, is how to get 'peace'… They fail to realize that the question lies in the very idea of national sovereignty… We envision a state that will not be a [Jewish] nation state."

There are many who seem to believe that the only answer to the accelerating delegitimization of Zionism both in Jewish and non-Jewish circles is to ignore it. No other nation in the world, it is said, is required to justify its existence. The English or the French, for example, do not have to explain to themselves or to others why they should have their sovereign states. They simply exist, leading their lives without explanation, without justification, as do all other peoples.

Perhaps there was a time when this view made sense. During the Cold War, when the United States and the Soviet Union were locked in a relentless competition for the loyalty of various peoples around the globe, self-determination and political independence seemed to be the way of the world, for the Jews as for everyone else. But the world in which one might have reached this conclusion is now gone. In its place is one in which the system of sovereign states is challenged by a quickly rising European ideology that sees the future of mankind in the dissolution of state sovereignty. The classic European national states – England, France, Holland, Italy, Germany – appear to be in the process of giving up their independence, choosing instead to lose themselves in a great European state whose ideological commitment is to something akin to world government. The fact that the French or the Germans do not seem overly concerned with justifying their continued existence as politically independent nations is thus hardly a precedent that Jews should rush to embrace. Indeed, it is the Europeans' manifest disinterest in such questions that makes it possible to imagine that these nations will no longer exist as politically independent states a few years from now.

David Ben-Gurion speaks with new immigrants to Israel in the early 1950's. The ingathering of exiles was a pre-eminent purpose of Zionism. Now Zionism and that purpose are being questioned.

Moreover, Israel is not watching events in Europe unfold through a telescope. We often forget that the Jewish state is, in terms of its geography, a province of Europe. Israeli cultural figures spend a great deal of time hopping planes to Paris and Berlin, moving in precisely those circles in which the dismantling of the national state is seen as a moral imperative. The extraordinary outpouring of "post-national" sentiment in Israel in the three decades since the 1973 Yom Kippur War – climaxing in the 1990s with the demands to change the national anthem, the flag, the Law of Return, and virtually every other aspect of Israeli public life that makes it a Jewish state – was thus not merely a homegrown expression of a desire to tone down the passion of Jewish national life in the hope of bringing the Arab-Israeli conflict to an end. It was at least as much an expression of a desire to "make it" in Europe

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Skepticism calls for revival of Jewish national sentiment

Continued from page B48

by mothballing most of the old Jewish concerns and embracing what might be called the European Dream: A social-welfare system capable of guaranteeing a high standard of living for all, and assimilation into the machinery of world government. As Yossi Beilin, one of the leading architects of this new Israel, put it:

"My dream is that Israel should be a kind of Denmark or Norway of the Middle East… What I would like to see is a country with a powerful economy, whose citizens have a high standard of living… I see Israel becoming one of the most important countries in the UN, a country involved in resolving the conflicts of others, with the ability to contribute officials to the UN, including a UN secretary general whose focus would be on questions of human rights."

Of course, the last few years have not been kind to this dream. The terrible bloodshed that has visited Israel since the resumption of warfare with the Palestinian Authority in September 2000 and with the Second Lebanon War in 2006 has, to be sure, made it implausible that the Jewish state will soon be able to spare soldiers for UN peacekeeping missions. Moreover, the international reaction to the killing of over 1,000 Jewish civilians in the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem has taught us a hard lesson about post-national Europe, which is well disposed to Jews when they seem to be progressing towards the European Dream, but is also capable of shocking outbursts of anti-Semitism the moment they are seen wielding military power in an attempt to defend themselves. This, too, has played a role in sharpening Jewish skepticism concerning the virtues claimed for the new identity Europe is building for itself.

This widespread and deepening skepticism has opened the way for a revival of Jewish national sentiment – of Zionism – both in Israel and in the Jewish Diaspora. The purpose of this anthology of essays [to which this essay is a foreword] is to begin a discussion whose ultimate purpose is to provide the intellectual framework for such a revival.

It is no secret that Zionism as an intellectual movement is believed by many to have spent itself. Zionist thought is typically depicted as though it came to an end with the founding of the state in 1948, or was then succeeded by the platforms of the various political parties. But this view of the history of Zionist thought is mistaken. There were always individuals who continued to contribute to the store of constructive thought concerning the nature, meaning and purpose of the Jewish state, even as this kind of writing was marginalized in favour of ever-more aggressive "critiques" of Zionism that were, in the 1970s, to become the hallmark of high Israeli culture. The Zionist writings of Nathan Rotenstreich, Eliezer Schweid, Eliezer Berkovits, and Yosef Dov Soloveitchik are among the significant exceptions to this trend.

It is not until the mid-1990s, however, that one can point to a real revival of the classical trend in Zionist thought. This, of course, was precisely the moment when the general distancing of Israel's intellectual culture from traditional Zionist presuppositions reached its height. Not since the 1930s had Zionism come under such systematic criticism from what could be considered the mainstream of Jewish opinion. In particular, this rupture with the Zionist political tradition was symbolized by the nearly complete delegitimization of the term "Jewish state," coined by Herzl and incorporated by Ben-Gurion into Israel's Declaration of Independence.

The revival of Zionist thought in Israel in the mid-1990s can be described as consisting of two different types of material. In the first place, there is what can be called controversial material, most of it written by the older generation of Labor-Zionist academics and other writers born before the establishment of the state, including the authors Aharon Meged and Moshe Shamir, historians such as Shabtai Teveth, Yehoshua Porath, Yosef Gorny, and Anita Shapira, the political scientists Shlomo Avineri and Shlomo Aharonson, and the sociologist Moshe Lissak. These responses were in effect a counter-critique, whose purpose was to highlight various flaws perceived in the works of many of the prominent critics of Zionism.

In addition, there was what may be called constructive material, whose purpose was not so much to set up a counter-critique, as to offer a philosophical and historiographic alternative capable of reviving the Zionist political tradition and serving as the basis for a renewed and deeper appreciation of Zionism and of the Jewish state. Here, the tendency was to prefer essays and larger expositions, most of them composed by younger writers who were at the time largely unknown. In this category one may include the writings of historians such as Tuvia Frieling, Tzvi Tzameret, Alex Yakobson, and Arie Morgenstern, political and legal theorists such as Amnon Rubinstein, Ruth Gavison, Eyal Chowers, Ofir Haivry, Daniel Polisar, David Hazony, and Assaf Sagiv, and scholars and essayists such as Anna Isakova, Ze'ev Maghen, and Assaf Inbari.

The full inventory of controversial and constructive works that can be associated with this trend would by this point extend to many volumes. For this reason, we have decided not to include in this anthology those writings whose purpose was largely counter-critique of post-national trends in Israel. Instead, we have tried to focus on constructive works that may prove to be of enduring worth. Our hope is that these new essays on Zionism will prove to be as provocative and fruitful to Jews in the Diaspora as they were when originally published in Israel.

Yoram Hazony is the founder and former president of the Shalem Center, where he is currently a senior fellow.

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Looking Back

A TIME OF GRIEVING

Above, a woman in shock is comforted by a friend after a suicide bomber killed three people in Eilat. Below, the family of Prof. Liviu Librescu mourns as he is buried in Israel. Librescu died while saving the lives of his engineering students at Virginia Tech College from a rampaging gunman who killed 32 people before turning his gun on himself.

[Isranet photos]

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5768

Growing radical-moderate rift in Mideast produced promise and peril for Israel

By LESLIE SUSSER
JTA

The Jewish year 5767 saw a widening of the rift between moderates and radicals in the Middle East, which in turn produced a paradox for Israel: the rift heightened both a chance for peace between Israel and the moderates and a threat of war between Israel and the radicals.

The year also saw dramatic developments in Israeli domestic politics: Prime Minister Ehud Olmert struggled to hold onto power in the wake of a scathing report on his performance in the second Lebanon war; former Prime Minister Ehud Barak was re-elected leader of the Labor Party; and President Moshe Katsav was forced to resign over a sex scandal.

The defining event for Israeli-Palestinian ties was the bitter Gaza Strip showdown between Fatah-led moderates and Hamas-led radicals. In a week of cruel fighting in June 2007, Hamas forces crushed their Fatah rivals, carrying out summary executions, parading ill-clad captives and hurling rival militiamen from rooftops.

The end result was Hamas in sole control of Gaza, but supplanted in government by a new Fatah-led administration under President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. The Abbas government was ensconced in the West Bank, operating from Ramallah in the name of all Palestinians and recognized by Israel and most of the international community. Ironically, Fatah's defeat in Gaza made it possible for Israel to circumvent the radicals and deal directly with the moderates in Ramallah.

Israel, the United States and the Arab moderates were quick to size up the peacemaking potential in the new situation. On June 25, just 10 days after the Hamas takeover in Gaza, the leaders of Egypt, Jordan and Israel came together with moderate West Bank Palestinians to launch a new Israeli-Palestinian peace initiative at a summit in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheik.

Three weeks later, in a major policy statement, U.S. President George Bush called for a regional peace parley, under American auspices, to be attended by Washington's moderate Middle Eastern allies.

In early August, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visited the region to set up the peace meeting and make sure key players like the Saudis would participate. Rice repeated her insistence that Israel and the Palestinians deal with core issues – borders, refugees and Jerusalem – for a final peace deal.

In the wake of her visit, Olmert and Abbas began a series of meetings designed to produce a framework for a final-status agreement to be presented at the regional meeting. Palestinian spokesmen, impressed by the show of American resolve, said that for the first time in years they believed the establishment of a Palestinian state was possible.

There were other reasons for optimism: former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, a highly respected mediator, entered the arena, and Israel and moderate Arab states agreed to negotiate on the basis of a peace plan reaffirmed by the Arab League in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in March 2007.

But with Hamas in control in Gaza, there were questions as to how far Abbas could go in peacemaking with Israel. He also was under considerable Arab pressure to reconcile with Hamas, along the lines of a power-sharing agreement the two sides had reached in Mecca in February.

Moreover, as the United States stepped up its efforts to promote a more stable regional order, Iran and its radical allies moved to undermine it.

Continued on page B52

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas and U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice met in Jerusalem last year in one their many attempts to renew the peace process. [Isranet photo]

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The Apelowicz Family

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a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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IDF failed to win decisive victory

Continued from page B51

Iran smuggled rockets through Syria, earmarked for its Hezbollah proxy in Lebanon, replenishing stocks depleted in the fighting with Israel the previous summer. It also reportedly helped bankroll large weapons deals between Syria and Russia.

In mid-July, when Syrian President Bashar Assad again sounded peace overtures to Israel, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad flew to Damascus to make sure nothing would come of them. While in the Syrian capital, Ahmadinejad warned of a "hot summer" in which the enemies of Islam would be defeated.

Iran also trained and armed Hamas fighters, helping them overcome Fatah in Gaza. According to Israeli intelligence, the Iranian aim was to surround Israel with a missile cordon from Tehran to Gaza, primarily to deter any Israeli pre-emptive strike against Iran's nuclear weapons program.

To offset growing Iranian power, the United States planned huge arms supply packages to its moderate allies: $20 billion in sales to Saudi Arabia over the coming decade; $13 billion in military aid to Egypt; and $30 billion to Israel.

Bush assured Olmert during a visit to Washington in June that the Saudi weapons would not be deployed close to the Israeli border and that the United States remained committed to maintaining Israel's technological edge.

Following the poor performance of its ground forces in the second Lebanon war, Israel decided on heavier military spending of its own. In late July, the government allocated an additional $11 billion for the next 10 years. Some of it would be devoted to enhancing Israel's long-range strike capacity and some to enlarging the ground forces by two divisions.

The Israel Defence Forces' failure to win a decisive victory in the war cost Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen Dan Halutz and Defence Minister Amir Peretz their jobs. Halutz, an air force man, was replaced in mid-February by Lt.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, a seasoned infantry and armor commander. Peretz, after losing the leadership of the Labor Party to Barak in June, was ousted at defence by the former prime minister.

Throughout the year, Olmert had been under fire for his widely perceived mismanagement of the campaign against Hezbollah. After the Winograd Commission, set up to investigate the war, added its harsh criticism in late April, his approval rating plummeted to less than three percent and most pundits believed he would be forced to resign.

But Olmert displayed considerable political skill. In the report's immediate aftermath, he moved quickly inside his own Kadima Party to nip in the bud a potential leadership bid by Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni. Six months earlier, in October 2006, he had greatly strengthened his chances of political survival by bringing Avigdor Lieberman's far-right Yisrael Beiteinu Party into the governing coalition.

In the short-term, his inclusion of the experienced Barak as defence minister strengthened his hand still further. But Kadima colleagues warned Olmert that in Labor's Barak he was riding a tiger that would soon turn on him.

Olmert was not the only Israeli leader in trouble in 5767. Katsav was forced to resign his presidency in late June after being accused of sex offences against several women who had worked with him. In January, Attorney General Menachem Mazuz indicated that he had sufficient evidence to indict Katsav on rape charges against at least one of the 11 complainants.

Continued on page B53

Lt.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, left, takes over as chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces from Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz, right.
[Isranet photo]

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5768

Economy performed extremely well

Continued from page B52

But in June, Mazuz agreed to a plea bargain under which Katsav, who professed his innocence throughout, would confess to lesser charges and receive a six-month suspended sentence. The plea bargain sparked a wave of public protest and petitions to the High Court of Justice demanding that Katsav be put on trial.

As part of the plea bargain, Katsav resigned on June 29, just two weeks before his term was due to end. He was succeeded as president on July 15 by Shimon Peres, the 83-year-old former prime minister.

The unpopular plea bargain compounded the problems faced by the country's legal system, where the new justice minister, Daniel Friedmann, seemed to be waging a calculated campaign against the Supreme Court and its president, Dorit Beinisch.

Before his appointment in February, Friedmann had complained that the court had grown too "activist," and that its unelected members were encroaching on what were rightly legislative and executive functions. His critics warned that in weakening the court, Friedmann would be undermining one of the most important pillars of Israeli democracy.

Despite the second Lebanon war and the increased defence spending, the Israeli economy performed extremely well over the past year. Growth remained robust at more than 4 per cent, compared to 5.1 per cent in 2006.

Unemployment was down from 8.4 percent to 7.8 per cent, and the gross domestic product per capita was estimated at over $20,000. Inflation, below zero in 2006, was expected to rise to the projected government figure of between two per cent and three per cent, although there were worrisome signs that it might go higher.

Foreign investment was expected to grow by eight per cent to $15.3 billion in 2007, and the Tel Aviv stock market, despite a major wobble in August, outperformed those of the rich Western industrial nations.

President Moshe Katsav denounces the Israeli media. He resigned his presidency on June 29. [Isranet photo]

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Mrs. Marian Dorfman

Wishing all my family and relatives
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my friends for their kindness.

Threats and opportunities dot landscape for European Jewry

By DINAH A. SPRITZER
JTA

PRAGUE — For European Jewry, it was a year of the good, the bad and the ugly.

The good: the election of a French president seen as sympathetic to Israel, the opening of new Jewish institutions, and increased opportunities for Jews from eastern countries that have joined the European Union.

The bad: boycotts and threats of boycotts boiled over in England, with fears that similar anti-Israel efforts would spread elsewhere in Europe.

The ugly: alarming levels of anti-Semitism. Several organizations and individual country reports revealed a marked rise of anti-Semitic incidents across Western Europe in the second half of 2006.

These incidents were primarily the result of the prolonged negative reaction in Europe to Israel's two-month war against Hezbollah in Lebanon last summer, say observers.

The mood in Europe was stoked by media coverage "that was one-sided, focused only on Lebanese casualties and implicated Jews in general," said Ilan Moss, political counsellor for the Paris-based European Jewish Gongress.

In Britain, the Community Security Trust reported the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents since it began monitoring in 1984, with a 60 per cent increase in the second half of the year. In France, the country's main secular Jewish umbrella organization, CRIF, recorded a 24 per cent rise in anti-Jewish incidents in general, and a 45 per cent increase in violent incidents.

There was also an upsurge in anti-Semitic attitudes, according to research conducted by the Anti-Defamation League in May. The ADL found that 44 per cent of those surveyed in France, Poland, Germany, Italy and Spain agreed with the statement that "Jews have too much power in international financial markets," while 39 per cent believed "Jews have too much power in the business world."

Human Rights First, a U.S.-based non-governmental organization, took European governments to task in June for their lack of a coherent response to the problem of anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

"Today the parallels with the 1930s include the seeming indifference of many governments and broad sectors of public opinion to the rising violence and fear that once again threatens European Jews, and with them members of other minorities," said the Human Rights First report.

In many of the countries where anti-Semitic violence was on the rise; the perpetrators, according to police, were of Arab descent.

"This year made it even clearer that in the coming years, the issue of minority coexistence is one of the greatest challenges of the continent," said Tomer Orni, executive vice president of the London-based European Council of Jewish Communities.

As communities press governments for greater security and programs to better combat anti-Semitism, Moss said Jewish leaders are also focused on the boycott of Israel proposed by Britain's largest teachers' union. The University and College Union voted May 30 to consider an academic boycott of Israeli universities.

Almost immediately after the UCU move, the country's largest trade union decided to consider a boycott motion at its upcoming conference. While UCU represents 120,000 members, UNISON has more than one million. Another proposed boycott by a British journalists' union was ultimately rejected.

"We are worried about these kind of boycotts spreading throughout Europe. We don't sees it as directly anti-Semitic, but since there are no such boycotts against any other country in the world, you have to wonder about the motives," said Serge Cwajgenbaum, the EJC's general-secretary.

As always, European policy toward Iran and the Middle East was a source of concern for Jewish leaders, Cwajgenbaum noted.

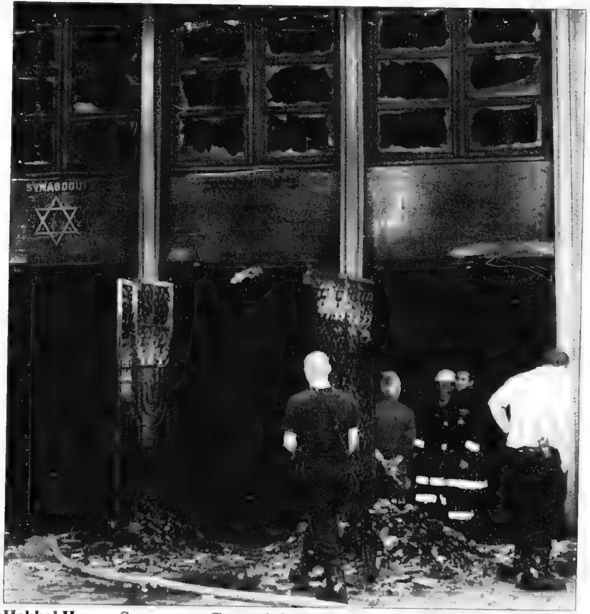
The European Union was a faithful member of the Quartet, the international body seeking resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that also includes the United States, Russia and the United Nations. The Quartet has agreed to isolate Hamas until it renounces terrorism and recognizes Israel's right to exist, but there were signs that some EU member states wanted a softer position on Hamas, on funding for Palestinians in general and a tougher line on Israel.

On July 10, for instance, European foreign ministers, led by France, posted an open letter in the French daily *Le Monde* calling for Israel to make more concessions for peace.

But there were other political developments in Europe that gave Jews a hopeful outlook.

In France, home to Europe's largest Jewish population, a president viewed by most as sympathetic to Jewish and Israeli causes took office in May.

Continued on page B55



Hekhal Haness Synagogue, Geneva's largest synagogue, was destroyed by fire last May. Arson was suspected. **[RNS/Reuters photo]**

French Jewry supported Nicolas Sarkozy

Continued from page B54

Nicolas Sarkozy, a right-leaning centrist whose grandfather was Jewish, received overwhelming support from the country's Jewish voters, according to JTA interviews. Many applauded his tough stance against anti-Semitism in his previous post as interior minister.

Sarkozy was and is widely expected to be more sympathetic to Israel's need to protect itself from Palestinian aggression than his long-serving predecessor, Jacques Chirac.

As commentator Frederic Encel put it, Sarkozy is "by far the most pro-Israeli French presidential figure Israel could have hoped for. However, in the long term, some analysts observed that Sarkozy has in the past supported closer ties between France and Syria, which might mean increased pressure on Israel to evacuate the Golan Heights in return for a peace deal with Syria.

In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel continued to reinforce her reputation as a champion of Jewish and Israeli causes.

"We will fight the new anti-Semitism along with the old. Germany and the European Union are committed to the security of the citizens of Israel," she said on a visit to Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in April.

The most heated political event among Jewish communities in 5767 was the election of the Russian Jewish Congress president, Moshe Kantor, to the helm of the European Jewish Congress.

Kantor, the first Eastern European elected to the post of EJC chair, beat the French incumbent Pierre Besnainou in May, with support from a wide majority of the delegates representing 41 European Jewish communities.

Kantor recently made his first trip as EJC president to Israel, where he was warmly welcomed by Israeli politicians, including Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, despite lingering concerns that his closeness to the Kremlin will keep him from speaking out against Russian President Vladimir Putin's support of Iran's nuclear program or his soft stance on Hamas, whose leaders Putin welcomed to Moscow.

Kantor's election was viewed by many of Europe's communities as uniting EJC, which has previously shown the strain of battles between East and West.This tension was reflected within a single European capital: Berlin's Jewish community split this year as a new group was formed in response to the growing influence of Jews from the former Soviet Union.

After months of angry exchanges pitting Albert Meyer, an attorney and former president of the Berlin Jewish community, against representatives of the new Russian majority, Meyer announced in mid-April that he had joined with historian Julius Schoeps to form a breakaway group.

Ultimately, observers say, the split is about the need for new power structures in the German Jewish community, which has quadrupled to more than 120,000 since 1990 with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Within Europe, meanwhile, greater unity was heralded among Jews as Romania and Bulgaria were accepted Jan. 1 into the now 27-member European Union.

For Jews, about 8,000 in Bulgaria and 15,000 in Romania, the move means greater hope for the future as their economies strengthen and they can obtain jobs at home, or work abroad without barriers.

"We have negative aliyah – young people who were already in Israel are coming back to Bulgaria because the economic situation is improving," said Emil Kahlo, a former president of Shalom, the largest Jewish organization in Bulgaria.

There were other large celebratory occasions for European Jewry.

Continued on page B56

Nicolas Sarkozy

Moshe Kantor

Leslie & Anna Dan

Wish their relatives & friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year

E's . . .

Lily Elsner & Bob Ritter
Michelle, Alan, Zachary & Taylor, David,
Brooke & Jordan, Shawna & Mike, & Stacey
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy, healthy New Year.

F's . . .

Chaim & Eda Feinstadt

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Phyllis & Irving Feldman
Jonas & Brandon

Would like to wish all their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Philip & Cyla Fiksel
Nathan, Miriam, Jamie &
Stacie Birnbaum
wish their relatives & friends
a happy and healthy New Year

Wishing all my our family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year
Paul & Rochelle Franklin
and Family

Sylvia & Edward Fisch
& Family

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year

שנה טובה
Bernard & Connie Fox
***and* Charise**
Felicia & Warren Spiegelman,
Samantha *and* Spencer
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy Shana Tova

THE FREIDS
Loren, Lisa and Emma-Belle
wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a very happy and healthy New Year

We wish all our relatives & friends
a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year

The Finkelsteins
Henry, Molly & Matthew
David, Rachel, Jonah & Abby

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel
Morris & Fay Freedman
David, Michael & Lauren

Allan and Pat Friedland
Marla, Ilan & Samuel Saksznajder
Wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Betsy & Lou Fruitman
Pamela, Howie, Jeffrey & Jason Gould
Lisa, Dan, Amanda & Joshua Belzowski
Marla, Ronald, Jarod & Phoebe Struminger

G's . . .

Sam & Gitta Ganz
Children & Grandchildren
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Irving & Faye Gold
Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, relatives and friends
for a happy, healthy & peacful New Year.

Al & Julia Gelfant & Family
Susan Fine & Family

wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Aron & Ala Gerhard
and Family
Wish their relatives, friends and neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gladstone
and Neil
Dr. & Mrs. Terry Davis
and family
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel.
Max & Guta Glicksman
19 Misty Crescent

Cathy and Frank Gold
Ashley & Jessica
Wish their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Gert Goldberg
children Jill, John & Granddaughter Sydney
64 Carscadden Drive
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors
a happy and healthy New Year.

Irving & Paula Goldhar
Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5768

Coexistence with resurgence of anti-Semitism

Continued from page B55

The Ohel Jakob synagogue and community centre was inaugurated in Munich on the symbolic date of Nov. 9, the 68th anniversary of Kristallnacht, Hitler's terrible release of anti-Jewish violence in the same city and across Germany.

Also last November, a Holocaust survivor from Munich, Charlotte Knobloch, officially was elected as head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany after assuming the post several months earlier, following the death of her predecessor, Paul Spiegel.

Next door in Poland, Jews in February heralded the renovation and re-opening of the Yeshiva Chachmei Lublin, the largest yeshiva in Europe before World War II. Members of Poland's small Jewish community hope the 1930s building and synagogue will attract tourist groups, worshippers and religious students from around the world.

And as a sign of the diversity of even Poland's small Jewish community, Rabbi Burt Schuman of New York was installed as Poland's first full-time Progressive rabbi at Beit Warszawa last October

In May, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews broke ground in Warsaw. To be completed in 2009, the museum will be the largest Jewish institution of its kind in Europe, commemorating the 1,000 years of history of what was the largest Jewish community in Europe before World War II.

But in Poland as elsewhere in Europe, Jewish life coexisted with the ugly resurgence of anti-Semitic incidents and attitudes.

A Polish member of the European Parliament, Maciej Giertych, published a pamphlet in February that said Jews were unethical, unable to integrate into society and a "tragic community" because they don't accept Jesus as the messiah.

A controversial Polish Catholic priest continued to attract condemnation after allegedly making anti-Semitic remarks. Tadeusz Rydzyk, founder of the Catholic Radio Station Radio Maryja, was quoted by *Wprost* magazine in July as calling Jews greedy and criticizing Polish President Lech Kaczynski for supporting the establishment of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Rydzyk, whose radio station has a history of anti-Semitic commentary, was later welcomed by Pope Benedict XVI at his summer residence outside of Rome, much to the chagrin of Jewish groups.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel paid a historic visit to Israel last year. She is seen here with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in Jerusalem. **[Isranet photo]**

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5768

5767 was a year of transition for U.S. Jewry

By AMI EDEN
JTA

Too often the High Holy Days process of reflecting on the year gone by can produce a frustratingly vanilla verdict: not much has changed.

But thanks to former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, gay-friendly rabbis and deep-pocketed donors, the Hebrew year 5767 turned out to be a time of major transition for the American Jewish community.

Arguably the most pronounced and alarming development was the mainstream frontal assault on the pro-Israel activism of Jewish organizations, led by Carter in conjunction with the November release of his book *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid.*

Published by Simon & Schuster, the book reflects the former president's longstanding sympathy for the Palestinian cause and belief that Israeli settlements are the main obstacle to peace.

But this time around, in his book and on his book tour, Carter also took aim at the pro-Israel lobby and Jewish organizations, accusing them of conspiring to stifle debate over America's foreign policy. Plenty of fringe figures have pressed this argument in the past, but suddenly this past year a former president of the United States was leading the charge, with several other respectable figures right behind him.

"This reluctance to criticize any policies of the Israeli government is because of the extraordinary lobbying efforts of the American-Israel Political Action Committee and the absence of any significant contrary voices," Carter wrote in a Dec. 8 opinion piece in the *Los Angeles Times*, shortly after the release of his book. He was incorrectly referring to AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

"It would be almost politically suicidal for members of Congress to espouse a balanced position between Israel and Palestine, to suggest that Israel comply with international law or to speak in defence of justice or human rights for Palestinians."

Carter was openly supportive of the work of academics Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer, fellow proponents of the notion that thanks to the efforts of the pro-Israel lobby, Israel does not face scrutiny in the United States even though Jerusalem's policies are bad for America. The duo, whose own book is set to be released in September, has gone even further than Carter, arguing that the "Israel Lobby" played a lead role – presumably for Jerusalem's benefit – in pushing America into the Iraq war.

Two other flaps put Jewish organizations on the defensive against the claim that they vigorously work to shut down debate on Israel.

First, in October, after discussions with the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee, the Polish consulate in New York pulled the plug on an event sponsored by an outside group that was to feature Tony Judt, a British-born New York University professor who sparked outrage with a 2003 essay criticizing the creation of a Jewish state.

Soon after, Judt created a firestorm with a harshly worded mass e-mail blaming the cancellation on the ADL's national director, Abraham Foxman. In the end, it appears that Foxman's office simply inquired to see if the consulate was sponsoring the event (it wasn't), while the AJC's executive director, David Harris, pressed for the event to be canceled.

But AJC soon took centre stage in a similar controversy, after the organization published an essay by Indiana University professor Alvin Rosenfeld. The essay documented what he described as a rising tide of anti-Israel polemics within

Continued on page B58

Regina and Charles Goldfinger and Family

Best wishes to our children
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel.

Mr. & Mrs. Israel Goldgrub and Family

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to relatives and friends and the people of Israel

Fay Goldlist
Marlene & Sam Hait
Barry & Randee Goldlist
Rochelle & Seymour Frydrych
Children, Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren

HaShem, may it be Your will to Bless
all the Jewish people with a Just
and Lasting Peace.

Lillian Granek

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel.

Moishe Gruda

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren and
our great-grandchildren Jordan & Jenna Ashley
and relatives
for a happy, healthy New Year

Jack & Ruth Gutholc

Wishing all our family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Beatrice, Hymie & Alyssa Guttman

H's . . .

ADAM & ZELDA HARRIS and Family

Wish their relatives and friends
a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Sylvia and Barry Hennick
Eleanor, Jeff, Ryan and Joshua Stainsby
Karen, Eric, Jackson and Veronica Machtinger

Wish their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, family and friends
for a happy and healthy New Year.

Joel & Bluma Hoffman

I's . . .

Kelly, Daniel, Shane, Hanna & Harry Isakow

Wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year.

J's . . .

Isaac & Basia Jesin & Family

wish all our friends & extended families
a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

Wolfe & Miriam Justein

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

K's . . .

The Kalifer Family

Bernyce & Marv, Ron & Nancy Kalifer, Ellen & Gerry Fialkov, Debbie & Wayne Steinberg & all their children would like to send there best wishes for a happy & healthy New Year

Mara & Eugene Katz
Linda, Leon, Michael, Aaron
& Daniel Katz

Wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

BEST WISHES FOR A YEAR OF
PEACE AND SERENITY,
HEALTH AND HAPPINESS,
TO MY CHILDREN, MACHATONIM,
RELATIVES AND FRIENDS
AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

Jean Kichler

Morley Klayman
and Family

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year

Wishing all our family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year
Murray & Susie Klein
David & Lisa, Robbie & Dana
Jamie & Joelle

Nancy & Howard Kleinberg
children and grandchildren

wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Marilyn Kostman
Elayne & Roberto Slimak
Sasha, Jonathan & Noah
Arny, Jesse & Tyler Kostman

Best wishes for a year of
Peace and Serenity, Health & Happiness
to all our friends.

Regina Kozlowski & Family

wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Regina Kozlowski & Family

wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Mrs. Rose Krieser
and Family

Wish their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

L's . . .

Natalie & Manny Langer

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, relatives and friends
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Regina & Robert,
Jodi and Brian Lee
Alisse & Brian Goldenberg

Wish all their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel.

Morris & Fay Lewkowicz
and Family

Vicki & Syd Lanys
Michael & Zachary Lanys
Sheryl, Sheldon, Lindsay
and Sean Cheskes
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Diminishing dominance of local Jewish federations

Continued from page B57

"progressive Jewish" thought. In the face of the ensuing brouhaha, the AJC said it was a mistake to include syndicated columnist Richard Cohen in the essay, but otherwise stuck to its guns. The *New York Times* ran a story painting the essay as an assault on liberals by a "conservative" organization, but subsequently issued a correction, saying it had unfairly characterized the political leanings of the AJC.

The AJC touted the correction, but it seemed a pyrrhic victory, offering temporary solace in the face of a seemingly undeniable trend: respectable voices in the wider society increasingly view Jewish organizations as parochial interest groups rather than standard-bearers of a moral cause.

Less jarring, but nonetheless symbolically important, was the community's highest-profile religious development of the year: the December decision by the Conservative movement's top lawmaking body to permit the ordination of gay and lesbian rabbis as well as the performance of same-sex ceremonies.

The movement's West Coast seminary moved quickly to open its doors to gay and lesbian rabbinical students, with the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York following suit in March.

A few of the more traditionalist members of the Law Committee resigned, and voices of opposition were heard in branches of the movement in other countries. But the decision sparked little controversy in Conservative synagogues across the United States, especially compared to the tense fallout from the movement's decision more than two decades ago to ordain women.

While only a small number of rabbis and congregations were vocally upset over the decision, few people are likely to benefit directly from it.

Instead, the new policy carries tremendous symbolic importance, most notably in how it punctuates a decades-long shift in the religious landscape of Jewish life in America. Throughout much of the 20th century, Conservative leaders viewed their movement as an ideological and sociological middle ground between the respective extremes of the Reform and the Orthodox.

But the decision to drop the ban on gay ordination and same-sex unions provides a powerful confirmation that the bridge connecting the denominations is crumbling, leaving a widening gap between Orthodoxy and everything else.

The question going forward is no longer whether Conservative Judaism will hold the centre, but whether it will win, or at least not lose any more ground, in the battle with the Reform movement for the hearts and minds of the vast majority of American Jews who fall on the liberal side of the divide with the Orthodox.

Just as 5767 highlighted the changing denominational map, this past year saw a string of moves that reflected the diminishing dominance of local Jewish charitable federations and their national arm, the United Jewish Communities (UJC). For several decades the federation movement was the unchallenged force in determining the community's spending priorities.

But in recent years mega donors and private foundations have often taken the lead – and several developments this year suggest that this trend will only intensify.

The year started out with a big bang: Yeshiva University announced that its immediate past chairman, fertilizer and oil magnate Ronald Stanton, was giving $100 million to the school – believed to be the largest amount of money ever pledged to a Jewish cause.

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The UJC is restructuring

Continued from page B58

"I'm sorry that this is the largest gift ever" to a Jewish organization, Stanton said. "There are plenty of people who could do it, but most substantial philanthropy goes to non-Jewish causes."

Other donors made news, including William Davidson, owner of the Detroit Pistons and president of Guardian Industries Corp. of Auburn Hills, Mich., and his wife, Karen, who pledged $75 million for a new in-patient tower at Hadassah's Jerusalem hospital.

Though not as lavish, two $15-million pledges were significant in terms of underscoring the lead role that private family foundations are playing. One of the pledges was from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation to Brandeis University for the creation of an interdisciplinary Israel curriculum, at a time when Jewish students and communal officials are grappling with anti-Israel sentiment on campus and Arab-funded Middle Eastern studies programs are growing.

The other $15-million pledge – from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to help cover tuition costs at 12 Jewish day schools in Baltimore – was cheered by Jewish education advocates as a potential philanthropic model for tackling the major financial challenges faced by day schools.

Fifteen million dollars was also the magic number for the Foundation for Jewish Camping, which received an anonymous donation of that amount from a donor in Chicago. In addition, the camping outfit scored a $11.2-million grant from the Jim Joseph Foundation for preteens in communities west of the Rockies – the splashiest yet as it moves forward with plans to give away $25 million annually.

This would be enough for any year, but 5767 marked the opening of the foundation of casino mogul Sheldon Adelson and his wife, Miriam. The couple are reportedly planning to dole out $200 million a year to Jewish causes – dwarfing the amount raised annually by any local federation except for New York.

The Adelsons pledged $60 million this year to birthright israel and gave $4.5 million to the Shalem Center in Jerusalem for a star-studded institute that will seek to deal with issues facing Israel and western civilization, including nationalism, terrorism, identity and the spreading of human rights and democracy.

The UJC is not standing still. It passed a $40.2-million budget, allocating a significant portion to a restructuring plan aimed at boosting the sagging annual campaigns of local federations; the plan also seeks to build on the success of the UJC's $360 million Israel Emergency Campaign by beefing up the organization's office in Israel.

Federations also are working to adapt to the changing philanthropic universe, where individual donors and foundations have the ability to give more in a year than entire communities raise in their annual fundraising campaigns.

Many – like the Baltimore federation, which is giving $1 million per year to day schools in conjunction with the Weinberg foundation – are seeking to leverage their expertise and influence to forge partnerships with these independent players. Similar efforts are underway in cities such as Boston and Chicago, where federations are working with outside donors to develop innovative approaches to funding Jewish education.

In general – from political activism to religion and philanthropy – the past year demonstrated that the rules of the game are changing dramatically, often rapidly. Looking ahead, the question is which individuals, institutions and movements will figure out how to adjust.

I wish my family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Mary Levitt

Fela Lichtblau
and Family

Wish all their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy
New Year

Shelly & Marilyn Little
Adam, Jeremy, Amy & Sari

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year

Wishing all our family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Marilyn, Bruce, Erin, Michael
& Brian Lubelsky

M's . . .

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel

Honey & Milton Mandel
and Family

Carl & Sylvia Mahler

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, relatives and friends
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Edie & Jackie Marcus
Melanie & Jay
Lauren, Adam & Dylan
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year

Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Marcus

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Ida Melnik
children & grandchildren

Wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

In loving memory of our beloved Harry ז"ל

David Mendlowicz
Simon Mendlowicz,
Wendy Lebskin & Jenna
Itzik Ravuna, Lisa Mendlowicz,
Jordan & Danielle
Wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Sam and Lori Merson

Wish their children, grandchildren,
family and friends a Happy, Healthy
& Prosperous New Year.

JOE & HELEN MORGAN
AND FAMILY
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Dr. & Mrs. Seymour Moskovitz
and Family

wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

N's . . .

Bernard & Edie Nayman

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, relatives and friends
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

O's . . .

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel.

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Orlan

P's . . .

Rose & Sam Pacht
Children & Grandchildren

Wish all their relatives, friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Isaac & Sylvia Peck
Ryan, Judith, Ella & Jesse
Jared & Sarah
Samantha, Thomas & Olivia
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Rose & Harry
Perlstein

Wish their friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing our children, grandchildren,
great-grandchildren, family and friends
a happy, healthy New Year

Isaac and Minny Peters

Manny & Ruthie Putter

Best wishes to our children,
relatives and friends
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Moniek & Genia
Prusznowski

Leib and Fanny Pillersdorf
and Family

83 Collinson Boulevard
Toronto, Ontario

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year.

R's . . .

Ralph & Karen Rabinowicz
and Family

wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

David & Shanea
Rakowski and Family

Wish their relatives & friends a peaceful,
Happy and Healthy New Year.

Adele & Jan Rolin

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

THE ROSENS
Hannah, John and Eric

wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Annegail & Ian Rosen
Neil, Casey and Jamie

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year.

From recovery to renaissance: New Orleans Jews look ahead

By GAIL NARON CHALEW
JTA

NEW ORLEANS — The Jewish community of New Orleans has used the two years since hurricane Katrina not only to recover from the devastation but also to plot the course for what it hopes will be a future renaissance.

Key to this revitalization is a program of grants and incentives to lure 1,000 Jewish individuals and families to the area from around the country. This program is the first fruit of an intensive planning process that has involved several hundred members of the Jewish community.

When Katrina struck in late August 2005, the nearly 10,000 Jews in the community were hit hard, as was the rest of New Orleans. The massive hurricane damaged 80 per cent of their homes, 70 per cent of their businesses and several key community institutions.

Since then, the Jewish communal infrastructure has largely been sustained by more than $20 million in donations from the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella of the North American federation system, the national religious movements, along with donations from hundreds of individual synagogues, federations and donors.

But as of December 2007, the New Orleans Jewish community, which has lost about 30 per cent of its members, must stand on its own two feet.

Michael Weil, a strategic planner drawn from Israel to head the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, says the challenge is immense but the community is determined to look ahead.

"There is no sense in going back to where we were before the storm. We have the opportunity now to make past dreams and new dreams of a vibrant Jewish New Orleans come true."

Early evidence suggests that the Jewish community is rising to the challenge. The federation's current annual campaign, the first since Katrina, is on track to raise more than $2.6 million, compared to the $2.8 million raised among significantly more members in the last pre-Katrina campaign.

Plans are underway to centralize services, share space and eliminate overlaps among community institutions. "Everyone is sitting around the table now. There is wall-to-wall collaboration," Weil says. One example is that a discussion is underway to merge the community day school and the Chabad-Lubavitch day school.

The federation has hired a grant writer and has engaged an Israeli public relations firm to do marketing on a pro bono basis, branding New Orleans as a "pioneering, exciting and fun community," in Weil's words.

The incentive package to attract newcomers will include housing and business loans, moving grants, scholarships to the community day school, free or reduced membership at synagogues and local Jewish organizations, and a job search network.

Funded mostly by outside philanthropists, the incentive program is headed by Nathan Rothstein, himself a newcomer to the community.

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5768

Most people are optimistic

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During his senior year at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, he came to New Orleans on a Hillel-sponsored volunteer mission, experienced the needs first-hand and knew that "here was a place where I could take on a leadership role and have an immediate impact."

To guide the federation in its planning efforts, Louisiana State University sociologist Rick Weil last fall surveyed both current residents and those who had relocated elsewhere. After the summer, he will be conducting a full-scale demographic study.

His results of last fall's survey were surprisingly favourable, indicating that those who are back are likely to stay and that only 15 per cent of those who have left are very unlikely to return.

"The Jewish community is showing a huge amount of toughness," the professor says. "According to every measure of stress – trouble sleeping or concentrating, worrying and eating too much – they are experiencing way more than under normal circumstances. And the more damage they sustained to their homes or businesses, the more stress.

"Yet, at the same time, they are showing great resilience. One interesting finding is that the one form of support that was consistently effective in helping people cope with stress was regular synagogue attendance."

Weil found in his survey that most people are optimistic that New Orleans will recover. Although 40 per cent of respondents reported receiving job offers in other communities, many of those decided to stay in New Orleans.

At the same time, the reported brain drain of many professionals from the city has not occurred in the Jewish community. Doctors, lawyers and other professionals have returned in the same proportion as the rest of the Jewish community.

But whether Jewish New Orleans will indeed experience a renaissance will depend on the ability of the community to retain its current residents and attract new ones.

Understanding that the Jewish community cannot flourish if the levees are not strengthened and the soaring crime rate does not decline, many New Orleans Jews have become community activists.

As Shellye Farber, an accountant and the past president of the New Orleans section of the National Council of Jewish Women, put it, "Ultimately, we cannot control those larger issues. What we can control is making Jewish New Orleans a more attractive and exciting place to be."

Rabbi Uri Topolsky, the former associate rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale in New York, will be another key player in that effort. He recently moved to New Orleans this summer with his wife, Dahlia, and two children to become the rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel, the Orthodox congregation that was flooded by 10 feet of water just two years ago.

He is launching his own recruitment campaign geared to Orthodox Jewish families. Its tagline quotes Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, the 18th-century chassidic leader, who said, "If you believe in the ability to destroy, you can believe in the ability to rebuild."

Lily & Mike Rosenberg,
Robert, Daniel & Sarah Jacobs,
Pauline, Jon & Ben Elias
Vanessa & Lee Krelstein
wish their relatives & friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Myer Rosenberg

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren,
my great grandchildren, friends and
relatives for a happy, healthy and
peaceful New Year.

Paul & Phyllis Rosengarten

Best wishes to our children
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Willie & Bertha Rosengarten
& Family

Wish all their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Mel & Sharon Rubinstein
and family

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

Pinchos & Luba Rywiec

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mike & Sally Rosen
31 Denmark Crescent

Wish all their relatives, friends and clients
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

S's . . .

Rosita & David
Salomon

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year.

Samuel J. Sable
& family
1 Ava Road

Wish their relatives, friends and neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year.

Rachelle & Jessica Salamon
Lisa, Rob & Benjamin Switzman
Mindy & Mike Caplan
Wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Adolf and Alice Schmid
Monique Irwin
Amanda Irwin Ratner
Jordana Irwin Joseph
Wish their family and friends a
Happy and Healthy New Year.

Nathan & Helen Shiff
Martin, Michelle, Mitchell, Jaimie & Jeremy Shiff
Jeffrey, Aviva, David, Tatum & Melissa Shiff
Adam, Barbara, Matthew & Carly Altberg

Wish all their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy & healthy New Year.

Nachum & Lea Shore
23 Fanshawe Dr., Richmond Hill

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

David & Luba Smuschkowitz
and Family

Wish all their relatives, friends
a year of peace, good health and happiness

Wishing all our family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Lois, Jordan and Miriam Smiley
of Richmond, B.C.

Laury & Evy Snow

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year
to all our relatives, clients & friends

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Snow
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Snow & family
Lorrie and Karyn Goldman
Ashleigh, Carly & Jason Schwartz
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Cohen & family

Dvora Szmeiser
Leora & Ray Keshen,
Shelley & David Star
and Children
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year.

Rob & Hedy Steen
Samantha, Ben and Jeremy

Wish their relatives, friends and neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year.

Anne & Joe Steinberg
Bella, Jason,
Adam & Daniel Sinukoff
Wendy, Stuart, Zachary, Cory,
Matthew & Michael Himmel
Evy, Elliot, Hailey,
Carly & Jordan Sugar
Wish their relatives & friends
a happy and healthy New Year
52 Green Acres Road

Jack, Lola, Rose-Mary Sylman
Sid, Evelyn, Madison &
Tyler Rochwerg

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Max & Dorothy Stern

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Zanvel & Sylvia Stern
Derek & Jill Stern
Brett & Corinne Starkman
and Family
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a Happy and Healthy New Year

Sam, Janice, Dale and
Jordan Stern

Wish their relatives and friends a year of
peace, good health and happiness.

Morris & Yetta Sternberg
and Family

Wish their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.
Joel Steinman and Family

Sandy, Ida & Maury Shessel
Elie & Lindsay Kochman
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy
New Year

T's . . .

The BioHug seen here delivers a mildly pulsating pressure by using inflatable cells placed in the garment. It includes a biofeedback mechanism that automatically regulates the level of stimulation.

Autistic children get an Israeli 'biohug'

By DAVID BRINN

For Raffi Rembrand, necessity was definitely the mother of his invention. An Israeli engineer and father of a son with autism, Rembrand was well aware of the difficulties of raising children with this disorder.

He had devoured all the information indicating that a treatment known as deep pressure touch can have a calming effect in agitated individuals with autism. However, he discovered that most existing devices were like straitjackets, not sensitive to changes in the patient's movement, and could not regulate the pressure applied according to the patient's needs or body reactions.

An inventor by nature, Rembrand began tinkering in his home until he came up with the idea of a light, wearable, vest-like calming device that is both portable and non-restraining.

Working through a few prototypes of his "home remedy" makeshift device he developed the BioHug – a vest for both people with autism and children diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The BioHug delivers a mildly pulsating pressure through inflatable cells placed in the garment and includes a biofeedback mechanism that automatically regulates the level of stimulation.

According to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, one out of every 150 children in the United States suffers from a disorder that falls somewhere on the autism spectrum, ranging from Asperger's syndrome to children who are very limited by their autism. ADHD is much more prevalent, however, with millions of children diagnosed with the learning disorder.

Continued on page B63

'A simple idea which might help'

Continued from page B62

"It was very much an improvisational exercise," Rembrand says, describing how he developed the BioHug. "The idea of inflatable bubble cells is used for people with pressure wounds to keep them from getting infected. I took a little from here and a little from there. There wasn't any patent, it was just a nice development.

"I approached ALUT [the Israeli Society for Autistic Children] and said, 'Here's a simple idea which might help the kids – I've tested it on my son, and on other people with autism.'"

They were so impressed that they implored Rembrand to develop a scientifically tested, professional device that could be made available to all people with autism.

He approached Dr. Einat Gal, a clinical researcher at the University of Haifa, who continues to collaborate on the development of the BioHug

Still, Rembrand wasn't satisfied. "Everyone told me, 'You know, this invention is way too simple.' It has a very low technological barrier,' so I said, 'OK, if this is what needs to be done, I'll add some technology to it' – which is how we came to include biofeedback."

Rembrand says the device measures the user's stress, and that stress actually controls the BioHug's pressure and pulsation rate. A change in the stress counter will cause the pulsation rate and amount of pressure to adjust.

The device measures the user's stress

Earlier this year, Rembrand founded BioHug Technologies Ltd. to commercialize the device and was accepted into the Chief Scientist of Israel incubator program, through L.N. Innovative Technologies in Haifa.

He also found a kindred soul in Andrew Schiffmiller, a veteran manager and consultant, who took up the position of CEO of the new company.

"The BioHug is unique among all other types of pressure-based devices for people with autism because we solve the problem of habituation," Schiffmiller told ISRAEL21c.

"Try it yourself – gently pinch your wrist – you feel it, but if you keep doing it, after a short while you don't feel it anymore. Your body gets used to it. Through the pulsation feature on the BioHug, we reduce the habituation, so the sensation of pressure on the user will continue, because it's always changing."

Schiffmiller says the original reason Rembrand, who acts as BioHug's chief technological officer, invented the concept wasn't just to keep his son calm, but to conduct tests on a theory he had researched regarding hearing.

"There's a body of suggestive evidence that people with autism hear differently than other people. When you put a shell to your ear and you think you hear the ocean, it's called otoacoustic emissions. [It's] produced by the inner ear itself, which is thought to have some role in filtering out background noise," Schiffmiller explained.

"The working theory was that there's a difference in the otoacoustic emissions of people with autism. If that's true and you can quantify it, then you can have a purely empirical way of diagnosing autism – even in infants."

Continued on page B64

Anjie & Richard
Avery, Ben, Casey & Dash
On the occasion of
Dash Harrison's 1st Rosh Hashanah
we wish everyone health, joy & peace

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Tenenbaum
Sid, Judy, Ari-Lev, Elie & Avichai
Gary, Louise & Josh
Uli, Tamara, Odeyah, Daniel, Eliya
& Elisha Erez Friedman
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours here and in Israel
a happy and healthy New Year.

Dina and Willie Tenenbaum
Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, relatives and friends
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mrs. Rose Tenenbaum
Best wishes to my children,
grandchildren, relatives and friends
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.
Karen Hacker & Irv Teper
and family

Mr. & Mrs. G. Thaler
and children
Sam, Bess and grandchildren
Jason and Amy Wagowsky
Wish all their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Norman & Ruth Trachter
Wish their children, grandchildren,
relatives and friends
a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Norm & Sandra Turk
and Family
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

U's . . .

Irving & Sylvia Ungerman
and family
Wish their relatives & friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

W's . . .

Sylvia & Henry Waks
Wish all their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Jack & Anne Weinbaum
& Family
Wish all their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Tamara & Mietek Weinreich
and Family
98 Brookview Drive.
Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, relatives & friends
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mark & Jodi Weisleder,
Hillary & Jillian
Louis & Marlene Weisleder,
Joshua, Lindsay & Zachary
Marsha Weisleder
Anne & Sam Himelfarb
Adam & Eric
wish their family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Sidney Wolbrom

Best wishes to my children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

John & Marcia Wenus
Dustin, Shelby, Brittany,
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Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy & healthy New Year.

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Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, relatives and friends
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel.

Marvin & Faye White
Zachary, Jeremy & Jordan

Ted, Annette,
Madison & Eden Wine

wish their family & friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Shana Tova

To our friends & relatives
for a happy & healthy
New Year

Stefanie & Steve Winter

THE WISEBERGS
Gloria
Barb, Darrel & Joey Hotz (Canada)
Azriel, Sigal, Nitzan, Dafna, Maya & Dvir Har Lavan (Israel)
Wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Weinstock
David & Lauren, Moss, Michelle & Nina
Mark & Donna, Dan & Erin
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy & healthy New Year.

Lou & Helen Wronzberg
Rick, Debbie, Alexis & Danielle
Larry, Darlene, Lynsey & Tarah
Randy, Debbie, Jordan, Ashley, Dustin & Melissa
Donna, Nechama, Chaim & Shmuel
Wish all their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Perlan and Ted Waxman
& Family

Wish their family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year

Y's . . .

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel.

The Yermus Family

Z's . . .

Wishing all our family, friends,
grandchildren and great-grandchildren
a happy and healthy New Year

Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Zajdner

Wishing all our family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Abe & Margot Zukerman

'Still revising the design'

Continued from page B63

But the problem is, how do you get naturally fidgety people with autism to sit still long enough to conduct an ear exam? According to Rembrand and Schiffmiller, the BioHug is the solution.

They are still revising the design of the BioHug before they actually begin clinical testing, discussing issues such as whether the compressor will be in the vest or in an accompanying backpack, and other design issues. But the feedback they have received from students with autism who have tried the device and from professionals in the field, indicates that they are on the right track.

"Every time we build a prototype, we go back to the Horsha school for children with autism that Rafi has a good relationship with, we give it to the staff, they play with, try it on and give us their suggestions," Schiffmiller said. "Since these are people that work with children with autism every day and they themselves are experienced in the application of the pressure, they've been great sounding boards for us."

"And they're still using my first prototype at the school," Rembrand added.

Both Schiffmiller and Rembrand are confident that the BioHug represents a huge leap in the field of controlled pressure devices for patients with autism. Some devices are based on the principle of weight, where weighted garments place pressure on the user's shoulders. But Schiffmiller claims there are two drawbacks to that type of therapy.

"One is the issue of habituation. After a few minutes, you don't really feel it. And two, in order to be effective, the total weight needs to about 10 per cent of the wearer's body weight – that's heavy, especially if you're talking about adults."

There's also a device invented a decade ago by Temple Grandin, a very high-functioning person with autism in the United States, who created a machine whose concept was based on restraining chutes used for cattle.

"As a child, she always craved pressure. Once when she was visiting her uncle's farm, she saw him using a restraining chute for the cattle, and she climbed in and found that the pressure helped calm her," Schiffmiller explained.

"Her device is large and cumbersome – about 350 pounds and uses an industrial air compressor. What Rafi has done, in essence, is to miniaturize that process into the BioHug."

Depending on the population, the BioHug can function in a number of different ways, Schiffmiller said. For students with ADHD, it could be worn at homework time to help the user to concentrate and stay on task. And for people with autism who sometimes suffer through periods of severe agitation, it can bea tool to help them calm down.

"With some people with autism, the possibility exists that they may hurt themselves or hurt others, and the BioHug is an effective way to get them to relax," he said.

Rembrand is confident that the BioHug will prove useful for the families of children with autism. And he only has to look as far as his own son, Jacob, now 23 years old.

"He's my primary beta tester. And if he says it's good, then we know it's good."

David Brinn is Editor of ISRAEL21c, a media organization focusing on 21st century Israel.

Former Montrealer builds Second Temple model.

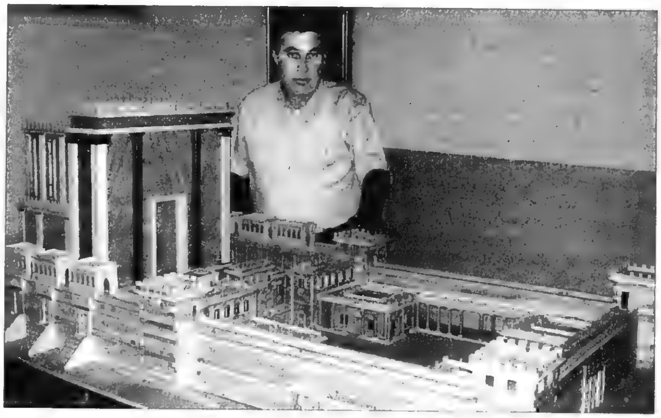
By SHARON KANON
IPS

No one needed a GPS in ancient times to find Jerusalem. With its gleaming white marble, the Holy Temple in Jerusalem was one of the most magnificent wonders of the ancient world, a magnetic draw for kings and pilgrims.

A fascinating new model of the Second Temple, originally built by the master builder Herod, displays the awesome grandeur of the sacred edifice and its multi-purpose function and symbolism as the centre of Jewish religious and national existence.

"I felt that I was not alone, as if there was an invisible hand directing and guiding me," said former Montrealer Chaim Rosenberg, 55, a logistics administrator at Elta Electronics, Israel's highly sophisticated radar communications company, and a secular Jew. "I felt that I was creating a holy work, particularly when I worked through the night."

"It took me six months to decide to do it," Rosenberg said after fellow worker Yosef Zaklas, a Canadian-born engineer and an enthusiastic Chabad supporter, saw Rosenberg's model of an American battleship – consisting of more than 14,000 matchsticks – and suggested the idea to him.



Chaim Rosenberg with his model of the Second Temple.

[IPS photo courtesy of Chaim Rosenberg]

"I didn't know anything about the Temple when the project was first suggested to me," Rosenberg said. "Then I began collecting material, reading books and attending lectures."

He pulled out a beautifully illustrated book about the Temple written by Rabbi Yisrael Ariel of the Temple Institute.

"Daniel Michelson, an applied maths professor at the Weizmann Institute of Science, has been researching the Temple for 10 years," said Zaklas. A virtual model "with the correct dimensions" of the Temple appears on his website – www.truthofland.co.il – along with many articles. "I thought to myself, 'How could Chaim go wrong?'"

Rosenberg's daughter, Riki, an architect who is now studying for an advanced degree, provided the precise drawings for the Second Temple reproduction – a 1:100 replica (measuring 2.3 x 1.3 metres).

"I began work around 5:30 each evening, after getting home from work, and often worked through until 3 a.m. Once I started something, I had to finish it. I wanted every piece to be accurate."

One particular project that required great precision was the making of more than 220 Corinthian columns.

One of Rosenberg's first jobs was to build the walls that enclosed the Court of the Women, a misnomer for what was actually an open plaza used for various activities on festivals (the women were located in the balcony on the second tier). In its four corners were four enclosures – a chamber where the priests sorted wood; a chamber for lepers who had been healed, bathed and declared clean by the priests; a chamber where oil and wine were preserved, and a chamber for those who had fulfilled the vow of the Nazarites and shaved their heads.

Continued on page B66

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The Hon. Stephane Dion and the GTA Federal Liberal Caucus would like to extend our best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year to members of the Jewish community. L'Shanah Tovah!

Liberal
www.liberal.ca

stronger together

Joe MIHEVC

"Shana Tova to all my friends in the Jewish Community"

Shana Tova
A very Happy New Year
to all the residents of Willowdale!
From Mari Rutka
Your public shool board trustee

Trustee Mari Rutka – Willowdale
5050 Yonge Street – 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M2N 5N8

Phone: 416-395-8411
Fax: 416-397-3114
Email: mari.rutka@tdsb.on.ca
www.tdsb.on.ca/rutka

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DAVID SHINER
Willowdale
sends his best wishes for a healthy, prosperous
HAPPY
NEW YEAR
to all of the residents
of Willowdale,
the City of Toronto and
surrounding communities

לשנה טובה תכתבו
Best Wishes for a
Happy and Healthy New Year
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PC, MP, MD
1650 Yonge Street, Toronto
Tel: 416-952-3990
Fax: 416-952-3995
E-mail: bennec@parl.gc.ca
www.carolynbennettmp.ca

The Honourable
Maurizio Bevilacqua, M.P.
Vaughan

Wishing
everyone in the
community
a happy, healthy
and prosperous
New Year!

20 Cranston Park Avenue, Unit #10
Maple, Ontario L6A 2W2
(905) 303-5000 fax: (905) 303-5002

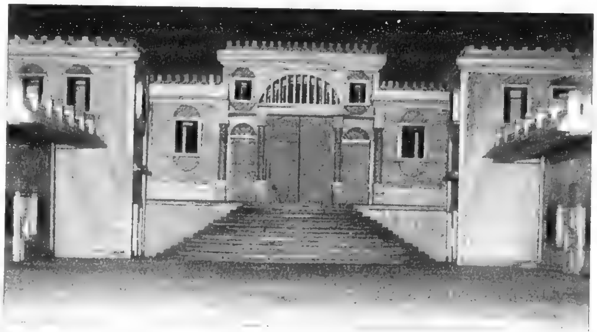
'Taking pride in the details'

Continued from page B65

To build the model – which was made from oak, white Chinese pine, spring timber and maple – Rosenberg looked for just the right saw.

"I like symmetry and precision. Curiously, I found the saw I needed in a fish shop," he said, and he demonstrated his skill with it by cutting a semi-circle free-hand.

Fifteen semicircular steps at the western side of the Women's Court led up to Nicanor's Gate. "On these steps the Levites, who assisted the Kohanim, sang the beautiful *Shir Hama'alot* psalms," Rosenberg said.



The fifteen semicircular steps at the western side of the Women's Court, which led up to Nicanor's Gate. On the other side of the gate was the altar for sacrifices.
[IPS photo courtesy of Chaim Rosenberg]

According to a midrash in the Talmud, when storms threatened the ship on which Nicanor was transporting the heavy doors for the Temple from Alexandria, Egypt, to Israel, the captain decided to throw one of the doors overboard.

When high waves continued, the captain threatened to throw the second door overboard. "If you throw the door overboard, you will have to throw me too," said Nicanor. When the ship finally arrived in the port of Akko in Israel, Nicanor found the second door miraculously attached to the ship.

On the inside of the door, Rosenberg placed two golden cherubim – angel-like figures with upward wings (seeking a higher Godly purpose), one male and one female, symbolizing the importance of Torah and human interaction. This motif was used both on the Ark in which the Torah tablets were originally placed and repeatedly in the Tabernacle.

The area on the other side of Nicanor's Gate had three sections: the Court of the Israelites (for Jewish men only), the altar for sacrifices, and the Court of the Priests. On the upper level were cubicles where the Sanhedrin court met. They were also used as rooms for the priests and as a geniza (an archive of Hebrew manuscripts).

"The Temple was a grand structure on a raised platform in the centre of the Temple Mount and stood 50 metres high – an impressive sacred area," Rosenberg said.

The historian Josephus wrote that its outer walls were covered with massive plates of gold and that it was divided into three parts: a foyer, the Holy Room with the Golden Menorah (until it was stolen); the showbread and a gold altar; and a separate room for the Holy of Holies.

Taking pride in the details, Rosenberg points to the niche where a priest blew the trumpet to signal the approach and the end of the Sabbath.

"He who has not seen Herod's Temple in Jerusalem has not seen a beautiful building," the sages said in the Talmud (Bava Batra 4a). To his credit, Herod followed Halachah in constructing the Temple. Not to give the builder too much credit, it should be noted that Herod (a non-Jewish king appointed by the Romans – he probably paid for the position) had taxed the Jews highly for other projects and had killed many priests. The Temple may have been a gesture to the Jews, but it enhanced his own reputation.

One of the largest man-made sacred compounds in antiquity, the Herodian Temple covered a 36-acre area and was double the size of Solomon's Temple. The Western Wall is one of the four retaining walls that was built to enlarge the Temple Mount. It was also a major improvement over the poorly reconstructed Temple built by Zerubbabel when the Jews returned from Babylon with Ezra and Nechemiah.

According to sources, it took seven years to build Solomon's Temple, while it took 46 to 80 years, according to different estimates, to build Herod's Temple. Some 180,000 people made pilgrimages to the Second Temple during each of the festivals. Non-Jews were also allowed within its walls, up to a point.

Built on Mount Moriah, where Adam and Eve were created, sinned and repented by bringing a sacrifice; where Abraham brought Isaac in the fateful test of faith; and where the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, the abode of the Ark of the Covenant in the First Temple, it was a holy focal point of the Jewish People.

Imagine a visit to the Temple 2,000 years ago – the religious and judicial center of the Jewish world. People came to the Sanhedrin Courts to plead their cases and pay their half-shekel taxes. They came to the mikvahs to wash before entering the Temple compound, and they came to the Temple, which teemed with activity, to pray – it was the preferred place for prayer during the Second Temple period. (Today, outside of Jerusalem, it is customary to face the city three times a day during prayers. In Jerusalem, prayer is said facing the Temple Mount.)

It was in the Temple that the Kohanim made their ritual offerings and the people brought their offerings to give thanks and expiate their sins, and where they celebrated the Sabbath

Continued on page B67

Best wishes for a
Happy and Healthy
New Year

Hon. John Godfrey, M.P.
Don Valley West

146 Laird Dr., Suite 203
Toronto, Ontario M4G 3V7
Tel: 416-467-7275 Fax: 416-467-8550
Website: www.johngodfrey.on.ca

ראש השנה
I wish the residents in our community
a very Happy New Year
Sincerely James Pasternak
Your school trustee for York Centre

Trustee James Pasternak – York Centre
5050 Yonge Street – 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M2N 5N8

Phone: 416-395-8406
Fax: 416-397-3114
Email: james.pasternak@tdsb.on.ca
www.tdsb.on.ca/pasternak

Toronto
District
School
Board

'I want people to understand what the Temple really was'

Continued from page B66

and special festivals with dancing and song. Here, too, the shofar was sounded on Rosh Hashanah and the First Fruits were brought at harvest time.

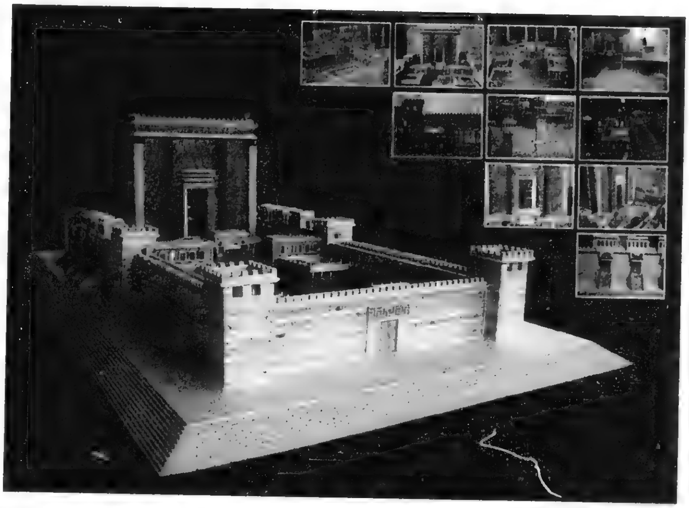
One of the happiest celebrations was Simchat Beit Hashoeva (Rejoicing at the Place of the Water-Drawing), performed every morning throughout Sukkot, which involved pouring water from the pool of Shiloach in the City of David on the altar in order to invoke God's blessing for rain. On Yom Kippur, the Kohen HaGadol (the High Priest) entered the Holy of Holies to ask for Divine forgiveness for the people's sins.

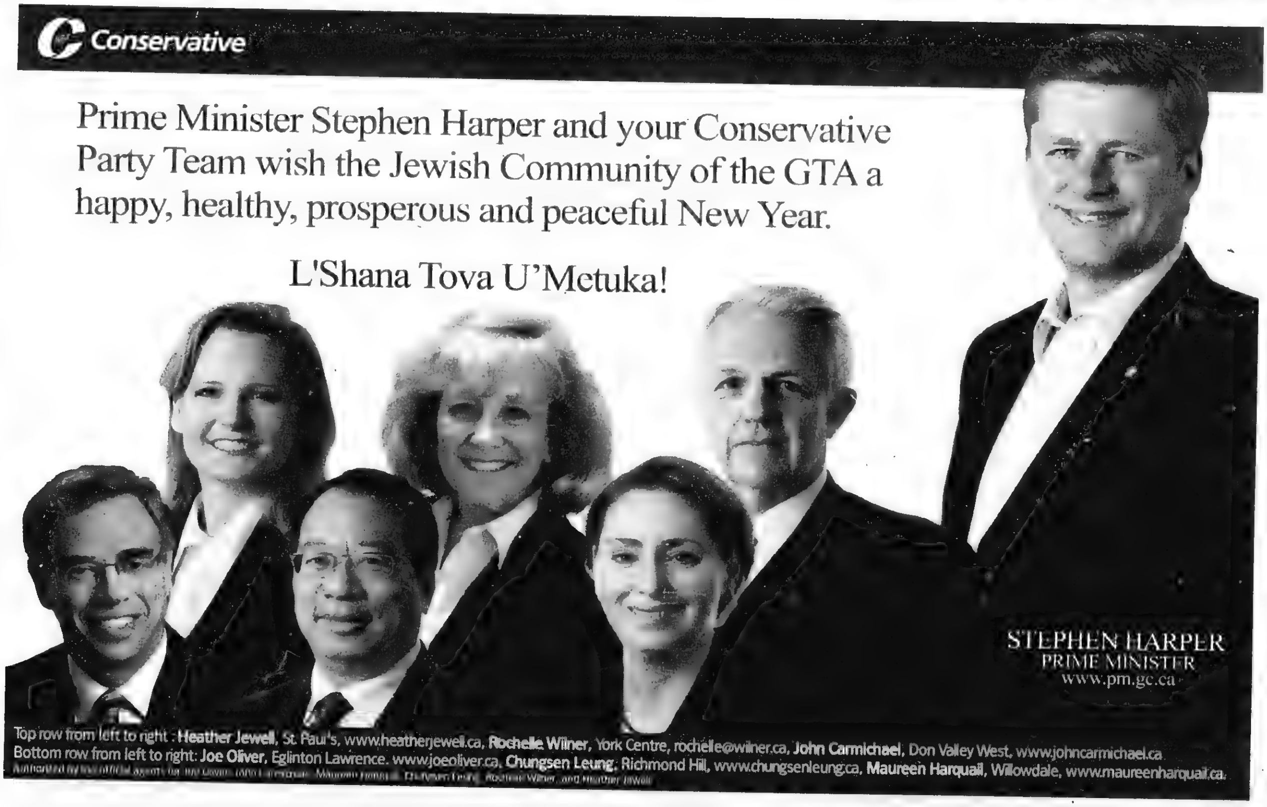
Bezalel was only 13 years old when God chose him to supervise construction of the elaborate portable Tabernacle, a pre-Temple that the Jews carried during their wanderings in the desert. Empowered with miraculous divine abilities, with "Godly spirit… wisdom, insight and knowledge and with every craft" (Exodus 31:3), Bezalel carried out the enormous project detailed in three chapters. He rested only on Shabbat.

The year-long experience of building the Temple model also had a remarkable impact on the secular Rosenberg.

"I want people, especially secular Jews, to understand what the Holy Temple really was – to know that we came from this place, to know our roots, our destiny. The Temple sent out a message of confidence to the nation. It is a message we need today."

(The "blueprint" drawings for the First Temple are said to have been given by God to Moses and handed down throughout the generations. The Talmud and the writings of Josephus Flavius are the prime source of specifications for Herod's Second Temple.)





Conservative

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and your Conservative Party Team wish the Jewish Community of the GTA a happy, healthy, prosperous and peaceful New Year.

L'Shana Tova U'Metuka!

STEPHEN HARPER
PRIME MINISTER
www.pm.gc.ca

Top row from left to right : **Heather Jewell**, St. Paul's, www.heatherjewell.ca, **Rochelle Wilner**, York Centre, rochelle@wilner.ca, **John Carmichael**, Don Valley West, www.johncarmichael.ca
Bottom row from left to right: **Joe Oliver**, Eglinton Lawrence. www.joeoliver.ca, **Chungsen Leung**, Richmond Hill, www.chungsenleung.ca, **Maureen Harquail**, Willowdale, www.maureenharquail.ca.
Authorized by the official agents for Joe Oliver, John Carmichael, Maureen Harquail, Chungsen Leung, Rochelle Wilner, and Heather Jewell

Community kitchen a successful business incubator

By **WENDY ELLIMAN**
IPS

Since October 2006, eight women from disadvantaged backgrounds have spent their mornings preparing tasty nutritious meals for 210 mentally challenged adults at the Israel-Elwyn Rehabilitation Center in Jerusalem, and many of their afternoons and evenings developing their own catering businesses in Israel's competitive culinary market.

"The community kitchen at Elwyn is the 'graduate stage' of our 'Women Cook Up A Business' program," said Ella Ben Yossef, head of social services projects for the Jerusalem Foundation, which provided much of the funding for the community kitchen and for the 18-month training courses that preceded it.

"It is a highly original and effective model that will be widely replicable once we have overcome the problems of combining an economic undertaking with the facts on the ground."

Cook Up A Business, which aims to help mature women enter the job market, earn a steady income and raise their status at home, was launched two years ago in Jerusalem's socially and economically depressed Kiryat Yovel neighborhood by the Kol Ha'Isha (Woman's Voice) and Achoti (My Sister) women's organizations

"It's a project that adapts the micro-business model to women who excel in home cooking, and so turns a low-image skill into a prestigious and marketable occupation," said Orna Hadar, director of the Kol Ha'Isha Jerusalem Women's Center.

The project began with a course that taught business practices along with food skills – bookkeeping, pricing, marketing, economic planning, defining a business and its market, self-empowerment and self-presentation.

As the course ended, however, it became clear, Hadar said, that an intermediate stage was needed between the classroom and the business world.

Rimon, a community kitchen member, tells a group of supporters from the United States about the dessert liqueurs that she makes and the gift package she developed for Rosh Hashanah as part of her own culinary business.

"We came up with the idea of a community kitchen that would function as a safe, supportive and enabling business incubator, while providing working conditions as close as possible to the business reality," she said.

An agreement was made with the Elwyn Rehabilitation Center in south Jerusalem to have the women modernize, re-equip and work from their kitchen, preparing 210 meals, five mornings a week. The kitchen thus operates as a co-operative business enterprise, while the women develop skills and gain real-life experience with an eye toward entering the business world on their own.

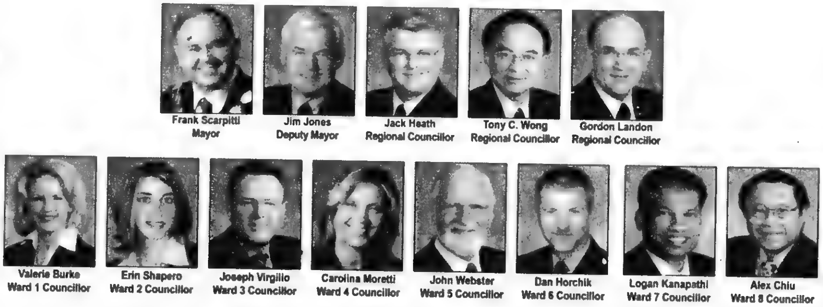
In the afternoons, the kitchen is open to all course graduates and gives them a place where they can cook for their own businesses – a supportive framework that has both Health Ministry and kashrut certification.

Continued on page B69

Shanah Tovah
Wishing you all the best in the new year.
Erin Shapero
Councillor, Ward 2
Thornhill
Town of Markham
905-479-7756

Councillor Michael & Sue Feldman
wishes all his constituents in Ward 10, York Centre and all residents in the City of Toronto a Healthy & Happy New Year

May your New Year be filled with health, happiness and peace
The Hon.
Joe VOLPE
P.C., M.P.
EGLINTON–LAWRENCE
511 Lawrence Ave. W.
Toronto, Ontario
M6A 1A3
Phone: 416-781-5583



The Mayor and Members of Council of the Town of Markham wish you a happy and healthy New Year.
Frank Scarpitti, Mayor
Jim Jones, Deputy Mayor
Jack Heath, Regional Councillor
Tony C. Wong, Regional Councillor
Gordon Landon, Regional Councillor
Valerie Burke, Ward 1 Councillor
Erin Shapero, Ward 2 Councillor
Joseph Virgilio, Ward 3 Councillor
Carolina Moretti, Ward 4 Councillor
John Webster, Ward 5 Councillor
Dan Horchik, Ward 6 Councillor
Logan Kanapathi, Ward 7 Councillor
Alex Chiu, Ward 8 Councillor
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The Mayor and Members of Council of the Town of Richmond Hill
wish you and your family a Happy & Healthy New Year
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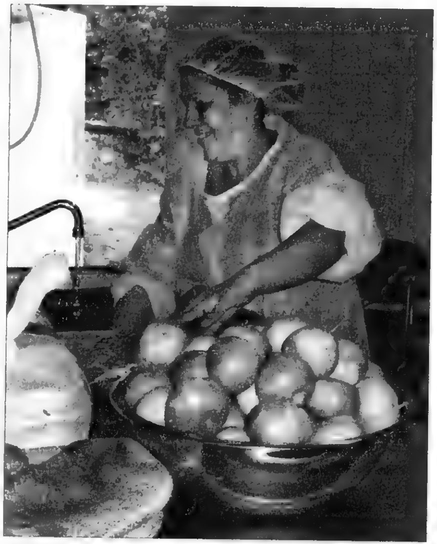
'A major achievement'

Continued from page B68

Events catered are large and small, formal and informal. One recent party was for industrialist and Jerusalem City Councillor Nir Barkat.

With the High Holy Days approaching, the women were expecting a rush of clients.

"When I heard about the course, my life was at rock-bottom," said Sivan, who at 53 is one of the oldest participants. "My husband was unemployed and I'd just got through treatment for breast cancer. I wanted to get back to work and to being me, but I'd lost my self-confidence and couldn't do either. The course was amazing, both for what it taught me and for making us part of a community of supportive women. When it ended, though, I didn't know what to do. I leapt at the chance of working in a community kitchen."



Rosette, an unemployed mother of four who graduated from the "Women Cook Up A Business" program and is a member of the community kitchen, has new hope for economic stability.

[IPS photos by Rita Mendes-Flohr]

Sivan, like the other seven women who have run the kitchen since it opened last fall, works there two days a week. Between them, they have developed efficient and quality menus, according to their varied culinary specialties. Their salaries include social benefits and provide a dependable income while they develop their own businesses.

"The responsibility given to women has steadily increased," Hadar said. "Everyone takes a turn as 'director of the month,' planning meals, ensuring that provisions are ordered and arrive on time, as well as dealing with suppliers, bookkeeping and finances."

The fact that everything has gone so smoothly is in itself a major achievement, said the project's business manager, Batya Cnaani.

"It wasn't easy for eight inexperienced women to organize themselves to cook 210 palatable meals daily, serve them in three shifts, while learning about working with one another and the kashrut supervisor," she said.

Learning to work with the members of the Elwyn day-care community has been an added challenge.

"You need strength and caring to work with mentally-challenged people," said Yemima, another community kitchen participant.

"Not all of them would stand in line for the food at the beginning, many can't balance their trays, quite a few are on special diets, and if we run even a bit late they don't understand and get rowdy. But we've come to know each other, and many of them come to tell us that they love our food."

In April, two Elwyn women joined the catering team to set tables and help with cooking – giving the kitchen, in Hadar's words, "added social value."

Although Rosh Hashanah marks only the first year of the community kitchen, all those involved see nothing but expansion ahead.

"This year, we hope to provide lunches to other educational frameworks in the area that have a long study day," Ella Ben Yossef said.

At the same time, the women's independent businesses are also taking off.

"Working in the kitchen and starting my own business has changed my life," said Rimon, who makes special dessert liqueurs (pomegranates, cherry with almond and strawberry) and was developing a gift package to be marketed before Rosh Hashanah.

"It's like a complete cleansing of the spirit, from the bottom up. I'm full of new energy and love of life. I was in a terrible state when I started. Things were really hard at home. We had legal and money problems, my daughter was failing in school, and I was working as a cleaner to put food on the table. I knew the project was for me the moment I heard about it. I was one of the very first to register my own business – and the only cleaning I do now is in my own house!" she added.

"I'm at the point where I know it's up to me to go forward alone," said Sivan. "But I can do it knowing there are people who'll help and who care about me. I love what I've learned. I live for it – for the colour, the opportunity to meet people, the chance to open my heart and mind and to look at a table and see people enjoying a meal I've prepared."

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Phil Fontaine,
National Chief

The AFN is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada. This includes approximately 700,000 citizens living in 633 First Nations communities, as well as rural and urban areas.

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Mayor Linda Jackson
and Members of Council extend their best wishes
for a healthy and happy New Year!

Front (from L): Regional Councillor Gino Rosati, Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio, Mayor Linda D. Jackson, and Regional Councillor Mario Ferri.

Back (from L): Ward 5 Councillor Alan Shefman, Ward 4 Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco, Ward 3 Councillor Bernie DiVona, Ward 2 Councillor Tony Carella, and Ward 1 Councillor Peter Meffe.

Israel is a leader in stem cell research

By SIMON GRIVER
IPS

REHOVOT — A growing number of Israel's startups in the biotech sector seek to transform innovative stem cell research into marketable products.

And Israeli scientists have published more stem cell research articles per capita than any other country in the world, according to *The Scientist* magazine.

Stem cells promise a revolution in medical treatment, said Dov Zipori, director of the Helen and Martin Kimmel Institute for Stem Cell Research at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

"There was a time when if your car had a problem, the garage mechanic would fiddle with the faulty part and try and mend it," he said.

"Now everything is modular. The mechanic simply takes out the faulty part and puts in a new one. Stem cells offer us the potential to do the same in medicine. In theory, if a person has disorder in their liver, heart or lung, instead of trying to cure it, we could transplant a new one."

This would radically change the current situation; today, there are not enough new organs to go around for those who need lifesaving operations, let alone people requiring severe corrective surgery.

Stem cells also have the potential for renewing all our cells and tissues, and will be available for treating almost the full range of human diseases, conditions and disabilities. They include Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, spinal cord injury, stroke, burns, heart disease, diabetes, osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

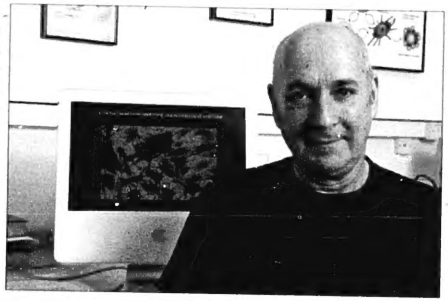
Stem cells have fascinated biologists for decades because of their remarkable potential to develop into many different cell types in the body. Serving as a sort of repair system for the body, they can theoretically divide without limit to replenish other cells as long as the person is still alive. They are available from three sources – mature human blood, cord blood and, most controversially, embryos. Christian authorities, both Protestant and Catholic, have traditionally taken a more rigorous definition of the start of life than even the more conservative Orthodox rabbis, and as a result, the United States was forbidden from granting federal funds for stem cell research using embryos until 2002. Even today, such assistance is severely limited.

This gives Israel – where the government does fund stem cell research – a competitive advantage over the United States, but Zipori stresses that even so, vast amounts of private American capital does support research.

Shortly before his death in 2004, actor Christopher Reeve, who had been paralyzed from the neck down in an accident while horseback riding, spent five days at the Weizmann Institute participating in stem cell testing for spinal injuries. The principle aim of the visit was to publicize the importance of stem cell research for the future benefit of mankind, to emphasize Israel's leading position in the area and to chastise the United States for being slow to exploit the advantages that stem cell therapy can bring.

Zipori takes little comfort in Israel's "competitive advantage" because he feels that major American federal support for stem cell research is required to make the dream of stem cell transplants a reality sooner rather than later.

"There are a number of major obstacles that must be overcome before the dream is realized," said Zipori. "Principal obstacles include the need to generate far larger volumes of stem cells than are presently available and to enhance matching so that the recipient body, following a transplant, does not eventually reject cells."


Dov Zipori is the director of the Helen and Martin Kimmel Institute for Stem Cell Research at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot.

[IPS photo courtesy of the Weizmann Institute]

Zipori's own research focuses on this need to proliferate stem cells and for better matching. These are areas in which Israel is a world leader, and Israeli biotech startup companies have already commercialized their patents, which promise methodologies for producing vast amounts of stem cells that can be better matched up with recipients.

Gamida-Cell Ltd., which strives to overcome the problem of generating quantity in creating enough stem cells for effective future treatments, is a leader in the expansion of stem cell therapeutics. It is currently in clinical development for cancer and autoimmune diseases, as well as future regenerative cell-based medicines, including heart-and-pancreatic tissue repair.

Pluristem is another important Israeli firm in this sector. Pluristem is developing a proprietary stem cell expansion technology for the treatment of severe blood disorders. Their first product is intended to resolve the global shortfall of matched tissue for bone marrow transplantation, by improving the engraftment (new cell growth) of stem cells contained in umbilical cord blood.

BrainStorm Cell Therapeutics is developing stem cell technologies to provide solutions for incurable neuro-degenerative diseases.

Israel has always been in the forefront of stem cell research. The first breakthrough in the development of stem cells occurred in the 1960s at the Weizmann Institute when Leo Sachs and his Australian colleagues were the first in the world to produce stem cells from blood. This formed a platform on which stem cell research developed in Israel.

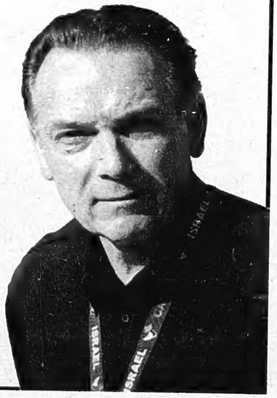
Zipori said Sachs' research breakthrough paved the way for the bone marrow replacement treatment for leukemia and other illnesses – the first practical fruit of stem cell research, which he currently estimates to have about a 50 per cent success rate.

Israeli research teams are world leaders in attempting to proliferate stem cells. In 1998, Joseph Itskovitz-Eldor, then with the Technion, Institute of Technology in Haifa, and today of the Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, was one of the first scientists to produce stem cells from human embryos, while a team led by Binyamin Reubinof of Hadassah University Medical Center also pioneered the production of stem cells from embryos. Today, Itskovitz-Eldor, Reubinof and Nissim Benvenisty of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem all lead important groups studying stem cell embryos.

"This field of research has never been as vibrant and as vivid and as exciting as it is today," said Zipori. "The prospects of translating stem cell research into medically applicable technologies are high. But it will all take time."

In addition to the practical use for stem cells in medicine in the form of bone marrow transplants, more recently, initial trials in the use of mesenchymal (connective tissue cells) have generated encouraging results in the treatment of osteogenesis imperfecta, a congenital disorder in children, as well as benefits for heart infarction. But for the most part, stem cell treatment is an idea that works in theory but in practice still has a way to go.

Stem cell modular transplants won't become routine surgery in the near future –"it is not going to happen in the next five or ten years," Zipori said – "but it is going to happen."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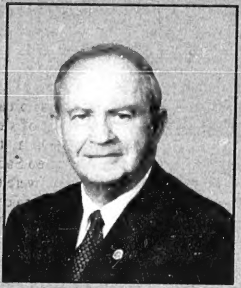

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On behalf of the

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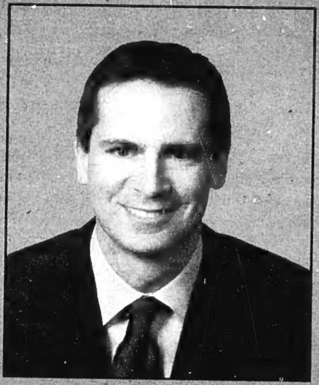

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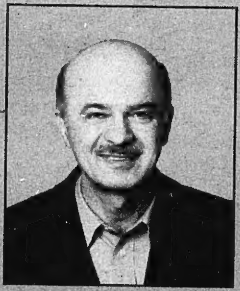

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